

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

May 25, 2025
Sixth Sunday of Easter

*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 – Fantasy on *Beach Spring*

Genie Temmler and Jeremy Carlisle

Jason Krug

WELCOME

Rev. Katrina Forman

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

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

All: The One who calls us,

One: The One who equips us,

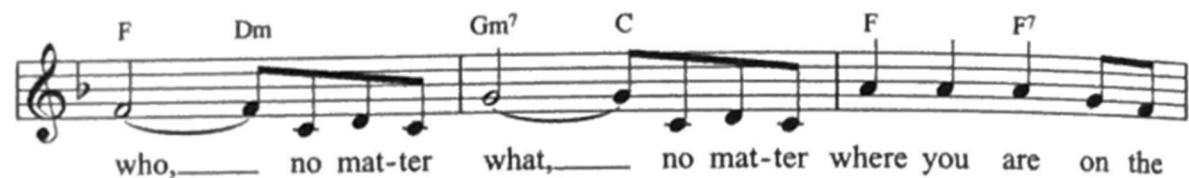
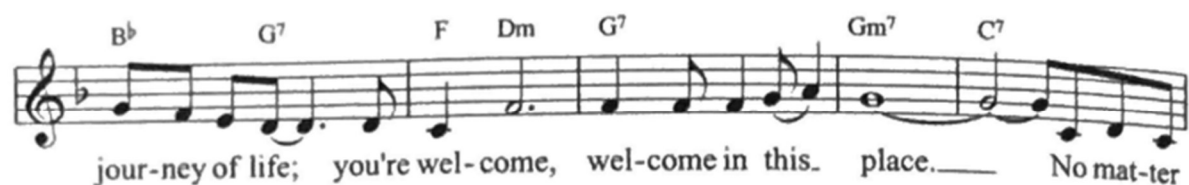
All: The One who loves us without end.

One: With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

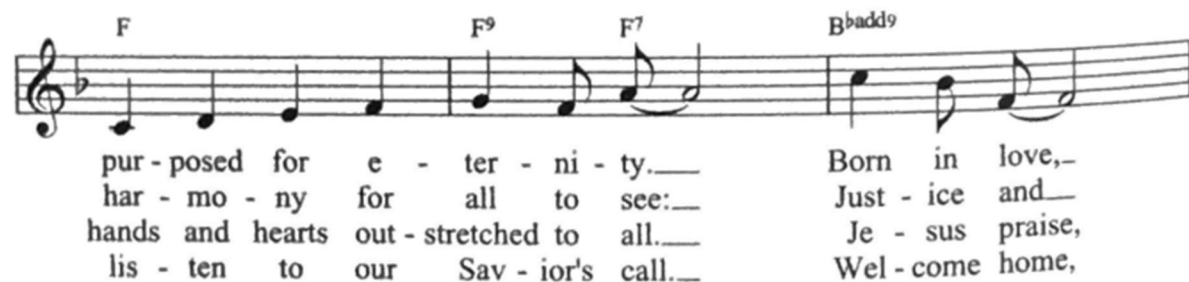
***OPENING HYMN (insert) – No Matter (vs. 1-3)**

Words & Music: Roger P. Miller

GATHER



Verses



PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 16:9-15

Barbara Ross

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

SPECIAL MUSIC – The Church Where Love Lives

Sanctuary Choir

Words & Music: Amanda Udis-Kessler

*The church where love lives is a safe place for all
Where we gather in wonder to remember God's call,
To embody God's vision of kindness and care
With each song that we sing, with each protest and prayer.*

*On this sacred foundation of faith and of trust
We are building a world that is gentle and just.
We rejoice and repent, offer praise and forgive
And we welcome all people to the church where love lives.*

*The church where love lives draws the stranger inside,
Making neighbors of strangers, no neighbor denied,
Till there's heaven on earth and God's will has been done,
Till the whole of creation is restored to its home.*

*On this sacred foundation of faith and of trust
We are building a world that is gentle and just.
We rejoice and repent, offer praise and forgive
And we welcome all people to the church where love lives.*

*The church where love lives is preparing a feast
For the pained and rejected, for the lost and the least,
For the deeply afraid, for the truly ashamed.
Come and sit at our table. Love has called you by name.*

*On this sacred foundation of faith and of trust
We are building a world that is gentle and just.
We rejoice and repent, offer praise and forgive
And we welcome all people to the church where love lives.*

SERMON

Rev. Katrina Forman

***HYMN (insert) – Here I Am, Lord**

HERE I AM, LORD

Words & Music: Daniel L. Schutte

Unison

G Am/G D7/G C/G

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the

G D G Em Am7 C

peo - ple cry. All who dwell in dark and sin
 peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them,
 poor and lame. I will set a feast for them,

Am D7/G D/F# D/C G Am/G D7/G

my hand will save. I who made the stars of night,
 they turn a - way. I will break their hearts of stone,
 my hand will save. Fin-est bread I will pro - vide

C/G G D G Em

I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
 give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
 till their hearts be sat - is - fied. I will give my

Refrain
D7/F#

Am7 C Am G/B C6 *slowing* D

light Word life to them? to them. to them. Whom shall I send? Whom shall I send? Whom shall I send? Here I

a tempo
G Gsus G D7/A C/E D7 G

am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

C/G Am G/B C6 D D7/F#

heard you call - ing in the night. I will

G Gsus G C/G G C/E D7 G

go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

Am7 C/D D G C/G G

hold your peo - ple in my heart.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

Leana Greene – John David Whitener's sister

Jordan Bronson

Joan and Bill Icklan

Doris Brett

We give thanks for the life of Mary Kay, Armen's friend who died this week.

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

Music for Meditation – Sarabande from French Suite No. 5 in G (Bach)

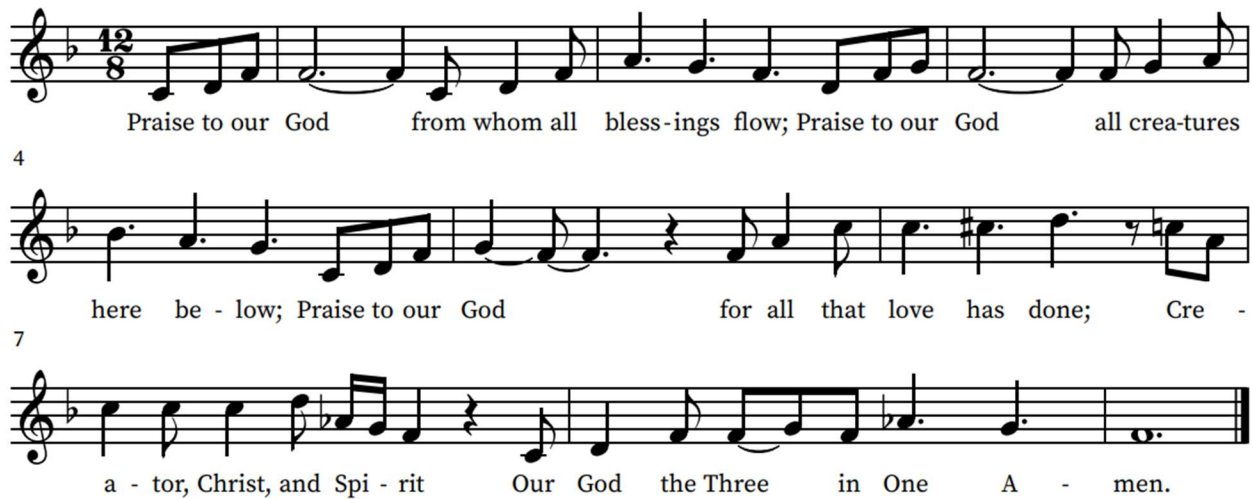
Jeremy Carlisle

***Response of Thanksgiving – Doxology**

Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. William B. Abernathy

GOODNESS

Music: Paul M. Vasile



***Prayer of Dedication**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN NCH #529 – Now Let Us All, in Hymns of Praise**

Words: Fred Pratt Green

OPEN DOOR
Music: Roy Hopp

***BENEDICTION**

***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 – Waltz in E, Op. 39 (Brahms)

Jeremy Carlisle

RESOURCES USED IN THE PREPARATION OF TODAY'S LITURGY:

Call to Worship Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

Other Prayers adapted from Gathered By Love: Worship Resources for Year C, Lavon Bayler.

Cover Art:

Alkelda. Saint Lydia Purpuraria, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-image/act-link.pl?RC=56894> [retrieved May 19, 2025]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/alkelda/8347293119> - Alkelda.

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.

STAY AFTER WORSHIP TODAY FOR A SECOND HOUR WITH KIM CRABTREE ABOUT THE NEW CHURCH WEBSITE

COFFEE HOUR has been provided by Karen Ermler and Grace Lawson.

LIVESTREAM VIDEO: Kim Crabtree **SOUND OPERATOR:** Joe Cristiani

THANK YOU Sunday Welcome Team and Sanctuary Choir!

THIS WEEK

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, May 26th.

Tuesday, May 27

12:30pm Daytime Bible Study (Guild Room)

Wednesday, May 28

10:30am Gentle Yoga (Guild Room)

7pm Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, May 30

6:15pm BYO Dinner, 7pm Screening Of "Henry V" With Union Cong Film Group (Guild Room)

Saturday, May 31

12:30pm Interfaith Climate Action – Climate Ribbon Event (On The Lawn Of First Congregational Church, 40 S. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair)

On May 31 the Creation Justice Team and church members are invited to join Interfaith Climate Action NJ at 12:30pm on the lawn of First Congregational Church to make climate ribbons that we will parade up South Fullerton Avenue to Church Street and then on to Chase Bank on North Fullerton where we will hang the ribbons and distribute flyers.

COMING UP IN JUNE

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 1

The meeting will be offered in person in the Assembly Room and on Zoom. Childcare will be provided. Please see Annual Meeting notice with agenda on the next page. The Zoom link will be located in the Sunday, June 1 email, on the church website, and in the online calendar listing.



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

Details on the above announcement:

For Treasurer: Bruce Hager; For At-Large Members: Tim Crist, Helen Respass, and Kayla Jackson

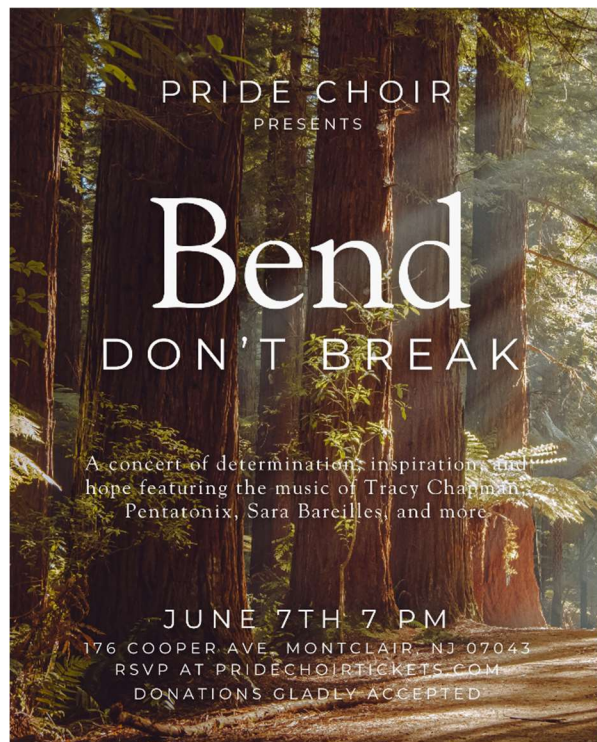
For Leadership Discernment Standing Committee: Marcie Wallace, Lisa Blankenship, Karen Ermler, Armen Khachaturian, Michele Sionas, Carlos Valdes-Dapena

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. The theme of the service is "celebrating the many languages of God." We are encouraging members of both congregations to bring food on that day representing other cultures. If you have an idea of what you would like to bring to First Cong, please sign up using the black Members tab on the top right of the new website and click on the Coffee Hour sign up on the Members Reference page, or email Kim at kcrabtree@unioncong.org.

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

You can reach Marie by phone, 973-746-4285, or by email, mbacchiocchi@unioncong.org



SATURDAY JUNE 7 AT 7PM
PRIDE CHOIR CONCERT: "BEND, DON'T BREAK"

Pride Choir's next free community concert is titled "Bend Don't Break." It will take place on Saturday, June 7th at 7pm at Union Congregational Church. A perfect concert for these times, "Bend Don't Break" is a musical journey of determination, inspiration, resilience, and hope. The concert features the music of Tracy Chapman, Pentatonix, Sara Bareilles, and more. The concert is free for the community, and donations are graciously accepted, BUT RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED at pridechoirtickets.com

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

All kinds of eccentric characters come out of the woodwork in this riotous tribute to life on the community theater stage. Opening Night on Friday, June 13 at 7:30pm.

Additional Performances:

Saturday, June 14 at 7:30pm

Friday, June 20 at 7:30pm

Saturday, June 21 at 7:30pm

Closing on Sunday, June 22 at 2pm

CLIMATE ACTION SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 23

On June 23, we are registered for an environmental justice tour of the Ironbound neighborhood in Newark. We will travel by bus from Cooper Ave. to Newark. More details coming soon.

ABOUT THE PAINTING OF THE CHURCH IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY:

Last Wednesday, the Montclair Story Salon took place at Union Congregational Church. It was a night of great stories and music, and included a live painter, Fernando Mariscal, who captured the event in acrylic paints as the night was unfolding. The event was a benefit for Montclair HELPS. The painting was auctioned off at the end of the event. David Fapohunda won the auction and promptly donated the painting to the church. Thank you David!

CHURCH CONTACT INFO

Rev. Katrina Forman, Lead Minister, 973-417-3409, kforman@unioncong.org

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

Rev. Marie A. Bacchiocchi, Minister Of Visitation And Pastoral Care, 973-746-4285, mbacchiocchi@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, 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.