

# UNION TIDINGS

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

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## *Pressing Forward with Hope, Faith and Love*

**Hebrews 12:1** states, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight... and run with endurance the race that is set before us."

As people of faith, we bring our dreams and openness of heart to love God and one another. We come together to share the hope that God is with us, guiding us through every season of life. We also gather at this time of year to celebrate our diversity by serving in ministry together and reflecting upon the dream of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As his ideals of justice, freedom and the belief that all are created equal in the eyes of God are biblical and noble principles.

We share Dr. King's dream of a day when people from all races and nations, even the offspring of the enslaved and former slave owners, can sit at a table like brothers and sisters and find ways of transforming their differences into uniting assets. But, as we reflect upon Dr. King's dream, let us ask, "What is our dream?"

For this New Year, we can dream of moving forward together. Dreaming that one day soon, our neighbors near and far, will start living as God's beloved community. Otherwise, Dr. King's dream will be just that... a dream.



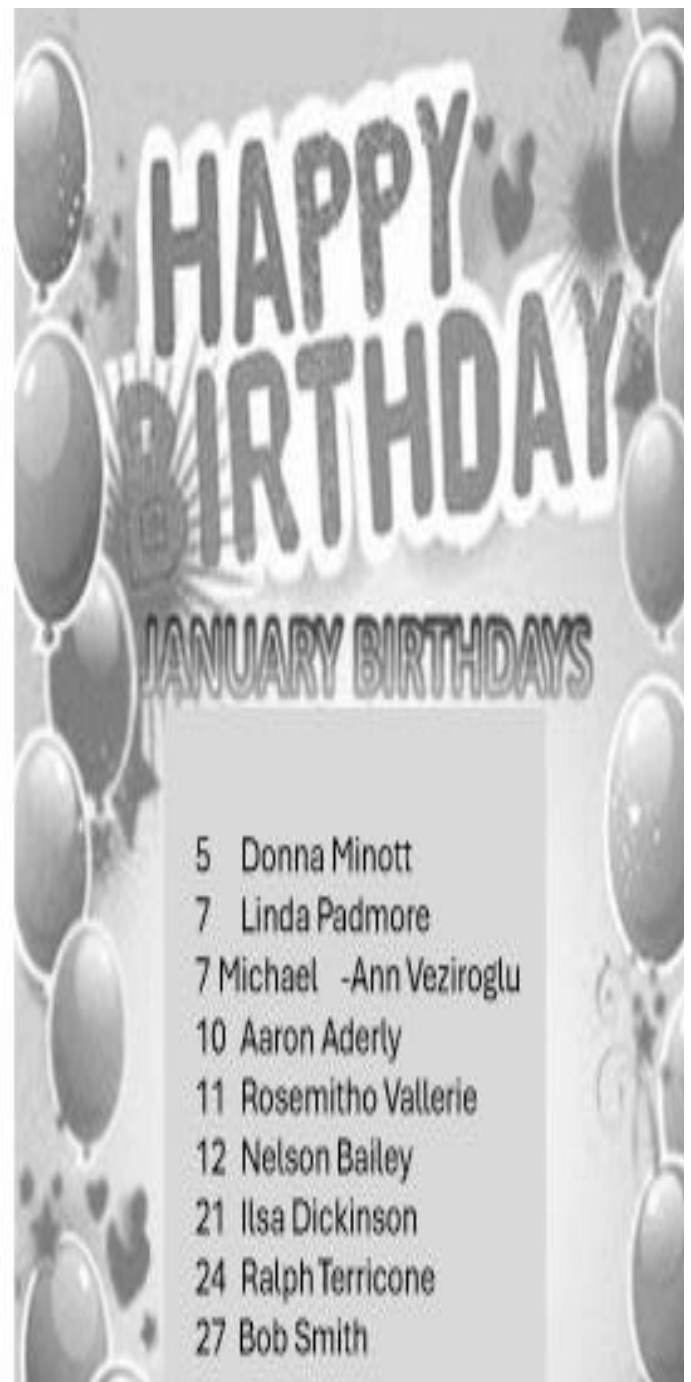
In the poetic refrain, "I Have a Dream," we hear a call for us to remember that in the real world, injustices abound. But our faith calls upon us to hope for a better world, where all are not seen by our privileges, but by our daily acts of love. This refrain reminds us that we are led by the Spirit of God who guides us towards our purpose. In that, the Holy Spirit opens us up to an unpredictable, exciting, life-giving, journey filled with new possibilities.

And so, let us move forward together in hope, faith, and love by worshipping God on a regular basis. Let us also continue advocating peace and justice for every neighbor. And let us shine the Light of Christ in our daily lives by supporting those in most need, being in fellowship with one another, and offering a portion of our talents, treasure and time towards the church's ministry. May it be so. Amen.

With Christ's Love,  
Pastor Sheila



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; Mass deportations of Immigrants



5 Donna Minott  
7 Linda Padmore  
7 Michael -Ann Veziroglu  
10 Aaron Aderly  
11 Rosemitho Vallerie  
12 Nelson Bailey  
21 Ilsa Dickinson  
24 Ralph Terricone  
27 Bob Smith

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Union UCC?**

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[UNIONUCC.NET](http://UNIONUCC.NET) (GIVE)

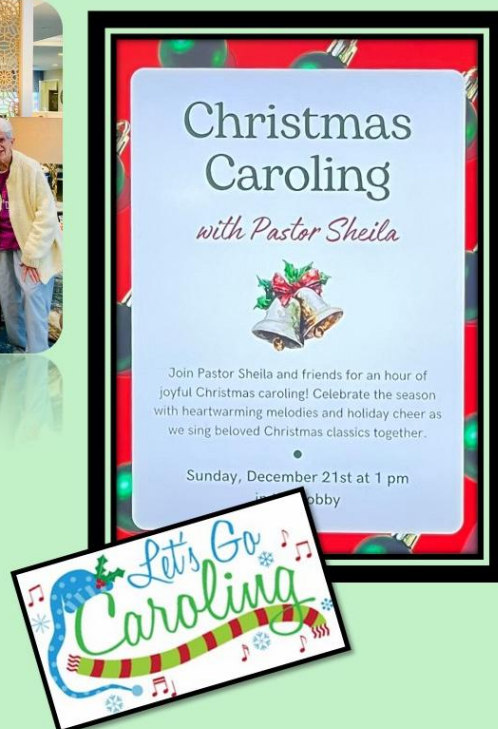
**ENVELOPE:**  
CASH AND CHECKS MADE  
PAYABLE TO UNION UCC



## UNION CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS!



## UNION GOES CHRISTMAS CAROLING!





## Justice and Peace News

As a PEACE church congregation, Union is united with others by our common desire to make Palm Beach County a better place to live, work and do business.

The PEACE research phase is now ongoing, and groups are already busy addressing community issues related to affordable housing, mental health and immigration in Palm Beach County. This phase culminates each year with a major public meeting known as the Nehemiah Action Assembly. Last year, PEACE showed their strength by having 1,200 individuals at this meeting.

This year we hope to have 1,600 people in attendance to hear local officials respond to, negotiate and make commitments on the issues we have been researching and addressing. However, to make that happen, we are encouraged to be intentional in our approach.

As such, Union's Peace Team members will be meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 11:45am to develop a plan on how to invite our church family, neighbors and friends to the Nehemiah Action Assembly on March 24, 2026. At this meeting, Megan Sease from PEACE will be joining us and guiding us through this process. Please see Paula Dorhout if you have any questions.



M&O delivering  
Angel Gifts to  
the Men's  
Apprentice  
program at The  
Lord's Place.



## HOW DO YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS CONNECT?



In a quiet place, settle yourself,  
take a deep breath, and reflect  
on your own spiritual gifts.

What calls you deep in your heart?

What does your inner voice speak?

Is there a deep gift you have that might meet a deep need?

Turn in your Spiritual Gift Discernment form in the box on the soundboard. If you have any questions your spiritual gifts, please see Pastor Sheila. To turn in your forms, please see Linda Padmore, Moderator.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE



Thanks to all who supported the  
Christian Education/ Youth Ministry  
Team holiday poinsettias to decorate our  
sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas  
season! They Support CE and Youth  
ministries.

We have extra poinsettias for anyone  
interested in taking one home.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL  
WHO HELPED TO COLLECT  
EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES  
FOR THE VICTIMS  
OF HURRICANE MELISSA IN  
JAMAICA!

**This Sunday,  
January 11,  
during Fellowship  
Hour, Donna will  
share an update  
on Hurricane  
Melissa from her  
first-hand  
experience as  
she traveled there  
and delivered the  
donated items on  
our behalf.**



### PANTRY NEWS



The Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ Food

Pantry would love to have you be a part of  
the Ministry!

Whether it is helping to bag for one Sunday  
after Fellowship, being a part of the  
distribution on the first Saturday of each  
month or being a volunteer who pledges to  
pick up supplies, you are needed!

Please reach out to Frank Remshifski if you  
are interested in being a part of this vital and  
necessary Ministry.



## **UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ANNUAL MEETING**



The Annual Meeting will be held on

**February 15, 2026**

11:45 AM after morning Fellowship.

All are invited to attend.

Please plan to attend as we review  
2025 and make plans for 2026.

# YOUTH & KIDS CORNER



## **A NOTE FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**


**The Sunday School Students offer a huge  
THANK YOU to  
Rev. Michael-Ann for her years of  
dedicated service to our class!  
We wish you all the best in Maryland.**





# January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Food Pantry 9am-11:30 am 
4 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Communion Sunday	5	6 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	7 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	8 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	9 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	10
11 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	12	13 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	14 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	15 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	16 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	17
18 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming MLK Sunday	19	20 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	21 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	22 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	23 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	24
25 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming 11:45 AM PEACE Meeting	26	27 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	28 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	29 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	30 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	31

# MLK SUNDAY JANUARY 18, 2026 10:00 AM WORSHIP 11:15 AM FELLOWSHIP

"Returning violence for violence  
multiplies violence,  
adding deeper darkness to a night  
already devoid of stars..."

Hate cannot drive  
out hate:  
only love can do that."

Martin Luther King Jr.



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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Happy New Year!*

