



**WILDERNESS
COMPANTIONS**



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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 2025

*Please stand as you are able.

This service is livestreaming. Thank you. ♥

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

"This Is the Day"

Organist,
Robert Littlefield

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Words of Welcome & Announcements

INTROIT

"You are Welcome Here"

**Refrain: You are welcome here, no matter who you are, no matter where
you are on life's journey You are welcome here, no matter who
you are, come and join with us, we're united in the church of
Christ.**

**Come now all people join in the song, come be a part of the family of God.
We are God's people and you belong, share in the joy of Christ. Refrain**

**We pray for justice; we pray for peace; we hear the word of the Savior of all. We
find God's mercy; we find release, sharing the joy of Christ. Refrain**

*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 return to you in joyful remembrance of all that you have done for us, O God.
We thank you for the fruit of the land.**

All: You have blessed us, O God.

One: We thank you for the gifts of the mind.

All: You have blessed us, O God.

One: We thank you for our physical abilities.

All: You have blessed us, O God.

One: You have blessed us with each other.

All: You have blessed us, O God.

One: But most of all you have blessed us with Jesus the Christ and his gift of love.

All: You have blessed us, O God.

One: Come, let us worship God.

***INVOCATION**

Christ is with us!

Christ is in our midst!

Shape this moment with us, O God of Lent. Call us again in this time of challenge, O God of questions. Journey with us once more through this land, O God of wilderness, and speak to us of ancient promises breaking open once more. This is our journey, O God, and you are our guide. May we travel together. Amen

***HYMN OF PRAISE** “Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

PASTORAL PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

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

“Be Thou My Vision”

Organist,
Robert Littlefield

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day and by night;
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, I thy dear child;
Thou in me dwelling, with thee reconciled.**

OFFERTORY MOMENT “We are Marching in the Light of God”

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the Light of God. We are marching in the Light of God.

We are marching, marching, marching. We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, marching. We are marching in the light of God.

(Repeat)

***DOXOLOGY** (*Deacons Joanna & Isaac 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

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to God,
"My refuge and my fortress,
My God, in whom I trust."

Because you have made God your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,
"no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.

For God will command God's angels concerning you

to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder,

the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

Those who love me, I will deliver;

I will protect those who know my name.

When they call to me, I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

“With long life I will satisfy them

and show them my salvation.

Luke 4: 1-13

Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when the time was up he was hungry. The Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test: “Since you’re God’s Son, command this stone to turn into a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to really live.”

For the second test he led him up and spread out all the kingdoms of the earth on display at once. Then the Devil said, “They’re yours in all their splendor to serve your pleasure. I’m in charge of them all and can turn them over to whomever I wish.

Worship me and they’re yours, the whole works.” Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.”

For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple. He said, “If you are God’s Son, jump. It’s written, isn’t it, that ‘he has placed you in the care of angels to protect you; they will catch you; you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone’?” “Yes,” said Jesus, “and it’s also written, ‘Don’t you dare tempt the Lord your God.’” That completed the testing. The Devil temporarily, lying in wait for another opportunity.

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PREPARATION

“Pass Me Not”

Arr. Fanny Crosby
Tom Richards & Pastor Sheila

SERMON

“Companion for the Journey”

Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

“Forty Days of Lent”

Organist, Robert Littlefield

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

Dorothy Bates, George Gerson, Rebekah Gay

Assisting

George Gerson

Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns

Joys: All Birthdays in March! Our Church Family! Live Streaming!

Concerns:

Evelyn Chouris; Charlotte Snowden; Renna McGinnis; Beth White's family & friends; Frank Byrd's family & friends; Melanie Shepherd; Ada Harvey and family; Charlene Buck; Linda Padmore's niece, Yvette & sister, Christine; Alice Payne; Bonnie Avery's family member, Greg; Rosemarie Lightfoots's sister, Anita; Marion & Criss Gaetano's family & friends; Charlie Rodriguez's family and friends; 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; 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; George Gerson's nephew, Glenn; Ruth Cassidy's husband, Bill; 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; Immigrant families; Attack on DEI; Medicaid & Food Assistance Programs



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. 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

Lent started on Wednesday, and this is the first Sunday of Lent. Join us as we begin our Lenten Journey for 2025! We'll create a calendar to mark the days and explore what Jesus went through during his time in the wilderness. Come for this new season as we spend time together in community!!



Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

William Williams, 1745

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.
St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

UNION'S NETWORK

MARCH
16TH
AFTER
SERVICE

JOIN US TO LEARN UPDATES ON PEACE'S
CAMPAIGNS, AND TO PREPARE FOR OUR
NEHEMIAH ACTION!



MEETING

QUESTIONS??? CONTACT MEGAN AT MEGAN@PEACEPBC.ORG



Nehemiah Action

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

IN-PERSON: JUPITER FIRST 1475 Indian Creek Pkwy, Jupiter, FL 33458



WHAT IS PEACE?

PLEASE SIGN-UP ON THE SOUNDBOARD.

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

(We Are Marching in the Light of God)

Ps. 89:15

South African freedom song; transl. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are

hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen' kwen-khos', Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
march-ing in the light of God. We are march-ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
kha - nyen' kwen-khos', We are march-ing, march-ing, we are
light of God, the light of God.

ham - ba, Oo, si - ya - hamb' e - ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
march-ing, Oo, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.

Last time, end

564 Just a Closer Walk with Thee

I can do everything through Him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13



1. I am weak but Thou art strong; Je - sus, keep me from all wrong.
2. Thro' this world of toil and snares, If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, Time for me will be no more;
Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with Thee, Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea.



D.C. for Refrain

I'll be sat - is - fied as long As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er To Thy king - dom shore, to Thy shore.
Dai - ly walk - ing close to Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



W e l c o m e
New
Members

NEW MEMBER'S CLASS

March 30, 2025

We are inviting friends to become part of Union's church family. All who are interested in becoming a member of the church, please see Pastor Sheila or a deacon.

A vibrant, colorful poster for the Palm Beach Pride & Parade. The text "PALM BEACH PRIDE & PARADE" is written in large, bold, black letters with a white outline. Below it, "MARCH 29-30, 2025" is written in white on a black background. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for "COMPASS" with the text "PRESENTED BY" above it. The background is a collage of various colorful patterns and shapes.

**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
5088 SUMMIT BLVD, WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33415**

Ministers of the Church

All of Us

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

Music Director

Donya Lane

Organist

Robert Littlefield

Email Address:

Pastor Sheila

sheila@unionucc.net

Office - Zaida Pacheco

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Union Congregational Church, UCC:

unionucc.net

Florida Conference, UCC

www.uccfla.org

National UCC:

www.ucc.org

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

Go to www.unionucc.net to see more of our news.

Office Hours are: Tuesday thru Friday from 9:00AM – 1:00 PM.

THIS WEEK AT UNION UCC

Sunday, March 9, 2025

10:00 AM Worship – Facebook Live Streaming

11:15 AM Fellowship - All are welcome!

11:45 AM - 12:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal

Tuesday - Friday - Prayer Room is Available

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

Sunday, March 16, 2025

10:00 AM Worship – Facebook Live Streaming

11:15 AM “PEACE” Fellowship - All are welcome!

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal



**Journey to
EASTER**



**PALM SUNDAY PARADE
APRIL 13, 2025
10:00AM
Multicultural Taste-Testing**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 17, 2025
6:00PM Soup Fellowship
7:00PM Service**

**GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 18, 2025
6:00 PM Fish Fry
7:00 PM Service
Ecumenical Good Friday Service at
Tabernacle Baptist Church, 801 Eighth
St., West Palm Beach, FL. All are invited.**

**EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION
APRIL 20, 2025
10:00AM
Intergenerational Easter Party to follow!**

Wilderness Companions

Where are you most likely to turn to when needing comfort or encouragement? A loved one? A trusted friend? A Google search? How many times do we turn to God's Word first?

After her death, Laura Ingalls Wilder's family discovered where the author of the "Little House on the Prairie" books sought refuge in life. Tucked between the pages of her Bible was a list of go-to scriptures for all of life's circumstances.

Facing a crisis? The pioneer girl turned to Psalm 46. Discouraged? Laura's heart found healing in Psalm 24. And when lonely, it was Psalm 27 she would read.

Leaning into God's Word was exactly what Jesus did when facing his 40-days of wilderness wandering and wondering. After emerging from the waters of his glorious baptism, the Spirit led the Son of God into the harsh desolation of the desert. Then, at Jesus' most vulnerable moment, the Devil appeared tempting Jesus to tap into his divine connection to God to save himself.

Jesus, though, knew better. He turned to God's Word for help, overcoming every temptation with the preface "it is written."

Devil: I bet you are hungry, Jesus. Why not turn these stones into bread?

Jesus: It is written, you shall not live by bread alone.

Devil: I will give you all these kingdoms if you worship me.

Jesus: It is written, worship only the Lord your God.

Devil: Throw yourself from the highest point of the temple, for it is written that the angels will attend to you. (Yes, even the Devil turned to God's word, but that's another Sunday Bulletin devotion for another day.)

Jesus: It is written, do not put the Lord your God to the test.

And with that, the Devil departed.

Hearing the story of Jesus in the wilderness on the first Sunday in Lent is as much of a church tradition as reading the birth narrative on Christmas Eve. The story sets the stage for the 40-day season, where mimicking wilderness deprivation often plays out as some holy diet plan with the giving up of chocolate.

Rather than denying ourselves, though, why not take on the spiritual practice of turning to God's Word daily. For my friends, those words were Jesus' wilderness companions, and they are ours as well, always waiting to be called upon in our times of trial and temptation.

This Lent, let us make a go-to scripture list to turn to always. Even perhaps tuck that list into the pages of a Bible, knowing that someday someone will meet our wilderness companions and discover just how helpful they can be.

Loving God, may we remember to turn to Your Word in our times of need, for that Word will soothe our troubles, light our paths and bring clarity to the many questions we have. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.