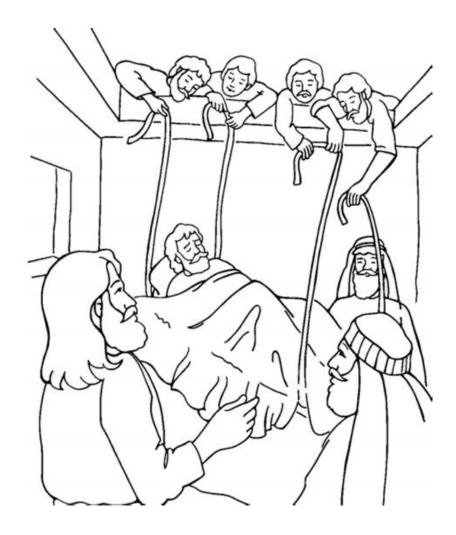


Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.



Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ An LGBTQ+ Open and Affirming Congregation

176 Cooper Avenue, Montclair, NJ 973-744-7424

www.unioncong.org

## September 28, 2025 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

\*Please rise in body or spirit. You are invited to join in the liturgy **in bold type.** 

Childcare is available on the first floor of this building for children ages 0-4.
Ushers can help direct you there. Children K-5th grade are invited to attend Godly
Play Sunday School after the Message for All Ages.

Please wear a name tag so we can greet one another by name (There are blank name tags in the back of the sanctuary).

PRELUDE – Come, Ye Weary, Heavy Laden
UCC Ringers

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

**WELCOME** Rev. Katrina Forman

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Liturgy written by Rev. Shannon Blosser) Leader: We are all God's children, beloved and created by God in God's own image.

ALL: We celebrate the beloved glory of God found in every person.

Leader: We are all part of God's family and God's family reflects the image of God.

ALL: We are part of a family of God that embraces our abilities and differences.

Leader: God's family includes every person. We are a collection of people who love God. We are neurologically typical and neurologically divergent. Some are fully abled and some are disabled.

ALL: We are all a part of God's family.

Leader: Some can move in the world without thinking about access. Some need additional access and help to live in community.

ALL: We are all part of God's family.

Leader: God's family is diverse and divergent.

All: We are all part of God's family. Thanks be to God!

\*OPENING HYMN (insert) - No Matter Words & Music: Roger P. Miller



PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

Rev. Leah McCullough

God, you teach us we are all your children. Yet sometimes we miss the spark of the divine in our neighbors. You call us to steward our resources for the common good, and the creation of the beloved community. Yet sometimes we don't know how, or are afraid to take risks. Help us to open our hearts and try again.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE** 

**PASSING THE PEACE** 

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 5:17-20 Shawn Goberdhan

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Rev. Katrina Forman

SPECIAL MUSIC – Holy Spirit, Light Divine

Stephen Oosting

Holy Spirit, Light Divine, Shine within this heart of mine. Chase the shades of night away. Turn the darkness into day.

Holy Spirit, Power Divine, Cleanse this guilty heart of mine. Long has sin without control, Held dominion over my soul. Holy Spirit, Joy Divine, Cheer this saddened heart of mine. By my many woes depart. Heal my wounded bleeding heart.

Holy Spirit, All Divine, Dwell within this heart of of mine. Cast down every idol throne, Reign supreme and reign alone.

Sanctuary Choir

**SERMON** – Dialogue on Disability, Inclusion, and What We Can Do Together

\*HYMN (insert) - All Are Welcome (vs. 1, 2, 4, & 5)

TWO OAKS

Words & Music: Marty Haugen





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5 Let us build

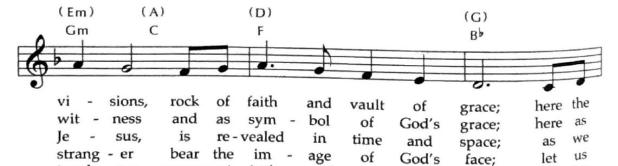
laugh - ter,

prayers of

safe ly live, place where saints and dren tell chil strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek wine, and wheat; ban - quet hall a on ho ly ground wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach, vi sions heard and loved and trea-sured, taught and claimed



how hearts learn for - give. to Built of hopes and dreams and dream God's reign a new. Here the cross shall stand where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through Word they've known. Here the out - cast and live the the words with - in as the Word. Built of tears and and



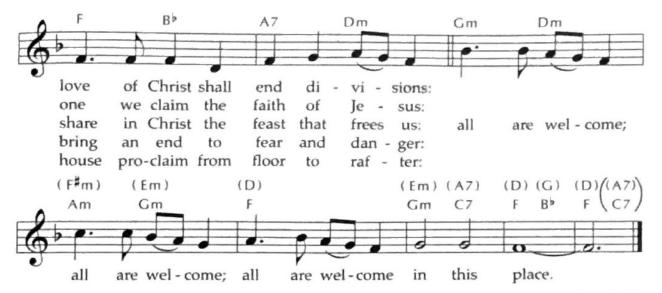
and

songs

of

grace;

faith



#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### **Joys and Concerns**

Josh Robeson Jonathan Grevatt

### **Pastoral Prayer**

Musical Call to Prayer – O Lord, Hear My Prayer Arr. Jacques Berthier

One: O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

All: O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

## Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our {name for God}, 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

#### **OFFERTORY**

Invitation

Music for Meditation

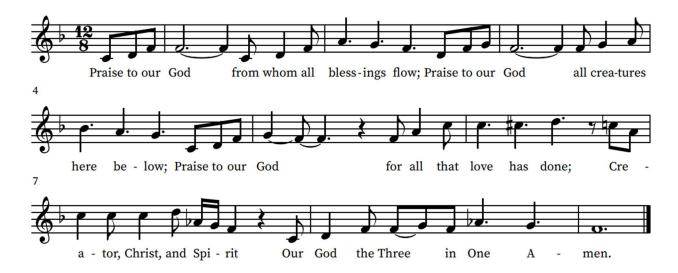
Rev. Katrina Forman Laurie Walle

Music: Paul M. Vasile

**GOODNESS** 

\*Response of Thanksgiving - Doxology

Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. William B. Abernathy



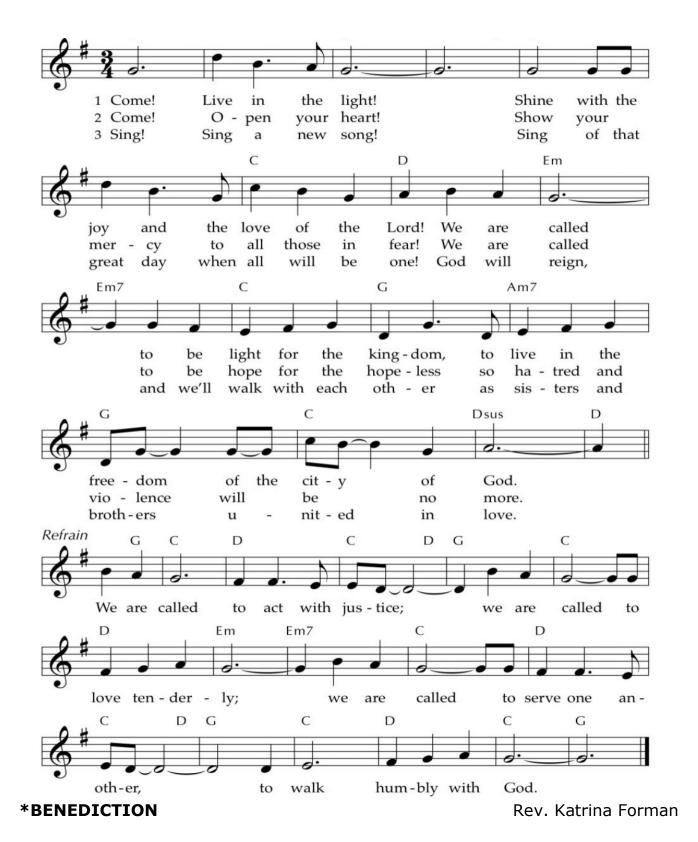
\*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Leah McCullough

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*HYMN (insert) - We Are Called

Words & Music: David Haas



### \*CHORAL BENEDICTION #81 - God Be with You

Words: Jeremiah E. Rankin Music: William G. Tomer

God be with till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you, With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet

Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

POSTLUDE Laurie Walle

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**THANK YOU** for joining us for worship this morning. Please sign a welcome card if you are visiting and put it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher as you leave. You can also find an electronic Welcome Card by scanning QR code on the pew in front of you, or by going to this webpage: <a href="https://www.unioncong.org/welcome-card/">https://www.unioncong.org/welcome-card/</a>

## PLEASE STAY FOR A SECOND HOUR IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM AFTER WORSHIP TODAY

The Second Hour will be available in person and on Zoom. The Zoom link is in today's email, on the home page of the church website (next to the online bulletin button), and in the online calendar listing.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are donated today by Rob Middleton and Isabelle Genest in memory of their parents.

THANK YOU Sunday Welcome Team and the Sanctuary Choir!

LIVESTREAM VIDEO: Nkenge Jones, SOUND OPERATOR: Joe Cristiani

## **TODAY: The High School Youth Group Meets At 4pm**

Come join Rev. Leah in the Assembly Room to eat ice cream, get to know one another, and talk about what the Youth Group can be this year.

# TODAY: Prayer Vigil For ICE Detainees At Delaney Hall, 2pm-3pm, Carpool Leaves Union Cong At 1:15pm

From The New Jersey UCC Conference:

If you've been following local news, you may have read about the central role Delaney Hall is playing in the immigration abduction crackdown in New Jersey. Today, at 2pm, there will be a Prayer Vigil at Delaney Hall to express solidarity with the families most directly impacted by what's going on. We hope you'll join us and bring a friend. "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Gather at the church at 1:15pm to carpool.

## RSVP FOR THE MEN'S RETREAT: OCTOBER 3-5 At Crossroads Retreat Center

This year's retreat theme is "The Changing Role Of Men In Family And Society." The weekend will be facilitated by Rev. Rusty Eidmann-Hicks. You can register for the entire weekend or just the Saturday program. Please register for the Men's Retreat on the church website under Christian Education, <a href="www.unioncong.org/christian-education">www.unioncong.org/christian-education</a>. If you have any questions, reach out to Mike Spinella at 973-943-0501 or mspinella2554@qmail.com.

#### **SMALL GROUPS THIS WEEK:**

## Daytime Bible Study Meets Tuesdays at 12:30pm in the Guild Room

Daytime Bible Study is resuming the study of Psalms. If you have any questions, please reach out to Paul Nishimoto at <a href="mailto:pnishimoto@qmail.com">pnishimoto@qmail.com</a>.

# Union Cong Chair Yoga Alternates Taking Place In Person And On Zoom on Wednesdays

Email Sara T. at <a href="mailto:sqtamargo@qmail.com">sqtamargo@qmail.com</a> for the meeting location.

## Union Sages Meets Wednesday, October 1 At Noon In The Guild Room

Sages is a group of older members and friends that meet twice a month for a brown bag lunch and informal discussion of questions and issues that are relevant in that stage of their lives. The purpose of this group is to build community and support by providing a forum for discussion and gathering as a community.

# Come Make A Joyful Clang! The UCC Ringers Handbell Choir Rehearses Wednesdays at 7pm In The Sanctuary.

Email Jeremy at <u>jeremy@unioncong.org</u> for more information. All levels are welcome.

# REV. LEAH LEADS CARING CONNECTIONS WITH PORCH TIME IN AT THE PARSONAGE (P1) AND PLAY TIME IN THE PARK

Let's get to know each other! Join Rev. Leah for "Caring Connections," opportunities to gather, share our stories and offer up what is on our hearts these days – the joys and the struggles. We'll meet in two locations - on the porch and in the park. Questions? Contact Rev. Leah at Imccullough@unioncong.org or 973-746-4285.

## **Porch Time at the Parsonage (P1)**

Porch time offers a space of refuge, where we'll pause, be present to the gathered group, and share our stories. Porch time is not an appointment, or therapy, or advicegiving; it's a spiritual practice. "A porch ain't made for rushing. It's where you sit and let the day explain itself to you." (William Faulker) Come sit a spell!

Porch Time at the Parsonage (P1) Takes Place: Tuesday, October 7, 3pm-4:30pm Thursday, October 16, 10am-11:30am Tuesday, October 21, 10am-11:30am Wednesday, October 29, 2:30pm - 4pm

#### **Play Time in the Park**

Gather at Brookdale Park near the playground. For the first hour, we'll visit where the kids can play on the playground. For the second hour, we'll share a walk and chat. Come for one or both hours.

Play Time In The Park Takes Place: Thursday, October 9, 3:30pm – 5:30pm Sunday, October 19, 2pm – 4pm Please RSVP For The Interfaith Sukkot – Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> At 3:30pm Our Congregation is partnering with local freelance Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi to learn about the holiday of Sukkot. Spend some judgement-free time in a sukkah (a temporary hut), learn the basics of this Jewish fall festival, and make a school-child-age-appropriate craft. This event is designed for interfaith families, whatever your experience with Judaism or knowledge level, and will take place from 3:30pm-5pm. Please RSVP by Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Sign up for the Interfaith Sukkot using the QR code, by going to <a href="https://bit.ly/interfaithsukkot">https://bit.ly/interfaithsukkot</a>, or by going to the on the Members' Reference page of the church website: <a href="https://www.unioncong.org/member-reference/">www.unioncong.org/member-reference/</a>.



#### **CHURCH CONTACT INFO: Church Office: 973-744-7424**

Rev. Katrina Forman, Lead Minister, 973-744-5802, kforman@unioncong.org

Rev. Leah McCullough, Minister of Pastoral Care and Faith Formation, 973-746-4285, LMcCullough@unioncong.org

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Albert Fenske-Williams, Operations and Space Use Manager, 973-417-3408, afenskewilliams@unioncong.org

BJ Carter, Sunday School Coordinator, 973-447-4593, bjcarter@unioncong.org

John David Whitener, Co-Director of Music, 973-707-3248, jwhitener@unioncong.org

Jeremy Whitener, Co-Director of Music, jeremy@unioncong.org