

# UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church Of Christ



Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.



"Ascension" photo by Joanna Vaughan

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
An LGBTQ+ Open and Affirming Congregation  
176 Cooper Avenue, Montclair, NJ  
973-744-7424  
[www.unioncong.org](http://www.unioncong.org)

**June 1, 2025**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

\*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. Ushers can help direct you there. Children K-5th grade are invited to attend Sunday School after the Message for All Ages and will return for 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 – Lord God of Abraham *from Elijah***

## Felix Mendelssohn

Bill Amory & Steve Oosting

*Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, this day let it be known that Thou art God, and that I am Thy servant! Lord God of Abraham! Oh shew to all this people that I have done these things according to Thy word. Oh hear me, Lord, and answer me! Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, oh hear me and answer me, and shew this people that Thou art Lord God. And let their hearts again be turned!*

# WELCOME

Rev. Katrina Forman

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Marie Bacchiocchi

One: We gather today to worship the One who created us,

## All: The One who calls us,

One: The One who equips us,

**All: The One who loves us without end.**

One: With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

## **\*OPENING HYMN (insert) – All My Days**

ENCOUNTER

Words: Laurie Zelman

♩=78 N.C. A<sup>7sus</sup>

1. You

D D/F# G A<sup>7sus</sup> G/B D D/F# D G

know my words, be - fore they're said. You know my need and  
 I should fly be - yond the dawn, the shad - ows will not  
 ev - ery thought, each word we say, - the whole of time, the  
 mend my heart and free my voice. From sin re - leased, I

E/G# Esus A F#7/A# Bm F#m7 G Am D7 Gadd9

I am fed. You give me life. You know my ways, my  
 o - ver - come. If I lie down in deep - est night, still  
 pre - sent day, are held with - in your might - y hand too  
 will re - joice. O search me now, my spir - it cries, and

D/A G/B Em/C#F#aug Bm D7/A D/G D/F# Em7

strength, my path. for all my days, my strength, my path, for  
 you are there, my truth, my light, still you are there, my  
 won - der - ful to com - pre - hend, too won - der - ful to  
 let my song of praise a - rise, and let my song of

Asus N.C. A<sup>7sus</sup> Asus N.C. Dadd9

1.2.3. 4.

all my days. 2. If praise a - rise.  
 truth, my light. 3. Our  
 com - pre - hend. 4. O

## PASSING THE PEACE

## SCRIPTURE READING Acts 1:1-11

Kathleen Kelly

## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

### SERMON -

"Don't Look Up"

Rev. Katrina Forman

### \*HYMN (insert) – O God, Our Refuge (vs. 1-3)

Words: Brenda Hosteller Meyer

*OUR REFUGE*

Music: The Walking Roots Band

1 O God, our refuge is your love, where we do the work of faith, for  
2 In love we taunt with shame and fear your love; no  
3 When ty - rants taunt with shame and fear your love; no  
4 O God, our refuge is your love, where we do the work of faith, for  
truth and spir - it bid us stand; through hum - ble crea - tures  
jus - tice' sake we share our bread; as Ma - ry chose the  
joy - ful com - fort guides our speech; and e - ven hemmed by  
fear can take us cap - tive when we fol - low your cou -  
you re - veal the might and won - der of your hand.  
bet - ter part, we search and stu - dy what you've said.  
pris - on walls, we find your strength with - in our reach.  
ra - geous Lamb, then leap the walls. A - men, a - men.

## AWARDS – Faith in Action and John McGann Award for Educational Excellence

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### Joys and Concerns

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.**

## **Pastoral Prayer**

### **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 – Special Offering for Pride Choir**

Linda Hall

### **Music for Meditation - Prelude No. 1, Op. 16 (Scriabin)**

Jeremy Carlisle

### **\*Response of Thanksgiving – Doxology**

Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. William B. Abernathy

*GOODNESS*

Music: Paul M. Vasile

4

7

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**

## **COMMUNION**

Revs. Katrina Forman and Marie Bacchiocchi

## **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

*We invite the congregation to gather at the front of the sanctuary. Gluten-Free*

*bread will be passed as we say to one another "The bread of life." The cup of grape juice will be passed, into which you can dip your bread, as we say to one another "the cup of blessing." All are welcome to share in the feast of communion. If you wish to remain in your seat, you can be served there. If you do not wish to partake, you are still welcome to join us at the front of the sanctuary and simply pass the plate or cup when it comes to you, or you may remain in your seat as you are comfortable.*

## **COMMUNION HYMN NCH #330 – Let Us Break Bread Together**

African-American Spiritual

*LET US BREAK BREAD*

## **LITURGY OF SENDING FOR REV. KATRINA'S SABBATICAL**

Tim Crist, Moderator; Christine Brown, Incoming Moderator  
Rob Iracane and Steve Oosting, Pastoral Relations Committee

### **\*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.*

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## **RESOURCES USED IN PREPARING THIS MORNING'S LITURGY:**

Communion Liturgy by Mary Luti, *Do This: Communion for Just and Courageous Living*, p. 161-2

**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.

## **PLEASE STAY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM AFTER WORSHIP TODAY, ALSO AVAILABLE ON ZOOM**

Childcare will be provided. Please see Annual Meeting notice with agenda on the next page. The Zoom link will be located in today's email, on the church website, and in the online calendar listing.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** have been donated by Rev. Katrina Forman in gratitude for the members, lay leadership, and staff of Union Congregational Church.

**LIVESTREAM VIDEO:** Kim Crabtree

**SOUND OPERATOR:** Joe Cristiani

**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.



**UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Announcement of Annual Meeting**  
June 1, 2025, 11:30 am

Please join us in the Assembly Room or on Zoom.

The agenda includes:

- Prayer and Moment of Celebration and Gratitude
- Governance Review Findings
- Nursery School Update
- Vote on Budget for 2025-26
- Votes on Treasurer, At-Large Governing Board Members and Leadership
- Discernment Standing Committee Members for 2025-26
- Vote on Missional Priorities
- Second Minister Search Update
- Building Renewal Task Force Update
- Presentation of 5 year Campus Plan
- Recognition of Outgoing Governing Board Members
- Closing Prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Christina Kelly  
Secretary

176 Cooper Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07043  
www.unioncong.org 973-744-7424 contact@unioncong.org

## **THIS WEEK**

*Tuesday, June 3*

12:30pm Daytime Bible Study (Guild Room)

*Wednesday, June 4*

10:30am Gentle Yoga (Guild Room)

Noon Union Sages (Guild Room)

7pm Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary)



**SCAN ME**

Donate to Pride Choir by scanning QR code or going to <https://bit.ly/pridechoir>

## **THIS SATURDAY JUNE 7 AT 7PM IN THE SANCTUARY:**

**PRIDE CHOIR CONCERT: "BEND, DON'T BREAK"**

Pride Choir's June concert will take place this Saturday, June 7th at 7pm at Union Congregational Church. The concert will be a musical journey of determination, inspiration, resilience, and hope. The concert features the music of Tracy Chapman, Sara Bareilles, and more. The concert is free for the community, and donations are graciously accepted. RSVPs are preferred at [pridechoirtickets.com](http://pridechoirtickets.com)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SUNDAY, JUNE 8 WORSHIP WILL TAKE PLACE AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (40 S. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair)**

We will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday at First Congregational Church on Sunday, June 8. Please note that the worship start time is **10:30am**. Please see the church email today or the calendar on the website for parking details.

**VOLUNTEER AT CUMAC ON FRIDAY, JUNE 13 FROM 11AM-1PM**

CUMAC is a food security agency in Paterson dedicated to feeding people and changing lives. Volunteering usually involves unpacking food and stocking shelves. Contact Michele Sionas at [michelesionas@gmail.com](mailto:michelesionas@gmail.com) if you are interested.

**UCC PLAYERS UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF "BARBECUING HAMLET" IS OPENING ON FRIDAY, JUNE 13th (Assembly Room)**

Opening Night on Friday, June 13 at 7:30pm. Additional Performances: June 14, June 20, and June 21 at 7:30pm. Closing on Sunday, June 22 at 2pm.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TOUR OF THE IRONBOUND – STAY TUNED**

We are working on a new date for an environmental justice tour. Details soon.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT REV. KATRINA BEGINS HER SABBATICAL ON JUNE 2ND. REV. MARIE WILL CONTINUE AS MINISTER OF VISITATION AND PASTORAL CARE OVER THE SUMMER**

Rev. Marie will be in the church office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am-2pm beginning on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. She will also be in worship on the first Sunday of every month. Other days and times are available by request. You can reach Marie by phone, 973-746-4285, or by email [mbacchiocchi@unioncong.org](mailto:mbacchiocchi@unioncong.org).

**LOST AND FOUND**

The lost and found basket is located under the Assembly Room stairs. If you leave something at the church on Sunday, please call the church office at 973-744-7424, and Albert will call you back on Monday to coordinate pick up.

**CHURCH CONTACT INFO (see Rev. Marie's contact info above)**

Jon Thomsen, Executive Director, 973-744-7426, [jthomsen@unioncong.org](mailto:jthomsen@unioncong.org)

Kim Crabtree, Member Engagement and Communications Manager, 973-233-4563, [kcrabtree@unioncong.org](mailto:kcrabtree@unioncong.org)

Albert Fenske-Williams, Operations and Space Use Manager, 973-417-3408, [afenskewilliams@unioncong.org](mailto:afenskewilliams@unioncong.org)

BJ Carter, Interim Program Coordinator for Children and Youth, 973-447-4593, [bjcarter@unioncong.org](mailto:bjcarter@unioncong.org)

John David Whitener, Co-Music Director, 973-707-3248, [jwhitener@unioncong.org](mailto:jwhitener@unioncong.org)  
Jeremy Whitener, Co-Music Director, [jeremy@unioncong.org](mailto:jeremy@unioncong.org)