

# UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## United Church Of Christ



*Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.*

**February 1, 2026 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

*\*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 – Lord, Here I Am**

Words: Fannie Crosby

*O Lord, Thou callest, I gladly obey;  
Only direct me, and I'll find Thy way.  
Teach me the mission appointed for  
me,  
What is my labor, and where it shall  
be?*

*O Lord, Thou callest, and this I reply,  
"Ready and willing, Lord, here am I.*

*Willing, Creator to take up the cross;  
Willing to suffer reproaches and loss.  
Willing to follow, if Thou will but lead;*

John David & Jeremy C.

Music: John Ness Beck

*Only support me with grace in my  
need.*

*O Lord, Thou callest, and this I reply,  
"Ready and willing, Lord, here am I.*

*Living, or dying, I still would be Thine,  
Yet I am mortal while Thou art divine.  
Pardon, whenever I turn from the  
right;*

*Pity, and bring me again to the light.  
O Lord, Thou callest, and this I reply,  
"Ready and willing, Lord, here am I.*

### **WELCOME**

Rev. Leah McCullough

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Jesus calls us to praise and prayer, to song and silence;

**Many: Jesus calls us to worship.**

One: Jesus calls us to hearing and healing, to service and solidarity;

**Many: Jesus calls us to love.**

One: Jesus calls us to advocacy and action, to protest and provision;

**Many: Jesus calls us to justice.**

One: Let us heed the call of Christ.

**Many: Let us worship together with joy.**

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

Words & Music: Eric Law

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

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Matthew 4:12-23**

Sara Olson

**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.***

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

**WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS**

Erin and Michael Norton (Miles); Sponsors BJ, Sara, Jackson and Cole Carter  
Meena Sandberg; Sponsor John David Whitener  
Betsy Richardson; Sponsor Molly Rosenak  
Lauren and Adam Pruneski (Lucy); Sponsor

**Congregational Response:**

**We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We  
promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and  
labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit  
may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love,  
walking together on life's journey.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC – Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life**

UCC Sanctuary Choir

Words: George Herbert

Music: Phillip Dietterich

*Come, my way, my truth, my life:  
such a way as gives us breath;  
such a truth as ends all strife;  
such a life as killeth death.*

*such a feast as mends in length;  
such a strength as makes his guest.*

*Come, my light, my feast, my  
strength:  
such a light as shows a feast;*

*Come, my joy, my love, my heart:  
such a joy as none can move;  
such a love as none can part;  
such a heart as joys in love.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Leah McCullough

**\*HYMN (insert) - Will You Come and Follow Me? (vs. 1, 2, 4, 5)**

KELVINGROVE

Words: John L. Bell

Music: Scottish traditional

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?  
2 "Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?  
3 "Will you let the blind-ed see if I but call your name?  
4 "Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> F

Will you go where you don't know and nev - er be the same?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?  
Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(next page)

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,  
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"  
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?"  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?"  
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Katrina Forman

### Joys and Concerns

We give thanks for the life of Jim O'Brien, former member who passed away last week.

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

Rev. Katrina Forman

### Invitation to the Offering

### Music for Meditation – Prélude

A. Stréliski

Jeremy Carlisle

## \*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

## \*HYMN NCH #76 – Sent Forth by God's Blessing

*THE ASH GROVE*

Words: Omer Westendorf

Music: Welsh folk melody

(next page)

*Descant*

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

*Unison*

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the  
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is  
 tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

shar-ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

end - ed, O now be ex - tend-ed the fruits of our wor-ship in  
 shar-ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil-dren of

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with  
all who be - lieve. The seed of grace the teach - ing, re -  
each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with  
your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this  
cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for  
your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this  
life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -  
God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -  
life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -  
giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.  
nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.  
giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Leah McCullough

**\*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 – O God Our Help in Ages Past**  
Jeremy Carlisle

Arr. Nimoh

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*Call to Worship written by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith (<http://spaciousfaith.com>)*

**JOIN US AFTER WORSHIP TODAY TO CONTINUE OUR QUARTERLY  
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM:**

The link to the Zoom is in today's email.

***Agenda Highlights:***

- Discussion of Missional Priorities
- Open forum to share ideas and concerns

**TODAY IS THE CHURCH WINTER FUN DAY!**

If you have registered, meet Rev. Leah at 12:30pm in the Assembly Room.

**NEXT SUNDAY - Guest Preacher: Bishop Malkhaz Songulashvili**

We will celebrate communion with the liturgy used at Bishop Songulashvili's Peace Cathedral in Tbilisi, Georgia. Peace Cathedral is a unique, interfaith-focused place of worship. Georgian Orthodox, Baptist, and other Christian traditions exist alongside of a synagogue and mosque under one roof to promote radical inclusion and peace.

**A Note From Rev. Leah:**

Sometimes the lectionary texts, which guide our worship through the liturgical year, line-up in profound ways with what we are experiencing in our world. That is the case this season of Epiphany. Due to last week's snow and Zoom church, we had a lectionary shuffle, which means we are not using the texts assigned for today's worship. Yet, these texts are worth reading and reflecting on, as you are able. We invite you to listen to hear what the Spirit might be saying to you and to Union Congregational Church in these days. In what ways is God calling?

***Lectionary Texts for Sunday, February 1, 2026:***

Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, I Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

**THIS WEEK**

**Tuesday, February 3**

12:30pm Daytime Bible Study is meeting in the Guild Room, reading and discussing "Who Stole My Bible? Reclaiming Scripture as a Handbook for Resisting Tyranny."

7pm-8:30pm "Holy Hangout," A Family-Friendly Evening Bible Study. All are welcome. Email BJ Carter ([bjcarter@unioncong.org](mailto:bjcarter@unioncong.org)) for location and details.



**Wednesday, February 4**

10:30am Gentle Yoga alternates taking place in person and on Zoom. Reach out to the church office to confirm location.

Noon Sages will meet in the Guild Room.

7pm UCC Ringers Handbell Choir will rehearse in the Sanctuary.

**Youth Bowling - Friday, February 6, at 3pm**

Sign up link in today's email.

**Post-Shabbat Discussion At Bnai Keshet with Megan Black Johnson:****"Not At the Dinner Table: Race, Religion, + Politics"****Friday, February 6, Shabbat dinner at 6:30pm / Service & talk at 7:30pm**

Megan Black Johnson will present and offer reflections on her journey as a Black Christian organizer and trainer in her daily work to counter antisemitism and religious bigotry, and together discuss the necessity of building power with and between different communities. Bnai Keshet is located at 99 S. Fullerton, Montclair. See today's email for more information.

**Monday, February 9th, 7pm, at Temple Ner Tamid - "I Will Build This World From Love": An Interfaith Service, Film Screening and Q & A**

Join Bishop Malkhaz Songulashvili and spiritual leaders and peace activists from across the globe in a meaningful service and discussion on Monday, February 9th at 7pm. The service will be followed by a screening of the film, "I Will Build This World From Love." Temple Ner Tamid is located at 936 Broad Street, in Bloomfield. Please register with the link in today's email.

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

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10am Worship (No Communion) 11:15am Cong Meeting 1pm Winter Fun Day	2	3 12:30pm Bible Study (Guild) 7pm Holy Hangout Bible Study	4 10:30am Chair Yoga* Noon Sages (Guild) 7pm Handbells	5	6 3pm Youth Bowling 6:30pm Shabbat/ 7:30pm Talk Bnai Keshet "Not At The Dinner Table"	7
8 10am Worship Guest Preacher Bishop Songulashriki (With Communion)	9 Noon Racial Justice Zoom 7pm Interfaith Service (Temple Ner Tamid)	10 12:30pm Bible Study (Guild Room) 7pm Holy Hangout Bible Study	11 10:30am Yoga* 7pm Handbells (Sanctuary)	12	13 6:15pm BYO Dinner/7pm Screening Union Film Group "Shadow Of A Doubt"	14 8pm Essex Together Benefit Concert at UU
15 10am Worship 11am Youth Group	16 12:30pm Youth Ice Skating At MSU	17 10:30am Youth Volunteer At CUMAC 12:30pm Bible Study 7pm Holy Hangout	18 10:30am Chair Yoga* Ash Wednesday Service Noon / 7pm 1pm Sages (Guild)	19	20 6pm Let's Watch "Descendant:"	21 5:30pm Drop Off Parents Night Out
22 10am Worship 11:15am 2nd Hour	23	24 12:30pm Bible Study (Guild Room) 7pm Holy Hangout Bible Study	25 10:30am Yoga* 7pm Handbells (Sanctuary)	26	27 Time TBD Peace Islands Dinner	28
			<p>*Call the church office about the location for Chair Yoga, sometimes it is on Zoom.</p> <p>176 Cooper Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07456 Church Office: 973-744-7424 <a href="http://www.unioncong.org">www.unioncong.org</a></p>			