

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church Of Christ



Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.

November 16, 2025 Twenty-third 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.*

*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 – Peace Like a River
Music arranged by Phillip Young

UCC Ringers

WELCOME

Rev. Katrina Forman

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (inspired by Psalm 100 and 150):

One: Come, make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!

All: Praise God in the sanctuary, and in the night sky!

One: Praise God with trumpet sound, with lute and harp!

**All: Praise God with tambourine and dance,
with strings and pipe, with piano and organ!**

One: Praise God with clanging cymbals, with loud clashing cymbals!

All: Let everything that breathes praise God!

One: Come, make a joyful noise to God, all the earth –

***HYMN – Christ is Our Guiding Light**

Words & Music: Eric Law

Christ is our guiding light: come, let us walk in the way of peace.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Gracious God, source of all life, Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer.

We come before you in need of healing:

The healing of our bodies and souls,

The healing of our relationships,

The healing of our pride and fear and apathy.

**We know that with you, nothing is impossible, not even our healing,
Not even the restoration of the whole world.
We pray that you will heal us, that you will heal our world,
So that we will be freed to serve and love and dream and be,
As Christ calls us. Amen.**

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:31-40

Amy Hohn

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Gathering and Sending Music – Where Children Belong

RITCHIE

Words: Jeremy Whitener & Leah McCullough

Music: James Ritchie

Gathering:

***This, this is where children belong,
Welcomed as part of our worshipping song.
Gathered in love, God's stories we hear,
Growing in faith through the years.***

Sending:

***This, this is where children belong,
Welcomed as part of our worshipping song.
Now go in joy, in wonder and grace,
Finding God's love in each place.***

SPECIAL MUSIC – Sing Community, Sing Peace

Sanctuary Choir

Words: Terry York

Music: Mark Hayes

*Sister, brother, live in harmony.
Same and other, live in harmony.
Human family
in choirs for all to hear and see,
Sing community, sing peace.
Simple song, sacred call;
Dare to sing and live in peace
and love for all.
Against the silence,
against the shouting.*

*With your neighbor, live in harmony.
With the stranger, live in harmony.
With the refugee,
in choirs for all to hear and see,
Sing community, sing peace.

For the children, live in harmony.
With the frightened, live in harmony
With the enemy
in choirs for all to hear and see,
Sing community, sing peace.*

SERMON

“When did we see you...”

Alex Maldonado Lizardi and Xiomara Cintrón García

***HYMN (Black Hymnal #591) – This is My Song**

Words: Lloyd Stone

FINLANDIA

Music: Jean Sibelius

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Josh Robeson

Jonathan Grevatt

Leana Greene

Beth Pugh

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.

OFFERTORY

Generosity Testimony

Bethany Hall

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Katrina Forman

Music for Meditation - What Wondrous Love Is This

Jeremy Carlisle

Music arranged by C. Szczepanek

***Response of Thanksgiving – Doxology**

GOODNESS

Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. William B. Abernathy

Music: Paul M. Vasile

Praise to our God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise to our God all crea-tures

here be - low; Praise to our God for all that love has done; Cre -

a - tor, Christ, and Spi - rit Our God the Three in One A - men.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***HYMN (insert) – Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Words & Music: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

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With God our cre - a - tor, chil - dren all are we.

Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.

Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.

The musical score consists of three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system has two lines of lyrics. The second system has two lines of lyrics. The third system has one line of lyrics. The music is in a common time signature and features a variety of note values and rests.

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With ev - ery step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:

to take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

***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 - Prière

Music: R. Glière

Jeremy Carlisle

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 scan the QR code on the back of the pew. Please stay for coffee hour in the Assembly Room following the service.

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ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY are in honor of Karen Ermler's 80th birthday.

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

LIVESTREAM VIDEO: Kim Crabtree **SOUND OPERATOR:** Joe Cristiani

TODAY DURING AND AFTER WORSHIP

Guest Preachers Alex Lizardi and Xiomara García "We Are Peace Builders"

We are beyond blessed to have two amazing peace-building mission partners, Alex and Xiomara, who work at Justapaz in Colombia, join us for worship where they will share their important work with the congregation. This assignment is a mission through the United Church Of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ) Global Ministries program. Stay after worship for a discussion group about the mission.



NEXT SUNDAY IS
**GENEROSITY
SUNDAY**
November 23

Join us for worship filled with song,
prayer, and a generous spirit. A
special meal will be shared after
worship in the Assembly Room.

The main entree will be provided by
the Generosity Team. Please bring a
side or dessert to share.

Email Kim at kcrabtree@unioncong.org to
let us know what you plan to bring.

THIS WEEK

Monday, November 17

8:15am Take the Bus to Trenton for Climate Superfund Act Day Of Action

Gather with like-minded climate activists at the Montclair Public Library (50 S. Fullerton, Montclair) at 8:15am and ride the bus to Trenton for the Climate Superfund rally. At 10am, the group will arrive in Trenton to lobby legislators and attend the rally. For more information, email Michele Sionas at michelesionas@gmail.com.

7pm UCC Players present a staged reading of the new musical "From The Abuelas' Window" in the Assembly Room

The UCC Players are collaborating with book writer and lyricist Nancy Burke and composer and musical director Ignazio Valdivia and lyricist, Ed Levy, on a new musical! "From The Abuelas' Window" is a musical with a message to encourage ordinary people to do small things to make their world a better place, particularly when confronted with political oppression and human rights violations. The musical is an adaptation of the young adult novel, which aimed to bring understanding of the reasons people are forced to leave their homeland and emigrate to the United States. Join the UCC Players for this staged reading of this important work-in-progress. The cast includes Larry Frick, Barbara Ross, Kevin Shaw, Bill Amory, with Charl Louw as the pianist. Carlos Valdes-Dapena is directing.

7pm "Standing Together" At Bnai Keshet

Standing Together is a grassroots Jewish-Arab movement fighting for peace, equality, and social justice for Jews and Palestinians in Israel-Palestine. From the event organizers: "Standing Together works on a wide range of issues, including real security, adequate housing, quality education, good healthcare, a livable climate, a decent salary, the ability to age with dignity, and most critically in these past two years, peace and an end to the occupation. Alon-Lee Green and Sally Abed will be sharing their work and vision. As long-time leaders of the organization, they are uniquely positioned to speak about how they work to create a shared home for all - not by erasing differences but through true partnership based on shared interests." Bnai Keshet is located at 99 S. Fullerton Avenue in Montclair. For more information, please see the Justice And Community Engagement tab on the church website.

Tuesday, November 18

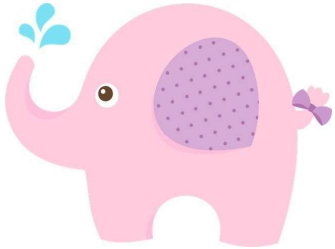
Daytime Bible Study is on Tuesday at 12:30pm in the Guild Room.

Wednesday, November 19

Chair Yoga is every Wednesday at 10:30am (Alternates Guild Room/Zoom)

Email Sara T. (sgtamargo@gmail.com) for location.

Wednesday, November 19



**You are invited to a Baby Shower
for Karla Espinoza, one of our
Church Sextons on Wednesday,
Nov. 19 at noon in the Guild Room!**

Gifts or donations are welcome. (See
Karen Daviou). Karla is having a girl.
Hope you can come!
RSVP to Karen Daviou:
kdaviou@gmail.com.

Handbell Rehearsal takes place every Wednesday at 7pm in the Sanctuary.

Friday, November 21

**6:15pm BYO Dinner/7pm Union Film Group Screening Of "Chinatown" in the
Guild Room**

Union Cong member and motion picture enthusiast Paul Nishimoto hosts a monthly
film series for members and friends.

**Inquirer's Session For Those Considering Membership And The Curious On
Sunday, November 30th After Worship With Rev. Katrina**

Are you interested in taking the next step in your spiritual journey at Union
Congregational Church? We warmly invite you to our upcoming Inquirer's Session
hosted by our lead minister Rev. Katrina. This is a wonderful, small group
opportunity to learn more about becoming a member of the church, learn about
Union Cong's history and mission, or seek a deeper connection within the Union
Cong community. If you have been joining us for worship or small group events and
feel a tug towards deeper involvement, this session is for you! If you have anything
you want to discuss in advance, reach out to Rev. Katrina at
kforman@unioncongr.org.

Parents Bible Study Group Launching in January: "Holy Hangout"

The Black, Norton, and Carter families are hosting a new small group at Union Cong
in January! They have created a weekly small group Bible study at the Black/Carter
homes (switching monthly). All are welcome, but it will be geared towards families,
and there will be some element of childcare/kids activities. The small group will take
place on Tuesdays, 7pm-8:30pm, starting January 6th, 2026. If you are interested in
joining the Holy Hangout, we invite you to a post-Thanksgiving hangout on
November 30th. We will not eat turkey, but *will* talk about our hopes for the small
group and answer any questions. To RSVP for the info session, reach out to Sarah
Carter at sarah4carter@gmail.com.

The Women's Retreat Registration Is Live!

Women's Retreat Is January 16-18, 2026, At Trinity Retreat Center

The theme of the retreat is "Ancient Tools For Modern Times," led by Rev. Katrina Forman and Rev. Leah McCullough. You can find the link to register at www.unioncong.org/christian-education. Discover a space for profound spiritual exploration and personal renewal at Union Congregational Church's retreats. These retreats allow people a unique opportunity to step away from daily pressure, connect with their inner selves, and foster deeper connections with others on a shared spiritual journey. The Women's Retreat occurs annually in January at Trinity Retreat Center and Donkey Sanctuary in Connecticut. If you have questions, reach out to Karen Ermler at karen.ermiler@gmail.com or Sara Olson at sarahols@aol.com.



19,200
POUNDS OF
COAL DISPLACED
TO DATE WITH
SOLAR PANELS.

(Church year 2024/2025)



Generosity Sunday is **Nov. 23**

A CHORUS OF
GENEROSITY

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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