

UNION TIDINGS

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

Volume 132, Issue 1

January 2025

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER, UNITED IN CHRIST

Hebrews 12:1 states, *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight... and run with endurance the race that is set before us.”*

As people of faith, we bring our dreams and openness of heart to love God and one another. We come together to share the hope that God is with us, guiding us through every season of life. And, during this time of year, we celebrate as a diverse people coming together to reflect upon the dream of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As his ideals of justice and freedom and the belief that all are created equal in the eyes of God are biblical and noble principles.

We share Dr. King’s dream of a day when people from all races and nations, even the offspring of the enslaved and former slave owners, can sit at a table like brothers and sisters and find ways of transforming their differences into uniting assets. We also seek to live his dream on an ongoing basis. But, as we reflect upon Dr. King’s dream, let us ask, “What is our dream?”



Our response this New Year can be to open ourselves by moving forward together, dreaming that one day soon, our neighbors near and far, will start living as God’s beloved community and will identify as being part of one race... ‘the human race.’ Otherwise, Dr. King’s dream will be just that... a dream.

In the poetic refrain, “I Have a Dream,” we hear a call for us to remember that in the real world, injustices abound. And yet, our faith calls upon us to hope for a better world, where all are not seen by our privileges, but by our daily acts of love. This refrain reminds us that we are led by the Spirit of God who guides us towards our purpose, which can be unpredictable, exciting, life-giving, and filled with new possibilities. Therefore, as the church, we can move forward together in love by continuing to worship, advocating justice and peace for all, living into God’s Holy Word, serving the community, being in fellowship, and offering our collective prayers.

And so, when we are in the shelter of our homes, let us remember the homeless. When we break bread together, let us pray for all who are hungry. When we feel secure, let us remember the insecure. And when we see hopelessness, let us move forward together, and offer the hope found in Christ’s love and light for everyone, everywhere. Let it be so. Amen.

*With Christ’s Love,
Pastor Sheila*

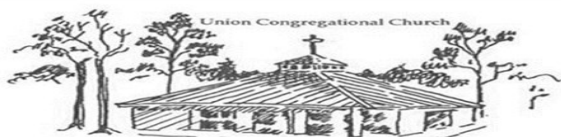


Marion & Criss Gaetano's family & friends; Ada Harvey and family; Eloise and her grandbaby, Carlos; Charlie Rodriguez's family and friends; Ada Harvey's grandson, Grant; Doug Cornwell; Tom Richards; Melanie Shepherd; Marjorie Hanson's family and friends; Rosemarie Lightfoot's father, Tom; Richard Lightfoot; Beth White; Louise's friend, Martha; Susan Harrell's husband, George; 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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Linda Chapman
- 3 Michael Thomas
- 5 Donna Minott
- 7 Linda Padmore
- 11 Rosemitho Vallerie
- 12 Nelson Bailey
- 17 Jeffrey Felten
- 18 Catherine Menning
- 21 Ilsa Dickinson
- 21 Alois Falcon
- 22 Mike DiAmicis
- 24 Ralph Tarricone
- 26 Travis Bailey
- 27 Bob Smith
- 27 Margaret Upson
- 31 Lori Schenone



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.



In Loving Memory of Steve Rodriguez

Christmas

Eve Service



Union Goes Christmas Caroling!



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.

TRUSTEE NEWS JANUARY 2025

Understanding the United Church of Christ 'Per Capita'

Our Florida Conference asks each congregation to submit a \$15 per capita fee for each member in our church. We have currently 138 members. That equals a bill the church will pay this year of \$2000. These funds go to operate the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ, a vital operational part of our denomination. Please consider helping defray our 'Per Capita' cost. You will find in the pew back pocket an envelope labeled 'My Per Capita Contribution'. You are welcome to submit your \$15 all at once or over weekly or monthly contributions. Whatever works with your budget. To be sure, anything you contribute toward our Per Capita is a welcome relief to our budget. And if you would like to pay yours and submit extra toward another person's – please do! Every little bit helps Union continue our mission of love and spreading the Word of God in our community!

Blessings From Your Trustee Team



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

How can I give to Union UCC?

MOBILE:
Scan this
Code



ONLINE:
UNIONUCC.NET (GIVE)

ENVELOPE:
CASH AND CHECKS MADE
PAYABLE TO UNION UCC

MISSIONS & OUTREACH JANUARY 2025

1 Peter 4: 10-11 "People should use their gifts to serve others and bring Glory to God".

The United Church of Christ (UCC) offers five times throughout the year when we can donate towards the good of others.

December is the time of year when, as Christians, we spread joy and giving to those we love and to those who have little to give. It is at this time that we here at Union Congregational UCC can reach out to the general clergy and church workers in need. For over 100 years this Christmas fund has been used for the caring of active and retired clergy and lay people, providing emergency grants, health premiums and "Thank you" checks for our lower-income retirees. These are but a few of the ways that we can make our donation count.

In 2023, more than 1,800 UCC congregations participated in the Christmas Fund. So, as you made your Christmas Fund donation this year, know that you are among many Christians who believe that giving is an act and requirement from God to share what we have with others.

In other news, your Missions and Outreach team has been hard at work shopping, packing and distributing food to close to 200 neighbors each month. Currently, we are in need of more volunteers to shop and/or make a donation for cases of vegetables. Look for more information in the coming weeks as to how you can help.

We also made contact with The Lord's Place and a group of us went on a tour to see how things work and how we can become more involved.

We were also on the front page of the Palm Beach Post's Local Section for our participation in the Homeless Coalition's Remembrance Event, where Pastor Sheila offered prayers. Thanks for all you do!

Marion Gaetano
Missions & Outreach, Chair



THANK YOU, UNION!

A special THANK YOU for your financial commitment and support to the ministries of Union Congregational, United Church of Christ. Because of YOU, we can imagine another year of spreading God's love and light to our neighbors near and far in 2025!

May God Bless each of you and the Church that God so loves.

Sharon Hughes

Stewardship Team, Chair



ABOUT US:

Justice & Peace Ministry

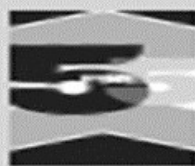
- We support the **United Church of Christ LGBT Ministries**
- We belong to **P.E.A.C.E.**
- Designated a **JUST PEACE CONGREGATION** and
- Designated an **ANTI-RACIST CHURCH** by the United Church of Christ.

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 Children and Youth Pageant





Christmas Party at Union!





JANUARY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	2 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	3 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	4 Food Pantry 9am-11:30am 
5 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Communion Sunday	6	7 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	8 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	9 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	10 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	11
12 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	13	14 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	15 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	16 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	17 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	18
19 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming MLK Sunday Youth Trip to St Augustine	20 	21 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	22 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	23 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	24 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	25
26 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	27	28 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	29 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	30 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	31 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	

We Exceeded Our Goal!
Way to go Union!! We were reaching to raise \$6500 from our Anniversary Celebration and we raised \$7150!! Thank you so much for your Sponsorships, your Silent Auction donations and purchases and your support of our \$130 for 130 Years Campaign!! If you missed donating to the \$130 for 130 campaign you can still participate – envelopes are on the sound board and in the chair backs! Let's all be a part of this project!

Thank You to everyone for a wonderful Anniversary Celebration!
Your Trustee Team



Union Congregational United Church of Christ
5088 Summit Boulevard
West Palm Beach, Florida 33415
(561) 686-0330
www.unionucc.net
email: office@unionucc.net

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Happy New Year to:

