

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church Of Christ



Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.

February 8, 2026 Fifth 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 – Family

Words & Music: Mark Burrows

*In your eyes, I see peace.
In your song, I hear hope.
In your heart, I feel love.
We are more than neighbors,
we are family. (somos familia)*

Youth Choir

*Jesus loves the little children,
all the children of the world.
Every nation, every race,
all are held in His embrace.
Jesus loves the little children of the
world.*

WELCOME

Rev. Katrina Forman

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come and worship, all you who love and serve the Lord—

All: Outsiders and insiders, old-timers and new-comers, young, old and in-between.

One: Come as you are,

All: For this is God's house—a house of prayer for all people, and God welcomes each one who comes.

***HYMN – May Peace be In Your Hearts**

Ghanaian folk song

*May peace be in your hearts,
May peace be in your homes,
May peace be in your land,
May peace be in our world.*

*PASSING THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING John 13:1-17

Jane Seaman

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Katrina Forman

Gathering and Sending Music – Where Children Belong

RITCHIE

Words: Jeremy Whitener & Leah McCullough

Music: James Ritchie

***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.***

SPECIAL MUSIC – Make Me An Instrument of Thy Peace

Sanctuary Choir

Words: St. Francis of Assisi

Music: Mary McDonald

*Lord, make me an instrument
of Thy peace.*

*Where there is hatred,
let me sow love.*

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Wherever there's despair, hope.

Where there's darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

*O Lord, grant that I may
not so much seek*

*to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.*

For it is in giving that we receive.

For it is by faith that we believe.

For in forgiving, we are forgiven.

*It is in dying that we are born to
eternal life!*

SERMON "The Story of Humility, Service, and Love in Our Time"

Bishop Malkhaz Songulashvili

***HYMN (insert) – Ose Shalom (Prayer for Peace)**

TRADITIONAL

Arr. David Karp

*(May the one who makes peace in the heavens. Make peace for us and for all
Israel. And let us say, Amen.)*





COMMUNION (see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Katrina Forman

Joys and Concerns

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

OFFERTORY

Rev. Leah McCullough

Invitation to the Offering

Music for Meditation – Consolation 3

F. Liszt

Jeremy Carlisle

***Prayer of Dedication**

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING 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.

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.

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.

POSTLUDE – Now the Silence

C. Schalk

Jeremy Carlisle

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.

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.

THANK YOU to the Sunday Welcome Team, the Communion Servers, and 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

Monday, February 9th, Noon

Racial Justice Ministry Team Meeting On Zoom

We have a Racial Justice Ministry Team, which guides our work towards internal transformation and external solidarity around issues of racial justice. Racial Justice is a '25-'26 Missional Priority for the church. Please find the link for the Zoom meeting in the church web calendar listing or use the link in today's email.

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, 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.

Tuesday, February 10

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) for location and details.

Wednesday, February 11

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

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

Friday, February 13

Union Film Group Screens "A Shadow Of A Doubt"

6:15pm BYO Dinner, 7pm Screening in the Guild Room. Please see the church web calendar listing for more details about the film.


Saturday, February 14

Benefit Concert For Essex Together "Random Acts of Love Song: A Valentine's Day Twist" At Fletcher Hall (67 Church Street, Montclair)

A perfect evening for those who love music, believe in love, but may not love the idea of an obligatory commercial ritual about love. Americana Soul artist and singer-songwriter Scott E. Moore will explore love songs, including eclectic diverse classics

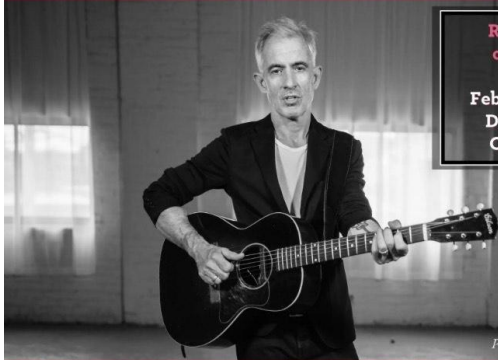
and SEM originals, all served up in a musical cocktail of blues, country, jazz and R&B.

All proceeds to benefit ESSEX TOGETHER, a multi-institutional collective that provides support in the form of Housing, Education, Criminal Justice Reform, & the Environment, of which Union Cong is a founding member. Come celebrate Love & make Essex County livable for all! (Learn more about Essex Together at: www.njtogether.org/essex). Come with a date, a partner, a friend - or by yourself! All Love, no obligations, no judgements. \$20, BYO. Doors open 7:30pm, show at 8pm.

 LISTENING ROOM PRESENTS

SCOTT E. MOORE

Random Acts of Love Song
Saturday,
February 14, 2026
Doors 7:30 pm
Concert 8 pm

 Photo: Armando Outthere Diaz

A Valentine's Day Twist Benefit Concert

Acclaimed Americana Soul singer-songwriter & special guest artists.

FLETCHER HALL
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
67 CHURCH STREET, MONTCLAIR

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
'LET'S WATCH' MOVIE SERIES PRESENTS:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 6PM



ASSEMBLY ROOM
176 Cooper Avenue, Montclair
RSVP at bit.ly/letswatchmovieseries
QUESTIONS? EMAIL ISABELLE.GENEST@AOL.COM

Feb. 20, 6pm: The "Let's Watch" Film Series Presents *Descendant*

This important film documents the search for and historic discovery of *The Clotilda*, the last known ship to arrive in the United States, illegally carrying enslaved Africans. After a century of secrecy and speculation, the 2019 discovery of the ship turns attention toward the descendant community of Africatown and presents a moving portrait of a community grappling with and fighting to preserve their heritage as well as fighting environmental injustice. 6pm pizza, 6:30pm screening. See today's email for the trailer. Please RSVP at bit.ly/letswatchmovieseries

The Peace Islands Dinner will take place at Union Cong on Friday, Feb. 27 and begin in the Assembly Room at 5:45pm (RSVP deadline is Feb. 22nd.)

Join us for our annual shared Iftar dinner with Peace Islands Institute. Peace Islands is a Muslim peace-building organization that seeks to promote peace, love, respect, humanity, integrity, welfare, and understanding. As we join them in breaking their Ramadan fast, we will have the opportunity for interfaith learning and relationship building. We welcome people of all ages to join us for this meal and learning experience. An RSVP is required for the dinner, please complete the sign up:

<https://bit.ly/peaceislandsunioncong>

For more information about Peace Islands: <https://peaceislands.org>

Looking Ahead: Ash Wednesday is February 18

We will hold 2 services:

Noon - Traditional Ash Wednesday Service in the Chapel and on Livestream

6pm - Join us in the Chapel for dinner, prayer, imposition of ashes, and watch the film "The Way," which is the inspiration for our theme for Lent.

***Please note that Kim Crabtree is out of the office from Feb. 10 – 16.
The church office will be closed on Monday, Feb. 16.***

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

Rev. Katrina Forman, Lead Minister, 973-744-5802, kforman@unioncong.org

Rev. Leah McCullough, Minister of Pastoral Care and Faith Formation,
973-746-4285, LMcCullough@unioncong.org

Jon Thomsen, Executive Director, 973-744-7426, jthomsen@unioncong.org

Kim Crabtree, Member Engagement and Communications Manager, 973-233-4563,
kcrabtree@unioncong.org

Albert Fenske-Williams, Operations and Space Use Manager, 973-417-3408,
afenskewilliams@unioncong.org

BJ Carter, Children And Youth Ministry Associate, 973-447-4593,
bjcarter@unioncong.org

John David Whitener, Co-Director of Music, 973-707-3248,
jwhitener@unioncong.org

Jeremy Whitener, Co-Director of Music, jeremy@unioncong.org

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

176 Cooper Avenue, Montclair, NJ 973-744-7424 www.unioncong.org