

# UNION TIDINGS

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

*Volume 132, Issue 4*

*April 2025*

## Christ's Love Is Alive in Us!

*During the Easter Season, we will celebrate that Christ's love is alive!*

*We celebrate that Jesus Christ's love is alive by lifting the verse in John's Gospel (15:5), which teaches us that we do not stand alone in our faith walk because, together, we abide in the vine of Christ. In that, being part of the vine teaches us that Christ's love is alive in us!*

*Another example of Christ's love is shared in the story about a man who watched a group of workers tear down an old building. He also watched a large ball swing from a crane and repeatedly pound into the walls. And he asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled, or do they need special training to tear down this building?"*

*"No," replied the foreman, "what these men can tear down in a day or two, it took builders who are skilled in each of their crafts a year or more to build." This story teaches us that to build and grow, we need to nurture our faith in God, as well as nurture our love towards one another.*

***Christ-like love also suggests that we spend our time lifting one another with kindness and acts of mercy. Christ-like love gives us hope and helps us flourish in our prayerful efforts toward peace and justice for all!***

*Paul also explains the importance of Christ's love when he writes to the Corinthians, "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful, it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice at wrong but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never ends." In other words, love meets a person right where they are, for who they are, accepts a person, and then gives the person the freedom to grow and mature in themselves and in Christ. This is how Jesus Christ's love lives in us. During this Easter Season, we will celebrate the love of Jesus Christ, whose love has the power to shine upon and through us all!*

### ***Prayer***

*God, you are the vine grower. We are the branches. Help us abide in Jesus Christ, your true vine, so that we may bear much fruit. Help us faithfully proclaim the good news until all are welcomed into the new life you so generously give. May it be so. Amen.*

*With Christ's Love,*

*Pastor Sheila*





*Sabita Shah; Linda Harvey; Susan Young's sister, Genie; Kirk Dorhout; 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, Malgarita; 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*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

8	Alberto Lopez
9	Ariel Hines
13	Gail Fei
20	Cheryl LaVigne
23	Doug Cornwell
24	Suelene Marletta

## Steve Spenser's Gift to Union



## 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.

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY FELLOWSHIP AT UNION



# UNION AT THE PRIDE FESTIVAL



March 2025

# Celebrating Lent & Women's History Month

# At Union



# Nehemiah Action

JOIN US AS WE LIVE OUT

MICAH 6:8

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2025

AT 7:00PM

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

Buses are available for pick up and drop off. Call to reserve your seat on the bus.



Bring at least three people with you! This is the largest and most important meeting of the year. We expect over 1,200 people to come out for justice this year. This is when we ask our public officials to make specific commitments for action, based on the solutions researched and developed by the organization.

## How can I give to Union UCC?

**MOBILE:**  
Scan this  
Code



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

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

UNION'S FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN EVERY 1<sup>ST</sup>  
SATURDAY OF THE  
MONTH FROM 9 AM – 11:30 AM

We are blessed to have a church family that supports this ministry financially, who contributes food items, and helps with shopping.



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

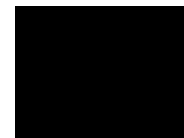
Loneliness can be a challenging topic. If you are wondering about it, experiencing it, let's share some thoughts and explore what women mystics and contemplative practices might offer.

Curious? Save the dates! Join this Month!

April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 – 1:15

May 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 – 1:15

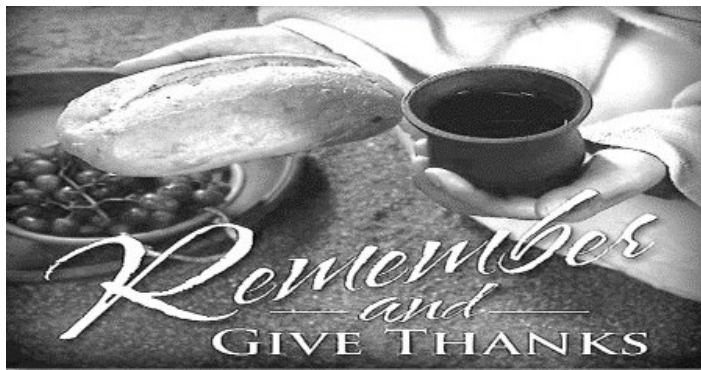
May 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 – 1:15



We'll gather to explore what happened in their lives and what is happening in our own.

Questions? Contact Rev. Michael-Ann (m-adveziroglu@outlook.com)

Please see the sign up on the sound board.



**Maundy Thursday**

On April 17, 2025, at 6:00PM, there will be a Soup Dinner. Please sign up on the soundboard. Service begins at 7:00PM. All are welcome!



**Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 PM There will be a fish dinner. The sign-up sheet is on the soundboard. Union will pay for the first 10 people who sign-up.  
7:00 PM Pastor Sheila and Rev. Michael-Ann, have been asked to be two of seven ministers in the area to preach at the Ecumenical Good Friday Service at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 801 Eighth St., West Palm Beach, FL. All are invited.

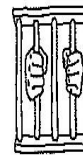
**2025 Nehemiah Action Assembly**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:**



Everyone deserves a safe place to call home. However that is not a reality for the estimated 105,000 families that are paying more than 30% of their income towards rent. There is currently a deficit of 42,500 affordable apartments for those making below \$59,000. Counties such as Broward and Hillsborough are addressing this crisis through an Affordable Rental Housing Trust Fund. PEACE is pushing for Palm Beach County to establish an AHTF that prioritizes building rental apartments for those making below \$59,000 annually. At the Nehemiah Action, Housing and Economic Development Director Jonathan Brown agreed to support PEACE's efforts to create more affordable apartments and to review our proposal.

**POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS:**

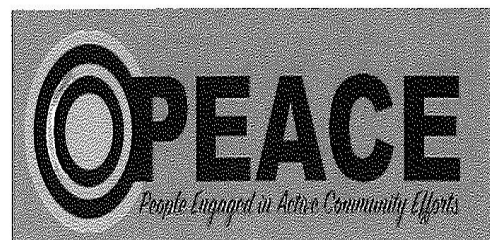


Each year, thousands of African-American and Hispanic residents of Palm Beach County experience "investigatory" stops for minor things like rolling stops or light too dim on the license plate. These stops are more about investigating the driver and their passenger(s). People of color feel targeted, leading to growing mistrust of the police. At the 2024 Nehemiah Action, we reaffirmed Sheriff Ric Bradshaw's commitment to track and analyze data on all traffic stops, including those that result in verbal warnings. He also agreed to contract with Dr. McDevitt to analyze this data. Lastly, Sheriff Bradshaw agreed to meet with PEACE within 45 days to implement data collection now using the system he currently has. We will send out that meeting data ASAP.

**MENTAL HEALTH:**



In 2020, 48,790 adults suffered from a serious mental illness in Palm Beach County, but only 46% received help. Florida Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) teams address this gap in access to services, but Palm Beach County only has one and a half teams serving just 126 individuals. PEACE is calling on Ann Berner and South East Florida Behavioral Network to fund and manage an additional FACT team, to serve the thousands of others who deserve care. As the managing entity, SEFBHN receives millions of dollars annually from the state to address behavioral health in the Palm Beaches and the Treasure Coast. At our 2024 Nehemiah Action, Ms. Berner refused to fund an additional team. We are frustrated that Ann Berner and SEFBHN are not making Palm Beach County's mental health a priority. PEACE is not going to stop fighting and will continue following up with Ms. Berner because Palm Beach County needs care... not crisis.



# YOUTH & KIDS CORNER

Support our Children  
and Youth!



Get your Car  
washed on April 27<sup>th</sup>!



Donations accepted  
and will go to  
Youth Activities!



## EASTER LILY SALE

The Christian Education Ministry Team is selling  
EASTER LILIES to decorate our sanctuary for our  
Easter season celebration!

They are \$10.00 each and support CE and Youth  
ministries.


Forms will be available on the sound board where you can fill in your name and the name of the person(s) you are remembering or honoring. These will be listed in the bulletin and the flowers can be taken home following the Easter worship service.

For more information and turn in your form and payment,  
please see Rev. Michael-Ann or Cunny, CE chair.

Thank you!!!

welcome  
*April*

# APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>6</b> Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Communion Sunday	<b>7</b> Nehemiah Action 7 pm Jupiter First	<b>1</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>2</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>3</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>4</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>5</b> Food Pantry 9am-11:30am
<b>13</b> Palm Sunday Parade Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Multicultural Taste Testing	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>9</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>10</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>11</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>12</b>
<b>20</b> Easter Sunday Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Intergenerational Easter Party	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>16</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>17</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open Maundy Thursday 6pm Soup & 7pm Service at Union	<b>18</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open Good Friday Service at Tabernacle 6pm Fish Dinner & 7pm Service	<b>19</b>
<b>27</b> Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Youth Car Wash	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open 	<b>23</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>24</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>25</b> 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer Room open	<b>26</b> 8am-11am Cleaning

# 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!

*Union Congregational United Church of Christ*  
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West Palm Beach, Florida 33415  
(561) 686-0330  
[www.unionucc.net](http://www.unionucc.net)  
email: [office@unionucc.net](mailto:office@unionucc.net)

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**SHOUTING ALLELUIA NEWS TO:**

