

UNION TIDINGS

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5088 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33415*

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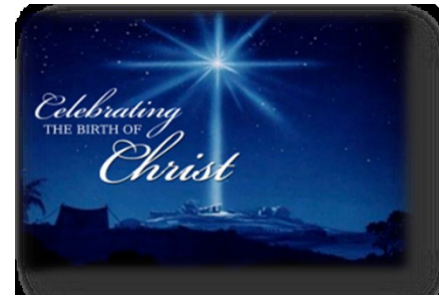
December 2024

UNITING WITH HOPE

“And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” Isaiah 40:5, NIV

As we unite on our journey through the Season of Advent, we are reminded to honor the time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus at Christmas. Advent suggests keeping our eyes on the Star of Light this month and allowing it to guide us triumphantly into the New Year.

For many Christians, the Season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. First, the Season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and second, the Season prepares us to be alert for His Second Coming.



Here, at Union, we prepare with anticipation for Christ's coming! We do so by offering goodwill amongst one another and even on behalf of those we have yet to meet. Praying that God continues to bless this church in ways that unite us in spreading the hope, peace, joy, and love that was born at Christmas!

Being hopeful as we unite as people of faith represents an Advent blessing by an anonymous poet, who says, "Let us welcome God's bright and shining morning star, a Child born in a manger, a Son sent to redeem the world. A Savior comes to renew all things. May His light shine on you. May His light shine through you. The light of God's Christmas Star is with you, in this season of new birth."

This timely blessing helps us remember that even during change, loss, and grief, we can look at the Star that shines brightly, unites us, and continues to light our way. We are also grounded in the promise that righteousness and justice prevail and that we will be guided by Christ's light in our work in all we do and all we are. May God continue to shine HOPE within us along the way.

May you Have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

*With Hope & Love,
Pastor Sheila*



Eloise and her grandbaby, Carlos; Charlie Rodriguez's family and friends; Pastor Sheila's family and friends; Ada Harvey's grandson, Grant; Doug Cornwell; Tom Richards; Melanie Shepherd; Marjorie Hanson's family and friends; Rosemarie Lightfoot's father, Tom; Richard Lightfoot; Ada Harvey and family; Beth White; Louise's friend, Martha; Susan Harrell's husband, George; Vanessa's grandfather & cousin, Elsa Velez; John Webster family and friends; David's family members, Evelyn Soza, Jerman Rodrigues, Carmen, Malgarita; Donna's brother, Clevert; Adelaida Hernandez; Linda DiPaola's family & friends; George Gerson's Brother, Michael; Gail Fei's friend, Helga's daughter, Katya; Melanie's Friend, Donna; Alice Payne; Borjana's son, Petar; Ruth Deischer's sister-in-law, Susan Deischer; Renna McGinnis; George Gerson's friends, Diane & Timothy Scott; Karen's friend, Kris; George Gerson's nephew, Glenn; Ruth Cassidy's husband, Bill; Doug Cornwell's family; Billie Wilson; Rose's daughter, Tyshawna for healing & recovery; Jan Mark; Rod Jennings; Jan Mark's son, Gary; Justice & Peace efforts; grieving, depression and anxiety; all refugees; Ukraine War; Puerto Rico; Haiti; Gun violence everywhere; Environmental concerns; Maui, HI, Florida; Israel conflict; Hurricane victims

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

6	LeeAnne Gesch
9	Sheri McCabe
11	Laurel E. Johns
11	Richard D. Lightfoot
13	Laura Dickinson
15	Lissa Ray
16	Brandon Guillaume
16	Ruth Cassidy
17	Charlotte Snowden
18	Derrick Chea
18	Nirva Simeon
19	Holly Dozier
22	Dorothy Bates
23	Carol Bailey
25	Stacea Bowen
25	David Gaidry
27	Jane Grandusky

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE

The Christian Education & Youth Ministry Team is selling holiday poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season! They are \$10.00 each and support CE and Youth ministries. Forms will be available on the sound board where you can list your name and the name of the person you are remembering or honoring. These will be listed in the bulletin and the flowers can be taken home following the Christmas Eve worship.

For more information, please see Rev. Michael-Ann.
Thank you!!!



5088 Summit Blvd.
West Palm Beach, Florida 33415
561-686-0330

Please remember Union Congregational United Church of Christ in your Will and Estate Planning.

Please contact the church office for more information.

130th Anniversary Celebration Chorus With Dr. Bryant Ijames & New Member Sunday

Welcome
New
Members



UNION'S 130TH CELEBRATION



UNION'S FOOD PANTRY NEWS



FEED THE HUNGRY

Union continues its mission in serving the people our community in need of food. On November 2nd, we distributed 84 bags of food, which helped 256 individuals.



We thank all our volunteers who shop, pack bags, serve on the first Saturday of each month, and all who donate to this special ministry.

How can I give to Union UCC?

MOBILE:
Scan this Code



ONLINE:
UNIONUCC.NET (GIVE)

ENVELOPE:
CASH AND CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO UNION UCC



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR 130TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH!

DOUBLE PLATINUM SPONSORS

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Linda Harvey
Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey**

GOLD SPONSORS

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Peggy Kelleher - Stoic Financial
Donna Minott
G.S. Insurance - Melanie Shepherd**

\$130/130:

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Debbie Chea
Dorothy Bates
George Joan Gerson
Jane Grandusky
Marjorie Hanson
Ada Harvey
Joanna Hollis
Vanessa Nuñez
Judith Moores
Alice Payne
Ione Senior**

SILVER SPONSORS

**Ilsa Dickinson
Stephen Gudernatch
John Webster**

BRONZE SPONSORS

**Jane Grandusky
Grandusky & Lamb
Joanna Hollis
Wayne Johnson
Linda Padmore
Alice Payne**

Holiday Sing-Along Ensemble & Handbell Choir

Kids, Teens, & Adults

Union will be putting together a Holiday Sing - Along Ensemble.

If you would like to join, please sign up on the soundboard.



FELLOWSHIP TEAM - DECEMBER 2024

Welcome to the Season of Advent!

As we seek to be hope-filled this season, God encourages us to listen to another and offer messages of HOPE!

Our Fellowship Team continues to provide after worship support in that time when we come together to support one another, this experience allows us to learn, gain strength, and give encouragement.

Mission and Outreach (October and Trustees (November) did a fantastic job with all the extra planned activities for our well-received 130th Anniversary Celebration. Thanks to each ministry, for their role in making our Anniversary joyous and memorable.

The Deacons are the hosts for the month of December. Fellowship activities for this month embrace the Christmas and Holiday spirit which comes to life with tremendous support from each ministry, guests and well-wishers. We eagerly look forward to all the wonderful surprises the Deacons have in store to take us through the end of the year to make this time hopeful, uplifting, comforting and enjoyable.

We greatly appreciate all the love and support of members, friends and guests for making the fellowship hour a very special time.

Healthy/Health Tip:

Consider your mental health during the holidays.

Some of the reasons the holidays can be incredibly challenging include: lack of time, financial pressure, gift giving and family gatherings. For those battling mental health challenges, the holiday season may feel even more difficult, which may lead to increased anxiety and depression.

- Creating a budget for gift-giving and festivities can alleviate financial strain and reduce anxiety

- No matter how stressful or hectic your life gets, take time to prioritize Self-care

- Acknowledge your feelings, it's okay not to always feel jolly and festive

- Get help if you need it. Seeking support from a therapist, counselor or support group can provide a safe space to process emotions and gain coping strategies.

- Avoid alcohol and drugs. Self-medicating for mental wellness does more harm than good.

It's good to spend some time in fellowship so that we remember that God makes us strong

Linda Padmore
Fellowship, Chair

Union's 'Chrismon' Tree

Did you ever wonder about the tree in our sanctuary each Christmas decorated in handmade white and gold ornaments? That is Union's "Chrismon Tree". Here is a brief history of this type of tree:

"CHRISMON" is a combination of parts of two words: **Chris** (for Christ) and **Mon** (for monogram). A Chrismon is just that – a monogram of Christ.

The Chrismon tree was developed by Frances Kipps Spencer, a member of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957. Since that beginning, they spread the idea to churches all around the globe, always with the same promise: that the symbols are never to be made for sale. A Chrismon tree is always a gift, and always a labor of love.

'Chrismons' are placed on an evergreen tree. Evergreen trees symbolize the eternal life which our savior has won for us. The lights inside the tree remind us of the Christ child, the light of the world. White, the liturgical color of Christmas, refers to our Lord's purity and perfection, gold to his majesty and glory. Pearls represented the work of God.

Some 'Chrismons' are simple copies of symbols of Christianity from its earliest days; others are new explanations of God's never-changing presence in our ever-changing world; others are combinations of several elements, both old and new.

Union's Chrismon ornaments have been around for a long time – some date back to the early 1960's. Others have been added over the years. We are blessed to have this legacy in our 130-year-old congregation!

There is a diagram on the sound board of what some of the symbols represent. Pick up a copy!



Jane Grandusky,
Trustee, Chair

YOUTH & KIDS CORNER

The Children and Youth of Union!



SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & YOUTH MISSIONS CALENDAR

DECEMBER 22TH - Christmas Pageant & Party/
Caroling with Pastor Sheila

DECEMBER 24TH - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

H	H	H	H	H	H	H
X	X	X	X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X	✓	X	X
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Important

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT REV. MICHAEL ANN OR VANESSA NUÑEZ.



December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Communion Sunday	2	3 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	4 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	5 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	6 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	7 Food Pantry 9am-11:30am 
8 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	9	10 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	11 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	12 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	13 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	14
15 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Christmas Pageant Part I	16	17 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	18 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	19 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	20 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	21
22 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Christmas Pageant Part II & Christmas Party 1 PM—Caroling (Depart 12:30 PM)	23	24 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Office Closed — Christmas Holiday 	26 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	27 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	28
29 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	30	31 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open 				



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5088 Summit Boulevard
West Palm Beach, Florida 33415
(561) 686-0330
www.unionucc.net
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December News Especially for you:

