

Caring



Neighbors



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

July 13, 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"

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**

Greeting One Another

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

***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, neighbors and strangers,

All: prophets and seekers of justice,

One: those who need a helping hand,

All: and those who have something to offer.

One: Whether your faith is weak or strong,

All: come: let us be neighbors in this place,

One: and let us worship God together.

INVOCATION

Christ is with us!

Christ is in our midst!

God of love and compassion, you call us to be people of compassion, too: to experience in our living the lives of others, to laugh with their joys and cry with their sorrows. In this time of worship speak to us again your words of love and remind us again of what it means to be a neighbor. We pray in the name of Jesus, the ultimate neighbor. 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

“I Need You to Survive”

I need you, you need me, we're all a part of God's body, stand with me, come be with me, we're all a part of God's body. It is God's will that every need be supplied, you are important to me, I need you to survive, you are important me, I need you to survive. (Repeat)

OFFERTORY

“We are Marching in the Light of God”

***DOXOLOGY** (*Deacons Joanna & Nathan 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

Amos 7:7-17

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword." Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'"

And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' "Now therefore hear the word of the LORD. You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.' Therefore thus says the LORD: our wife shall become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be parceled out by line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land."

Psalms 82

In the divine council God has taken God's place;

God holds judgment in the midst of the gods:

"How long will you judge unjustly

and show partiality to the wicked?

"Give justice to the weak and the orphan;

maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.

"Rescue the weak and the needy;

deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in shadows;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

I say, "You are gods,
children of the Most High, all of you;
nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any noble."

Rise up, O God, judge the earth;
for all the nations belong to you!

Luke 10:25-37

Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?" He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?" He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself." "Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live." Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?" Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

"A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.'

"What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?" "The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded.

Jesus said, "Go and do the same."

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PREPARATION

"Down to the River to Pray"

SERMON

"A Plumb Line in the Neighborhood" Rev. Michael-Ann Veziroglu

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Bless Be the Tie that Binds"

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Amazing Grace"

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

Deacon Assisting

George Gerson

Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns

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

Concerns:

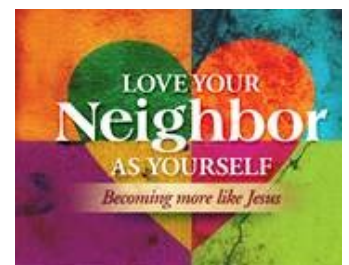
Linda Padmore's family & friends; Rod Jennings's family & friends; Jane Grandusky's husband, Mark; Bonnie Avery's family members, Greg & Nancy Avery; Teresa Byrd; Lynn McNaughton's mom and cousin, Cade; Linda Padmore's daughter, Jeannine; Linda Harvey; Susan Young's sister, Genie; Kirk Dorhout; Evelyn 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; Rosemarie Lightfoots's sister, Anita; 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



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

How have you been a good neighbor? Come to Sunday School and explore the story of the good Samaritan. See what this story says about being a good neighbor. Many thanks to Jane Grandusky for leading the class in this journey!!



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.

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', light of God, We are march-ing, march-ing, we are
the light of God, the light of God, march-ing, we are

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

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

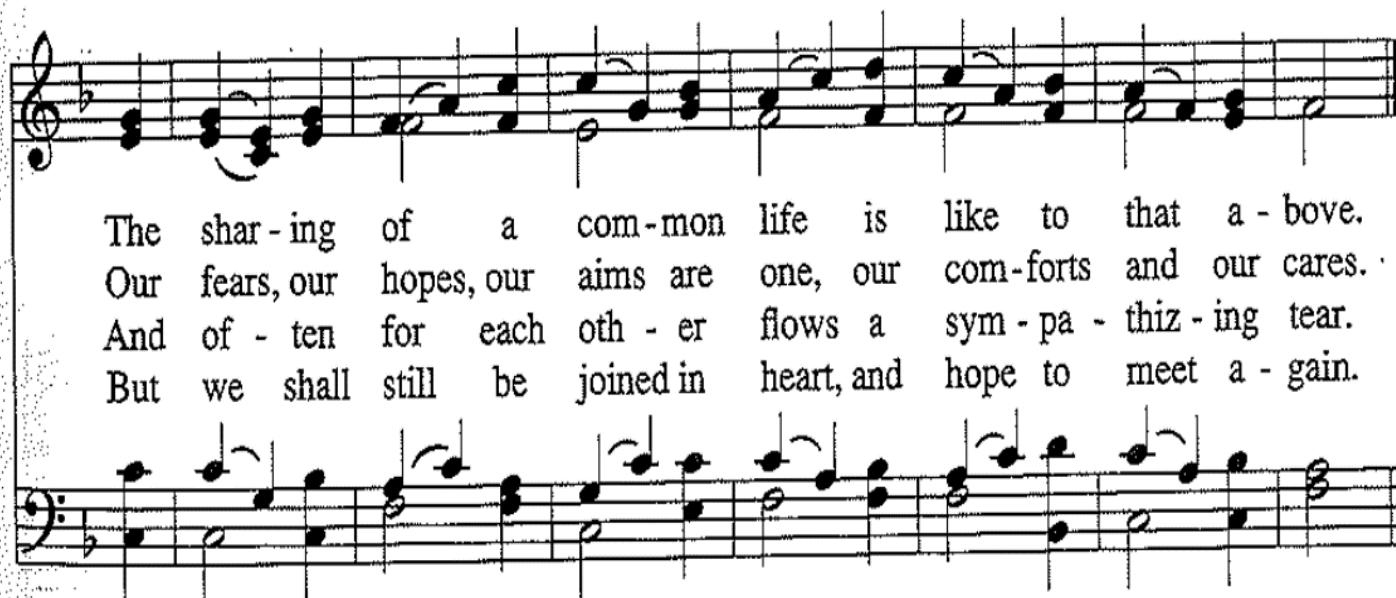
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John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be-fore our God we come and pour our ar-dent prayers;
3 We share each oth-er's woes, each oth-er's bur-dens bear,
4 When we are called to part it gives us in-ward pain,



The shar-ing of a com-mon life is like to that a-bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com-forts and our cares.
And of-ten for each oth-er flows a sym-pa-thiz-ing tear.
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a-gain.

NEWSLETTER REMINDER



Don't forget to submit any articles/news/
pictures and/or announcements for the August Newsletter
by Tuesday, July 29th. Please send them email to:
zaida@unionucc.net. Thank you!

Union Congregational
United Church of Christ

Upcoming
YARD SALE
July 26th!

START
GATHERING
NOW!

Donate your gently used
clothing and household
goods to support the
missions of Union!

**DONATE
& HELP**

VOLUNTEER TO HELP SET UP
& SELL THE DAY OF - SIGN UP
ON THE SOUND BOARD

Accepting donations beginning
July 20th thru July 25th
9 AM-1 PM or 4-7 PM

Visit Us : www.unionucc.net
Call: 561-686-8444
Email: office@unionucc.net

Union's Yard Sale

Yard Sale on Saturday, July 26, 2025

Church yard

8 AM – 4 PM

SALE



Sign up sheet on the sound board for
Council's Yard Sale & Summer Church
Cleaning-Clearing away unneeded items.
Collection will begin, Sunday, July 20th.

UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Ministers of the Church
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Sunday School Teacher
Guest Musician
Vocalist
Sexton

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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, July 13, 2025

10:00 AM Worship – Facebook Live Streaming

11:15 AM Fellowship - All are welcome!

Tuesday - Friday – The Sanctuary is Available for Prayer!

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

Sunday, July 20, 2025

10:00 AM Worship – Facebook Live Streaming

11:15 AM Fellowship - All are welcome!

11:30 AM - Noon Music Ensemble Rehearsals



SUMMER
Praise
ENSEMBLE

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.



Summer Hymn Sing

ALL ARE INVITED

Sunday, August 10, 2025

Join us for Union's Summer Hymn Sing.
Share your favorite Hymns or Songs by
placing them on the soundboard.

If you have any questions, please contact
the Church office via
email: zaida@unionucc.net.



FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 13, 2025

Luke 10:25-37

Caring Neighbors

"Who is my neighbor?" It's a question asked of Jesus so long ago, and one that still begs for an answer today.

For Jesus, his reply was to tell the beloved parable we know as "The Good Samaritan," highlighting for his hearers how the most unlikely person — a Samaritan — who was despised by the Jews, was the very person to care for the nearly beaten to death man found in a ditch alongside the notoriously dangerous Jericho Road.

So often, when we hear Jesus' words, we all too quickly step into the sandals of the Samaritan. We see ourselves in the role of benevolent savior with a charitable heart — and matching wallet — to help our unfortunate neighbors.

But do we ever dare to switch characters and put ourselves in the ditch, beaten and left to die, praying that someone will see and help us? Not as often as we should.

The question "Who is my neighbor?" is complex for the answer lies in the much-needed realization that sometimes we are the helper and sometimes we are the helpless, but all the time we are travelers on the same precarious road of life and, as such, need to see one another as neighbors in Christ.

There's a quote from Martin Niemöller, a German Lutheran pastor who went from Nazi sympathizer to outspoken critic of Hitler, that is part of the permanent exhibition at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which opened in 1993.

His quote is a powerful illustration of the fluidity of defining who are neighbor is. He wrote:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out — because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me.

Catholic priest and author, Henri Nouwen, once said of the parable of The Good Samaritan that "my neighbor is the one who crosses the road for me."

May today we become road crossing neighbors, knowing that one day we, too, will find ourselves in need of another road crossing neighbor who dares to reach their hand out to us.

Loving God, may Your world be filled with caring neighbors who recognize one another as Your precious beloved children. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)