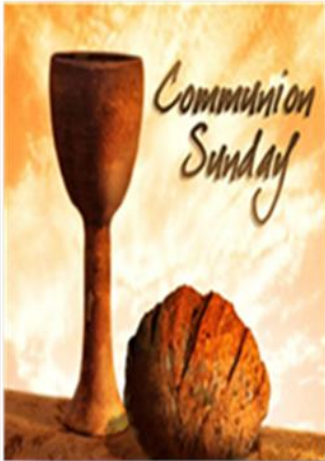




The Call of Abram



**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
COMMUNION SUNDAY**

June 7, 2026

*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

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

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. Repeat**

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: We enter this worship fragrant with the scents of God's creation.

All: Draw us closer to you, O God.

One: We enter this worship with our minds filled with pictures of our lives.

All: Draw us closer to you, O God.

One: We enter this worship with concerns on our hearts and tensions in our bodies.

All: Draw us closer to you, O God.

***INVOCATION**

Christ is with us!

Christ is in our midst!

God will do all that God has promised. Listen for that hope against hope, which seems impossible to believe. That's where God is. That's where faith sings. Let us listen, pause, and reflect so we can respond in faith. God is faithful and good. Alleluia! Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "God of Grace and God of Glory"

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 "Just As I Am"

**Just as I am, without one plea. But that your blood was shed for me,
And that you called inviting me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**Just as I am, your love unknown, has broken every barrier down;
now to be yours, and yours alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

OFFERTORY MOMENT "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

**Refrain: Just a closer walk with Thee. Grant it, Jesus, is my plea.
Daily walking close to Thee. Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

**I am weak but Thou art Strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to Thee. (Refrain)**

***DOXOLOGY** (*Deacons Joanna and Emma 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

Genesis 12:1-9

GOD told Abram: "Leave your country, your family, and your father's home for a land that I will show you. I'll make you a great nation and bless you. I'll make you famous; you'll be a blessing. I'll bless those who bless you; those who curse you I'll curse. All the families of the Earth will be blessed through you."

So Abram left just as GOD said, and Lot left with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot with him, along with all the possessions and people they had gotten in Haran, and set out for the land of Canaan and arrived safe and sound.

Abram passed through the country as far as Shechem and the Oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites occupied the land.

GOD appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your children." Abram built an altar at the place GOD had appeared to him.

He moved on from there to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent between Bethel to the west and Ai to the east. He built an altar there and prayed to GOD.

Abram kept moving, steadily making his way south, to the Negev.

Psalm 33:1-12

Good people, cheer GOD!

Right-living people sound best when praising.

Use guitars to reinforce your Hallelujahs!

Play his praise on a grand piano!

Compose your own new song to him;

give him a trumpet fanfare.

For GOD's Word is solid to the core;

everything he makes is sound inside and out.

He loves it when everything fits,
when his world is in plumb-line true.
Earth is drenched
in GOD's affectionate satisfaction.

The skies were made by GOD's command;
he breathed the word and the stars popped out.
He scooped Sea into his jug,
put Ocean in his keg.

Earth-creatures, bow before GOD;
world-dwellers—down on your knees!
Here's why: he spoke and there it was,
in place the moment he said so.

GOD takes the wind out of Babel pretense,
he shoots down the world's power-schemes.
GOD's plan for the world stands up,
all his designs are made to last.
Blessed is the country with GOD for God;
blessed are the people he's put in his will.

Matthew 9:9-13, 14-26

Passing along, Jesus saw a man at his work collecting taxes. His name was Matthew. Jesus said, "Come along with me." Matthew stood up and followed him. Later when Jesus was eating supper at Matthew's house with his close followers, a lot of disreputable characters came and joined them. When the Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company, they had a fit, and lit into Jesus' followers. "What kind of example is this from your Teacher, acting cozy with crooks and misfits?" Jesus, overhearing, shot back, "Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? Go figure out what this Scripture means: 'I'm after mercy, not religion.' I'm here to invite outsiders, not coddle insiders."

A little later John's followers approached, asking, "Why is it that we and the Pharisees rigorously discipline body and spirit by fasting, but your followers don't?" Jesus told them, "When you're celebrating a wedding, you don't skimp on the cake and wine. You feast. Later you may need to exercise moderation, but not now. No one throws cold water on a friendly bonfire. This is Kingdom Come!" He went on, "No one cuts up a fine silk scarf to patch old work clothes; you want fabrics that match. And you don't put your wine in cracked bottles." As he finished saying this, a local official appeared, bowed politely, and said, "My daughter has just now died. If you come and touch her, she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, his disciples following along. Just then a woman who had hemorrhaged for twelve years slipped in from behind and lightly touched his robe. She was thinking to herself, "If I can just put a finger on his robe, I'll

get well.” Jesus turned—caught her at it. Then he reassured her: “Courage, daughter. You took a risk of faith, and now you’re well.” The woman was well from then on.

By now they had arrived at the house of the town official, and pushed their way through the gossips looking for a story and the neighbors bringing in casseroles. Jesus was abrupt: “Clear out! This girl isn’t dead. She’s sleeping.” They told him he didn’t know what he was talking about. But when Jesus had gotten rid of the crowd, he went in, took the girl’s hand, and pulled her to her feet—alive. The news was soon out, and traveled throughout the region.

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PREPARATION

“Eagles Wings”

Arr. Michael Joncas

SERMON

“The Call of Abram”

Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

The gifts of creation are on the table.

The dreams of God are set before us.

Let us give thanks for God’s gifts.

At all times, great God, may our grateful hearts give you praise.

Pastor: We remember Jesus – born of Mary, Joseph and God – who was born in Bethlehem and who grew up in Nazareth.

All: We remember that he was a son and a brother, a worker and a friend.

Pastor: We remember Jesus gathered disciples and taught them about a way of peace and justice, of love and blessing.

All: He called it the Kingdom of God.

Pastor: We remember Jesus gathered his friends in an upper room and asked them to love one another as he had loved them. We remember that Jesus said, “Every time you take the bread and break it and every time you bless the cup and drink from it, you are to remember me.”

All: Every time we eat and drink in Jesus’ name, He is present with us and we are indeed one body! As many as we are, we are one in Christ.

Pastor: Now remembering the events of the last week of Jesus’ life – how he entered into Jerusalem in great joy and how he left carrying a cross– we take our place at the table of the Lord’s Supper to bear his sorrows and pledge ourselves to love and serve him. Pour out your Spirit, God, on these gifts of bread and wine that they may signify for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ – our teacher, our friend, and our Savior. May Christ’s loving spirit work through us to serve and renew the world God loves.



All: All glory and honor is yours, God most holy, now and forever. Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

COMMUNION HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, My God, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees.

R

Let us praise God together on our knees; let us praise God together on our knees. R

ALLELUIA

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

***CLOSING HYMN** "God Be with You"

***COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

POSTLUDE "Blessed Assurance" Arr. Aaron Adderley

DEPART TO SERVE

Orlando Trip

Thanks to all who participated in our intergenerational trip to Orlando! We explored meaningful, historic sites and had lots of fun! For our summer reading, we invite all to read [Their Eyes Were Watching God](#). On August 9th, we will reflect on our trip and the book. For book information, contact Paula Dorhout.



VBS SUMMER 2026

Last week's VBS was a HUGE success! Many Thanks to our Christian Ed & Youth Ministry Team, Pastor Sheila, parents and AMAZING students. What a great way to kick off the Summer Break!





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

Sabita Shah, Joanna Hollis, Tom Richards

Deacons Assisting

Judith Mooers

Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns

Joys: All Birthdays in June! Our Church Family! Live Streaming! Communion Sunday!

Concerns:

Jan Mark; Debbie Englert; Dorothy Bates; Linda Padmore; Stephen Spencer: Joan Gerson; Paula & Kirk's daughter-in-law, Melissa; Adderley's mom, Maxine; Lin's mom; Sharon and Donna's family and friends; Phyllis Adderley; Martha Yanick family & friends; Stephen Spencer family and friends; Robert Herald family & friends; Timothy Blood; Tom Richards's sister, Cindy Richards-Wallace & his friend, Jackie Sloan; 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; Donna's brother, Clevert; George Gerson's Brother, Michael; Melanie's Friend, Donna; Borjana's son, Petar; 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; Mass deportations of Immigrants; War In Iran; Cost of Living Increases



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

Students will explore how people in all sorts of circumstances go to Jesus for healing and love and will plan how they can share Jesus' love with others. Today's Sunday School teacher is Rebekah Gay.



God of Grace and God of Glory

436

Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age.

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

God Be with You

81

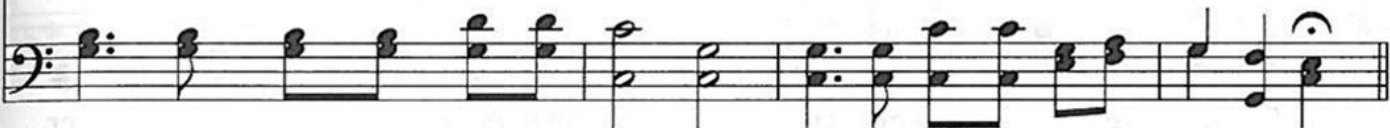
Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880; alt.



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; By good coun-sel guide, up - hold you,
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Wings of shel-ter safe - ly hide you,
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; When life's per - ils thick con-found you,
4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; Keep love's ban-ner float - ing o'er you,



With a shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
Dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
Put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
Smite death's threat-ening wave be - fore you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.



Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;
till we meet, till we meet a - gain, till we meet,



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
till we meet, till we meet a - gain,



**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

Aaron Adderley

Vocalists

Michelle Benght

Tom Richards

Sexton

Vanie Joseph

Email Address:

Pastor Sheila

sheila@unionucc.net

Office - Zaida Pacheco

zaida@unionucc.net / office@unionucc.net

Union Congregational Church, UCC:

unionucc.net

Florida Conference, UCC

www.uccfla.org

National UCC:

www.ucc.org

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, June 7, 2026 – Communion Sunday!

10:00 AM - Worship – Facebook Live Streaming

11:15 AM - Fellowship - All are welcome!

11:30 AM – Choir/Bells “Project Organize” and Social

Tuesday - Friday – The Prayer Room is Open!

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

Sunday, June 14, 2026

10:00 AM - Worship – Facebook Live Streaming

11:15 AM - Fellowship - All are welcome!



KINDNESS IS LOVE IN ACTION!



Union joins with the wider church and the United States of Kindness project in hopes to have a big impact on the way citizens treat each other by offering 250 Acts of Kindness, and we are already off to a great start!!

We will keep a sheet on the soundboard (or email zaida@Unionucc.net) for us to share how our Kindness is Love in Action! Join in on the good-fun of being Kind!!!

<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-and-values-in-action-partnership-working-to-promote-kindness-across-the-country/>



The Call of Abram

Corrie Ten Boom once said, “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” It was that belief in God’s protection that gave her the courage to hide Jewish families during the World War II German occupation.

It’s amazing what we can do when we trust our next steps to God. Sadly, many of us never get the chance to be awed by this great God because we prefer the safety of what we are familiar with rather than risk any new beginning.

Yet throughout the generations the stories overflow of those who dared to say “yes” to God’s invitation to step off the beaten path. Abram is one of those who can tell such a tale. Although Abram was beyond the dreaming big stage, as we often believe we enter as we age, God told him to leave kindred behind. It was time to go to a land where God would make Abram’s name great. It would be a place Abram’s offspring would inhabit and keep multiplying in.

Abram couldn’t pass up this offer. It was too enticing, especially since he and his wife, Sarai, were childless. Could there still be a chance to leave a legacy?

They packed their belongings and set forth. And God did not disappoint. Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham, signifying the new thing God was doing in his life, had descendants as numerous as the stars in heaven. Sarai’s name was also changed to Sarah.

I’ve always been enamored by Abram’s call story, as it has bolstered my fainting heart when daring to step into an unknown future. But before you applaud my faith, let me point out that my Abram moments happened when I was filled with youthful ignorance.

Now that I’m older, I find myself hesitant to go in any direction without first asking God, “Does the journey come with a pension and health care?” I had always hoped my faith, not my fear, would grow stronger as I aged.

It’s one thing to heed God’s call in our youth, but who among the AARP card carriers would be excited for such a journey? Our golden years should be ones of rest and comfort, not unknown adventures. Yet God doesn’t worry about the fire hazard those numerous candles on our birthday cakes have turned into. God still wants to blaze a glorious future for us.

Who will dare to have the faith of old Abram? I pray I will. I pray you will. For we all have a call story still waiting to be told.

God of amazing adventures and divine protection, may this day we tell our fears to be gone. May faith overflow in our hearts, helping us to trust our unknown futures to a God who we do know: the God of love who never lets us down. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.