



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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER **MOTHER'S DAY / STUDENT APPRECIATION** May 11, 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

"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Words of Welcome & Announcements

INTROIT

"This Is the Day"

This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our God has made, we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it; this is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

*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: Come, let us worship God, who is deserving of

All: praise, One: glory, All: wisdom,

One: thanksgiving,

All: honor,

One: power and strength.

All: Come, let us worship God.

INVOCATION

Christ is with us!

Christ is in our midst!

O God, shepherd of us all, we thank you for protecting us, guiding us, feeding us, loving us. Be with us even now. Receive our worship, our praise, and our concerns. In this time of worship, may we rest our hopes in you that we may be led to open our hearts to the blessings of word, song, and sacrament. Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

Mother's Day Poem

Sunday School Class

M is for the million ways she shows love for me.

O is for her openness in sharing years of wisdom.

T is for the tears she shed to deliver me into the world.

H is for her heart of compassion through the years.

E is for her eyes that sees the best in me.

R is for her reassurance that God will always be with me.

Put all the letters together and they spell "MOTHER" a word that means the world to me!

MOTHER'S DAY MOMENT: Song: Happy Mother's Day



Happy Mother's Day to you!
Happy Mother's Day to you!
Happy Mother's Day, dear Mothers!
Happy Mother's Day to you!



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

"God Is So Good"

OFFERTORY MOMENT

Student Recognition

Linda Padmore,

Moderator

Song: "I've Got a Feeling"

I've got a feeling, everything's gonna be alright. O...
I've got a feeling, everything's gonna be alright. O...
I've got a feeling, everything's gonna be alright,
be alright, be alright.

The Spirit has confirmed it, everything's gonna be alright. O...
The Spirit has confirmed it, everything's gonna be alright. O...
The Spirit has confirmed it, everything's gonna be alright,
be alright, be alright.

*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

Psalm 23

God is my shepherd, I shall not want.

God makes me lie down in green pastures; and leads me beside still waters;

God restores my soul

and leads me in right paths for the sake of God's name.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long.

Acts 9:36-43

Down the road a way in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha, "Gazelle" in our language. She was well-known for doing good and helping out. During the time Peter was in the area she became sick and died. Her friends prepared her body for burial and put her in a cool room.

Some of the disciples had heard that Peter was visiting in nearby Lydda and sent two men to ask if he would be so kind as to come over. Peter got right up and went with them. They took him into the room where Tabitha's body was laid out. Her old friends, most of them widows, were in the room mourning. They showed Peter pieces of clothing the Gazelle had made while she was with them. Peter put the widows all out of the room. He knelt and prayed. Then he spoke directly to the body: "Tabitha, get up."

She opened her eyes. When she saw Peter, she sat up. He took her hand and helped her up. Then he called in the believers and widows, and presented her to them alive. When this became known all over Joppa, many put their trust in the Master. Peter stayed on a long time in Joppa as a guest of Simon the Tanner.

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PREPARATION "Eagles Wings" Arr. Michael Joncas

SERMON "Life-Giving Acts" Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

*CLOSING HYMN "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "No Greater" Arr. CeCe Winans

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, Rebekah Gay
Assisting Sabita Shah

Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns

Joys: All Birthdays in May! Our Church Family! Live Streaming! Fourth Sunday of Easter! Mother's Day Sunday! Student Appreciation Day!

Concerns:

Ariel Hines; Lynn McNaughton's cousin, Cade; Joanna Hollis's family friend, Gavin Weiss; Linda Padmore's daughter, Jeannine; 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; Bonnie Avery's family member, Greg; Rosemarie Lightfoots's sister, Anita; Charlie Rodriguez's family and friends; Beth White; Louise's friend, Martha; 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



Flowers are from Pastor Sheila in honor of all the Mothers and Mother figures of Union!



Sunday School Highlight

Join us this morning as we learn about a follower of Jesus named Tabitha. She did many good things for those in need of care and help. We will also make a little something to celebrate the mother and mother figures in our lives who take care of and help us! Come join the learning and the fun!



Come, O Fount of Every Blessing



193 God Is So Good

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. 1 Chronicles 16:34 Stanza 1: Children – Stanza 3: Children and youth – Stanza 4: Everyone



Happy Mother's Day!

Celebrating All Mother Figures

Today, Sunday, May 11th

(Following Morning Worship)

"Tea Time with Union's Mothers"





All are invited to attend.

We pray our time together will be blessed.



Save the Dates: June 21-22, 2025!



Summer Handbell Choir

Handbell

Kids, Teens, & Adults
All are invited to participate in Union's
Handbell Choir during the summer
months of July and August.
No Experience Necessary.
Tom Richards will be our Handbell
Director.

If interested, please sign-up or contact the office via email: zaida@unionucc.net.



Kids, Teens, & Adults
All are invited to participate in Union's
Summer Praise ensemble
during the summer months.

If interested, please sign-up or contact the
office via
email: zaida@unionucc.net.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS

Schnelle Burgos is going to 8th grade.

Veyanca Burgos is going to 11th grade.

Pressley Cadejuste is going to 11th grade.

Kinsey Grandusky going to 3rd grade.

Kaydence Grandusky going to 4th grade.

Brandon Guillaume is going to 10th grade.

Laila Joyner will be going to the 5th grade.

Lauren Serena Joyner is going to 2nd grade.

Abigailgloryann Manderson going to 8th grade.

Gloryannel Manderson going to 3rd grade.

Nathan Minott is going to 11th grade.

Isaac Nuñez is going to 10th grade.

Emma Shah will be going to 7th grade.

Jumilly Toussaint going to 8th grade.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATES

Kendall Grandusky is going to be a freshman in High School.

<u>HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE</u>

Criss & Marion's granddaughter, Maddy Gaetano is graduating from High School.

Joseph Saintiris will be graduating from High School with excellent grades.

Derya Veziroglu is graduating from Park Vista Community High School. She has been in the Medical Academy for four years and has earned three certificates! No Place for Hate, Student Voices and HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) are three of the organizations she served as a member and officer. She played volleyball and basketball in her first year, and has held various jobs all while maintaining good grades through her HS career. In August, she will begin at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA in the College of Liberal Arts as a Criminal Justice major.

COLLEGE GRADUATE

Alois Falcon's grandson, **Lorenzo Falcon**, graduated on May 3rd from Florida A & M University (FAMU) with honors, "magna cum laude."

Peg Lafferey's granddaughter, **Sara**, is graduating from college with a degree in Engineering & Economics in Colorado.





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

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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, May 11, 2025 - Mother's Day and Students Celebration!

10:00 AM Worship - Facebook Live Streaming

11:15 AM "Tea Time with Union's Mothers" - All are welcome!

7:00 PM Trustee Zoom Meeting

Sunday, May 18, 2025

10:00 AM Worship - Facebook Live Streaming

11:15 AM Fellowship - All are welcome!

11:45 AM Council Meeting







May 11, 2025 Acts 9:36-43

Life-giving Acts

In this season of Easter — where we journey 50 days to Pentecost — we continue to see how the power of Jesus, our Risen Lord, is now in the hands of his followers as they teach, preach and heal in his holy name. Today we have one such healing.

Peter is in the city of Joppa, a prosperous port on the west coast of Israel, where he learns of the death of a faithful widow named Tabitha (Dorcas in Greek). Her great acts of charity and kindness are spoken of by the number of mourners who come to her home. Many are widows themselves wearing dresses made by Tabitha, who was a skilled seamstress.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, Peter revives the dead woman by calling out to her, extending his hand and commanding her to get up once again. And she does. There is celebration, and news of this incredible life-giving act spreads throughout the populous city, gaining a record number of Jesus believers.

Bringing someone back from the dead is the ultimate life-giving act. But as Jesus followers in 2025, we need to remember that that life-giving act is still possible through each one of us. We might not be reviving the actual dead from their slumber, but we can bring life back to those who are among the walking dead — spiritually or emotionally. An inspiring word of encouragement reaching the ears of someone who has been belittled all their life is a life-giving act. A strong hand extended to lift the one who has been kicked to the gutter is a life-giving act.

There was a recent social media post from a resident of a tiny rural community thanking an anonymous donor for paying her ailing cat's veterinary bill. Some self-less soul, hearing of the woman's financial situation, opened wide their wallet to ease the stress and burden. A life-giving act for a worried fur mom and her elderly cat.

Life-giving acts are still possible.

And perhaps the great act in our reading today in not Peter's raising Tabitha from the dead. Perhaps the acts of life that we should applaud are the many ways Tabitha served others, performing life-giving acts daily without ever drawing attention to herself — a new dress, a listening ear, an understanding heart. Tabitha shows us this day that faithfulness is better than greatness. Tabitha showed that serving others is how we serve God. Who are the Tabithas among you this day?

God of new life, we praise you for the Tabithas who selflessly give to make this world better. We ask that you open wide our hearts and hands so that we may also perform life-giving acts to those in need who you place on our paths. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

