

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church Of Christ



Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.

**November 2, 2025 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
Remembrance/All Saints Sunday**

*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 Communion.*

*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 – Cast thy burden upon the Lord from Elijah

Words: Psalm 55:22

Music: Felix Mendelssohn

*Cast thy burden upon the Lord,
And he shall sustain thee.
He never will suffer the righteous to
fall. He is at thy right hand.*

*Thy mercy, Lord, is great
And far above the heav'ns.
Let none be made ashamed
That wait upon thee.*

Sanctuary Choir

WELCOME

Rev. Katrina Forman

***CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

One: In all our weakness and strength,
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,
All: we come to be your people, O God.

One: Strong in faith and eager with questions,
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,
All: we come to be your people, O God.

One: Filled with saintly determination
yet mindful of our human limitations,
All: we come to be your people, O God.

One: Made strong in your endless love for us,
we know ourselves to be yours and

All: we come to be your people, O God.

One: May we truly become your people today. Amen.

***HYMN (Black Hymnal) #295 – I Sing a Song of the Saints of God**

Words: Lesbia Scott

Music: John H. Hopkins

295

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

Lesbia Scott, 1929; alt.

Unison

1 I sing a song of the saints of God, . . . faith-ful their whole lives
2 They loved their God and they lived that love. It was lov-ing that made them
3 They lived not on-ly in a-ges past, there are hun-dreds of thou-sands

This text was included in Lesbia Scott's Everyday Hymns for Little Children with her original words, music, and illustrations. A native of Britain, Scott was also the author of six published plays and enjoyed painting until her death in 1986.

Tune: GRAND ISLE lit.
John H. Hopkins, 1940

(next page)

ALL SAINTS DAY

through, who brave - ly la - bored, lived, and died for the God they
strong. They did what was right, for Je - sus' sake, lived just - ly their
still. The world is filled with liv - ing saints who choose to

loved and knew. And one was a doc - tor, and one was a queen, and an -
whole lives long. And one was a proph - et, and one was a priest, and an -
do God's will. You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a

oth - er a shep - herd in pas - tures green: they were saints of God, if you
oth - er was slain by a fierce wild beast: there is no earth - ly rea - son,
church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the saints are folk like

know what I mean. God, help me to be one, too.
none in the least, why I should - n't be one, too.
you and like me, and I mean to be one, too.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)

Rev. Leah McCullough

Beloved God,

who was known to our mothers and fathers,

and even to our spiritual forebears,

have mercy on us.

We do not always love as you would have us love.

We do not always do as you would have us do.

In our stubbornness,

we turn from you when we should turn toward you.

Hold us, dear One –

comfort us when we mourn the passing of friends and family,

and help us to know that they are rejoicing in your presence.

We praise you for the grace you shower on us,

constantly forgiving our errors,

especially the ones that we don't share with any but you.

Hear now the silent fears and worries of our hearts.

MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING THE PEACE

HOLY COMMUNION AND REMEMBRANCE OF SAINTS

Remembering Those We Have Lost This Year*

Doris Brett

Patricia Park Connell

Charles Metz

Janet Metz

Joyce Mims

Robert Oliphant III

Shirley Osborn

Harriet Reid

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION HYMN (insert) – *Eat This Bread*

Arr. Jacques Berthier

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and
nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread,
drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(Children leave for Sunday School)

SPECIAL MUSIC – *Heaven’s Choir*

Words & Music: Pepper Choplin

*When we lift our voices to heaven,
when we sing alleluias to worship the
Lord, we prepare for the day when we
join all heaven’s praise.
With an audience of one we will sing
to the Son.*

*We’ll praise the Lord on high in
heaven’s choir.*

*In the church are many nations,
different races, different songs.
There are separate denominations
who proclaim Christ as Lord.*

*In heaven’s choir we’ll join saints in
glory.
In heaven’s choir we’ll worship the
Lord, and when we bow before His
throne, we’ll sing, “Holy, holy, holy,
holy.”*

*But there will be no more division
When we reach our heavenly home.
We will all sing as one in the presence
of the Son.*

Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 6:20-31

Jeremy Whitener

SERMON

“Mortals and Saints”

Rev. Katrina Forman

***HYMN (Black Hymnal) #299 – For All the Saints**

SINE NOMINE

Words: William W. How

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

(next page)

For All the Saints

*Heb. 12:1**William W. How, 1864; alt.*

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who to the
 2 You were their rock, their ref - uge, and their might: you, Christ, the
 3 Still may your peo - ple, faith - ful, true, and bold, live as the
 4 Ringed by this cloud of wit - ness - es di - vine, we fee - bly
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long, steals on the

world their stead-fast faith con-fessed, your name, O Je - sus,
 hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you
 saints who no - bly fought of old, and share with them a
 strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet in your love our
 ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.
 were their one true light.
 glo - rious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 faith - ful lives en - twine.
 gain, and faith grows strong.

This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal (1869) and set to a tune by that name, Sarum. It has grown in popularity

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Joys and Concerns

Rev. Leah McCullough

Josh Robeson
Jonathan Grevatt
Leana Greene
Beth Pugh
Judy's friend Sally

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

Karen Daviou

***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

4

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

7

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Katrina Forman

***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 – What God Ordains is Always Good

Dan Forrest

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.

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

THANKS to Della Smith for the ceremonial loaf, and Michele Sionas for the gluten free/nut free bread.

LIVESTREAM VIDEO: Nkenge Jones

SOUND OPERATOR: Joe Cristiani

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, November 4

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

7pm Churches For Middle East Peace/Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans "Peace By Piece" event will take place in First Congregational Church's Sanctuary.

Gather in the First Congregational Church Sanctuary for a conversation about peace building, economic justice, the current landscape in the Holy Land, and how Americans can support our siblings in the Middle East. Speakers include Destiny Magnett, Church For Middle East Peace's program and outreach manager, and Susan Sahori, Bethlehem Fair Trade Artisans's (BFTA) executive director. First Cong is located at 40 S. Fullerton in Montclair. This event is in partnership with Union Congregational Church.

Wednesday, November 5

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

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

Union Sages will gather this Wednesday at noon in the Guild Room.

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

LATER IN NOVEMBER

Tuesday, November 11

11am-1pm Seeking 5 Volunteers For CUMAC (10:30am carpool from church)

In response to the deteriorating situation regarding food insecurity, the church will be volunteering at CUMAC monthly instead of quarterly. We are seeking 5 volunteers for a two-hour shift. Your time makes a direct and profound impact on local families. Interested volunteers should reach out to Michele Sionas at michelesionas@gmail.com.

Friday, November 14

6pm The Let's Watch Film Series presents "Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution" (1 hour, 42 minutes) in the Guild Room.

A documentary about Camp Jened, a groundbreaking summer camp for teens with disabilities that proved so inspiring that a group of alumni joined the radical disability rights movement to advocate for historic legislation changes. The documentary was produced by Barack and Michelle Obama. The screening will include pizza and discussion. It is the 35th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). When it was signed in 1990 by George H. W. Bush, UCC Pastor Harold Wilke, who was born without arms, was present. The ADA is now under attack with anti-DEI legislation and Medicaid budget cuts.

Saturday, November 15

9am The Women's Breakfast hosts Bethany Hall "Laughter Is The Best Medicine" In The Assembly Room

Come and meet Bethany Hall, one of our church members and a comedian and the Creative Director of Comedy Initiatives at the Center for Media and Social Impact. At the Women's Breakfast, Bethany will unpack what she does, why she does it, and her belief in using comedy as a tool for connection and change. She'll also discuss the importance of using improv principles in everyday life, and how joy and laughter sometimes serve as acts of resistance. Let's boogie! Come to have a delicious breakfast together with an enjoyable presentation. Please RSVP to Karen Ermler at karen.ermler@gmail.com, 973-820-6122, so we can plan for the breakfast. Guests are always welcome.

Sunday, November 16

10am Guest Preacher Alex Lizardi At Worship - "We Are Peace Builders"

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

11:30am Youth Group In The Guild Room

Monday, November 17

8:15am Take the Bus to Trenton for the 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. The bus will depart Trenton at 2:30pm and arrive back in Montclair at 4pm. From the organizers: "as storms, floods, and heat waves grow stronger every year, New Jersey communities are footing the bill for damage caused by the biggest corporate polluters. The Climate Superfund Act would make oil and gas corporations pay their fair share to fund climate resilience projects. The bill has passed the Environment Committees in the New Jersey Assembly and Senate, garnered support from 52 legislative cosponsors, and is backed by 56 municipal governments that have passed resolutions in support of this critical legislation. Now, we need to get it through the remaining committees, floor votes, and signed into law by Governor Murphy." Interested volunteers should reach out to Michele Sionas at michelesionas@gmail.com or click the RSVP link on the church's Justice And Community Engagement page or Member Reference page.

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 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.

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.' This event is sponsored by a number of houses of worship in and around Montclair. 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.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 22

Morning/Time TBA For Fall Cleanup Day!

Join us for some fall tidying as we work together spruce up the church. More details to come.

The Women's Retreat Registration Is Live!

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

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. If you have questions, reach out to Karen Ermler at karen.ermler@gmail.com or Sara Olson at sarahols@aol.com.

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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