



**EXTRAVAGANT  
SIGN**

Martin Luther King Jr.



## UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*We welcome all people to experience God's love,  
grow spiritually and engage in meaningful service.*

### SERVICE OF THE WORD MLK SUNDAY

January 19, 2025

\*Please stand as you are able.

*This service is livestreaming. Thank you. ♥*

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### ENTER TO WORSHIP

#### GATHERING MUSIC

*When you hear the music, please gather. Be seated and prepare for worship.  
Lighting the Candle, we remember God's presence with us.*

**PRELUDE** "You are Welcome Here"

#### THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Words of Welcome & Announcements

**INTROIT** "I Woke Up this Morning"

**I woke up this morning with my mind (Hallelujah) stayed on Jesus,  
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,  
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus,  
I woke up this morning with my mind (Hallelujah) stayed on justice,  
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on justice,  
Woke up this morning with my mind stayed on justice,  
Hal-le-lu, Hal-le-lu, hal-le-lu - jah. Hale, hale-lu-jah.**

Greeting One Another

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.***

\*Chorus:

***We are one in the bond of love; we are one in the bond of love, we have joined our  
spirits with the Spirit of God, we are one in the bond of love.***

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather to worship God,

**All: Who creates us and loves us;**

One: Who gives us love with diversity and makes us love for community;

**All: Who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;**

One: Who inspires children, youth adults, and people of all ages,

**All: To seek justice, share power, and live together in love and equality;**

**One: Who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all,**

**All: And whose presence, grace, and love sustain us in our living.**

**One: We gather to worship God.**

**All: To God be all glory, honor, and praise!**

### **\*INVOCATION**

Christ is with us!

**Christ is in our midst!**

**Just and loving God, you call us to live in community. We know that you grant us the opportunities and the strength to be the “headlights not the taillights of society.” Yet, in our sinfulness, we become separated from one another through the wrongs we commit or allow to happen. Through your forgiveness and grace, we ask that you empower us to work toward restoring justice for all people as shown to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We pray in the name of the one who came that we might have life more abundantly. Amen.**

### **\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

**Sharing Joys and Concerns**

**Trip Blessing/ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunday Prayer**

**Gracious God, we ask you to bless our trip to St. Augustine as we learn more about the place Dr. King travelled and it’s history. You create us and love us; you make us to live together in a community. We thank you for Martin Luther King, Jr. and all your children who have been filled with your vision for our lives and who have worked to make bring your vision into reality. Fill us with your vision. Guide us to live by your vision, working to build the beloved community where everyone is welcomed, all are valued, power is shared, oppression is no more, and all your children know wholeness and well-being. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

### **PRAYER RESPONSE**

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

### **MLK OFFERTORY MOMENT**

**Litany of Thanksgiving And Praise**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God of all races and nations, we praise you for all your faithful servants who have done justice, loved mercy, and walked humbly with their God. For apostles, martyrs, leaders, and saints, and for humble folk whose names were never in the news, but are recorded in your book of life.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

Especially this day we thank you for Martin Luther King Jr., for his courage and conviction, and his passion for peace.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For nameless multitudes who suffered the tortures of slavery and the tyranny of oppression, who were beaten, raped, and lynched; and for the nameless multitudes today whose lives are stunted and cut short by economic and social structures of inequality.

**We grieve and promise to work for justice and peace, O God.**

And for children, women, and men of every race who are denied education, health care, jobs, housing, and hope in our land,

**We grieve and promise to work for justice and peace, O God.**

In the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Song: "When the Saints Go Marching In"

Tom Richards, Trumpet

**O when the saints go marching in, o when the saints go marching in,  
O Lord, I want to be in that number when the saints go marching in.**

**O when the sun refused to shine, O when the sun refused to shine,  
O Lord, I want to be in that number when the sun refused to shine.**

**O when they crown Him Lord of all, O when they crown Him Lord of all,  
O Lord, I want to be in that number when they crown Him Lord of all.**

**\*DOXOLOGY** (*Deacons George & Brandon to bring offerings forward.*)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God all creatures here below;***

***Praise God for all that Love has done:***

***Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.***

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT**

*(All children and youth are welcome to attend the Sunday School Class.)*

**READING OF SCRIPTURES**

**Isaiah 62:1-5**

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

## **Psalm 36:5-10**

Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens,

**your faithfulness to the clouds.**

Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep;

**you save humans and animals alike, O God.**

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

**All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.**

They feast on the abundance of your house,

**and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

For with you is the fountain of life;

**in your light we see light.**

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,

**and your salvation to the upright of heart!**

## **1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 12-13**

God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful: wise counsel, clear understanding, simple trust, healing the sick, miraculous acts, proclamation, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues.

You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ. By means of his one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which *he* has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive.

***Thanks be to God!***

**SONG OF PREPARATION** "Hallelujah! By and By" Tom Richards & Pastor Sheila

**SERMON** "Extravagant Sign" Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

**\*CLOSING HYMN** "We Shall Overcome"

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**THE POSTLUDE** "We are Marching in the Light of God" Arr. Mary McDonald

***DEPART TO SERVE***



We **WELCOME** each of you to this celebration of worship. If you are visiting, we invite you to sign our Guest register in the Narthex. Offering envelopes are found in the pocket on the back of the chairs in the sanctuary for your convenience.

**Participating in Today's Service:**

**Readers**

Rebekah Guy, George Gerson, Sam Clarke

**Assisting**

Vanessa Nuñez

**Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns**

**Joys:** All Birthdays in January! Our Church Family! Live Streaming! Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday!

**Concerns:**

Rosemarie Lightfoots's sister; Marion & Criss Gaetano's family & friends; Ada Harvey and family; Aloise and her grandbaby, Carlos; Charlie Rodriguez'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; Beth White; Louise's friend, Martha; Susan Harrell's husband, George; David's family members, Evelyn Soza, Jerman Rodrigues, Carmen, Margarita; Donna's brother, Clevert; Adelaida Hernandez; George Gerson's Brother, Michael; Melanie's Friend, Donna; 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; Wild fires



Every Sunday beautiful flowers adorn our altar. We have a flower chart for sign-ups. Also, you can call the office or send an email to [office@unionucc.net](mailto:office@unionucc.net). Garden flowers are \$10 and floral arrangements are \$40. As an added bonus you can list the flowers in the bulletin in memory or in honor of someone or a special occasion. You are also welcome to take the \$40 arrangement home.

Sunday School Highlight

Jesus goes to a party this week in our reading!! Sometimes we can forget that Jesus did a lot of things we all do. He attended this party with his mom, so they could celebrate the marriage of friends. What do you do to celebrate something in your life? How can we celebrate God? Join us to talk and act out our feelings of joy in our relationships with others and with God. Looking forward to our time together!!



## 540 LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.  
Psalm 148:13

1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en  
2. Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning  
3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -  
rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born - had  
tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning  
died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry  
way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us in - to the

skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
feet, Come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?  
light, Keep us for ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee,

Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has  
We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new  
slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we  
get Thee; Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for

day - be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
stand at last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.  
ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Let there be peace on earth and let it be-gin with me;

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

\*With God our cre-a-tor, chil-dren all are we.

Let us walk with each oth-er in per-fect har-mo-ny.

Let peace be-gin with me; let this be the mo-ment now.

With ev-ery step I take, let this be my sol-enn vow:

to take each mo-ment and live each mo-ment in peace e-ter-nal-ly.

Let there be peace on earth and let it be-gin with me.



# We Shall Overcome

570

United States traditional

John 8:31-32; Rom. 12:21; 2 Cor. 13:11

1 We shall o - ver - come, we shall o - ver -  
2 We'll go hand in hand, we'll go hand in  
3 We are not a - fraid, we are not a -  
4 Our God will see us through, our God will see us

come, we shall o - ver - come some day;  
hand, we'll go hand in hand some day;  
fraid, we are not a - fraid to - day;  
through, our God will see us through some day;

(1-6) Oh, deep in my heart, I do be - lieve,

we shall o - ver - come some day.  
we'll go hand in hand some day.  
we are not a - fraid to - day.  
our God will see us through some day.

5 The truth shall make us free . . . some day.

6 We shall live in peace . . . some day.

## A NOTE FROM WAMM



Union is seeking a Live-Streaming Technician for Sunday Worship. Please contact the office via email at: [zaida@union.com](mailto:zaida@union.com). Deadline: January 26<sup>th</sup>.

## GLEANNING: Feeding Our Neighbors



All are invited to participate in our annual Gleaning mission – to gather fresh food for families in need. There is a sign-up sheet on the soundboard for all who would like to participate in gleaning. We will meet at the church parking lot on **February 15, 2025 at 7:45 am.**  
Donna Minott, Mission & Outreach

## **Nehemiah Action**

JOIN US AS WE LIVE OUT  
MICAHA 6:8  
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025  
AT 7:00PM

IN-PERSON: PALM BEACH COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER

ONLINE: ZOOM



**WHAT IS PEACE?**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:  
[PEACEBC.ORG/2022\\_NA](https://peacebc.org/2022_na)

**PLEASE SIGN-UP ON THE SOUNDBOARD.**

## **EASTER HANDBELL CHOIR**



All are invited to participate in Union's  
Easter Handbell Choir.

No Experience Necessary.

If interested, please sign-up on the  
soundboard or contact the office by  
email: [Office @unionucc.net](mailto:Office@unionucc.net).

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
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Ministers of the Church

All of Us

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[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

**Office Phone: 561-686-0330** - please leave a message.

Go to [www.unionucc.net](http://www.unionucc.net) to see more of our news.

**THIS WEEK AT UNION UCC**

**Sunday, January 19, 2025 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**10:30 AM** Worship – Facebook Live Streaming

**11:15 AM** Fellowship - All are welcome!

**11:45 AM** Diaconate Meeting

**12:00 PM** St Augustine Trip Departure

**Tuesday - Friday - Prayer Room is Available**

**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM** Open during office hours!

**Sunday, January 26, 2025 Health & Human Service Sunday.**

**10:30 AM** Worship – Facebook Live Streaming

**11:15 AM** Fellowship - All are welcome!



CITY OF  
**ST. AUGUSTINE**  
EST. 1565

**MLK WEEKEND TRIP  
TO  
ST. AUGUSTINE!**

Today, Sunday, January 19, 2025 (following Worship)  
to Monday, January 20, 2025.

We will explore the first stop on the underground railroad, the place where MLK visited, and tour the area. We will depart at 12:00 pm.

Next Sunday, January 26, 2025  
Health and Human **Service Sunday**



## Extravagant Sign

Jesus is making his public debut as the Son of God, performing the first of seven recorded miracles in John's Gospel — turning 120 gallons of water into wine at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

Now it wasn't the place or the time that Jesus had intended to display his divinity, but when your mother asks you to do something, as Mary did, you do it.

Mary's insistence for Jesus to intervene was out of concern for their hosts, as running out of wine was a great embarrassment. It was expected for food and drink to be abundant for the many days of wedding feasting. (Weddings in Jesus' time weren't just a sit-down dinner or a morning brunch. They went on for days.)

John's telling of this miracle, though, is not about saving face — or even revealing the face of God in Jesus.

There's a life-changing lesson for us today that is swishing around the six stone jars of water that are on the premises of the wedding banquet.

To start, John's point of telling us there are six jars is important. Numbers have great significance in Jewish teachings. Seven, for example, represents perfection and completeness. Six, however, symbolizes imperfection. Jesus viewing those six jars as valuable for this miracle moment shows us how God sees all the things we deem unworthy as worthy.

There's more. The water in those jars were not meant for drinking, but rather for ceremonial washing. It was customary for Jews to wash their hands and say a blessing before any meal that included bread. It would be considered disgusting to drink from those six jars.

Jesus, though, does the unthinkable. He disregards Jewish beliefs and traditions, turning the untouchable water into the best wine anyone has ever tasted. Had the guests known the water for ceremonial washing was used for the wine they were sipping; they would have been aghast. Yet those privy to this miracle were getting a preview of what Jesus' mission would be: To dismantle the systems that separate the clean from the unclean, that keep the downtrodden down and the oppressed oppress.

Would we have sipped that wine if we knew where it came from? Would we be willing to bend rules, break traditions, rid ourselves of rituals if it meant experiencing amazing water-into-wine miracles that God has for us?

There's so much God wants to do in our lives, but first we need to let go of our assumptions of how life should be. Are you ready for a boundary-breaking, rule-busting God to turn your water into wine?

*God, forgive us for those times we are so set in our ways that we close our hearts to the new thing You want to do in our lives. Open us this day to all the beautiful and exciting possibilities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*