

WHEN
ALL
SEEMS
LOST





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

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY

August 9, 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

"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: In a world overwhelmed by waves of bad news,

All: we feel tossed and turned in the chaos of current events.

One: Here we are, carrying our dreams in our spirits,

All: wondering what God dreams in the storms and turmoil.

One: It is God's dream of abundant life,

All: and we are stirring to interpret its meaning.

One: We come together to listen and wonder, to praise and celebrate.

All: We come in hopeful anticipation to awaken our hearts to God's dream fulfilled.

***INVOCATION**

Christ is with us!

Christ is in our midst!

God of grace, come to us. Be among this extravagant gathering. Be within this miscellaneous cluster of people. Come to us, we pray, as Jesus came to the disciples in that stormy sea many years ago. Come to us, as Reuben came to the rescue of his brother, Joseph. Come to us and bring your calming touch and faithful presence into our awareness. Enter our boat and be in our midst in ways so tangible that we have no more room for doubt or fear. Come to us, and anchor our confidence in your grace. Come, God of grace, bring your spirit and the spirit of our ancestors. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

"What a Friend We Have In Jesus"

PASTORAL PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Back to School Blessing

(All students, educators, and parents to come forward for a blessing. Bring Bulletins.)

Students: Dear God, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year. Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me. Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.

Educators/Parents: Lead me. Guide me.

All: Hear our prayers for a blessed school year, O God. Amen.

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"

**God is so good, God is so good, God is good, God's so good to me.
God cares for me, God cares for me, God cares for me, God's so good to me.
God loves me so, God loves me so, God loves me so, God's so good to me.
God is so good, God is so good, God is good, God's so good to me.**

(Please return to your seats.)

OFFERTORY MOMENT

Paula Dorhout & Donna Minott

Song: "We are Marching in the Light of God"

***DOXOLOGY** *(Deacons George and 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

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This is the story of the family of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am." So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me." So he sent him from the valley of Hebron. He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." The man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to

them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Psalms 105: 1-6, 16-22

O give thanks to God, call on God's name,
make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to God;
tell of all God's wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

Seek God and God's strength;
seek God's presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done,
God's miracles, and the judgments God uttered,

O offspring of God's servants Abraham and Sarah,
children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

When God summoned famine against the land, and broke every staff of bread,
God had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

His feet were hurt with fetters, his neck was put in a collar of iron,
until what he had said came to pass, the word of God kept testing him.

The king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free.

He made Joseph lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions,
to instruct his officials at his pleasure, and to teach his elders wisdom.

Matthew 14:22-33

As soon as the meal was finished, he insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he dismissed the people. With the crowd dispersed,

he climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea when the wind came up against them and they were battered by the waves. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared out of their wits. "A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror. But Jesus was quick to comfort them. "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid."

Peter, suddenly bold, said, "Master, if it's really you, call me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come ahead." Jumping out of the boat, Peter walked on the water to Jesus. But when he looked down at the waves churning beneath his feet, he lost his nerve and started to sink. He cried, "Master, save me!" Jesus didn't hesitate. He reached down and grabbed his hand. Then he said, "Faint-heart, what got into you?" The two of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, "This is it! You are God's Son for sure!"

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PREPARATION "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize" Traditional, "Hold On"
Choir

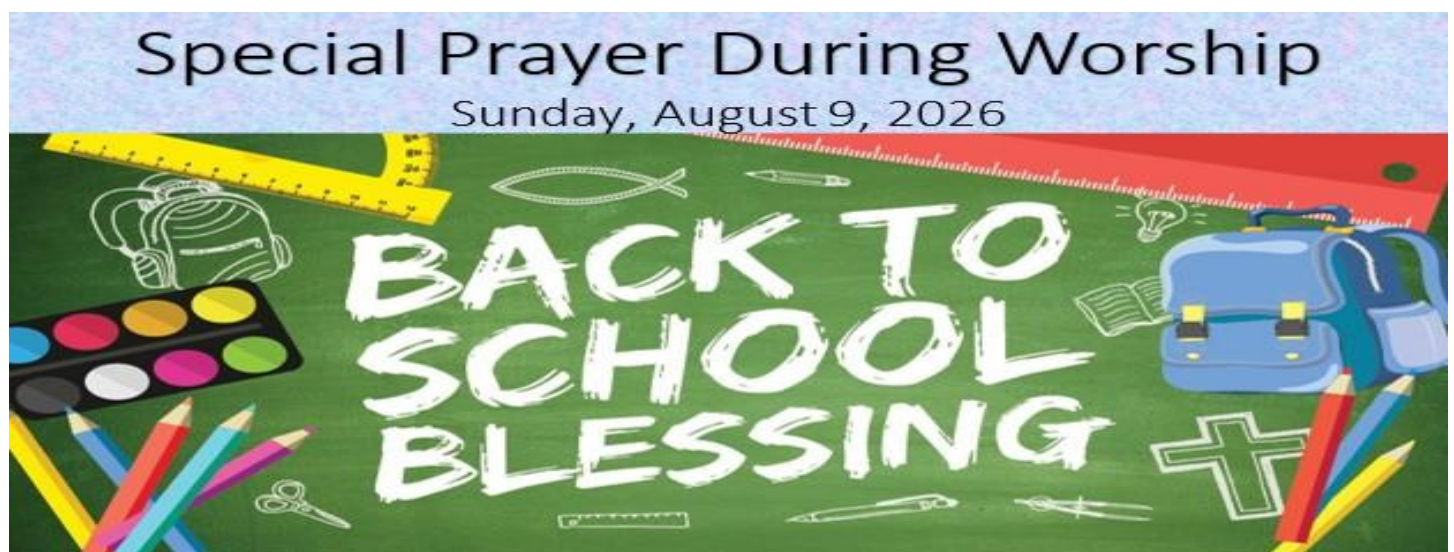
SERMON "When All Seems Lost" Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

***CLOSING HYMN** "Shall We Gather at the River"

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "God Be with You" Arr. Aaron Adderley

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

Dottie Bates, Kirk Dorhout, Rebekah Gay

Deacons Assisting

George Gerson

Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns

Joys: All Birthdays in August! Our Church Family! Live Streaming! Back to School "Sundae"! Brandon's New Book!

Concerns:

Sam Clark; Zaida's family & friends; Susan Young's family and friends, 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



Congratulations to Brandon on the publication of his first book, War for Earth!!!



Sunday School Highlight

Students will act out the story of Jesus walking on water and name ways they might step out in faith and follow Jesus together. Today's Sunday School teacher is Cunny Burgos.

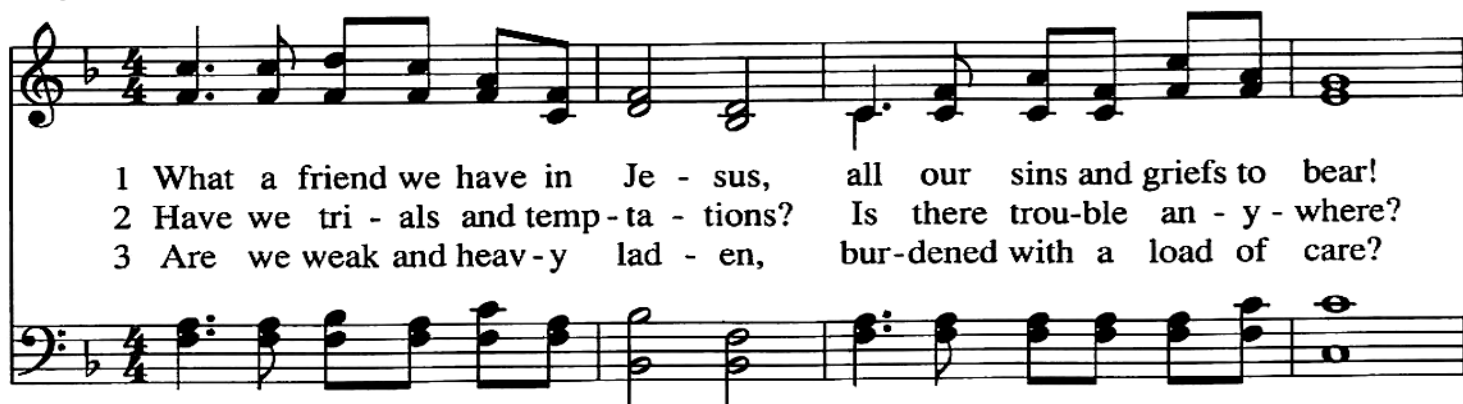


What a Friend We Have in Jesus

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Joseph Scriven, 1855; alt.

Phil. 4:6-7



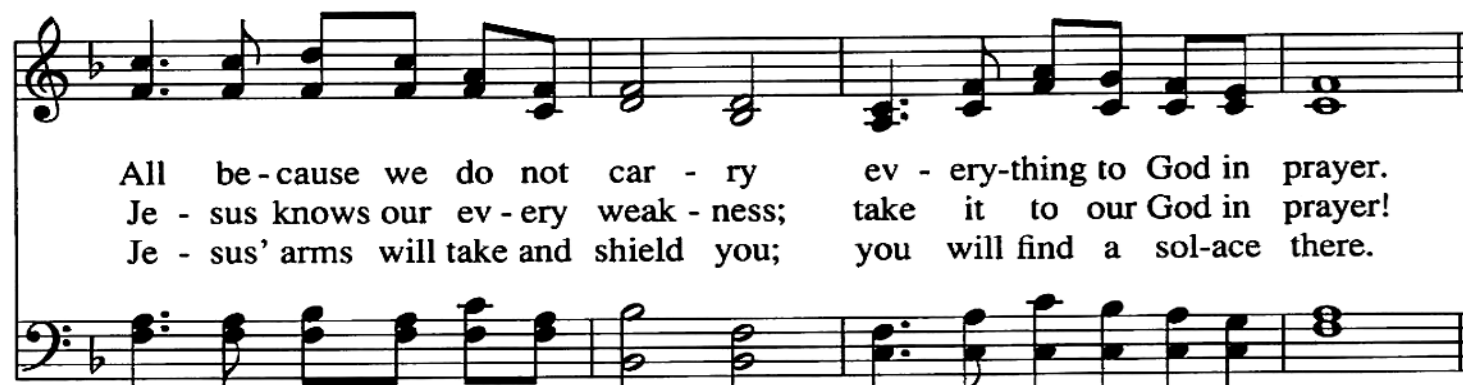
1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer.
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!
Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

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', march-ing in the light of God. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march-ing in the

nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
kha - nyen' kwen-khos', We are march-ing, march-ing, we are
light of God, the light of God, march-ing, we are

ham - ba, Oo, ham - ba, 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

STEWARDSHIP NOTE

Thanks for your continued support during these summer months. We are pleased to be God's love and light.

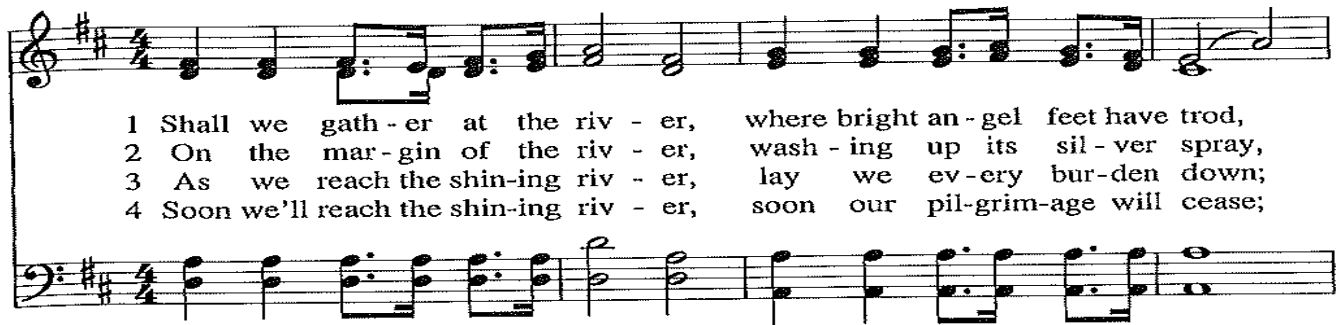


Shall We Gather at the River

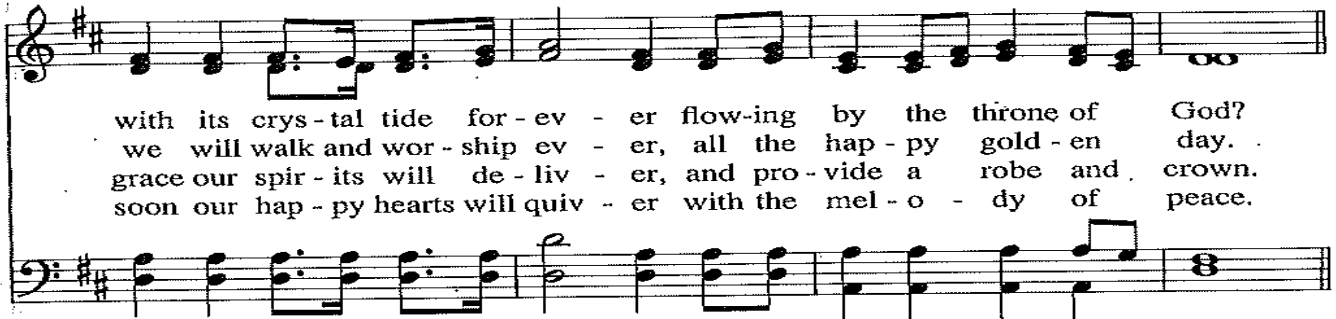
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Robert Lowry, 1864; alt.

Rev. 22:1-5

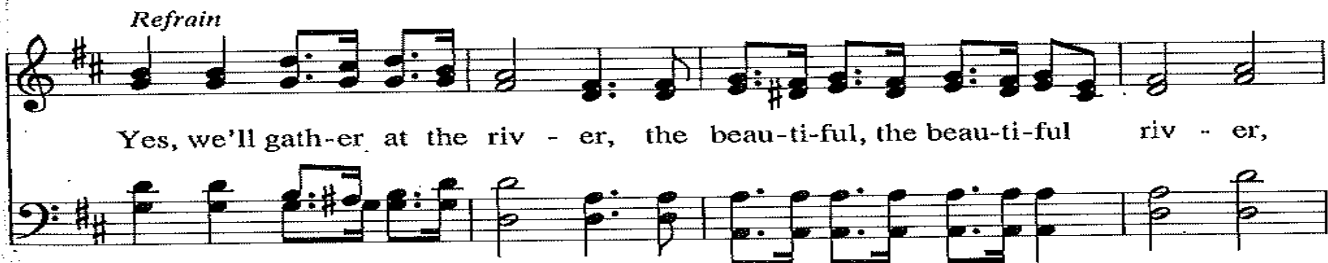


1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 As we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - ery bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

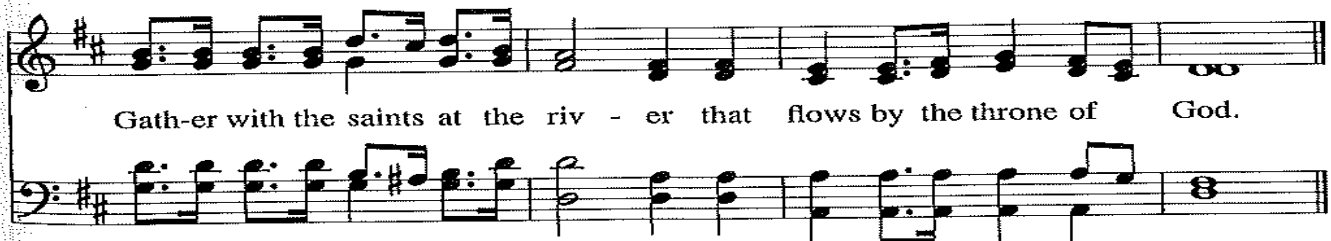


with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,



Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

We are excited to share that Union's Food Pantry is transitioning to a team-based approach. This new model will allow volunteers to share responsibilities, work together more effectively, and ensure the pantry continues to serve our community with care and compassion. By working as a team, we can build on each person's strengths, provide greater support for one another, and create a sustainable ministry for the future. We are grateful for everyone who has faithfully served the Food Pantry over the years and look forward to this new chapter of collaboration. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. A sign-up sheet will be on the soundboard for baggers and shoppers.

UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Ministers of the Church
Pastor
Music Director
Vocalists

All of Us
Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey
Aaron Adderley
Michelle Benght
Tom Richards
Vanie Joseph

Sexton

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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, August 9, 2026 - Back to School "Sundae"!

10:00 AM - Worship / Sunday School – (Live Streaming Worship)

11:15 AM – Back to School "Sundae" - All are welcome!

11:30 AM – Summer Reading & Orlando Trip Reflections



Tuesday - Friday – The Prayer Room is Open!

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

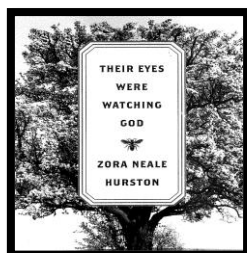
Sunday, August 16, 2026

10:00 AM - Worship / Sunday School – (Live Streaming Worship)

11:15 AM – Fellowship - All are welcome!

SUMMER READING

Their Eyes Were Watching God,
by Zora Neale Hurston. Today, August 9th,
we will reflect on our Orlando trip and the
book. For book information, contact Paula
Dorhout.



TODAY:

AUGUST 9, 2026

BACK TO SCHOOL

"SUNDAE"

Inspirational Drawstring Bags Give Away!

AFTER WORSHIP
ALL ARE WELCOME!



August 9, 2026

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

When All Seems Lost

Joseph was a dreamer. He was also the child his father loved the most, which didn't sit well with his brothers. So much so, they plotted to kill their younger sibling. But not wanting Joseph's blood on their hands, they threw him in a pit instead. When the pit didn't ease their guilty conscience, they then sold the boy for 20 pieces of silver to a group of Ishmaelites on their way to Egypt.

Yes, Joseph was a dreamer. And yes, he was the family's golden child. But I believe what really spurred the brothers' hatred was that Joseph dared to dream.

"Here comes the dreamer," his brothers would say with a biting sarcasm when Joseph approached. Here comes the one with lofty ideas, with bold plans, with a vision that quite honestly isn't enviable but downright frightening because it holds a mirror to our inability to embrace a new way of living.

And that's the thing about dreams. They have the power to unsettle others. A reason why many life coaches advise against sharing too freely our most treasured dreams with everyone, because not everyone will understand and be supportive. Many a dream has been squashed by a naysayer who thought they were listing all the cons out of love and concern for the dreamer.

What a shame it is that in our lives we give too much power to the opinions of others, especially when it comes to our dreams, for those dreams just might be from God who, in the Bible, often communicated in nocturnal slumbering.

And when a dream is a God dream, they are never then the sole property of the dreamer. They are for the making of a better world, which comes at the price of the old world having to come to an end or at least make some big changes. Thus, why people often seek to kill dreams.

Yes, here comes the dreamer. No, I am not referring to Joseph, but to you, for we all have dreams. Some so big they might seem impossible, but they are not. Some within reach, ready to be grabbed hold of. And all with the ability to change life as we know it.

As Harriet Tubman once said, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars and to change the world."

If all seems lost right now for you, my dear dreamer, it is not. Keep reaching. Keep believing. God is with you.

Inspiring God, may today we find ourselves daring to dream once again. May we find the strength to take those forgotten dreams off the dusty shelves of our hearts. May we believe beyond belief, that with You, all things are indeed possible. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.