

# 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](http://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)**

*GATHER*

Words & Music: Roger P. Miller

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the

B♭ G<sup>7</sup> F Dm G<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup>

jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this. place. No mat-ter

F Dm Gm<sup>7</sup> C F F<sup>7</sup>

who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the

B♭ G<sup>7</sup> F Dm Gm<sup>7</sup> C<sup>7</sup> C F F<sup>7</sup>

To verses | Last time, Fine

jour-ney of life: ac - cept- ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

Verses

F B♭add9 B♭madd9

1. For we are fam - i - ly, meant to be  
 2. And in di - ver - si - ty, u - ni - ty,  
 3. To - geth - er we will sing, wor - ship bring,  
 4. The God who spoke through Christ, speaks to us;—

F F<sup>9</sup> F<sup>7</sup> B♭add9

pur - posed for e - ter - ni - ty. Born in love,-  
 har - mo - ny for all to see: Just - ice and  
 hands and hearts out - stretched to all. Je - sus praise,  
 lis - ten to our Sav - ior's call. Wel - come home,

B♭madd9 G<sup>9</sup> G<sup>7</sup> Gm<sup>7</sup>/C C<sup>7</sup> D.C.

from a - bove, God's com - mu - ni - ty.  
 e - qui - ty, God's com - mu - ni - ty.  
 hearts a - blaze, lis - ten to God's call.  
 wel - come in, wel - come one and all..

## 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*

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

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

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

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

Am<sup>7</sup> C Am G/B C<sub>6</sub> *slowing* D *Refrain*  
 light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 Word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 life to them. 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 C<sub>6</sub> D D7/F<sup>♯</sup>  
 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

Am<sup>7</sup> 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

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

### 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

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### 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-imagelink.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 26<sup>th</sup>.**

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

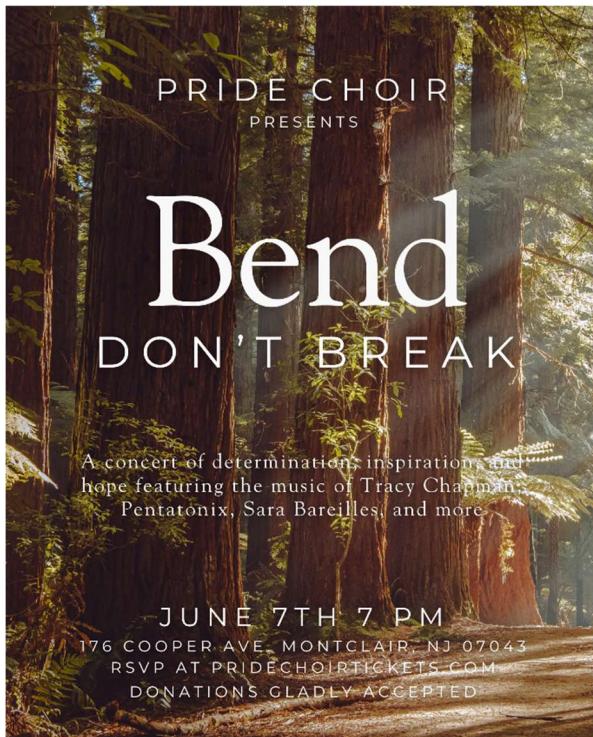
For Leadership Discernment Standing Committee: Marcie Wallace, Lisa Blankenship, Karen Ermler, Armen Khachaturian, Michele Sionas, Carlos Valdes-Dapena

### **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](mailto:kcrabtree@unioncong.org).

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

You can reach Marie by phone, 973-746-4285, or by email, [mbacchiocchi@unioncong.org](mailto: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](http://pridechoirtickets.com)

**UCC PLAYERS UPCOMING PRODUCTION OF "BARBECUING HAMLET" IS OPENING ON FRIDAY, JUNE 13<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto:kforman@unioncong.org)

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

Rev. Marie A. Bacchicocchi, Minister Of Visitation And Pastoral Care, 973-746-4285, [mbacchicocchi@unioncong.org](mailto:mbacchicocchi@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, [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)

**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.