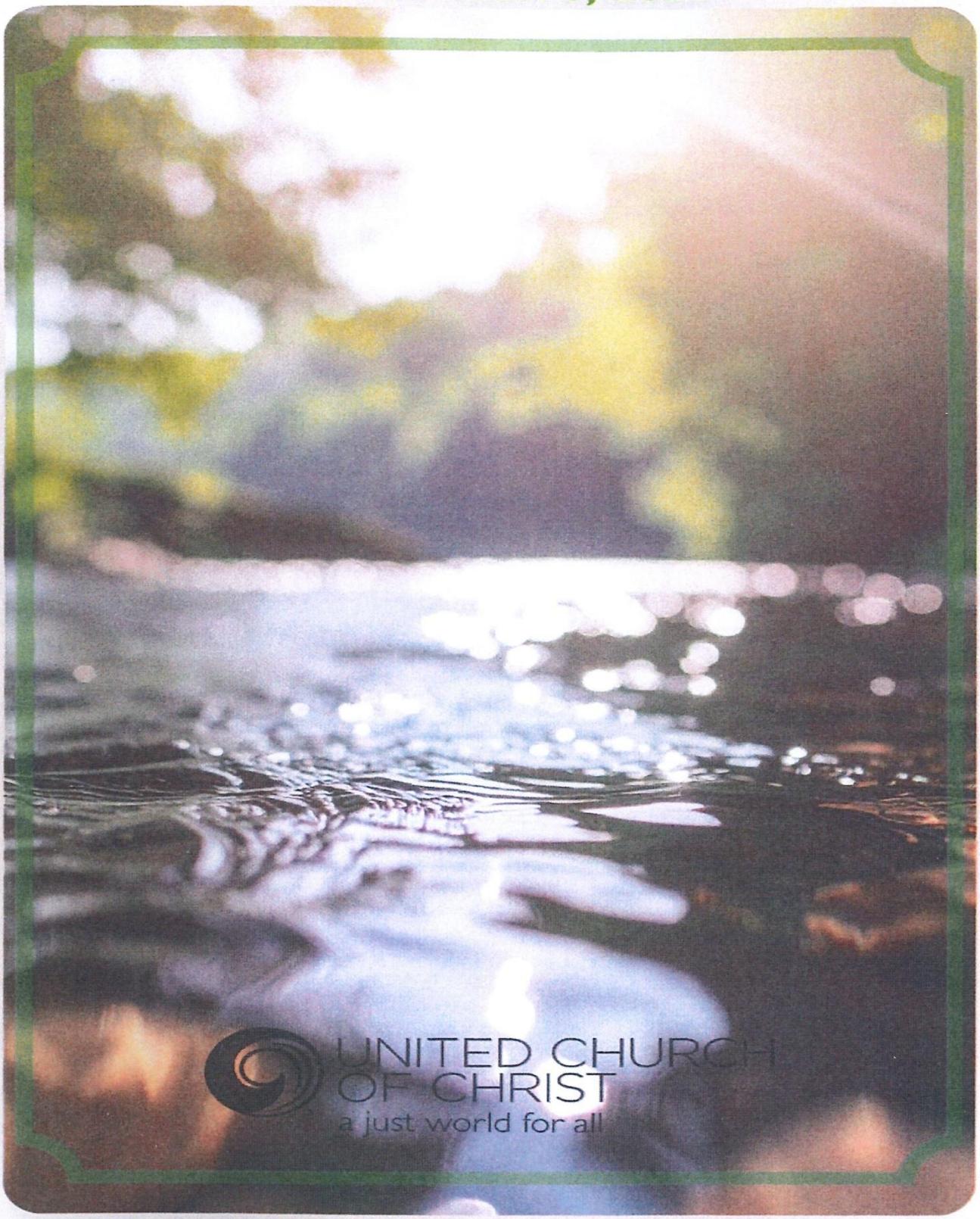
NOVEMBER 8, 2026



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

TENDING GOD'S LIGHT



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
VETERANS SUNDAY
November 8, 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 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Words of Welcome & Announcements

INTROIT "Come By Here, My Lord"

Come by here, my Lord, come by here. Come by here, my Lord, come by here. Come by here, my Lord, come by here. Oh Lord, come by here.

Someone needs you, Lord, come by here. Someone needs you, Lord, come by here. Someone needs you, Lord, come by here. Oh Lord, come by here.

Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here. Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here. Someone's prayin', Lord, come by here. Oh, Lord, come by here.

Kum Ba Yah, my Lord, come by here. Kum Ba Yah, my Lord, come by here. Kum Ba Yah, my Lord, come by here. Oh, Lord, come by here.

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: Give ear, O people, to God's teachings.

All: For in parable and story God's wisdom is revealed.

One: Let us listen for things we have heard and known, for the stories that are so important that we keep telling them over and over again.

All: Let us remember God's glorious works in our own words.

One: People of God, be a witness and a light. Share what you know and trust in the goodness of God. Together, let us raise our hope and remember every opening and possibility.

All: Let us worship God in wonder and truth.

***INVOCATION**

Christ is with us!

Christ is in our midst!

We come with our whole hearts ready and waiting to share in your graceful abundance. Come, O God, open to us. We come uncertain and indecisive. Come, O God, open to us. We come hopeful and curious. Come, O God, open to us. We come expectant and eager. Come, O God, open to us. Open all the doors and welcome us in. Invite us to share in your story, O God, where there is more than enough love and even more grace. Come, O God, open to us. Amen.

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

VETERANS MOMENT **Remembering our Veterans** George Gerson & Stephen Spencer Union's Veterans



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 Surrender All"

All to Jesus I surrender, All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.
Refrain: I surrender all, I surrender all. All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.
All to Jesus I surrender, Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power, Let Thy blessing fall on me. *(Refrain)*

OFFERTORY STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Tom Richards
WAMM

Song: "What a Mighty God We Serve"

What a mighty God we serve, what a mighty God we serve, angels bow before You, heaven and earth adore You. What a mighty God we serve.

What a mighty God, You are! What a mighty God You are! Angels bow before You, heaven and earth adore You. What a mighty God, you are.

Angels bow before You, heaven and earth adore you, angels bow before You, heaven and earth adore You, what a mighty God we serve.

***DOXOLOGY** *(Deacons Judith and 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

Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac;

"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

PSALM 78: 1-7

O Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of God,
we will tell of God's might,
and the wonders that God has done.

God established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel,
which God commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;
that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
that they might rise up and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget God's works, but keep God's commandments;

Matthew 25:1-13

“God’s kingdom is like ten young virgins who took oil lamps and went out to greet the bridegroom. Five were silly and five were smart. The silly virgins took lamps, but no extra oil. The smart virgins took jars of oil to feed their lamps. The bridegroom didn’t show up when they expected him, and they all fell asleep. “In the middle of the night someone yelled out, ‘He’s here! The bride-groom’s here! Go out and greet him!’ “The ten virgins got up and got their lamps ready. The silly virgins said to the smart ones, ‘Our lamps are going out; lend us some of your oil.’ “They answered, ‘There might not be enough to go around; go buy your own.’ “They did, but while they were out buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. When everyone who was there to greet him had gone into the wedding feast, the door was locked. “Much later, the other virgins, the silly ones, showed up and knocked on the door, saying, ‘Master, we’re here. Let us in.’ “He

answered, ‘Do I know you? I don’t think I know you.’ “So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive.

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PREPARATION “Lift Your Light” Arr. Mary McDonald

SERMON “Tending God’s Light” Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

***CLOSING HYMN** “When Peace Like a River”

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE “My Eyes Have Seen the Glory” 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 Dorothy Bates, Criss Gaetano, Rebekah Gay

Deacons Assisting George Gerson

Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns

Joys: All Birthdays in November! Our Church Family! Live Streaming! Veterans Day!

Concerns:

Ben Helbling family and friends; Vanessa's family & friends; Joan Gerson; Ada Harvey's husband, Jim; Dorothy Bates; Linda Padmore; Paula & Kirk's daughter, Jenny; Sharon Smith; Zaida's family & friends; Susan Young's family and friends, Jan Mark; Debbie Englert; Linda Padmore; Stephen Spencer; 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; 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; Linda Padmore's niece, Yvette & sister, Christine; Donna's brother, Clevert; George Gerson's Brother, Michael; Borjana's son, Petar; George Gerson's friends, Diane & Timothy Scott; George Gerson's nephew, Glenn; 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



Flowers today are dedicated to Pastor Sheila
in celebration of her birthday.
With love, Zaida Pacheco



Sunday School Highlight

Students will ponder how to prepare faithfully for Christ as did for the groom. Today's Sunday School teacher is Cunny Burgos.



God of Grace and God of Glory

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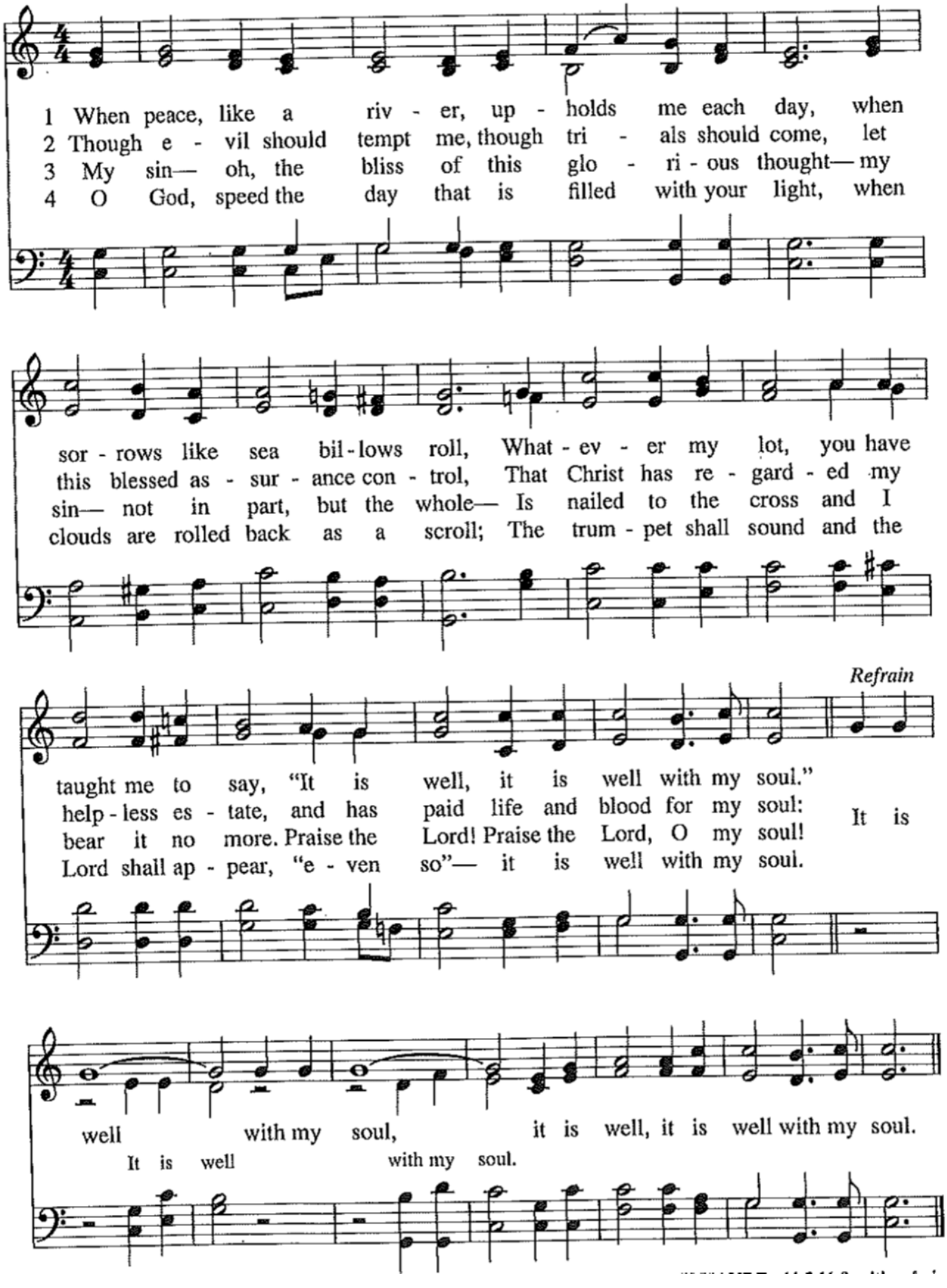
Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.



When Peace, Like a River
(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19–23; 2:13–14; 3 John 1:2

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. WE APPRECIATE YOU!

HAPPY Veterans Day

KINDNESS IS LOVE IN ACTION CONTINUES!

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 enjoying putting our kindness into Action! We have 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/

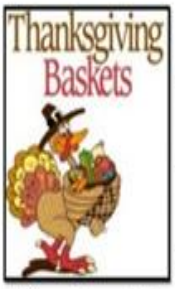
HOW DO YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS CONNECT?

The Nominating Team will review your forms as we prepare for the 2027 Ministry Teams' slate.



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? Place your Spiritual Gift Discernment form in the box on the soundboard. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Sheila or Paula Dorhout, Moderator.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS



The Fellowship Team is accepting monetary donations for Thanksgiving gift cards so families can purchase their own Thanksgiving Meal. We would like to set a goal this year for 8 Meals of $50 each. You can see George Gerson or Paula Dorhout to make donations.

Thank you very much for your support.

UNION'S CALENDAR

Church Anniversary Celebration on November 22, 2026



All are invited to share a photo of yourself for Union's 2027 Calendar. Your photo will be featured on your birthday month.

Please send your photo and birthday month to Zaida@unionucc.net by Tuesday, November 10, 2026.

SPECIAL NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS REMINDER

Please submit any articles for the special anniversary November Newsletter by **Tuesday, November 10th**. Send via email to Zaida at zaida@unionucc.net. Thank you!



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 Benghtt
		Tom Richards
Sexton (Temporary)		Vanessa Nuñez
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, November 8, 2026
10:00 AM - Worship / Sunday School – (Live Streaming Worship)
11:15 AM – Fellowship - All are welcome!
12:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday - Friday – The Prayer Room is Open!
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Open during office hours!

Sunday, November 15, 2026
10:00 AM - Worship / Sunday School – (Live Streaming Worship)
11:15 AM – Fellowship - All are welcome!
12:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal



November 8, 2026 Matthew 25:1-13 Tending God's Light

Today's story reminds us that we all carry the light of Christ within us, and it is our joy as well as our responsibility as followers of Christ to tend to that light so that it can shine brightly in service of God and the world. As this year's stewardship materials remind us, because of YOU and the light you shine in the world, our church changes lives. The materials claim, "It is a statement both bold and simple. It boldly expresses the truth about the ultimate nature and the purpose of the church: to engage in acts of transformation. It boldly asserts that we see our mission as one that gives assurance to every individual that their life matters, not because we say so, but because the gospel says so. ...We can be bold because we know it's true. Our own life stories bear witness that being a part of the beloved community in some way has either made us different or causes us to fervently believe that it will. It gives us hope, reminds us of our value, calls us to discover and claim our purpose, clarifies the moral Right and Wrong, motivates us to be a part of something bigger than ourselves all for the sake of change! Change that can more closely align us and our world with the values of the Realm of God. Our church matters because of you. Our theme, Because of YOU, our church changes lives, is also simple. It recognizes that each of us, by our gifts and the decisions we make to employ them, power this sacred work. Our resources make ministry happen. The arithmetic is not complex. Our choice to grow in our generosity to the church increases the impact of the difference it makes. By choosing to give even a little bit more, we will expand our shared quest to change lives - even our own. Be bold! Take a step forward in your generosity. It's simple! The choice is yours!" God has given you a light to tend. How will you tend that light today and into the year to come? The choice to let your light shine is as simple as it is bold. Let it shine!