

# UNION TIDINGS

*A monthly publication of Union Congregational United Church of Christ  
5088 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33415*

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## Love Thy Neighbor

*Love thy neighbor' is mentioned thirteen times in twelve verses of the New Testament. So, some would say that showing acts of love is an important message for Christians to adhere to. (Smile) To address this call to love one another, Union has been a place of welcome and belonging. We have looked to the scripture to guide how we envision our journey ahead. And in doing so, we have found that to move forward, we must have a better understanding of one another, our shared history, and how it impacts our present situation.*

*Building upon Union's vision to love all of our neighbors equally, we have chosen to focus on being an Anti-Racist Church together. One of the ways we have done this is through our Bible Study featured book, "Caste." This book opened our eyes to an unjust system, opened our hearts to listen to others' experiences, and called us to put our love into action. Putting our love in action is what 'Being an Anti-Racist Church' is about, especially, as we do our best to live into the statement below.*

### ***Union's Statement on "Being an Anti-Racist Church"***

***Union Congregational UCC holds a vision of being a multi-cultural, multi-racial, anti-racist congregation that more faithfully reflects the entire community of West Palm Beach.***

***We are a covenant faith community who believe that all people are made in God's image, reconciled by Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.***

***We believe it is our role to take an active stance in systematically dismantling racism. A part of an anti-racism stance is acknowledging a system of white privilege in the United States which tends to perpetuate societal stereotypes in all its citizens.***

***We believe that our commitment to anti-racism should be reflected in the life and culture of the congregation through our policies, programs, and practices as we continue to learn about racism.***

***We are committed to developing and working to implement strategies that dismantle racism through our adult and children's education, Sunday services, mission giving, purchases and business practices, and community outreach and action.***

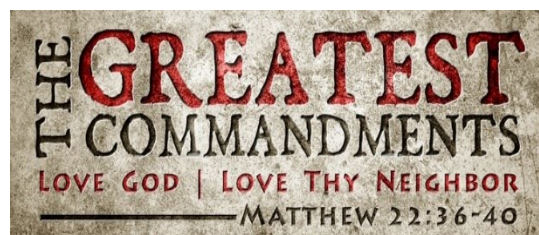
***We believe we are all called to work against racism and work for a society in which the words of the Gospel are realized among us.***

***We acknowledge that the United Church of Christ has a rich heritage of engagement in addressing racism in our society over the years, and we recognize that our Anti-Racism Journey, here at Union, is a continuing one.***

***Therefore, we claim the prophetic work of being an "Anti-racist Church."***

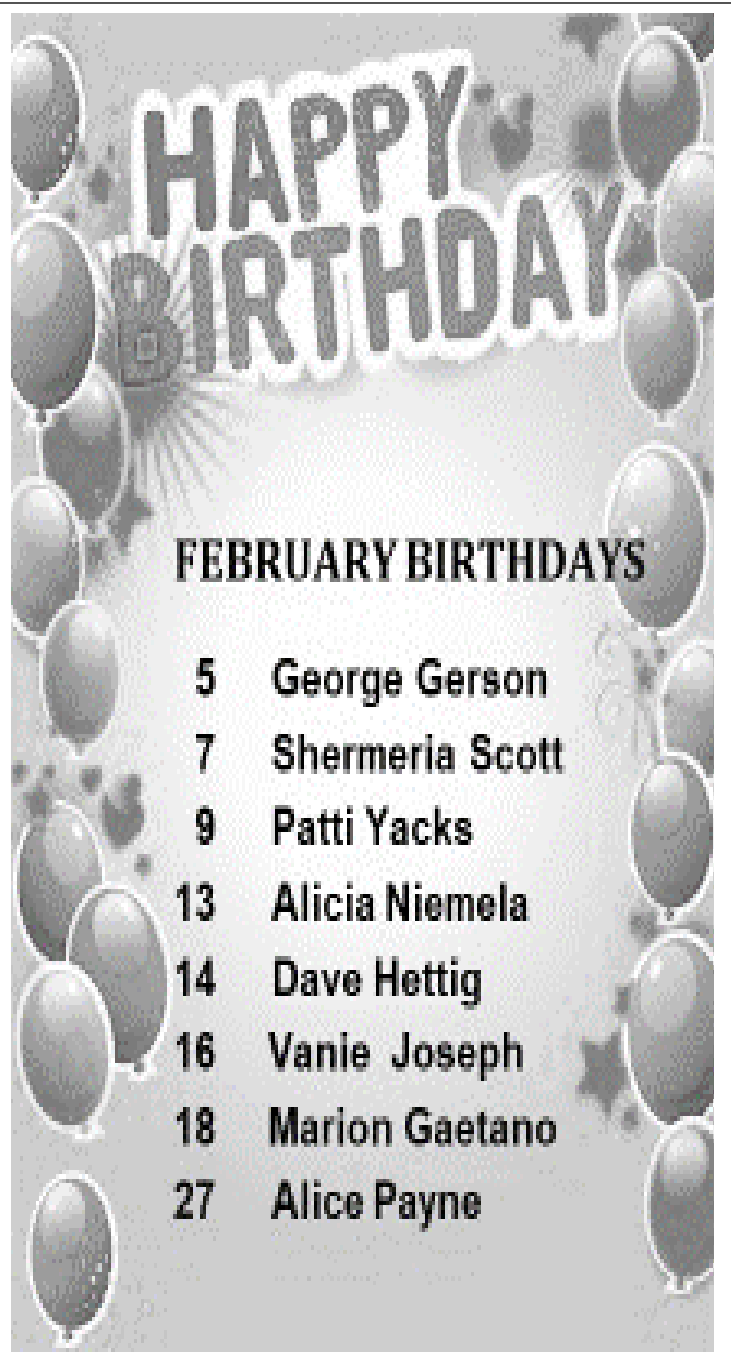
*We need everyone to work together to help root out anything that does not allow us to love our neighbor. Will you join us? If so, please experience worship, join us at fellowship, and journey with us in our justice and peace ministries. All are welcome here!!*

*With Christ's Love,  
Pastor Sheila*





*Linda Padmore's niece, Ivette; Alice Payne; Teresa Byrd; Bonnie Avery's family member, Gary; Rosemarie Lightfoots's sister, Anita; 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, Malgarita; 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*



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 George Gerson
- 7 Shermeria Scott
- 9 Patti Yacks
- 13 Alicia Niemela
- 14 Dave Hettig
- 16 Vanie Joseph
- 18 Marion Gaetano
- 27 Alice Payne

## FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY



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.



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

Please contact the church office for more information.



# UNION CELEBRATES MLK SUNDAY – JANUARY 19, 2025



## UNION VISITS ST. AUGUSTINE





# 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 via  
email: Office @unionucc.net.

## Nehemiah Action

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

IN-PERSON: PALM BEACH COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER

ONLINE: ZOOM



WHAT IS PEACE?

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:  
PEACEPBC.ORG/2022\_NA

PLEASE SIGN-UP ON THE SOUNDBOARD.

### How can I give to Union UCC?



**MOBILE:**  
Scan this  
Code

**ONLINE:**  
UNIONUCC.NET (GIVE)

**ENVELOPE:**  
CASH AND CHECKS MADE  
PAYABLE TO UNION UCC

## 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



### Justice Rally

Monday, March 10, 2025  
7:00 PM 8:30 PM

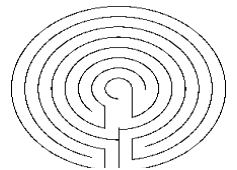
This is when we report who we have  
confirmed for the Nehemiah Action and when  
the Research Committees will report the  
research and the proposed action to address  
the community problems we voted on in the  
fall. More information to come.

## **Conversations on the Threshold: Women, Mystics and Liminal Space**

What do the words and practices  
of women mystics have to offer us today?  
Curious?

Save the dates!

April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 – 1:15  
May 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 – 1:15  
May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 – 1:15



We'll gather to explore their lives and  
writings, & share in some contemplative  
practices for our own journeys.

Questions? Contact Rev. Michael-Ann  
([m-adveziroglu@outlook.com](mailto:m-adveziroglu@outlook.com))

\*Please consider supporting Rev. Michael  
Ann's Doctoral project. A sign-up sheet is  
on the sound board.

# THE LORD'S PLACE MARCH TO END HOMELESSNESS

A powerful event that brings our community together to combat the crisis of homelessness in Palm Beach County, FL. Everyone deserves a safe and secure place to call home.



## JOIN US!

**Friday, February 28, 2025**

**March begins: 2 p.m.**

**Ceremony: 4 - 6 p.m.**

**Start:** The Lord's Place  
2808 N. Australian Ave.  
West Palm Beach, FL

**Ceremony:** Centennial Square  
150 N. Clematis  
West Palm Beach, FL

Start the March at The Lord's Place, join at any point along the way (see [TLPMarch.org](http://TLPMarch.org) for timed details for 5K March), or meet at the finish line for food, a ceremonial program, and inspiring client stories.

**All are welcome!** Individuals, families, companies, schools & groups walk and/or gather downtown to celebrate clients and their journey out of homelessness.

Lead Sponsor: **GLHOMES**

### ADVOCATE & EDUCATE

Raise your voice, hold your sign high, and help those most in need.

### SPONSOR

Levels start at \$1,500. Gain publicity and create change.

### FUNDRAISE

As an individual, team or sponsor, help us raise \$350k, which will be **MATCHED** by the Honorable Ann Brown!

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

**THE LORD'S PLACE**  
Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness  
561.578.4928  
Info@TheLordsPlace.org  
TheLordsPlace.org

## Food Pantry News

Thank you, thank you, thank you to many hearts and hands that make our church food pantry a success. In November we solicited some shoppers to help with purchasing and picking up the food. You responded with a big yes.

This ministry has been in operation since 2016 and continues to help our neighbors with a hand up. Many hands make light work is a true statement when it comes to shopping for food to fill 100 bags of groceries. Our average distribution is, 80 to 100 bags per month.

Your contribution of your time, talent and treasure make it all possible. God is good all the time. All the time God is good.

Thank you,



Debbie Chea

Member of the Mission & Outreach team

## ABOUT US:

### **Justice & Peace Ministry**

- We support the **United Church of Christ LGBT Ministries**
- We belong to **P.E.A.C.E.**
- Designated a **JUST PEACE CONGREGATION** and
- Designated an **ANTI-RACIST CHURCH** by the United Church of Christ.

### **Children & Youth Ministry**

We love kids! We have a ton of fun going on in our **Children & Youth Ministry**. Youth/children outings, on campus youth-oriented events **Weekly Sunday School** that focuses on Jesus and the Bible. Games, Arts & Crafts and Drum Circles! And our **Vacation Bible School** is a blast!!

### **Mission & Outreach Ministry**

- **Monthly Food Pantry**
- **Food Pantry North Central Palm Beach County Family Promise**
- **'5 for 5' Church with the United Church of Christ.**



# YOUTH & KIDS CORNER

## Union's Trip to ST. AUGUSTINE!



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

### **Notes from the Christian Education and Youth Ministry Team**


On January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, an intergenerational group traveled to St. Augustine in honor of MLK weekend. This included nine of our children and youth! They toured the city, spent time at Fort Mose and stood in a church Martin Luther King, Jr visited. They were even privy to meeting a woman who opened her home to Dr. King when he was there. She is only 101 years old! (Maybe you saw her on the news.) Across from the church, was a building where sisters taught young black children when schools were only available to white children. They were arrested for doing so. At Fort Mose, our group learned what many do not know. There was an underground railroad that travelled south. When Florida was still a part of Spain, enslaved peoples made their way to St. Augustine and became free Spanish citizens by converting to Catholicism and, for the men, serving in the military. Our group was warmly welcomed and learned how a black community thrived in Fort Mose.

Please ask our children and youth about this experience. They had fun being together and learning some often untold Florida history.

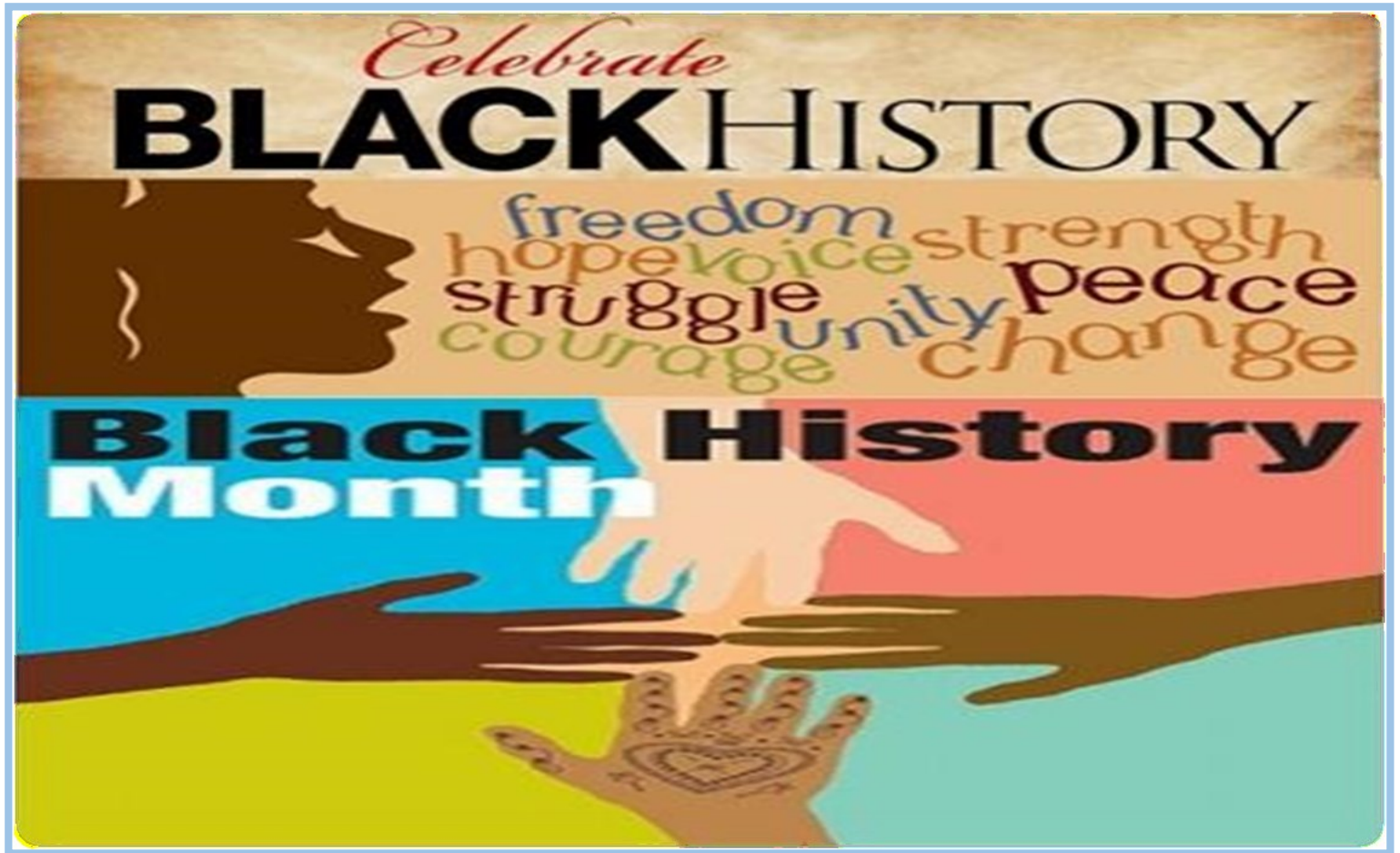


# FEBRUARY 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Food Pantry 9am -11:30am 
2 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Communion Sunday	3	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 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	8
9 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Souper-Bowl of Caring Sunday Congregational Annual Meeting	10	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 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i>	15
16 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	17	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 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	22
23 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	24	25 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	26 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	27 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	28 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	





Union Congregational United Church of Christ  
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email: [office@unionucc.net](mailto:office@unionucc.net)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Heartwarming News to:*

