

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



October 26, 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.

Blessing Box Food Drive Sunday, November 2

It's time to get the Blessing Box ready for the winter season. The items listed below are especially helpful. Thank you!

- Cereal
- Dry Soup Mix (Pouch or Box)
- Instant Pasta or Rice Meals
- Meat Sticks (Individually Wrapped)
- Microwave Chili or Soup
- 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, November 2 or at any time.

Monetary donations are also welcome! To donate send a check with "Blessing Box" on the memo line, or donate via the church website at www.unionucc.com/giving.



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

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 26, 2025

10:00 a.m.

(*) invites all who are able to stand

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

Benedictus on “*Sicilian Mariners*”

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: (responsive)

Leader: May the Presence of Love come and dwell among us.

All: May we feel cherished and embraced.

Leader: May Christ challenge us to grow in wisdom and solidarity.

All: May we encounter grace that transforms.

Leader: May the Spirit of Truth guide and convict us.

All: For the sake of the common good.

Leader: Rooted in the truth that each being is beloved by God, we call to each other.

All: Come and find your place in the whole of things.

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)**

Spirit of Christ, come and bring your gentle clarity to our most intimate stories. Tend with us to the uglier things we hold silently in our hearts or live outwardly toward our neighbors, the sin which we are culpable of as well as the brokenness that is ours unwittingly. Whether greed, contempt, or arrogance, or fear or trauma - give us the courage to notice, and lead us to seek lives of grace and healing. Make us aware of ourselves, that we may tend what keeps us from right-relationship to love, to kin, to ourselves, to You. We long to grow in healing and repair through Christ Jesus. Amen.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (in unison) [Philippians 4:4-7]**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*** PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

*** HYMN NO. 439:**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
(see page 5)

EIN' FESTE BURG
The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 65:1-8

p. 527

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.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM:

"Let Us Rejoice"

Cynthia Dobrinski

HOLY GOSPEL:

Luke 18:9-14

p. 81

THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today it is our joy to celebrate the sacrament of baptism with:

Alice Elizabeth Lundgren

Alice's Parents: **Jessica Lundgren and Libby Sievert**

Alice's Godparents: **Morgan and Nicole Parise**

WELCOME

L. Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

All. **There is one body, one God, and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.**

QUESTIONS OF PARENTS AND SPONSORS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Alice, we welcome you with joy into the household of faith. We promise you our friendship, help, and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ.

May you find guidance and encouragement for your journey in the Christian community, and by the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in knowledge and love of God and as witnesses of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

BLESSING THE WATER OF BAPTISM

THE BAPTISM: Alice Elizabeth Lundgren

THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

PRAYER OF BLESSING

L. We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for this your beloved child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all in the household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

All. **Give to Alice the strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life. Through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

HYMN NO. 562:

"Take My Gifts"
(see page 6)

TALAVERA TERRACE
The New Century Hymnal

RESPONDING IN FAITH

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:

"Schönster Herr Jesu"

arr. Daniel Kane

*Praise Response:

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

SEEK YE FIRST

***Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its right - eous - ness,
and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you;
Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Blessed Redeemer, we acknowledge the times and ways we are motivated by ego or individual righteousness. We honor the inevitability of our human messiness, even as we seek to align our actions with a more satisfying orientation. Our motivation: the flourishing of ourselves, each other, all of creation, all for the sake of You and your ways. We dedicate these offerings in service of all the world needs in order to live-in to the vision of your kingdom. May it be so and soon. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 28:

"For the Beauty of the Earth"
(see page 7)

DIX
The New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

arr. John Carter

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

Our written prayers today are adapted from Lectionary Liturgies by enfleshed.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

439

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7.

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Ps. 46

Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981

Harm. The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930; alt.

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
 3 And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un - do us,
 4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;

Our pres - ent help a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
 The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid - ing.

For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er
 The powers of e - vil grim, we trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en -
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may

great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth with - out an e - qual.
 dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
 kill; God's truth shall tri - umph still; God's reign en - dures for - ev - er.

Take My Gifts

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.

562

Colin Gibson, 1991

Shirley Erena Murray, 1991

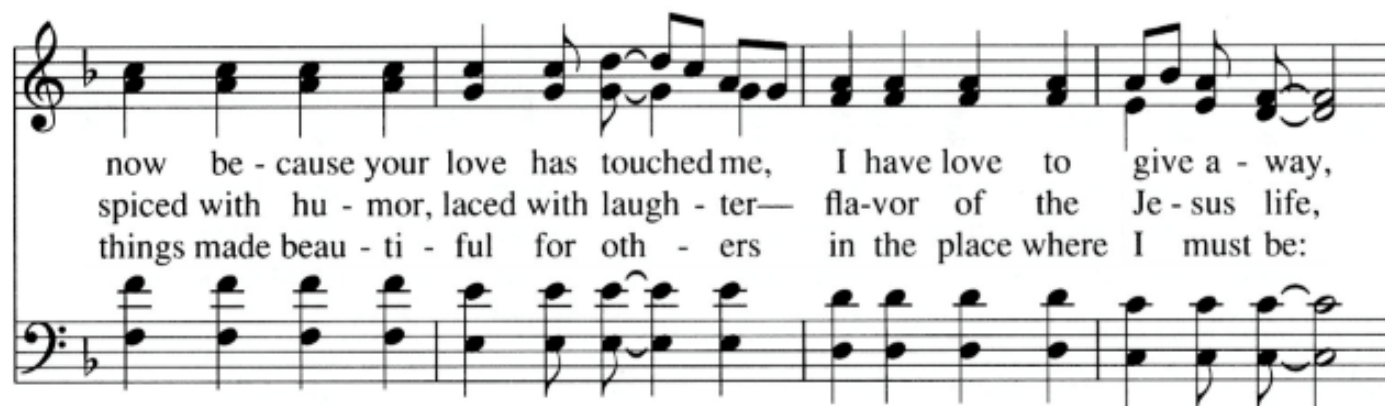
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA



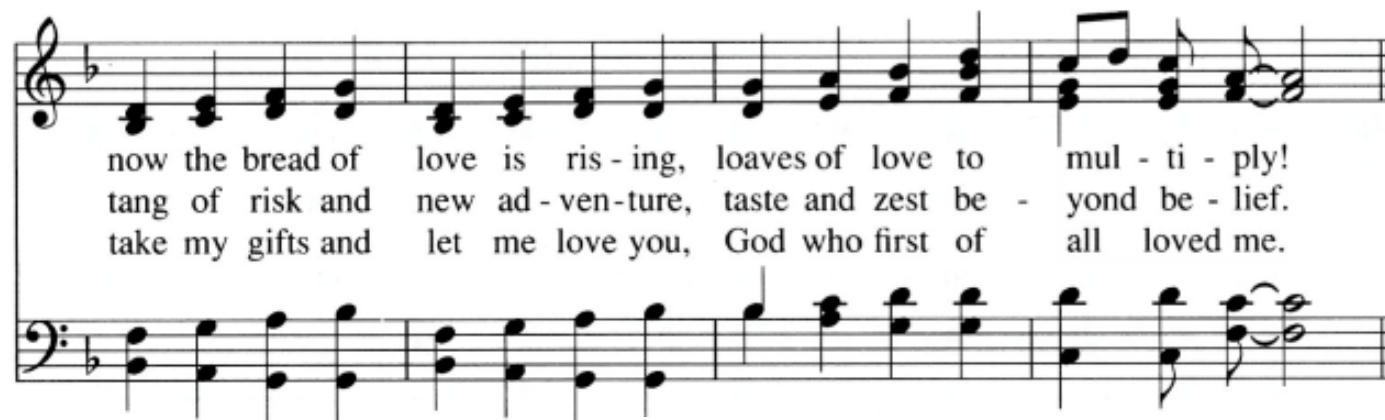
1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
 2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
 3 Take what-ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,



gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
 har - vest of your own com-pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
 skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,



now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
 spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
 things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

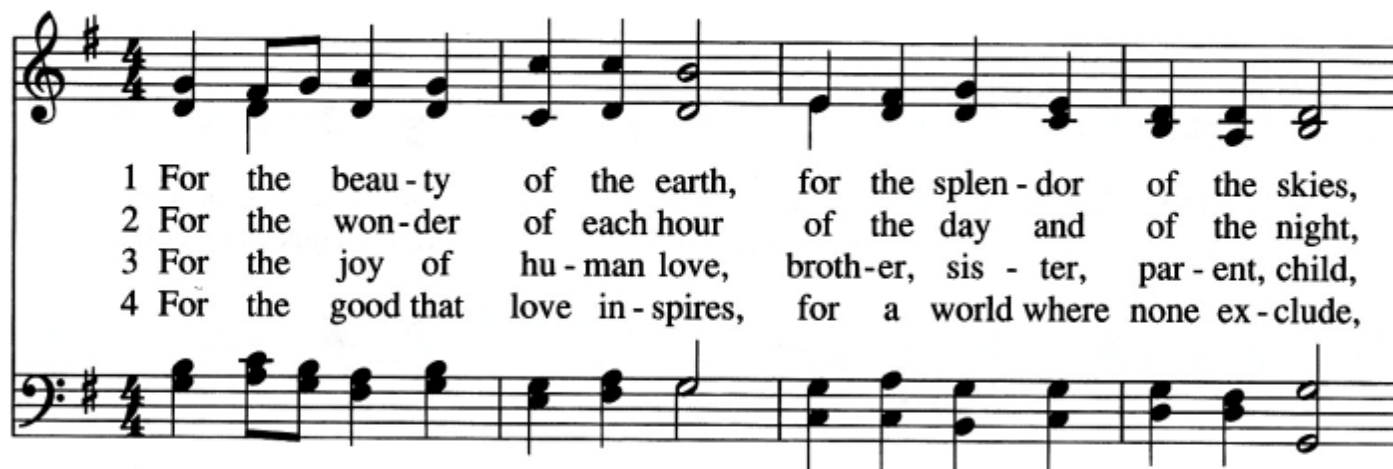


now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
 tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

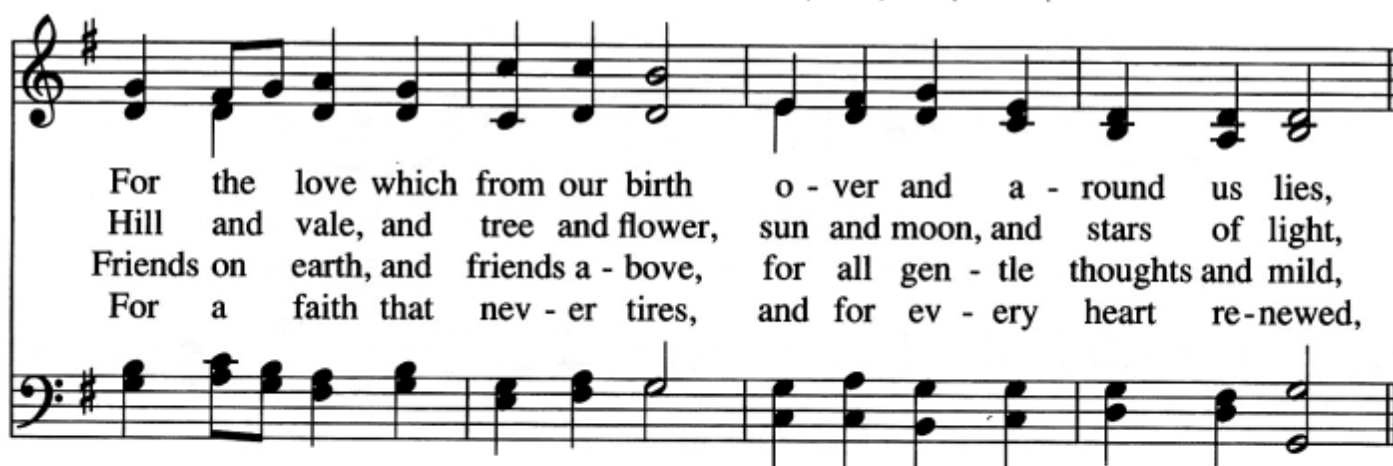
Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 Conrad Kocher, 1838
 Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.
 St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

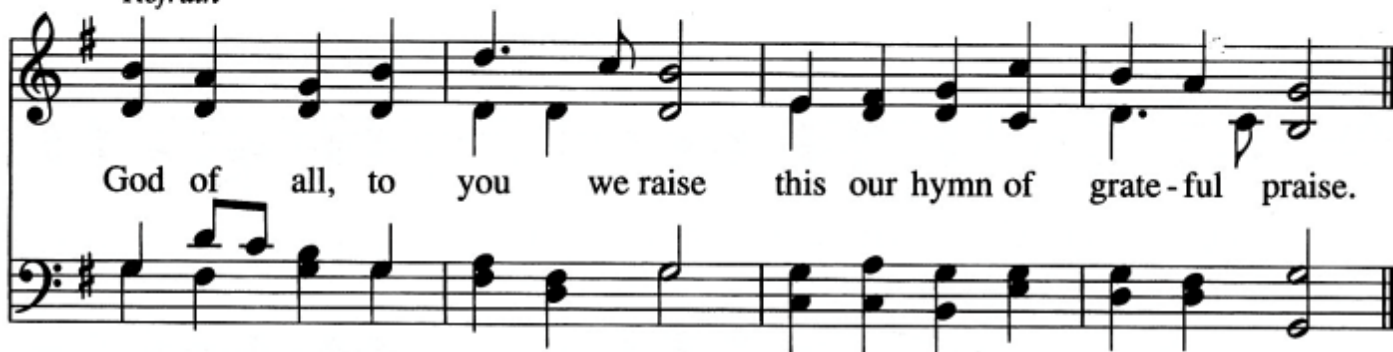


1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,



For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

All music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE,
 License # A-736814. All rights reserved.

Christmas is Right Around the Corner!

Union's annual Christmas Tree and Wreath fundraiser is an all-hands-on-deck church event that takes scores of people to pull off. First, some dates to put on your calendar.

- **Saturday, November 8 at 9 a.m.** — Wreath tent and tree lot assembly (weather permitting). We will need at least six people.
- **Saturday, November 15 at 9 a.m.** — Wreath decorating in the church hall. The more the merrier.
- **Friday, November 21 at 2 p.m.** — Wreath tent and tree lot opens. Get the best trees and wreaths early.

*There are sign up sheets for the first two events in Union Central.
The tree lot staffing sign-up is in a link in your This Week at Union email.*

—Christmas Tree and Wreath Committee

Memorial Sunday Ofrenda

On November 9, Union will celebrate Memorial Sunday in which we lift up in prayer the lives of members and friends who died in the last year, as well as all our deceased loved ones.

This year, we again invite all who worship with us to bring a picture or memento of any loved ones you would like to commemorate. We will create something similar to an Ofrenda, or Dia de los Muertos altar, to honor and celebrate their lives. You may place your items on the altar when you arrive, or during the offertory after the ushers have passed your pew.

Please remember to retrieve your items after worship. Those worshipping with us online are encouraged to place their items near their screen during the service.

Sojourner Circle News

Sojourner Circle will be going to El Sarape East for dinner at 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 6. Sojourner Circle is a group of women supporting each other's navigations through career decisions, raising children, personal growth, mid-life reflections, and more.

We meet (6:00 to 7:30 p.m.) on the first and third Thursdays of the month; coming together for friendship, faith, inspiration, fun, and group volunteer opportunities. The first Thursday is often a gathering at a member's home; the third Thursday is generally an activity or restaurant meal. Activities have included lectures, game nights, a pottery painting class, book discussions, meal prepping for Cooks Who Care, and much more. Group support includes preparing meals for each other when needed, loving on each others' kids, celebrating milestones, and allowing space to be vulnerable with life's challenges in a supportive environment surrounded by likeminded women.

Contact Emily Lakatos at emilyclakatos@gmail.com for more info and to be added to the Facebook group. All those who identify as women are welcome.

Really Free Market is Saturday, November 22

Outreach Ministry is pleased to support a Really Free Market at the Union Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 22 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.). This is a community-powered event offered in partnership with NEW CARE, a local group focused on mutual aid and practical ways we all help each other. The Really Free Market is a “rummage sale” where everything is free. No money, no barter, no trade—just neighbors helping neighbors. We encourage people to bring what they can and take what they need.

If you would like to donate items, we are looking for clean, usable items, in good repair (clothing, household items, books, toys, and more). Bring donations to the coatroom through November 16. Items not usable for the market will be donated to local organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul, De Pere Christian Outreach, etc. If you have questions about donations or would like to volunteer, please contact Christie Reese (920-273-5349). We have volunteer opportunities—before, during, and after. Last, if you would like to make a donation to support the event, you may do that online through the Union website, through an envelope in the offering, or at the church office, designated for the Really Free Market.

NEW Pride Rescheduled Volunteers Needed

This year’s NEW Pride Festival has been rescheduled to Sunday, November 2 at the Oneida Casino Hotel. Can you spare two hours between 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. to help out at Union’s booth? We’re looking for people to staff our booth by telling folks who stop by why you love our church and that it really is Open and Affirming. We’ll have pamphlets, candy, a photo display of some Union LGBTQIA families, and GLITTER BLESSINGS! Sign up for a shift at Union Central or by contacting the church office.

Women’s Advent Evening of Reflection Theme: “Motherhood and Christmas”

All who identify as female are invited to our Women’s Advent Evening of Reflection on Monday, December 1. At the event, church members decorate one table and provide dessert for those seated at the table. We have a time of song and reflection followed by dessert and companionship to ground us as we head into the holiday season. This year, if we are going to have a “little women’s” room for toddlers and grade schoolers, we will need one or two volunteers to lead it.

If you would like to attend, host or cohost a table, sign up at Union Central or email:

Denise Olson (myersolson22@gmail.com) or Cheryl Myers (myers.america@gmail.com).

Weekly Planner

October 27—November 1

Tuesday:

1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Wednesday:

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

Friday:

4:00 p.m. Trick or Treat at Union

NEXT SUNDAY: November 2

Pledge Dedication Sunday

21st Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation

9:00 a.m. Adult Education:

“Citizenship Ceremony”

10:00 a.m. Worship with

Holy Communion

in the sanctuary

(or stream it online)

followed by Coffee Hour

Sunday Adult Education

November 2 at 9 a.m. in Bagby Chapel

Citizenship Ceremony

Gather with Union members Clare Ryan and Lou Ann Norsetter as they reflect on their experience observing a citizenship ceremony this summer.

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, November 5

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 Koeller, Ella Hamilton

Nursery Attendants:

Jenna Stevens, London Graham, Katelyn Mertens, Scott Nixon