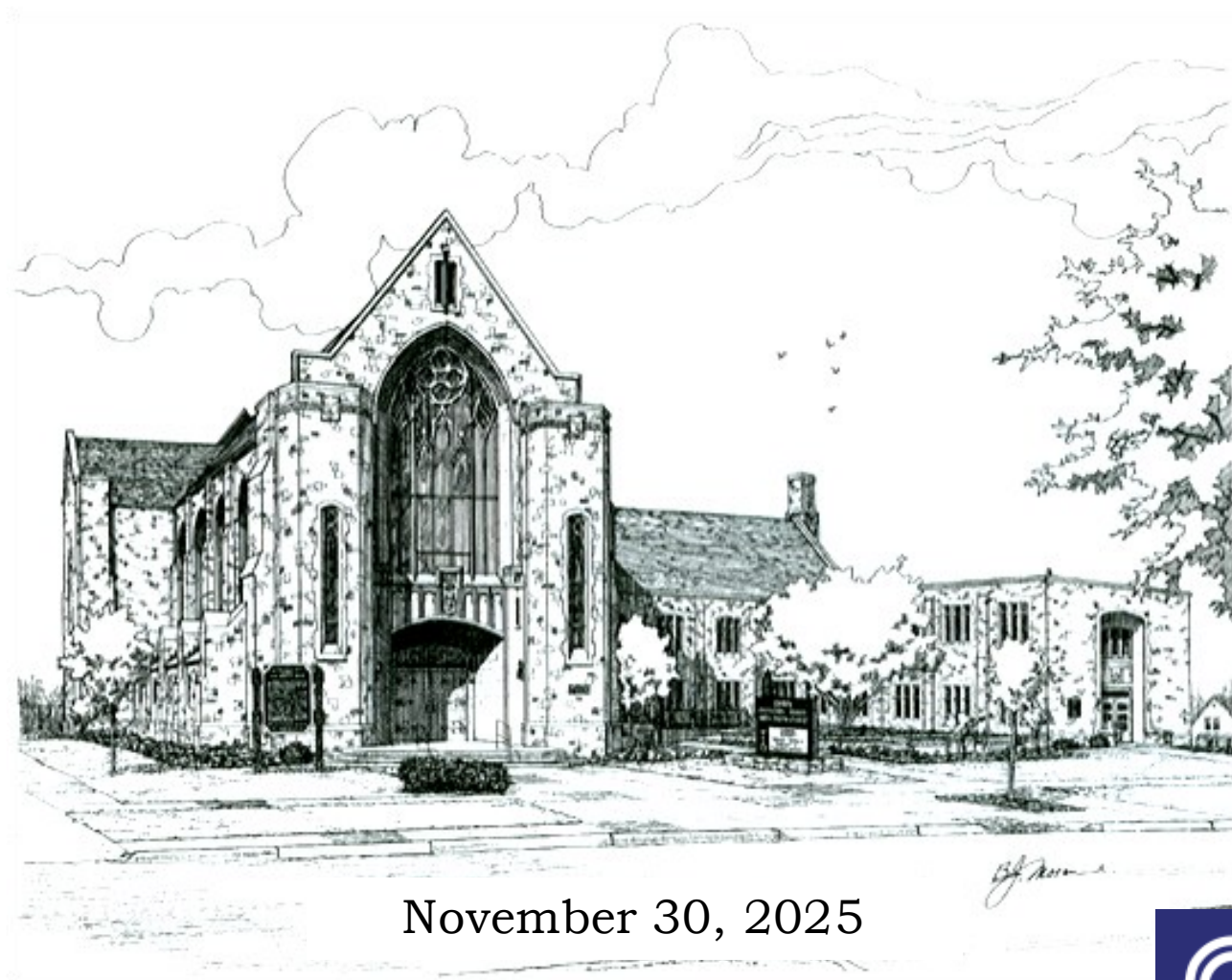


Union Congregational United Church of Christ



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



November 30, 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.

Our Christmas Party is December 19



Celebrate Christmas with Union this holiday season. Join us on December 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. for a family friendly night of community, kids crafts, movies, dancing, and dinner in the church hall. All are welcome. Please RSVP using the sign-up sheet at Union Central in the church hall by December 14.

Additionally, the Christmas committee is seeking donations of two artificial Christmas trees between 6 and 7.5 feet to decorate the hall. Donations may be dropped off in the coat room or contact Brittany Hendrix Malone at Brittanyanne1001@gmail.com for pick-up service.

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

First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE:

"I Wonder As I Wander"

John Jacob Niles; arr. Stranz

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.

* ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

"Come Hope"

Amanda Udis-Kessler

1 Come hope to our deep des-pair. Come peace in a time of war. Come

2 Come hope to our deep despair. Come peace in a time of war.

3 Come hope. Come peace

5

1 joy to a world of pain. Come love. Bring us home a - gain.

2 Come joy to a world of pain. Come love. Bring us home a - gain.

3 Come joy. Come love.

Leader: Wonder, cloaked in hope, stirs in darkness that widens our eyes to possibilities we had forgotten.

All: Wonder refuses to let cynicism have the last word.

Leader: The Hope of God-With-Us is born in the unguarded places— in awe that cracks us open, in mysteries we cannot control, in questions that draw us toward each other.

All: Hope rises when we dare to marvel again.

Leader: This season invites us to cultivate the sacred practice of astonishment—to notice beauty, to trust emergence, to allow the Holy to surprise us.

All: Prepare the way with wonder that deepens hope.

Leader: We light this candle of Hope—hope that expands our imaginations, steadies our courage, and calls us into new stories.

All: May Hope be birthed among, within, and through us this Advent. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

All Sing Refrain Again (see previous page)

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

Holy One, You call us to wake from sleep, to rise into the dawning light, to walk in the ways of peace we can scarcely imagine.

Yet we confess that we are often more committed to what we already know than to the wonder of what might yet be. We cling to fear, armor ourselves with cynicism, mistake numbness for wisdom. You dream of a world where weapons become tools for tending life, but we confess how easily we sharpen our words, our judgments, and our habits of distrust. You summon us to the mountain of your teaching, yet we confess how often we settle at its base, satisfied with partial truths and small hopes.

Wake us, God of Advent. Startle us with awe. Shake loose our tired assumptions. Turn our gaze toward the paths we have not yet dared to walk. Clothe us once again with the radiance of Christ, that we may live as children of the day— courageous, openhearted, and ready for the beauty you are unfolding. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:** (in unison)

Beloved of God, the night is far gone; the day is near. Before we ever turn toward the light, the Light has already turned toward us. In Christ, God's mercy is wide awake. In Christ, God's wonder meets us in our weariness. In Christ, we are forgiven, freed, and invited into a new possibility.

So let us rise, take heart, and walk in the light of the Holy One— for the dawn is breaking, and hope is being born in us even now. Amen

* PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

* <u>HYMN</u> :	<i>"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"</i>	VENI EMMANUEL
	(see page 5)	arr. Stranz

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

<u>SCRIPTURE READING</u> :	Isaiah 2:1-5	p. 631
----------------------------	--------------	--------

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.

<u>SPECIAL MUSIC</u> :	<i>"Noel Nouvelet"</i>	arr. Stranz
------------------------	------------------------	-------------

<u>SCRIPTURE READING</u> :	Romans 13:11-14	p. 162
----------------------------	-----------------	--------

<u>THE SERMON</u> :	Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels
---------------------	---------------------------

RESPONDING IN FAITH

<u>HYMN</u> :	<i>"Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"</i>	STUTTGART
	(see page 6)	arr. Stranz

PRAYERS OF CONSECRATION, OF THE PEOPLE, AND OF OUR LORD

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:	<i>"Let There Be Peace On Earth"</i>	Miller/arr. Stranz
*Praise Response:	<i>"We Give You But Your Own"</i>	

***We give you but your own, what - e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours a - lone, we give it grate - ful - ly.***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (in unison)

Holy One of the Dawning Light, we bring these gifts, and we bring our very selves, as people who are learning to live awake, people who are practicing wonder.

Bless what we offer today: our resources, our courage, our longing for a more just world. Take these gifts and use them to hammer swords into plowshares, to kindle hope in weary hearts, to build paths of peace where none yet exist.

As we step into this Advent season, shape our lives into offerings of your light. Let our daily choices reflect the dawn that is breaking, and let our collective hope become a glimpse of the world you dream. In the name of Emmanuel, God With Us, we pray. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

***HYMN:**

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"
(see page 7)

KEEP YOUR LAMPS
arr. Stranz

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE:

"Christmastime is Here"

Vince Guaraldi/arr. Stranz

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

Thank you to: **Danny Lueck (drums)**, who also oversaw the installation of our new soundboard, **Matt Hillman (guitar)**, **Andrew Bader (bass)**, and **Sam Stranz (saxophone)**.

Our Christmas Pageant is December 21



Sign up at Union Central

Rehearsal — Saturday, December 20

9:00 a.m. Costume Distribution & Readers

9:45 a.m. Pageant Walk-Through

(rehearsal should be finished by 11 a.m.)

Pageant — Sunday, December 21

8:30 a.m. Costumes & Rehearsal

(sweet rolls & juice available for the cast)

10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Updated lyrics by Maren Tirabassi

O Come, O come Emmanuel
make true the stories prophets tell –
so all those chained by fear find release,
and, war forgotten, bring a world of peace.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God's children dwell.

O Come, Love's-season, to our lonely days,
and guide us in our words and ways
to be the ones whose Advent begins
with healing earth and all that live within.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God's children dwell.

O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God's children dwell.

Note on updated lyrics:

Maren C. Tirabassi retired as a UCC pastor after 42 years and is the author of 23 books. She attended Harvard Divinity School and studied at Union Theological Seminary. She was recognized as the Poet Laureate of Portsmouth, New Hampshire from 2021-2023, and more of her work can be found on her website, giftsinopenhands.com.

In 2024, Maren offered the following on her updated lyrics for this hymn: "I re-wrote the lyrics to 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' last year particularly for those uncomfortable with the use of the word 'Israel' used in the original as to signify all people in need, but now referring to a particular nation. Here are the first two verses for anyone who wishes and the third verse as in the original."

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Hip Hop Swing ♩ = 90

F maj7 E♭maj7

5

1. Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set all peo - ple free;
 2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
 3. Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!

9

From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
 Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long - ing heart.
 Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.

13

F maj7 E♭maj7 F maj7 E♭maj7 F 6

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

Christmas Fund Offering is December 14

The Christmas Fund Offering provides financial assistance to retired and active UCC ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses. Please consider giving to our UCC church family.

If contributing by check, make out your check to Union Church and indicate Christmas Fund in the memo line. You may also give electronically at unionucc.com. Your gift will be included on your annual giving statement. Thank you.

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Up Tempo Swing ♩ = 180

C 7alt D♭maj7 C 7alt D♭maj7 C 7alt

12 C 7alt F-6 D♭maj9

1. Keep your lamps _____ trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps _____ trimmed and burn - ing,
 2. Dark - er mid night lies be - fore _____ us, dark - er mid night lies be - fore _____ us,
 3. For the morn - ing soon is break - ing for the morn - ing soon is break - ing,

20 F-6 C 7alt F-6

keep your lamps _____ trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 dark - er mid night lies be - fore _____ us, for this work's al - most done.
 for the morn - ing soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.

28 D♭maj9 C 7alt F-6

Sis - ters, don't _____ grow wear - y, _____ broth - ers, don't _____ grow wear - y,

36 D♭maj9 C 7alt F-6 To Coda

chil - dren don't _____ grow wear - y _____ for this work's al - most done.

44 F-6 C 7alt F-6 C 7alt F-6

52 C 7alt C 7alt F-6

This spiritual is possibly one of the code songs in which to keep one's lamp "trimmed and burning" could have meant keeping a lookout for a conductor of the underground railroad, such as Harriet Tubman. It is often sung at church dedication services.

African-American Spiritual
 Tune: KEEP YOUR LAMPS 7.7.7.6.6.6.6.6.

Weekly Planner

December 1 — 6

Monday:

6:30 p.m. Women's Advent Event
(doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

Tuesday:

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry
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 Group

Friday:

2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tree & Wreath Sale

Saturday:

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tree & Wreath Sale

NEXT SUNDAY: December 7 **Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Five Streams that
make up the UCC
10:00 a.m. Worship with
Holy Communion
in the sanctuary
(or stream it online)
followed by Coffee Hour
11:15 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale
(until 4:00 p.m.)

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, December 3

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:

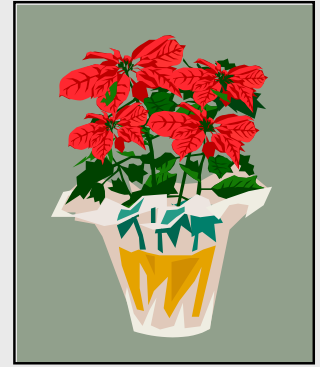
Zeke Fietsch-Huber, Caleb Hale,
Caitlyn Kolter, Ella Hamilton

Nursery Attendants:

Jenna Stevens, London Graham, Katelyn Mertens, Scott Nixon

Christmas Altar

All are invited to join in contributing toward the poinsettias and other accouterments we will be purchasing to prepare our altar and sanctuary for the Christmas season. The average cost of the poinsettias is \$25; any size gift is greatly appreciated. If you wish to contribute, please fill out this form and return it to the church office **by Monday, December 15.**



Poinsettia Contribution

I/we would like to contribute for the Christmas altar.

Name(s) _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Dedication for the Bulletin

December Adult Education

Sunday at 9 a.m. in Bagby Chapel

December 7 — The Five Streams that Make Up the UCC

For years we taught and learned that there were four streams (denominations) that made up the United Church of Christ. But there was a fifth stream, largely ignored, that contributed to its worship and music life. Gather with Jan Davis to explore this fifth stream and why it is important today.

3:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Worship
for all ages with a special
message to our children

***7:30 p.m.**
The Music of Christmas
*time is subject to change

8:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship

Christmas Eve

at

Union Church



Join us and invite your friends
as we celebrate the joy of the
birth of our Savior,
Jesus Christ!

Our Tree Lot is Open!

Our tree lot is open for business today and will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until December 14 or when all trees and wreaths are sold. Tree lot hours:

Friday — 2 to 6 p.m.
Saturday — 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday — 11:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.