

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church Of Christ



Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.

October 19, 2025

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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

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

PRELUDE – Celebration on 'Hyfrydol'

UCC Ringers

Dan Edwards

WELCOME

Rev. Katrina Forman

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather to honor our covenant with God.

All: We gather to worship the God who has covenanted with us.

One: We open our eyes to meet God face to face.

All: We open our ears to hear God's instruction.

One: We come to taste God's Word, which is sweeter than honey.

All: We come to touch the reality of God's presence.

One: Let us worship God together.

***HYMN (Black Hymnal #436) – God of Grace and God of Glory** RHONDDA

Words: Harry Fosdick

Music: John Hughes

(next page)

God of Grace and God of Glory

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.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
 John Hughes, c. 1907

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

Rev. Leah McCullough

Holy One, We often feel deserted by Divine Justice and Peace, especially after absorbing the news each day. We allow ourselves to walk away from spreading Good News of your love and grace after feeling the lack of mercy in our world. We would rather be silent in places of comfort instead of shining your light in our pain-present reality. Our hearts can not bear knowing of any further wrongdoings. Open our souls to your healing. Embolden us to be persistent in our quest to do justice and love kindness. May we follow your light when the shadows attempt to swallow our resolve. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**ASSURANCE OF GRACE****PASSING THE PEACE****SCRIPTURE READING**

Matthew 26:6-13 (NIV)

Shawn Goberdhan

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Leah McCullough

SERMON

"Missed Connections"

Rev. Katrina Forman

***HYMN (Black Hymnal #541) – They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"**

Words & Music: Jan Wesson

*NEIGHBOR**(next page)*

They Asked, "Who's My Neighbor?"

541

Jan Wesson, 1981; alt.

Luke 10:29-37

Unison F Dm Am Gm

1 They asked, "Who's my neigh - bor and whom should I love; for
 2 There once was a trav - el - er set on by thieves who
 3 A cer - tain Sa - mar - i - tan then came a - long to
 4 I know who's my neigh - bor and whom I should love, for

F/C Dm C C7 F C

whom should I do a good deed?" Then Je - sus re - lat - ed a
 beat him and left him to die; A priest and a Le - vite each
 bind up his wounds and give aid; He took him to stay at an
 whom I should do a good deed; For Je - sus made clear in the

F Am Gm/Bb F/C C7

sto - ry and said, "It's an - y - one who has a
 saw him in pain; but they turned a - way and walked
 inn un - til well, and for all the ser - vice he
 sto - ry he told, it's an - y - one who has a

Dm Bb F/C C7 F

need, yes, an - y - one who has a need."
 by, yes, they turned a - way and walked by.
 paid, yes, for all the ser - vice he paid.
 need, yes, an - y - one who has a need.

Ruth Janelle (Jan) Wesson wrote this hymn for the dedication of her church in Nashville, Tennessee, and was encouraged to submit it to a Hymn Society competition. It was published at the society's national conference in 1982.

Tune: NEIGHBOR 11.5.11.5.8.
 Jan Wesson, 1981

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Leah McCullough

Joys and Concerns

Josh Robeson
Jonathan Grevatt
Leana Greene

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.

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Katrina Forman

***HYMN (Black Hymnal #451) – Be Now My Vision**

SLANE

Words: Eleanor Hull

Music: David Evans

(next page)

Be Now My Vision

*Ancient Irish text, c. 8th century; transl. Mary E. Byrne, 1905**Versified by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912; adapt.*

Unison

1 Be now my vi - sion, O God of my heart;
 2 Be now my wis - dom, and be my true word;
 3 Rich - es I need not, nor life's emp - ty praise,
 4 Sov - ereign of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

noth - ing sur - pass - es the love you im - part—
 ev - er with - in me, my soul is as - sured;
 you, my in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav - en's Sun!

You my best thought, by day or by night,
 Moth - er and Fa - ther, you are both to me,
 You and you on - ly are first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, your pres - ence my light.
 now and for - ev - er your child I will be.
 great God, my trea - sure, may we nev - er part.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dating from the eighth century or earlier, this Irish hymn was translated into prose by Mary Byrne. It was then versified by Eleanor Hull, author of several books on Irish literature and history. David Evans arranged the Irish melody for this text in 1927.

*Tune: SLANE 10.10.9.10.
 Traditional Irish melody
 Harm. David Evans, 1927*

POSTLUDE – O God Our Help in Ages Past
Jeremy Carlisle

arr. J. Nimoh

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, or scan the QR code on the pew in front of you.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS were donated by the Reid family in memory of their daughter Harriet Rose.

THANK YOU Sunday Welcome Team and the Sanctuary Choir!

LIVESTREAM VIDEO: Nkenge Jones, SOUND OPERATOR: Joe Cristiani

TODAY AFTER WORSHIP: A QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND VOTE IN THE SANCTUARY AND ON ZOOM

The agenda includes updates from the Building Renewal Task Force and Funding Strategy Team, followed by a discussion and congregational vote about selling the P2 lot. Childcare will be provided during the meeting, and lunch will be provided after the meeting. The Zoom link is in today's email, on the front page of the church website, on the Member Reference page, and in the online calendar listing.

TODAY AFTER THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP GATHERS WITH REV. LEAH

TODAY AT 2PM: JOIN REV. LEAH FOR PLAY TIME AT BROOKDALE PARK

NEXT WEEK: JOIN REV. LEAH FOR PORCH TIME AT THE PARSONAGE (P1)

Tuesday, October 21, 10am–11:30am

Wednesday, October 29, 2:30pm–4pm

SMALL GROUPS THIS WEEK:

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

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

Email Sara T. at sgtamargo@gmail.com for the meeting location. 10:30am class.

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

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THIS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25th AT 7PM, THE PRIDE CHOIR PERFORMS THEIR HALLO-QUEEN 2.0 CONCERT AT UNION CONG!

Join Pride Choir for their second annual Halloween concert, "Hallo-Queen 2.0." Get immersed in this unforgettable LGBTQ+ musical experience (with 49 costumed singers!) that embodies the spirit of Halloween and all things queer with new spooky songs and a few *wicked* surprises. The concert is free, but an RSVP is required. Please RSVP for the concert at pridechoirtickets.com (please note no "www" in the email address) or email Kim by Thursday, Oct. 23rd.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH: SIGN UP TODAY FOR TOMORROW'S SERVICE PROJECT WITH NORTHEAST EARTH COALITION

Let Leah know today if you would like to take part in the service project on Monday, October 20th from 1pm-3pm. Meet at the church, then travel as a group to Brookdale Park. Wear closed-toe shoes, clothing appropriate for the weather and physical work, a sun hat, and bring a water bottle. Email Leah at lmccullough@unioncong.org, text at 973-417-3407, or contact her on WhatsApp.

FREE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE CHURCH-SPONSORED NORTHEAST EARTH COALITION FUNDRAISER ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

To RSVP, contact Kim Crabtree at kcrabtree@unioncong.org.

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

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

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