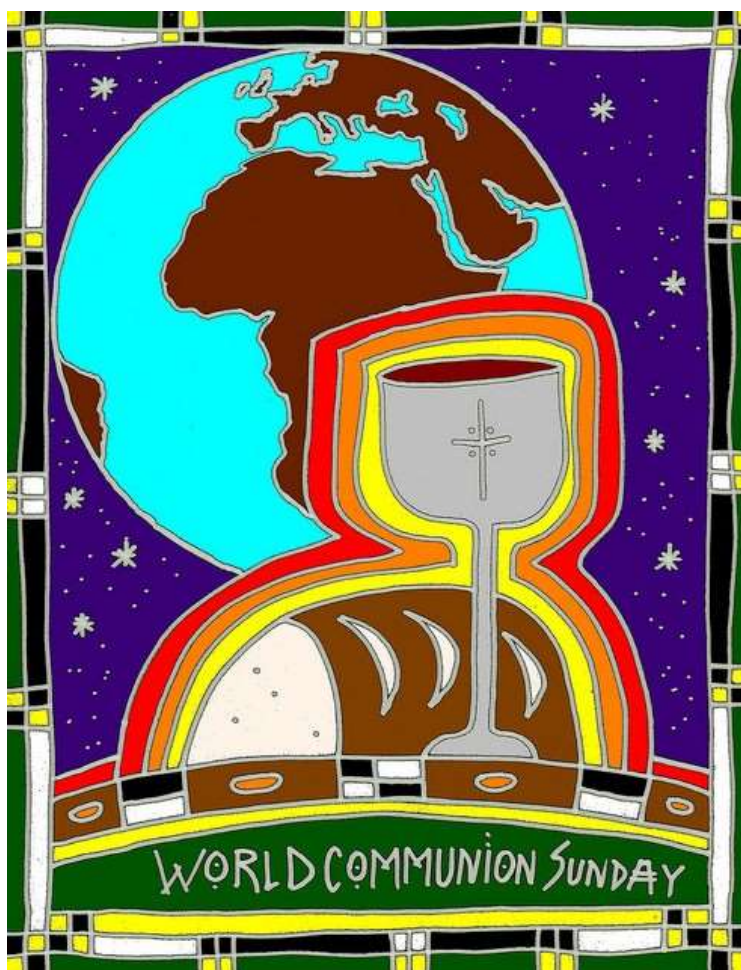


# UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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)

**October 5, 2025**  
**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

\*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 0-1<sup>st</sup> grade.  
Ushers can help direct you there. Children in 2nd–5th grade will remain in the  
sanctuary for worship 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 – O Taste and See**

Ralph Vaughan Williams

*O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blest is the man who trusteth in him.*

Kimberly Martinez and Jeremy Carlisle

**WELCOME**

Rev. Katrina Forman

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**One:** Come, all who hunger for wholeness,  
all who thirst for belonging.  
Come from every neighborhood and every nation.

**All: We gather as one body,  
welcomed by the God who knows no borders.**

**One:** Across languages and cultures,  
across differences and distances,  
Christ calls us to the same table.

**All: Here, the bread is shared, and the cup is poured—  
for all people, in every place.**

**One:** Come, let us worship the God who makes us one in love.

**\*OPENING HYMN Red Hymnal #218 – Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether**

Words: Percy Dearmer

Music: Harold Freidell

*(next page)*

# Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

Matt. 18:20  
Percy Dearmer, 1925

UNION SEMINARY 8.7.8.7.4.4.7.  
Harold Friedell, 1957  
Adapted by Jet Turner, 1967

*Unison*

1. Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, For when hum - bly  
2. As the breth - ren used to gath - er In the name of  
3. All our meals and all our liv - ing Make as sac - ra -

in thy name, Two or three are met to - geth - er, Thou art  
Christ to sup, Then with thanks to God the Fa - ther Break the  
ments of thee, That by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing, We may

in the midst of them; Al - le - lu - ya!  
bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ya!  
true dis - ci - ples be. Al - le - lu - ya!

Al - le - lu - ya! Touch we now thy gar - ment's hem.  
Al - le - lu - ya, So knit thou our friend - ship up.  
Al - le - lu - ya, We will serve thee faith - ful - ly.

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION (unison)**

Rev. Katrina Forman

**Gracious God, on this World Communion Sunday, we gather with Christians across the globe, united by the table, yet painfully aware of our divisions. We have built walls around our hearts, our communities, and our nations. We have turned away from the suffering of others, especially when their pain is distant or inconvenient. We have consumed more than our share, ignored voices we deemed unimportant, and failed to recognize the sacredness of every human being. In our silence, we have allowed injustice to grow. In our fear, we have resisted your call to love boldly. In our comfort, we have forgotten our neighbors. Forgive us and make us new. Make us one. Amen.**

**MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**SCRIPTURE READING    Luke 17:5-6; II Timothy 1:1-7**

Jane Seaman

**MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

Rev. Leah McCullough

**SPECIAL MUSIC – Prayer *from* Come From Away**

Words & Music: Irene Sankoff and David Hein

*Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love.  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,  
And where there's doubt true faith in you.*

Members of the Sanctuary Choir

**SERMON**

"Mustard Seed Faith"

Rev. Leah McCullough

**\*HYMN (insert) – When Jesus Set His Table**

Words and Music: Amanda Udis-Kessler

*(next page)*

When Je - sus set his ta - ble, no one was turned a - way. That  
 race, no creed, no na - tion, no love of heart and vow, No  
 ev - er we find troubl - ing and seek to keep out - side, That  
 Je - sus set his ta - ble, no one was turned a - way. That

ta - ble was a pro - mise of bles - sing and of grace So set the ta - ble  
 gen - der is re - ject - ed. The ta - ble's wait - ing now  
 is the ve - ry neigh - bor who must not be de - nied  
 ta - ble is our pro - mise. It's ours to tend to - day

ful - ly. In - vite the whole world in. If we would share love's wel - come then

here's where we be - gin. No Who - When

## HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation to the Table

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving including Prayers of the People

### Joys and Concerns

Josh Robeson

Jonathan Grevatt

### Lord's Prayer

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.

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

## COMMUNION HYMN (insert) – Eat This Bread

Arr. Jacques Berthier

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and  
nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread,  
drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY Invitation

Rev. Leah McCullough

### Music for Meditation

Jeremy Carlisle

### \*Response of Thanksgiving – Doxology

Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. William B. Abernathy

*GOODNESS*

Music: Paul M. Vasile

*(next page)*

Praise to our God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise to our God all crea-tures  
 here be - low; Praise to our God for all that love has done; Cre -  
 a - tor, Christ, and Spi - rit Our God the Three in One A - men.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CLOSING HYMN Black Hymnal #314 – Community of Christ**

Words: Shirley Murray

Music: Meyer Lyon

## Community of Christ

314

*Shirley Erena Murray, 1985*

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the Cross your own,  
 2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church's door  
 3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—  
 4 When men-ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,

live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:  
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.  
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world 'round:  
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its Sun;

The God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,  
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,  
 Dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,  
 Our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,

whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.  
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.  
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.  
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

*Shirley Erena Murray has grown up within the Ecumenical Movement and addresses related themes such as Christian unity and social justice in her hymnody. This text was first sung at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand.*

Tune: LEONI 6.6.8.4.D.  
 Traditional Hebrew melody  
 Adap. Meyer Lyon, 1770



**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Leah McCullough

**\*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**

Jeremy Carlisle

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**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 or hand it to an usher as you leave. You can also find an electronic Welcome Card by scanning QR code on the pew in front of you, or by going to this webpage: <https://www.unioncong.org/welcome-card/>. Please stay for coffee hour in the Assembly Room immediately following the service.

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS were donated by Armen Khachaturian in memory of Kate.**

**HONORING THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH FIRE IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM AFTER WORSHIP TODAY**

After worship, a slideshow and artifacts will be displayed in the Assembly Room, with thanks to the Archives team.

**THANK YOU Sunday Welcome Team and the Sanctuary Choir!**

**LIVESTREAM VIDEO: Nkenge Jones, SOUND OPERATOR: Joe Cristiani**

**NEXT SUNDAY'S WORSHIP IS OUR BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE!**

We invite you to bring your beloved pets to Sunday worship for a special blessing in recognition of the love, joy, and companionship they bring into our lives. There will also be a slideshow of congregational members and their pets displayed in the Assembly Room after worship. Email your photos to Kim ([kcrabtree@unioncong.org](mailto:kcrabtree@unioncong.org)) to be included.

### **Please RSVP For The Interfaith Sukkot By Today**

Our Congregation is partnering with local freelance Rabbi Nikki DeBlosi on Monday, Oct. 13th At 3:30pm to learn about the holiday of Sukkot. Sign up for the Interfaith Sukkot using the QR code, by going to <https://bit.ly/interfaithsukkot>, or by going to the on the Members' Reference page of the church website: [www.unioncong.org/member-reference/](http://www.unioncong.org/member-reference/).



### **SAVE-THE-DATE FOR THE QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 AFTER WORSHIP**

The meeting will be available in person and on Zoom. There will be a discussion and congregational vote about selling the P2 lot and updates about the Building Renewal project. Lunch will be provided. The official meeting notice was emailed to members yesterday.

### **SAVE-THE-DATE FOR WOMEN'S BREAKFAST, OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

Roxanne Kent will be speaking on the Circles Project.

### **THIS WEEK, REV. LEAH LAUNCHES "CARING CONNECTIONS" WITH PORCH TIME IN AT THE PARSONAGE (P1) AND PLAY TIME IN THE PARK**

Join Rev. Leah for "Caring Connections," opportunities to gather, share our stories and offer up what is on our hearts these days – the joys and the struggles.

*Porch Time at the Parsonage (P1) Takes Place:*

Tuesday, October 7, 1pm–2:30pm

*Play Time In The Park Takes Place At Brookdale Park, Near The Playground:*

Thursday, October 9, 3:30pm–5:30pm

### **SMALL GROUPS THIS WEEK:**

#### **Daytime Bible Study Meets Tuesdays at 12:30pm in the Guild Room**

If you have any questions, please reach out to Paul Nishimoto at [pnishimoto@gmail.com](mailto:pnishimoto@gmail.com).

#### **Union Cong Chair Yoga Alternates Taking Place In Person And On Zoom on Wednesdays**

Email Sara T. at [sgtamargo@gmail.com](mailto:sgtamargo@gmail.com) for the meeting location.

#### **Come Make A Joyful Clang! The UCC Ringers Handbell Choir Rehearses Wednesdays at 7pm In The Sanctuary.**

Email Jeremy at [jeremy@unioncong.org](mailto:jeremy@unioncong.org) for more information. All levels are welcome.

### **FREE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CHURCH-SPONSORED NORTHEAST EARTH COALITION FUNDRAISER ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH**

Northeast Earth Coalition has been a partner in environmental justice for several years. As an institution, we have supported them with donations and are a sponsor of their fall fundraiser which will take place on October 25. This sponsorship comes with 15 tickets and it is important that we show our support as individuals, not just an organization. The tickets are available on a first-come basis. Please consider attending. To RSVP, contact Michele Sionas at [michelesionas@gmail.com](mailto:michelesionas@gmail.com).

### **FAMILY PROMISE TOILETRY DRIVE**

Family Promise of Essex County is in need of products to re-supply their inventory of toiletry products, which are especially helpful for outreach events. Specifically, travel-sized bottles of the items listed below (all of the same brand/color/scent is preferred):

Toothbrushes and toothpaste,  
hand sanitizer,  
shampoo and conditioner,  
hand cream or lotion, and  
deodorant.

The church will collect items in the shopping cart in the Assembly Room or you can contact Family Promise directly at 973-746-1400 to schedule a drop-off day time. Family Promise is dedicated to helping families experiencing homelessness rebuild their lives with dignity and stability. As families work toward permanent housing and self-sufficiency, the need for everyday essentials remains urgent.

### **FIVE MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ABOUT THE P2 LOT PROPOSAL**

Please sign up for a small group conversation about the P2 lot prior to the congregational meeting by going to the church website, [www.unioncong.org](http://www.unioncong.org), and clicking the Members Reference tab, or [www.unioncong.org/member-reference](http://www.unioncong.org/member-reference).

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

Rev. Katrina Forman, Lead Minister, 973-744-5802, [kforman@unioncong.org](mailto:kforman@unioncong.org)

Rev. Leah McCullough, Minister of Pastoral Care and Faith Formation,  
973-746-4285, [LMcCullough@unioncong.org](mailto:LMcCullough@unioncong.org)

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, Sunday School Coordinator, 973-447-4593, [bjcarter@unioncong.org](mailto:bjcarter@unioncong.org)

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

Jeremy Whitener, Co-Director of Music, [jeremy@unioncong.org](mailto:jeremy@unioncong.org)

## **ABOUT UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

Union Congregational Church exists to provide opportunities for anyone who wants to connect with God through worship, service, education, and small groups.

Typically, you'll find members and friends seeking wisdom, searching for movements of the Spirit, serving others, and having fun together. Anyone is invited to join us, ask questions, and most importantly, be yourself. Union Congregational Church is a congregation of people from all walks of life and faith traditions.

The church community commits to welcoming, including, and celebrating people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. Union Congregational Church proudly embraces LGBTQ+ people into the full life and ministry of the church. As part of the United Church of Christ, our denomination, this is called being an "Open and Affirming" church.