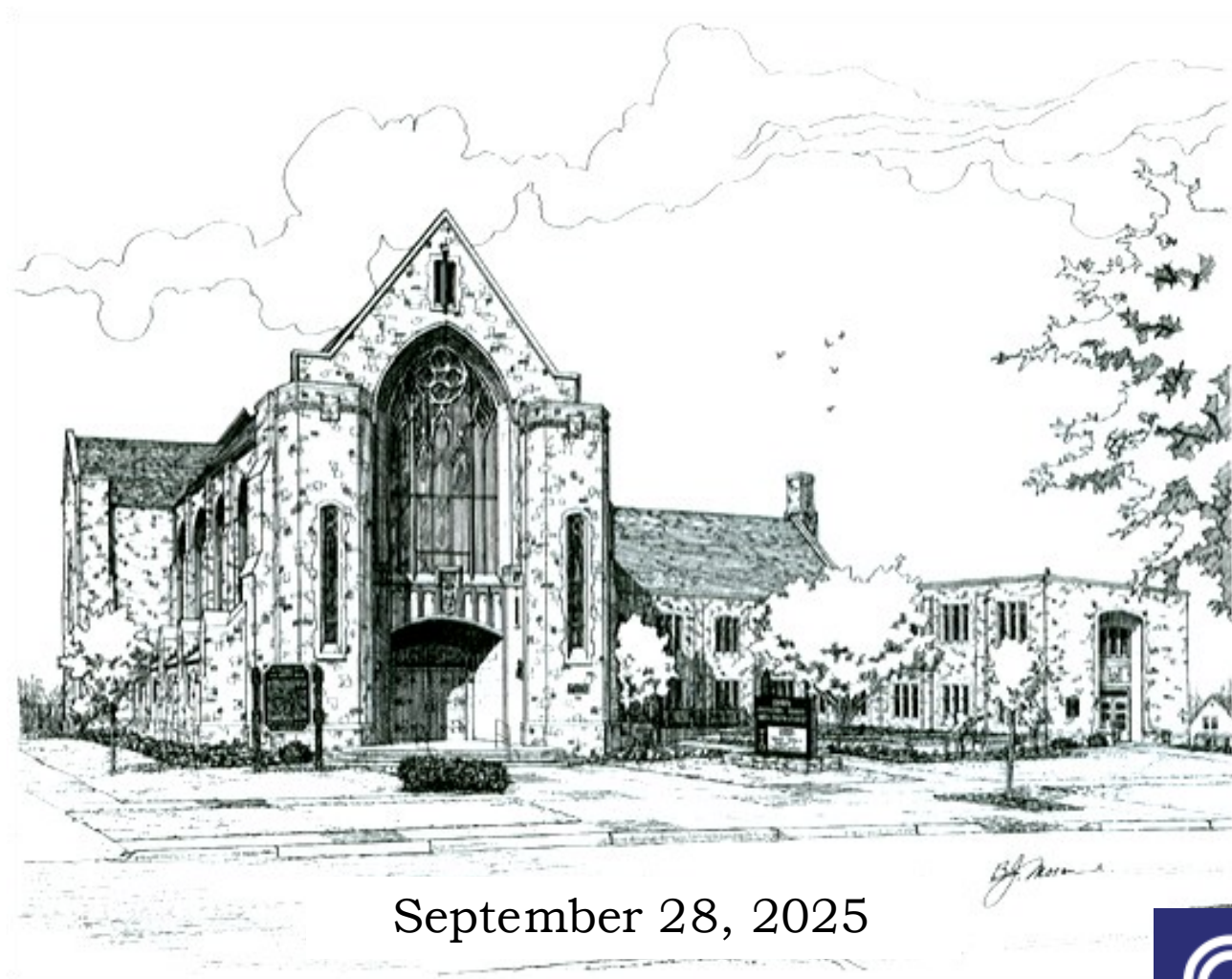


Union Congregational United Church of Christ



At Union, we are all the body of Christ together:
Through our voices, Christ is still speaking
Through our hands, Christ is still serving
Through our hearts, Christ is still loving



September 28, 2025

Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. You can access the loop by activating the T-coil in your hearing aid. If you do not have a T-coil, you can request a portable receiver from an usher.



Welcome to Union Church!

- Today's service is being live streamed via Facebook and YouTube.
- During the Children's Moments, the live stream will display a graphic, in order to protect our children's privacy.
- Please see an usher if you would like a children's activity packet or if you need help finding the nursery.
- Visitors are encouraged to fill out a visitor card at the usher's station or email office@unionucc.com to receive our weekly email newsletter.
- Visitors, if you would like more information about our church, please take home a yellow "Welcome to Union Church" folder located at either sanctuary door. If you have trouble finding them, ask one of our friendly members to help you locate one!
- We encourage those who are COVID positive or have cold or flu symptoms to worship from home and to consult with your healthcare provider to ensure you are engaging in best practices regarding masking, distancing, and receiving vaccines/boosters, particularly if you or someone you live with have health concerns.

Interested in Learning More About Union Church?

Interested in learning more about Union Congregational UCC and discerning whether this is the right church home for you? Our Membership Ministry will be hosting two classes to help people get to know Union, our community, and each other on **Wednesday, October 15 at 5:30 p.m.** and on **Thursday, October 30 at 6:00 p.m.** It's helpful to participate in both sessions.

After those two sessions, people who would like to join the church will be received into membership during worship on **Sunday, November 16.**

Please contact the church office at office@unionucc.com or 920-437-9266, to register.

Serving Christ . . . Loving Each . . . Affirming All

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 28, 2025

10:00 a.m.

(*) invites all who are able to stand

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE: Prelude on “*Guidance*” arr. Gordon Young
With music and silence we begin worship, praying quietly and opening our hearts to God.

THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome! Please share Announcements, Ministry Opportunities, Joys and Concerns.

PRAISING OUR GOD

THE BOND OF UNION (in unison)

Giving our all as we have been given all...

We accept the religion of love and service which Jesus lived and taught, and declare it our purpose to strive to do the will of God, and to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations.

* CALL TO WORSHIP: (in unison)

Come thou fount of every blessing. In a few minutes we'll sing this familiar hymn to you, Holy Spirit. Let it be our answer to your call to worship. We offer songs of praise to you and recall the mercies extended in our own lives and throughout history. We live for your grace, wisdom and presence in this hour of worship. We proclaim our dependence on your love and guidance every day of our lives. Amen.

* POEM OF CONFESSION (responsive)

Leader: Our gospel reading will challenge us to extend mercy and resources to those having none of their own. Several years ago, Amanda Gordon recognized the plight of the poor in her poem “The Hill We Climb.” I invite you to recall excerpts from this poem in two parts: a confession of our human condition and our resolve to create a better world.

All: When day comes we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade?
The loss we carry, a sea we must wade. We've braved the belly of the beast. We've
learned that quiet isn't always peace and the norms and notions of what just is, isn't
always just-ice.

And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it. Somehow we do it. Somehow we've
weathered and witnessed a nation that isn't broken but simply unfinished. We the
successors of a country and a time where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and
raised by a single mother can dream of becoming president. And yes, we are far from
polished, far from pristine but that doesn't mean we are striving to form a union that is
perfect. We are striving to forge a union with purpose. To compose a country
committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON:** (responsive)

Leader: God only wants us to join in love – with the Holy One and with one another. Let us take
solace in a better world envisioned by the poet.

All: And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us but what stands before us. We
close the divide because we know, to put our future first, we must first put our
differences aside. We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another.
We seek harm to none and harmony for all. Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true:
That even as we grieved, we grew. That even as we hurt, we hoped. That even as we
tired, we tried. That we'll forever be tied together, victorious not because we will
never again know defeat, but because we will never again sow division. Amen.

*** PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

(Please turn and offer a sign of Christ's peace to one another.)

*** HYMN NO. 459:**

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"
(see page 5)

NETTLETON
The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE READING:

1 Timothy 6:6-19

p. 210

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Children are invited to gather on the chancel steps and bring their offering.

Following Children's Moments, all children are welcome to remain in worship.

Additionally, parents are welcome to accompany their children to our "playground" in the
south transept to play and pray quietly or to drop them off downstairs to play in the nursery
with our paid nursery staff. Activity bags with crayons, etc. are available from an usher.

CHOIR ANTHEM: *"From All That Dwell Below the Skies"* Lani Smith

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 16:19-31 p. 79

THE SERMON: *"Retribution is Mine?"* Lou Ann Norsetter

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HYMN NO. 587: *"Through All the World, a Hungry Christ"* DE TAR
(see page 6) The New Century Hymnal

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please join us in praying the Lord's Prayer in these words or a translation meaningful to you.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

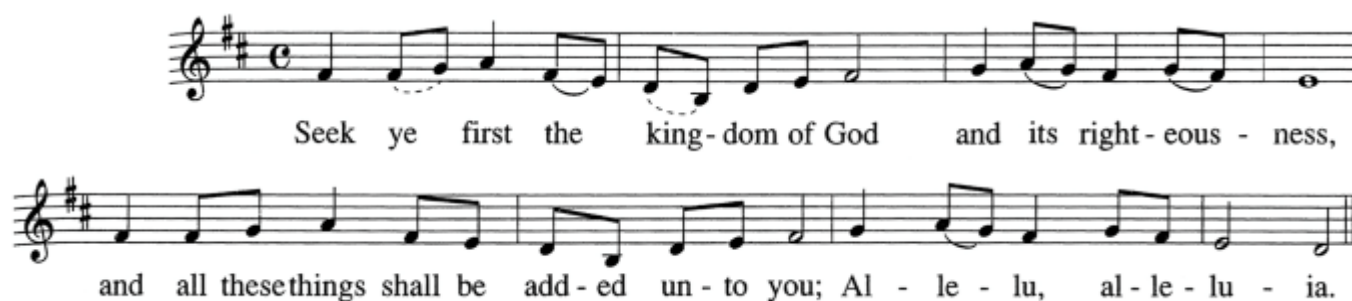
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE OFFERING

Offertory: *"Remembrance"* Carl Simone

*Praise Response: *"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"* SEEK YE FIRST



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

As Christ came to us hungry, afflicted, tortured, and begging, let us recognize Christ yet today. Let us not look away from him in the faces of those unhoused, those suffering illness, the prisoners held in their cells, or simply street corner solidors seeking basic needs to survive. You have come to us throughout the ages to bring about your kingdom. Let our gifts today be a symbol of our dedication to building your reign here and now. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 495:

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

BEECHER

(see page 7)

The New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION (responsive) [based in part on Psalm 14]

Leader: Happy are those who help is the God of Jacob, who executes justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry, and sets prisoners free. We will praise the LORD as long as we live.

**All: In every land begin the song;
To every land the strains belong,
In cheerful strains all voices raise,
And fill the world with loudest praise.**

POSTLUDE:

"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

arr. Joel Raney

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Sandy Polarek**, and **Megan Gleason** who offered our Children's Moments.

Neighbors in Need

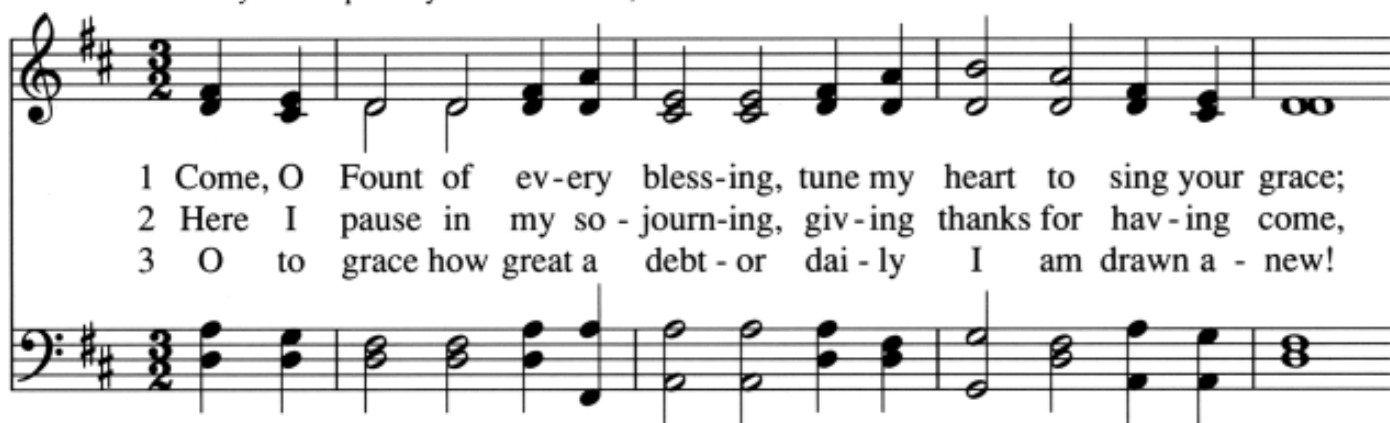
The United Church of Christ offers grants to organizations nationwide engaged in justice work. Our church will support this effort with a special offering on **Sunday, October 5**. Any gift, no matter the amount, shows we share a hope for a world free of poverty and prejudice.

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

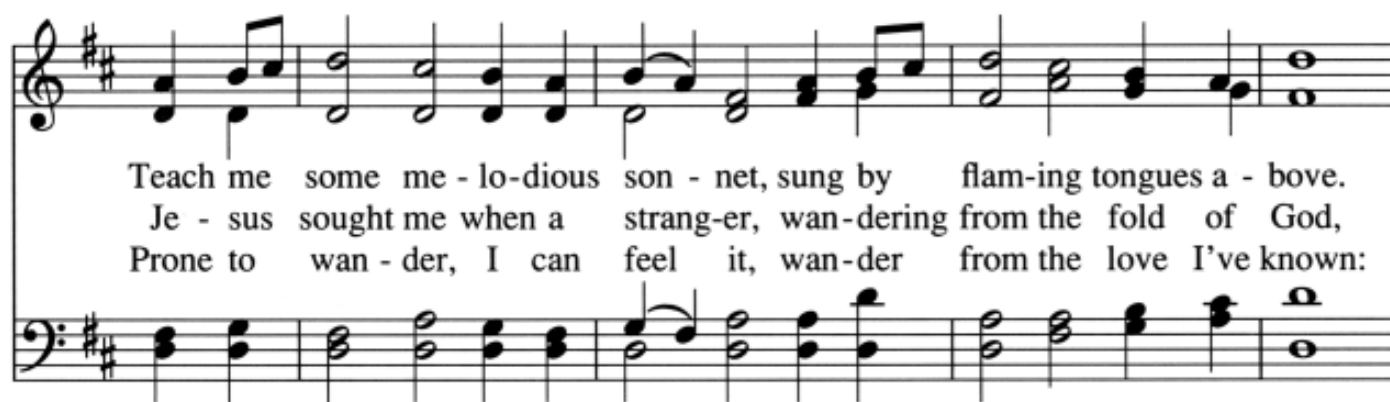
Ps. 36:7-9 John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813



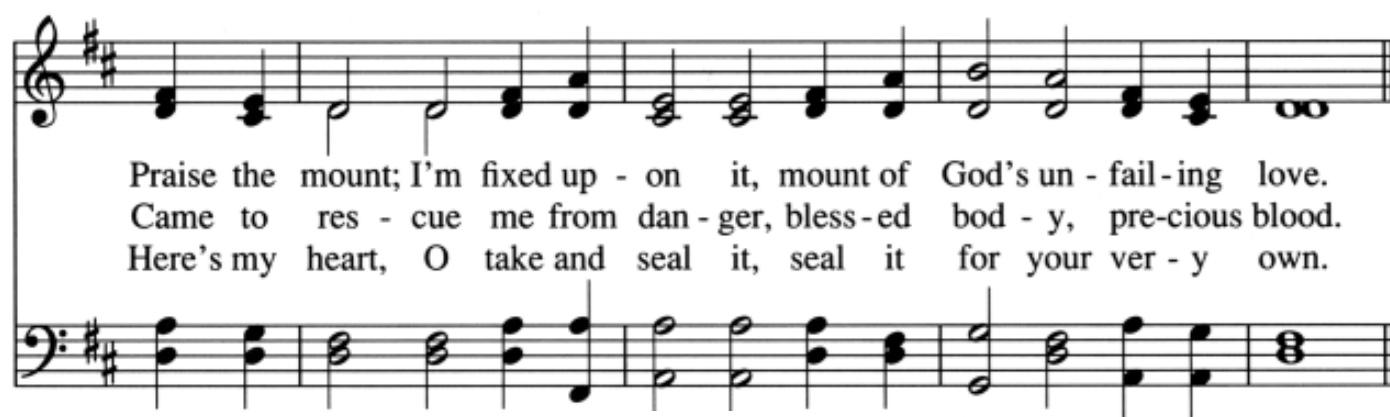
1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
 2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
 come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
 Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

587

Through All the World, a Hungry Christ

Mark 1:40-42; Luke 4:16-20; 16:19-22

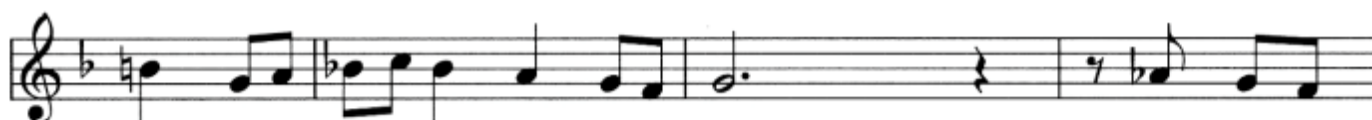
Tune: DE TAR L.M. Alternate tune: GERMANY

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992; alt.

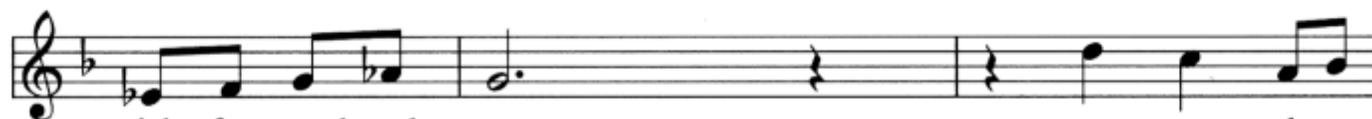
Calvin Hampton, 1973



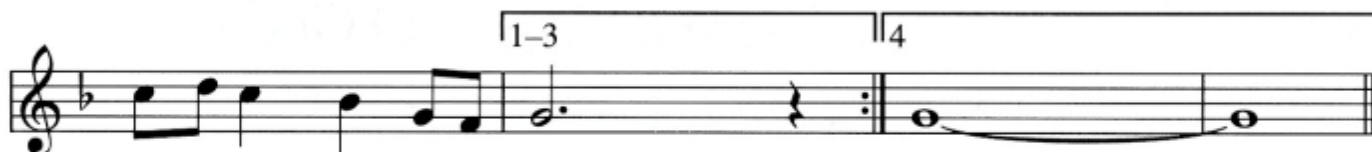
1 Through all the world, a hun-gry Christ must
 2 Be - yond the church, a lep - er Christ takes
 3 In tor - ture cell, a pris - oner Christ for
 4 We do not know you, beg - gar Christ, we



scav - enge far for dai - ly bread, Must beg the
 each un - touch-a - ble by hand, Gives hope to
 jus - tice and for truth must cry To free the
 do not rec - og - nize your sores, We do not



rich for crumb and crust— we are the
 those who have no trust, whose stig - ma
 in - no - cent op - pressed while we at
 see, for we are blind: for - give us,



rich, the dai - ly fed.
 is our so - cial brand.
 lib - er - ty pass by.
 touch us, make us

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Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22

John Zundel, 1855

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.



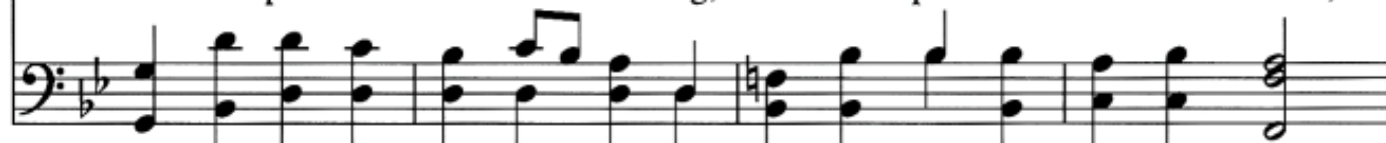
1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



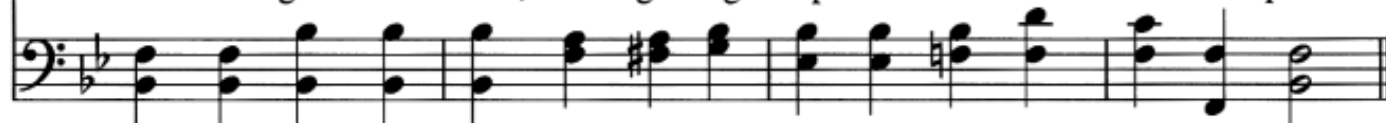
We re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.



Yard Cleanup Days

Yard cleanup days at Scott and Bridget's will be Saturday, October 25 in the morning and Sunday, November 9 in the afternoon. If anyone has not yet signed up to help and is interested, contact Christie Reese, christie.reese@gmail.com or 920-273-52349 (call or text). If you've already signed up to help with yard work, Christie will contact you to find out your availability for October 25 or November 9.



Sojourner Circle News

Thursday, October 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Home of Emily Lakatos, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary

Join us for the next Sojourner Circle gathering as we begin our fall season together. Enjoy food, fellowship, and fun, with opportunities to deepen and form new friendships. Email emilyclakatos@gmail.com for more info.

"The Potential and Peril of Political Theology"

As part of Union's Adult Faith Formation, Dr. Michael Lukens will present "The Potential and Peril of Political Theology" at **9:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 5**. Dr. Lukens writes, "Jesus exposes the difficult posture of a faith that is simultaneously socially-active and intentionally-moral. Our discussion in today's climate needs to focus on the present challenge of 'political theology': how is it both potentially valuable and yet also perilous?" Join us!

Fox River Trail "Social Walk"

Our next Fox River Trail "Social Walk" is **Saturday, October 18 at 9 a.m.** Meet in the church parking lot. Participants will walk at their own pace, 20 minutes down the trail and 20 minutes back. After, we will socialize over coffee/tea and breakfast goodies in the church hall. Bring a friend!

Heifer Living Gift Market is Sunday, October 19

Heifer International is an organization that works with communities to end world hunger and poverty. Through our Heifer Living Gift Market we hope to inspire our church family to get involved in ending hunger and poverty, bringing the commandment to love our neighbors to life.

Our goal is to fill an ark by raising \$5,000 or more. This can be done with your gift of a goat, heifer, water buffalo, alpaca, llama, sheep, pig, rabbits, honeybees, ducks, chickens, and more.

Come to the courtyard **after church on October 19**. We will have exhibits and treats (including treats for our special visitors) and enjoy the Living Gift Market. Sign up at Union Central to host a table.

Affirmations for Spiritual Growth Class

October 1, 8 and 15 at 6:30 p.m. in Bagby Chapel

Applying the techniques developed by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, Dr. Maxwell Maltz and Paramahansa Yogananda, (founder of Self Realization Fellowship), Union member George Ochs will be offering a three-session class on the practice of spiritual affirmations.

The initial session will provide an overview of the basic steps and key points towards achieving the highest benefits from these affirmations. This will be followed up in each session with a guided affirmation, each between 15 and 20 minutes, on topics that lead toward life-improving skills. The following words will be applied through these sessions: *Imagination, Visualization, Prayer, Affirmation and Meditation.*

Dates: Wednesdays, October 1, 8, and 15

Time: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Place: Bagby Chapel

Sign up: Email George at geochs@gmail.com

Questions? Contact George at geochs@gmail.com

Blessing Box Food Drive

Sunday, October 5

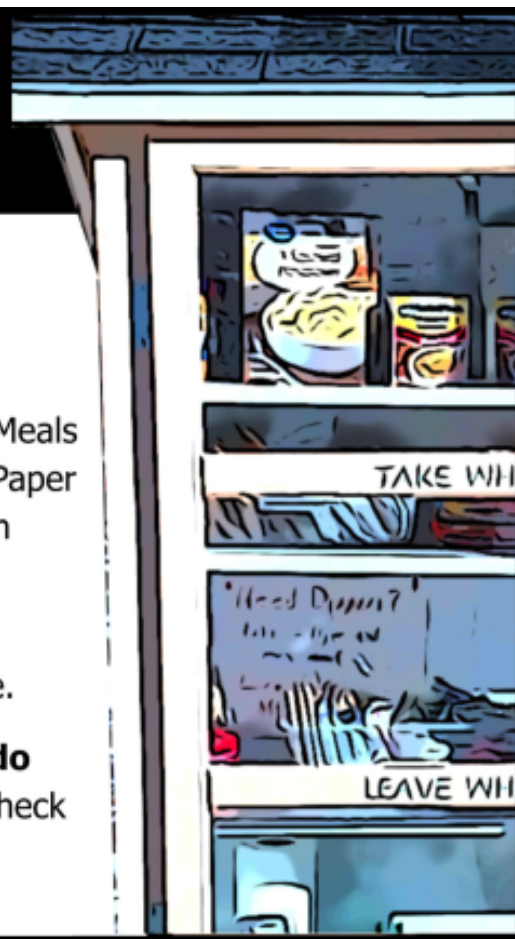
Thank you for your continuing support of the Blessing Box ministry!

Current needs include:

- Canned Chili or Pasta Meals
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Spaghetti Sauce
- Instant Pasta or Rice Meals
- Paper Towels / Toilet Paper
- Pouch Tuna or Chicken
- Ramen Noodle Packs

Donations can be placed on the blue table inside the Mayflower entrance on Sunday, October 5 or at any time.

Monetary donations are also welcome, and we'll do the shopping! To make a monetary donation, send a check with "Blessing Box" on the memo line, or donate via the church website at www.unionucc.com/giving.



Weekly Planner

September 29 — October 4

Tuesday:

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Wednesday:

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

5:45 p.m. Dinner

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

6:30 p.m. Affirmations for
Spiritual Growth

Thursday:

6:00 p.m. Sojourner Circle

NEXT SUNDAY: October 5
17th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday
Neighbors in Need Offering

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation

9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Potential and Peril
of Political Theology

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
in the sanctuary
(or stream it online)
followed by Coffee Hour
in the church hall

Blessing Box Food Drive



Union Congregational United Church of Christ

Union Congregational United Church of Christ is an **Open and Affirming Congregation**. We are a Christian fellowship where diverse perspectives may live together in the Spirit of Christ and where all persons are precious children of God without qualification or discrimination because of ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

e-mail: office@unionucc.com

church office: 920-437-9266

website: www.unionucc.com

Men's Breakfast Group

Wednesday, October 1

7:00 a.m. at Denny's

2894 S. Oneida Street

Our Church Staff

Senior Minister.....Bridget Flad Daniels

Administrative Assistant.....Eric Goska

Financial Secretary.....Katrina Catteruccia

Building & Maintenance Supervisor.....Brad Dorin

Music Director.....Haley Steele

Organist.....Franklin Beyer

Handbell Ensemble Director.....Linda Cook

Librarian.....Cathy Putman

AV Coordinator.....Daniel Hatton

Student Music Interns:

Zeke Fietsch-Huber, Caleb Hale, Caitlyn Kolter

Nursery Attendants:

Jenna Stevens, London Graham,

Katelyn Mertens, Scott Nixon