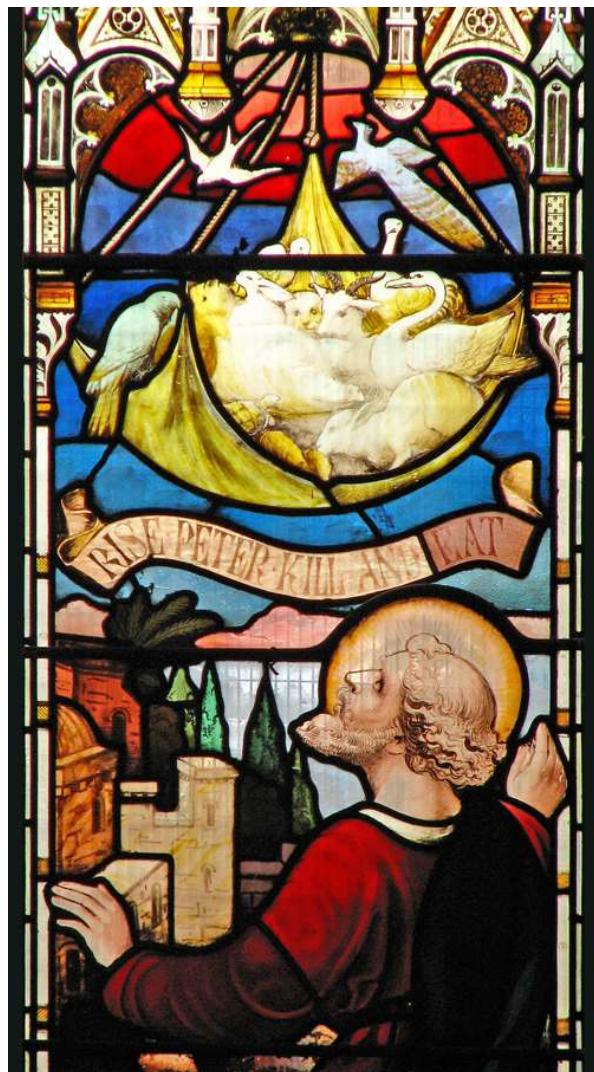


UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church Of Christ



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

May 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter

*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 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 – Cry No More

Words: Johanna Anderson

*In the shadow where linger,
in this darkness we call home,
Where the sighs are deep and
doubtful
And our aspirations groan,
All is not in vain, Beloved,
Our travail is not unknown.*

*Christ within us, Christ among us,
Christ the first and Christ the last;
Love Incarnate, hold Your children
Till the storm of life is past.*

*If we have not faith to seek Him,
Christ Himself will draw us near,
Deep, abiding rays of mercy
Cast their light on only fear.
Cry no more, ye poor and weary,*

John David Whitener & Jeremy Carlisle
Music: Dan Forrest

Our redeeming Lord is here.

*Christ within us, Christ among us,
Christ the first and Christ the last;
Love Incarnate, hold Your children
Till the storm of life is past.*

*Sure defender, never failing,
Radiant Savior, Holy Friend,
Gift of glory, Hope of heaven,
call us now to faith again!
Alleluia! Blest compassion,
Grace is shining without end!*

*Christ within us, Christ among us,
Christ the first and Christ the last;
Love Incarnate, hold Your children
Till the storm of life is past.*

WELCOME

Rev. Katrina Forman

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: More than kind or charitable, or even humane
this Love that calls us
takes on flesh and bone and vulnerability

**All: we gather here to practice Love's solidarity,
rising up in the valleys and shadows of death.**

One: More than nice, or agreeable, or even polite
this Love that forms us
risks siding with the last and the least

**All: we come together to become Love's liberation
building collective power to resist injustice.**

One: More than tolerant or accepting, or even affirming
this Love that guides us
opens to new stories of harm and new visions of flourishing

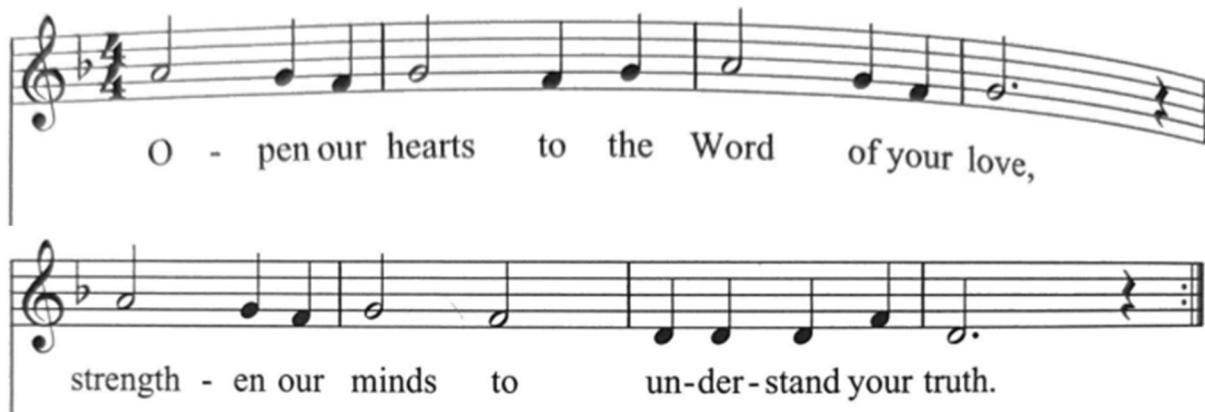
**All: we join together to embody Love's accountability
laying down our defenses to grow beyond the edges of our knowing.**

One: More than peaceful or unifying, or even friendly
this Love that compels us
dares to imagine beyond empire

**All: we worship to remember Love's future
praying, praising, and protesting until Love's kindom comes.**

***OPENING HYMN (insert) – Open Our Hearts**

Words & Music by Joe Rowley



O - pen our hearts to the Word of your love,
strength - en our minds to un-der- stand your truth.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

ONE: Let your spirit receive this assurance:
in all these things we are more than forgiven through the One who loved us.

**ALL: Therefore, we are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,**

**nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Redeemer.
Thanks be to God.**

PASSING THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 11:1-18

Rob Iracane

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

BJ Carter

SPECIAL MUSIC – All Things New

Words: Susan Bentall Boersma

UCC Music Staff

Music: Craig Courtney

*Sorrow lingers in the garden, willows weeping, wet with dew.
But in the breeze, a whispered promise;
"I am making all things new, I am making all things new."*

*Let the gentle hand of morning brush your eyes that you may see
Mercies new and never ceasing
Into all eternity, into all eternity. Alleluia!*

*As it was in the beginning, in the end, so shall it be.
Through the cross, a new creation;
Christ has won the victory, Christ has won the victory. Alleluia!*

*Step by faith into the promise, bow the knee with voices raised,
Singing "holy, holy, holy,"
In an endless song of praise, In an endless song of praise. Alleluia!*

SERMON

Rev. Katrina Forman

***HYMN #522 – I Love to Tell the Story**

Words: Katherine Hankey

HANKEY

Music: William G. Fischer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Joan and Bill Icklan

Mary Kay, friend of Armen

Doris Brett

Musical Call to Prayer – Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

One: Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

All: Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Pastoral Prayer

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

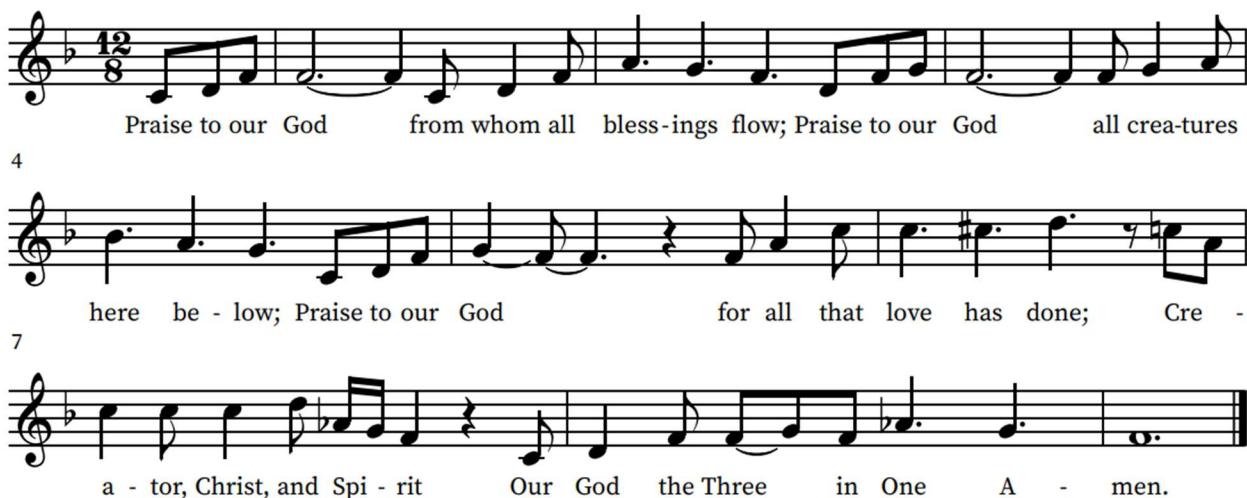
Jeremy Carlisle

*Response of Thanksgiving – Doxology

Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. William B. Abernathy

GOODNESS

Music: Paul M. Vasile



Praise to our God from whom all blessings flow; Praise to our God all creatures
here below; Praise to our God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, Our God the Three in One Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN (insert) – We Are One in the Spirit

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

Words & Music: Peter Scholtes

Refrain

(C) D^b (Em) F
 And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our
 (Am) B^bm (Em) F (Am) B^bm (Bm) Cm (Em) (Am/E) (Em) F B^bm/F F
 love; yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

*BENEDICTION

*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

Jeremy Carlisle

RESOURCES USED IN THE PREPARATION OF TODAY'S LITURGY:

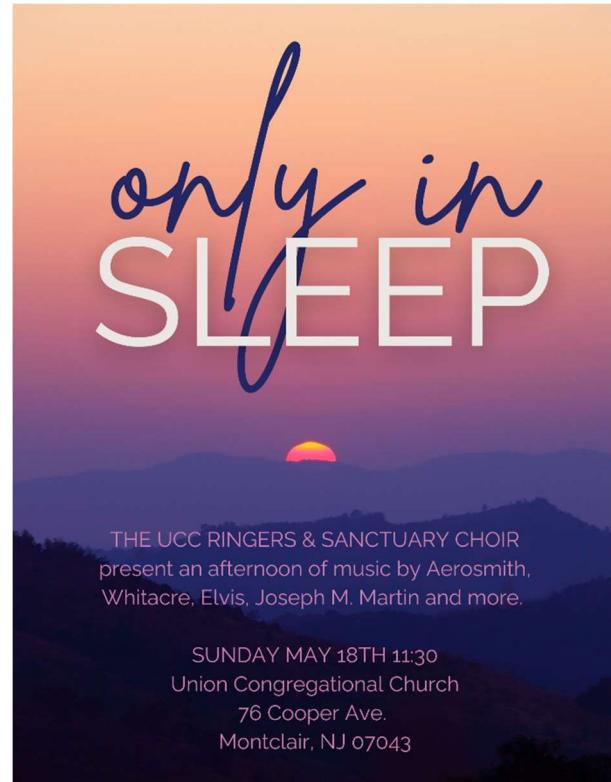
Peter's Vision, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54209> [retrieved May 13, 2025]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/2413614561/>.

"Building Up a New World – Looking for Love" Service Prayers for Easter 5C was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, who serves as Join the Movement toward Racial Justice Curator with UCC National Ministries.

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. Please stay for coffee hour in the Assembly Room immediately following the service.

**BE SURE TO STAY AFTER
WORSHIP TODAY:
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR AND UCC
RINGERS WILL PERFORM A
SECOND HOUR CONCERT "ONLY
IN SLEEP" STARTING AT 11:45AM
IN THE SANCTUARY**

The concert is a musical exploration of our dreams and nightmares, and how they relate to our world and the world we hope to build. The concert will include a variety of songs, both sacred and secular that range from Eric Whittaker's *Sleep*, to *The Impossible Dream* from *Man Of La Mancha* to Aerosmith's *Dream On*. The concert will start promptly at 11:45am, and will last approximately 45 minutes. Don't miss the concert of your dreams!



ALTAR FLOWERS have been donated by Marcie Wallace in honor of all of the college graduates, but a special dedication to David Wallace on his college graduation today (Tufts Art School) and his 23rd birthday!

COFFEE HOUR has been provided by Lisa Blankenship and Lisa Kauffman.

LIVESTREAM VIDEO: Nkenge Jones

SOUND OPERATOR: Joe Cristiani

THANK YOU to the Sunday Welcome Team and Adult Sanctuary Choir.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, May 20

12:30pm Daytime Bible Study (Guild Room)

Wednesday, May 21

10:30am Gentle Yoga (Guild Room)

Noon Union Sages (Guild Room)

Thursday, May 22

9am Racial Justice/Let's Watch Meeting (On Zoom Only)

This Week At Union Cong: Montclair Story Salon Show Raising Funds For Montclair HELPS On The Evening Of Wednesday, May 21st In The Sanctuary

Montclair Story Salon is a multi-disciplinary storytelling event series hosted and produced by actress and Montclair resident Liz Samuel. These events feature storytellers, singer/songwriters, and an artist (painting live!) -- all in aid of non-profit organizations. The Pride Choir will be singing during the preshow reception between 6:30pm and 7pm. The May Salon will benefit Montclair HELPS.

In Need Of Coffee Hour Hosts For May 25 And June

Offering hospitality at coffee hour is one way we create space to be in community with one another and welcome visitors. Please sign up for a Coffee Hour slot by clicking the black Members button located at the top right of the new website homepage (www.unioncong.org), or the Sign Up quick link at the bottom of the church's homepage.

Please note that Kim Crabtree is out of the office until Thursday, May 22nd.
In her absence, please reach out to Albert or Jon in the church office (973-744-7424 / afenskewilliams@unioncong.org)

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JUNE 1

The meeting will be offered in person in the Assembly Room and on Zoom. Childcare will be provided. Please see Annual Meeting notice with agenda below.



UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Announcement of Annual Meeting
June 1, 2025, 11:30 am

Please join us in the Assembly Room or on Zoom.

The agenda includes:

- Prayer and Moment of Celebration and Gratitude
- Governance Review Findings
- Nursery School Update
- Vote on Budget for 2025-26
- Votes on Treasurer, At-Large Governing Board Members and Leadership Discernment Standing Committee Members for 2025-26
- Vote on Missional Priorities
- Second Minister Search Update
- Building Renewal Task Force Update
- Presentation of 5 year Campus Plan
- Recognition of Outgoing Governing Board Members
- Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Kelly
Secretary

176 Cooper Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07043
www.unioncong.org 973-744-7424 contact@unioncong.org

PLEASE NOTE THAT SUNDAY, JUNE 8 WORSHIP WILL TAKE PLACE AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (40 S. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair)

We will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday at First Congregational Church on Sunday, June 8. Please note that the worship start time is 10:30am. The theme of the service is "celebrating the many languages of God." We are encouraging members of both congregations to bring food on that day representing other cultures. If you have an idea of what you would like to bring to First Cong, please sign up using the black Members tab on the top right of the new website and click on the Coffee Hour sign up on the Members Reference page, or email Kim at kcrabtree@unioncong.org.

PLEASE NOTE THAT REV. KATRINA BEGINS HER SABBATICAL ON JUNE 2ND. REV. MARIE WILL CONTINUE AS MINSTER OF VISITATION AND PASTORAL CARE OVER THE SUMMER

You can reach Marie by phone, 973-746-4285, or by email, mbacchiocchi@unioncong.org.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR THE UCC PLAYERS UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF "BARBECUING HAMLET" (Assembly Room)

All kinds of eccentric characters come out of the woodwork in this riotous tribute to life on the community theater stage. Opening Night on Friday, June 13.

Additional Evening Performances And One Matinee:

Saturday, June 14

Friday, June 20

Saturday, June 21

Closing on Sunday, June 22 at 2pm

CHURCH CONTACT INFO

Rev. Katrina Forman, Lead Minister, 973-417-3409, kforman@unioncong.org

Jon Thomsen, Executive Director, 973-744-7426, jthomsen@unioncong.org

Rev. Marie A. Bacchiocchi, Minister Of Visitation And Pastoral Care, 973-746-4285, mbacchiocchi@unioncong.org

Kim Crabtree, Member Engagement and Communications Manager, 973-233-4563, kcrabtree@unioncong.org

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

BJ Carter, Interim Program Coordinator for Children and Youth, bjcarter@unioncong.org

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