

UNION TIDINGS

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

Volume 132, Issue 11

December 2025

MOVING FORWARD WITH HOPE

"And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." Isaiah 40:5, NIV

Seasons Greetings, Union! Currently, we are in the Season of Advent. It is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus at Christmas. Advent suggests that we keep our eyes on the Star of light this month to let it lead us triumphantly into the New Year.

For many Christians, the Season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from two different perspectives. First, the Season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and second, the Season prepares us to be alert for His Second Coming.

Here, at Union, we are continuously preparing with great anticipation of Christ's coming! We are doing so by offering goodwill amongst one another and even on behalf of those whom we have yet to meet. Praying that God continues to bless this church in ways that afford us the opportunity of spreading the hope, peace, joy, and love that was born at Christmas!

We are also blessed to continue moving forward in our Affordable Housing for Seniors efforts. We lovingly call it 'Peace Village.' In October, the County awarded Peace Village with \$1,000,000 towards funding the project, which goes to one development project per year. Just this past week, the County awarded part of its Affordable Housing Bond Fund to Peace Village for approximately \$5,000,000! We also received an additional \$300,000 to assist with development fees. Let's keep praying, please!

Moreover, looking forward during Advent represents this blessing, which says, "Let us welcome God's bright and shining morning star, a Child born in a manger, a Son sent to redeem the world. A Savior comes to renew all things. May His light shine on you. May His light shine through you. The light of God's Christmas Star is with you, in this season of new birth."

This Advent blessing helps us to remember that even amid change, loss, and grief, we can look to the Star that shines brightly and continues to light our way forward. As we are grounded in the promise that righteousness and justice prevail and that we will be guided by Christ's light in our work of love, peace, and integrity. May you and yours have a Merry Christmas and Joyous New Year!

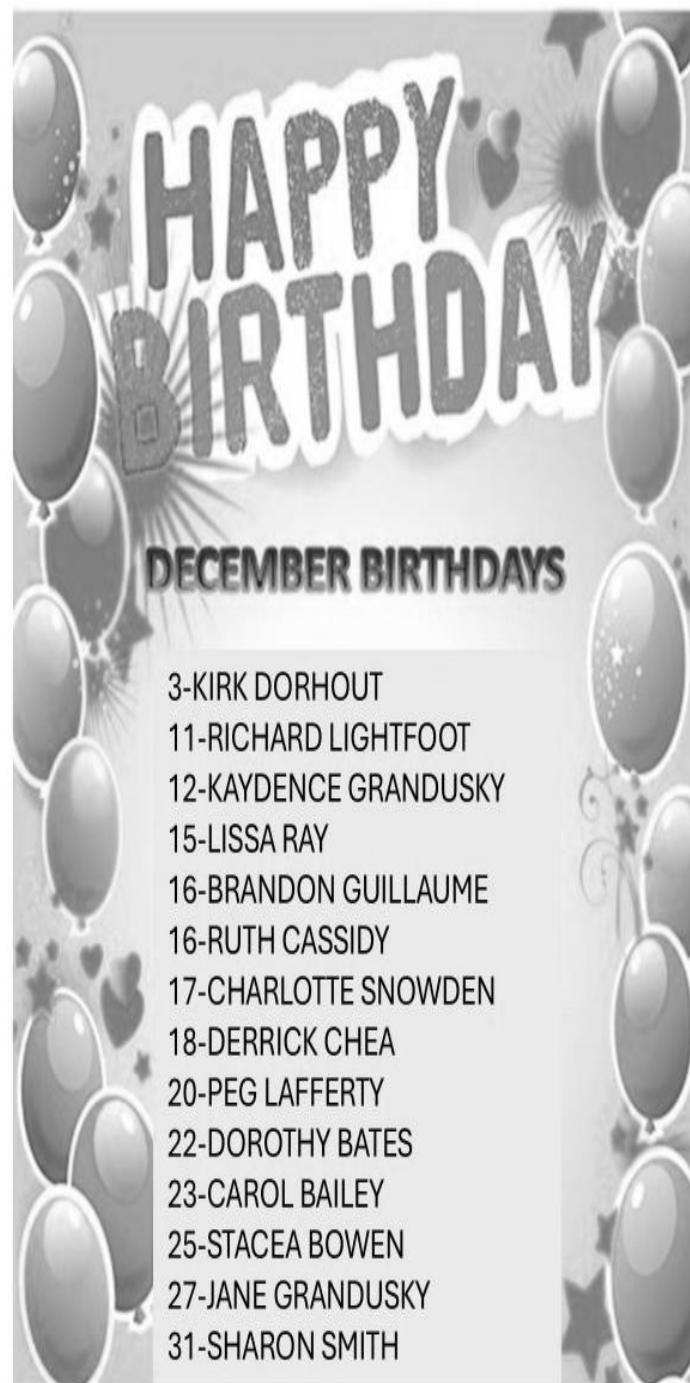
*With Hope & Love,
Pastor Sheila*





Keep
in Your
Prayers

Sam Clarke; Debbie Englert; Robert Herald family & friends; Joan Gerson; Timothy Blood; Tom Richards's sister, Cindy Richards-Wallace & his friend, Jackie Sloan; Jan Mark; Ada Harvey's grandson, Grant; David Ramirez; Irv Koehler; Tom Richards; Linda Padmore's family & friends; Rod Jennings's family & friends; Marion Gaetano's family & friends; Jane Grandusky's husband, Mark; Bonnie Avery's family and friends; Teresa Byrd; Lin 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; 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'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; Palestinians; Hurricane victims; Wild fires; Immigrant families; Attack on DEI; Medicaid & Food Assistance Programs; Hurricane Season Protection



3-KIRK DORHOUT
11-RICHARD LIGHTFOOT
12-KAYDENCE GRANDUSKY
15-LISSA RAY
16-BRANDON GUILLAUME
16-RUTH CASSIDY
17-CHARLOTTE SNOWDEN
18-DERRICK CHEA
20-PEG LAFFERTY
22-DOROTHY BATES
23-CAROL BAILEY
25-STACEA BOWEN
27-JANE GRANDUSKY
31-SHARON SMITH

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ONLINE:
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ENVELOPE:
CASH AND CHECKS MADE
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UNION'S 131ST CELEBRATION

thankful
& grateful



PEACE VILLAGE ALL SMILES!!

The Palm Beach Board of County Commissioners
votes 5-1 to award \$1 Million in funding towards
Union's Affordable Senior Housing Project!
Let's keep those prayers coming, Union!!



Justice and Peace News

This has been a very fruitful year for our Justice and Peace team at UCC!

Team member Paula Dorhout has submitted a report on a PEACE update: on Monday, October 27th, 238 PEACE members gathered at the Lake Worth United Church of Christ for PEACE's annual Community Problems Assembly. 12 PEACE members representing our church attended the meeting. At the meeting, reports were presented on the existing campaigns for affordable housing and mental health as well as the welcoming of two new congregations into the PEACE family. Reports were presented for the 2025 House meetings, and a vote was held to take on immigration as the new issue campaign. We will also continue working on our existing campaigns by meeting with elected officials and allies. Please contact Pastor Sheila or Paula Dorhout if you would like more information on how you can be involved with PEACE's efforts.

Team Member Tom Richards was able to attend the Tallahassee Call to Action for PEACE and has given an update. The group arrived in Tallahassee with the intention of gathering support for Palm Beach County Mental Health Services by helping fund FACT (Florida Assertive Community Treatment) teams. Palm Beach County currently only has 2 FACT teams when there should be 5 per state recommendation. After a meeting with several State Representatives and legislatures, including Representatives Tendrich, Gerwig, and Weinberger; there was agreement for the state to do all they can to help in funding the FACT teams needed. There was also a meeting with the head of DCF (Department of Children and Families), however not much progress was made on this point. Overall, this project was a positive move forward for PEACE!

I would personally like to thank every member of the committee for their dedication and hard work this year. I would also like to thank Pastor Sheila for supporting the efforts of the committee at this time, she has been a monumental pillar in our effort to better our community. God has truly blessed me with such an astounding and wonderful committee. Here's to another successful year for justice and peace!

Rebekah Gay, Committee Chair for Justice and Peace

Union Welcomes New Music Director!



Aaron Adderly has been a church musician for over 40 years. He has nearly 30 years of experience as a Music Director, which includes leading Choirs, Praise Teams and has Performed at the Kravis Center. Aaron is married to Phyllis who compliments his gifts.

Be An Angel This Christmas! Gifting Homeless Men in Palm Beach County



Mission & Outreach is partnering with the Lord's Place and sponsoring the Angel Tree in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to be an 'Angel' – select one of the Angels on the tree – purchase the gift listed on the Angel and return the gift – unwrapped in a gift bag OR in the shopping bag you purchased it in to under the tree by **Sunday, December 21st**. Let a member of M & O know which Angel you selected. Your Gift will be a Blessing!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE



The Christian Education/ Youth Ministry Team is selling holiday poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season! They are \$10.00 each and support CE and Youth ministries. Forms will be available on the sound board. Please list your name and the name of the person you are remembering or honoring and return the form to Rev. Michael-Ann starting December 7th. The names will be listed in the bulletin, and the flowers can be taken home following the Christmas Eve worship. For more information, please see Rev. Michael-Ann. Thank you!!!



Missions and Outreach News

Prayer Room: We are pleased to announce the Prayer Room is complete and ready to use. Each member of the team contributed including the support staff Criss Gaetano and our handy man, Sam. Also, thank you to Joanna Hollis, wife of the late Rev John Hollis, for her gentle guidance. Go to our Facebook page and see photos of the room.

T-Shirts: Our first order of T-Shirts has arrived and has been distributed to any member who is representing Union Congregational UCC out in the community. Please email me at mgaetano2@yahoo.com if you are attending or representing the church out in the community. You are entitled to a T-Shirt with our emblem on it free of charge. Anyone interested in purchasing a t-shirt can email me and it will be ordered for \$16.00.

131 Anniversary – silent auction: We were proud to Support Union's Silent Auction with a basket netted close to \$200.00 for the church. Way to go M&O!!!!

Food Pantry: We want to thank Debbie Chea for her years of coordinating the Food Pantry. Our Food Pantry is an essential Mission, and we are looking for someone to take over charge and lead the way. If you or someone you know is interested in being Union's volunteer Food Pantry Coordinator, please let me know.

Free Little Library: The little houses facing the street have been vandalized and are currently being repaired. These houses are our way of reaching out to adults and children who cannot afford to buy books. It is Unions way of reaching out to nurture the mind as well as the soul.

The Lord's Place: We will be providing a dinner four times a year for the women's residence. We are also providing an Angle Tree for the men's residence. We are awaiting a list from the Lord's Place to pin on our tree.

5 for 5 Giving: Please look for envelopes that are for the Christmas giving to the Church's Wider Mission. The money collected will be distributed mainly to retired pastors to help supplement their income. Your openness to giving does not go unnoticed both here on earth as well as in heaven!

Marion Gaetano,
Chair for Mission & Outreach



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS!

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Ralph Tarricone

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Jane Grandusky
Alice Payne
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Ada Harvey

BRONZE SPONSORS

Lenny Joyner

DONATIONS

Serenity Tea Garden
NCC Croquet Center
Vanie Joseph

URGENT EMERGENCY RELIEF NEEDED FOR JAMAICA



SUPPLY DONATION:

- Union will collect items, to help those most impacted by Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica. We will seek local partners to get the items to those in need.
- Collection Hours: The church office will be open Tuesday-Friday from 9-1, and on Sunday mornings.
- Delivery Date: TBA
- For questions, please see Donna Minott.

YOUTH & KIDS CORNER

Youth & Kids Celebrating Union's 131 years





December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 2 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	3 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	4 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open hours	5 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	6 Food Pantry 9am-11:30 am	
7 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Communion Sunday New Members Sunday	8 9 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	10 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	11 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	12 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	13	
14 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Christmas Pageant & Party	15 16 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	17 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	18 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	19 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	20	
21 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Kid's Baptisms	22 23 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	24 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	25 Office Closed Merry Christmas	26 Office Closed 27		
28 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	29 30 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	31 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open				



CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight
SERVICE

Wednesday, December 24th at 7:00 PM

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5088 Summit Boulevard
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December News Especially for you:

