

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

June 15, 2025
Trinity Sunday - First Sunday after Pentecost

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

There is no childcare or Sunday School today. Kids are invited to make use of the table and activities in the front of the sanctuary and participate in worship.

*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 – One Last Prayer from *Republic* Jeremy Whitener & Jeremy Carlisle

Words: Kait Kerrigan

*When there's nothing to hold onto
But a dream made long ago,
And you're fighting for a future
No child of yours will know.*

*I can see now how it happens.
Choosing not to face the facts.
Holding on to your illusions
Til they stop you in your tracks.*

*When my eyes are clear
And I stand apart,
I can see it all, I can hold it in.
It's enough to break your heart.*

*Why not run?
Why on earth would you stay?
When there's nothing left to pray for,
Why in God's name would you pray?*

*Just run anywhere.
But your eyes lift to God,
Even as you despair.
One last hope. One last prayer.*

Music: Bree Lowdermilk

*When there's one thing you would die
for your perspective goes away.
And you question your convictions.
You get on your knees and pray.*

*But you never knew or you learn too
late that you have the fight and you
have dream and it's why you can't see
straight.*

*When someone's good
And they know what's right,
They may lose the war
But they'll stay and fight.*

*I can't run,
Where on earth would I go?
There's no life for me without them.
There's no happiness I'll ever know.
What can I do but stand and pray?
Lift my eyes up to God.
Even as I despair. And I feel it as it
rises - one last chance, one last hope.
One last prayer.*

WELCOME

Marcie Wallace

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Welcome this day to the house of our God.

All: We are greeted in peace and in love.

One: Welcome this day to the worship of our Creator.

All: We worship in hope and with grace.

One: Welcome this day to our community of faith,

All: Where we are siblings in Christ.

One: Friends, let us worship God.

***OPENING HYMN (insert) – Let's Walk Together**

Words: Laurie Zellman

WELCOME

Music: Mark A. Miller

1 Let's walk to-gether for a while, and ask where
2 Let's talk to-gether of a time when we will
3 Let's dream to-gether of the day when earth and

we be - gin to build a world where love can grow,
share a feast, where pride and pow - er kneel to serve
heav'n are one, a cit - y built of love and light,

and hope can en - ter in, to be the hands of
the lone - ly and the least, and joy will set the
the new Je - ru - sa - lem, where mourn-ing turns to

heal - ing, and to plant the seed of peace,
ta - ble as we join our hands to pray,
danc - ing, ev - 'ry crea - ture lifts its voice,

sing-ing wel - come, wel-come to this place. You're in -
 vit - ed to come and know God's grace. All are
 wel - come, the love of God to share, 'cause
 all of us are wel - come here;
 all are wel - come in this place.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (responsive)

The apostle Paul once wrote, "I do not do the good I want." That is the beginning of confession, for Paul and for all of us. Let us come before God with the truth of our lives.

One: For not loving You with all our heart, O God;

All: For not loving our neighbor in the same way;

For not loving You with our whole soul, O God;

For not loving our neighbor in the same way;

For not loving You with our minds, O God;

**For not loving our neighbor in the same way;
For not loving You with all our strength, O God;
For not loving you in the same way:
Forgive us, and show us Your kindness, that we might do the same.
Let us offer God our prayers in silence.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE (responsive)

One: God is not hate, God is not wrath, God is not apathy.

All: God is love.

One: And that means that God forgives, again and again.

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 5:1-5

Maggie Barbettta

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

SPECIAL MUSIC – Love Has Broken Down the Wall

Sanctuary Choir

Words & Music: Mark A. Miller

*Love has broken down the wall.
Let us join our hearts as one.
Love has broken down the wall.*

*We're accepted as we are.
Through love's power, all is reconciled.
We're accepted as we are.*

*Cast aside your doubts and fears.
Peace and love, freely offered here;
Cast aside your doubts and fears.*

*We will tear down the walls.
We will tear down every wall!
Love has called us one and all.
Love has broken down the wall.*

SERMON

(The Very Human) Art Of Hope

Carlos Valdes-Dapena

***NCH HYMN #575 – O for a World (vs. 1-4)**

Words: Miriam Therese Winter

AZMON

Music: Lowell Mason

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Ellyn Minor

Leana Greene – John David Whitener's sister
Jordan Bronson
Joan and Bill Icklan
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.

Litany of Intercession NCH 878 (responsive)

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

One: Let us present with joy our offerings of commitment and support for the work of Christ's church.

All: Let us prepare Christ's table with the offerings of our life and labor.

Music for Meditation – Meditation (Mussorgsky)

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 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

All: God, we present these offerings that they may be used to extend your liberating reign. With them, we offer our varied ministries in the days ahead that each of us may be part of your answer to the cries of the world. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN (insert) – Let Us Build a House (vs. 1, 4, 5)

TWO OAKS

Words & Music: Marty Haugen

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

Gm C F B[♭]
 vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain

(D) (G) (F[#]7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
 F B[♭] A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F[#]m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D) (A7)
 Am Gm F Gm C7 F B[♭] F C7

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

***BENEDICTION**

One: We have worshiped God together

All: As our worship ends, our service begins.

One: May the spirit which has blessed us here

All: Continue to bless us in each day that comes! Amen.

***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 – “Belief” n. 43 from Song Without Words (Mendelssohn)

Jeremy Carlisle

RESOURCES USED IN THE PREPARATION OF TODAY'S LITURGY:

Adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission. Reprinted from *Book of Worship* © 2006 by United Church of Christ, Cleveland, Ohio.

Bulletin Cover Art: Illustration by Brittany England.

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.

COFFEE HOUR has been provided by Laurie Walle.

LIVESTREAM VIDEO: Nkenge Jones

SOUND OPERATOR: Joe Cristiani

THANK YOU Sunday Welcome Team and Sanctuary Choir!

THIS WEEK

Rev. Marie will be in the office on Tues., June 17 and Thurs., June 19th
You can also reach her at 973-746-4285, mbacchiocchi@unioncong.org.

Please note the church office is closed on Friday, June 20th in honor of Juneteenth.

Tuesday, June 17

10am-1pm Creation Justice Ironbound Tour (meet on Assembly Room porch)
12:30pm Daytime Bible Study (Assembly Room)

Wednesday, June 18

No Chair Yoga This Week
Noon Union Sages (Assembly Room)
7pm Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, June 20

7:30pm UCC Players "Barbecuing Hamlet" (Assembly Room)

Saturday, June 21

7:30pm UCC Players "Barbecuing Hamlet" (Assembly Room)

Sunday, June 22

2pm UCC Players "Barbecuing Hamlet" Closing Performance (Assembly Room)

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

SAVE-THE-DATE

Next Union Film Club: Friday, June 27th "Rio Bravo"

Women's Dinner and a Movie, formally called the "Chick Flick" will present "Wicked" on Wednesday, July 23 at 6pm.

Menu: Shrimp, Salmon, Summer Salads and Dessert.

Cost: \$15

RSVP to Karen Ermler karen.ermler@gmail.com

CHURCH CONTACT INFO

Church Office: 973-744-7424

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

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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

LGBTQ+ OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT SINCE 2001

Union Congregational Church has welcomed and celebrated LGBTQ+ people into the full life and ministry of the church since 2001. Our community commits to welcoming, celebrating, and affirming the many images of the Divine manifested in people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and faith traditions. Everyone is welcome to our communion table. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.