

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



August 2, 2026

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.

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

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2026

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: *"I Love to Tell the Story"* arr. John Leavitt
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)

One: When the world tells us there is not enough—not enough time, not enough money, not enough hope—God opens wide a hand of abundance.

All: When we are weary and burdened, God lifts us up.

One: When we hunger for justice, for belonging, for peace, Christ invites us to sit together at one table.

All: Come with what you have. Come with your questions.

One: Come with your gifts. Come with your needs.

All: The God who satisfies every living thing welcomes us here. Let us worship the God whose compassion never runs dry.

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

One: Generous God, again and again, you open your hand and offer us more than enough. Yet we confess that we often live as though there will never be enough, by clinging to what we have, counting what is missing, assuming scarcity instead of trusting your abundance. When the needs of the world feel overwhelming, it is all too tempting to turn away, believing our small gifts cannot make a difference. Let us take a moment to silently call to mind all that we would lay at the feet of Jesus. (Silence is kept.)

One: Let us pray:

All: Forgive us, O Christ. Teach us the courage to place what we have into your hands: our resources, our compassion, our time, our voices, our lives, our very way of being in the world. Multiply every act of love. Transform our fear into generosity and our hesitation into hope. We pray in the spirit of Jesus, who fed both bodies and souls. Amen.

*** ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsive)**

One: Friends, the good news is this: God's mercy is not measured out in tiny portions. God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. When we come with open hearts, God does not shame us for what we lack. Instead, God blesses what we bring, fills what is empty, and sends us out renewed.

All: In Christ, we are forgiven, loved beyond measure, and invited to become signs of God's abundant grace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*** PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

*** HYMN NO. 562:**

"Take My Gifts"
(see page 5)

TALAVERA TERRACE
The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

p. 581

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.

HOLY GOSPEL:

Matthew 14:13-21

p. 16

THE SERMON:

Rev. Diane Rew

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN:

"O Blessed Spring"
(see pages 6-7)

GIFT OF LOVE

THE OFFERING

Offertory:

"Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ"

arr. Thomas Keesecker

*Praise Response:

"For the Weaving of our Lives"

Amanda Udis-Kessler

*For the thread that each of us / of - fers to the world's de - sign,
Fa - bric of a thou - sand hues, / heart and hands and soul and mind:
All cre - a - tion hears our prayer / as we weave a world of care.*

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

One: The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more;

All: You who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time, if ever.

One: You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have fallen short.

All: Come, all who seek to follow Christ's way. It is Christ who offers to encounter us here.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

CONGREGATIONAL SANCTUS:

"Santo, Santo, Santo"

anonymous, Argentina

¡San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zón te sa - be de-cir: san - to e - res Dios.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, God.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion servers will pass trays of bread, red wine, and white grape juice through the pews. Please let an usher know if you would prefer to commune with the prepackaged Communion elements, and they will bring one to you. Please hold the bread and cup until all are served so that we may commune together. Gluten-free bread is in the paper cup in the center of the tray.

The host at this table is Jesus Christ. In Christ's name and spirit, we invite all to partake of God's grace. Children may participate according to their parents' wishes.

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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

Gracious and Loving God, we thank you for this feast of grace. In broken bread and cup outpoured, you have nourished us. Now send us into the world to become what we have received. May we notice those who hunger for food, for justice, for friendship, for hope. May we offer what we have, trusting that you still bless, still multiply. Keep us mindful that your kingdom grows every time compassion is shared, every time strangers become neighbors, every time fear gives way to generosity. In the name of Christ, the Bread of Life, we pray. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 347:

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

(see page 8)

LINSTEAD

The New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

"Wonderful Grace of Jesus"

arr. Don Wyrzten

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Heather Collins**, **Ed Tucker** who offered our Children's Moments, and **Rev. Diane Rew** who led worship.

Take My Gifts

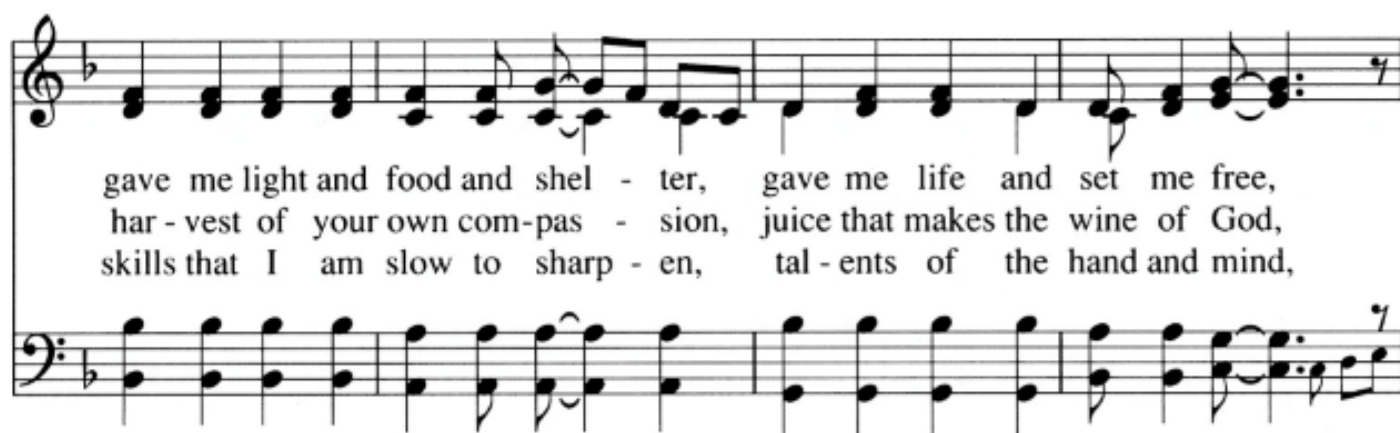
Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.
Colin Gibson, 1991
Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

562

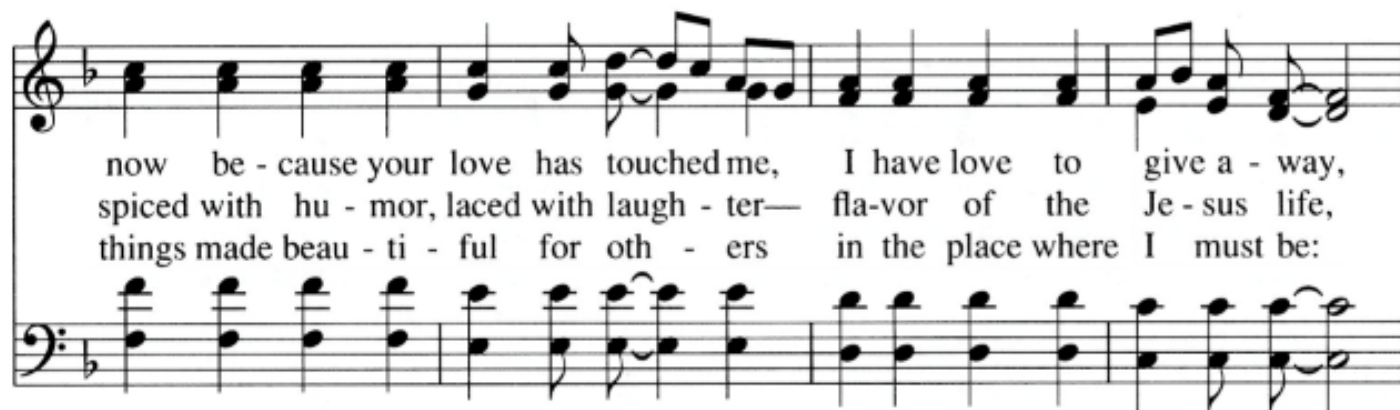
Shirley Erena Murray, 1991



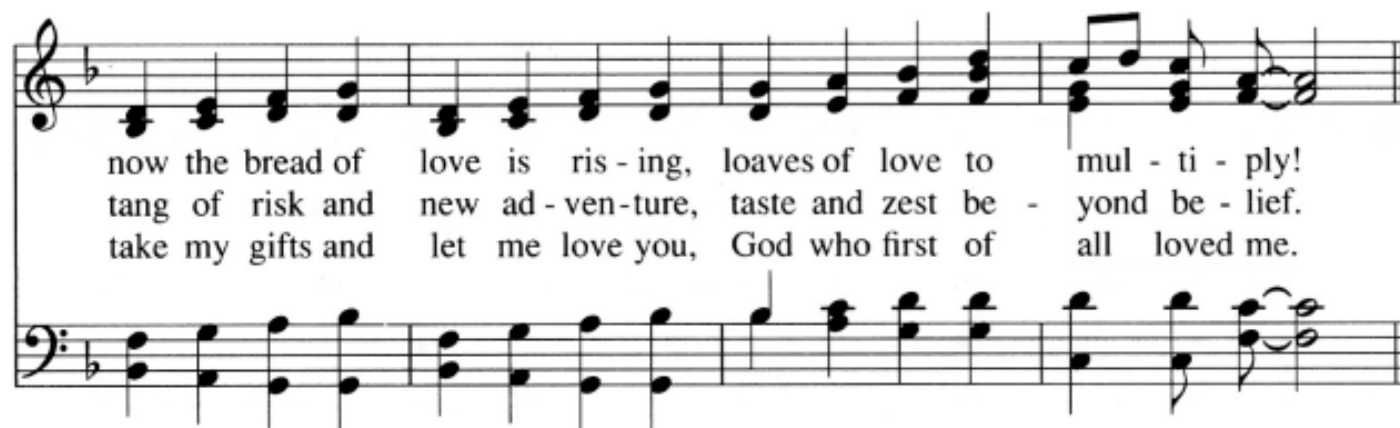
1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
3 Take what-ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,



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,



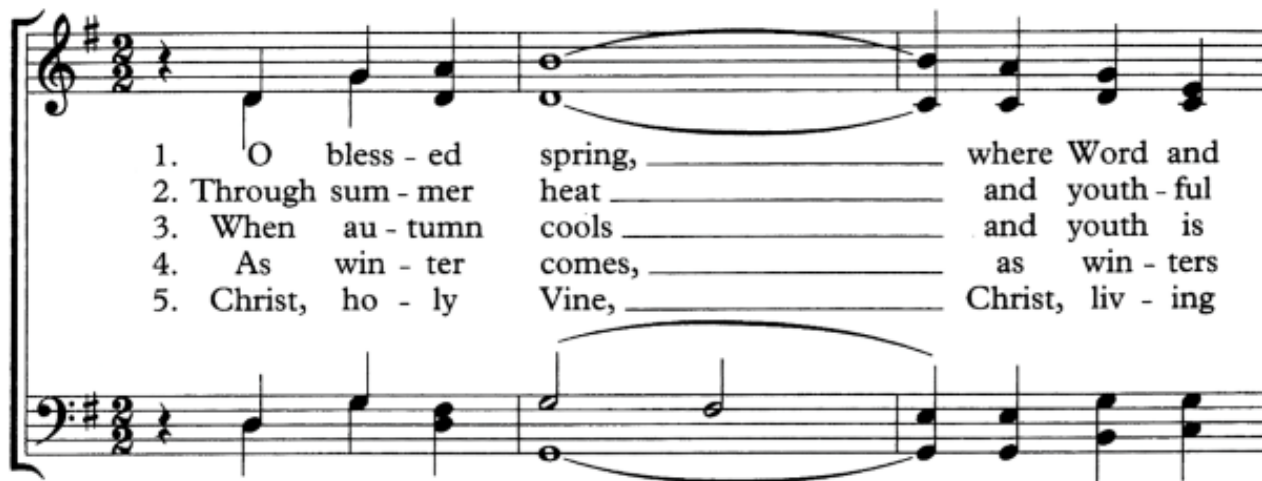
now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:



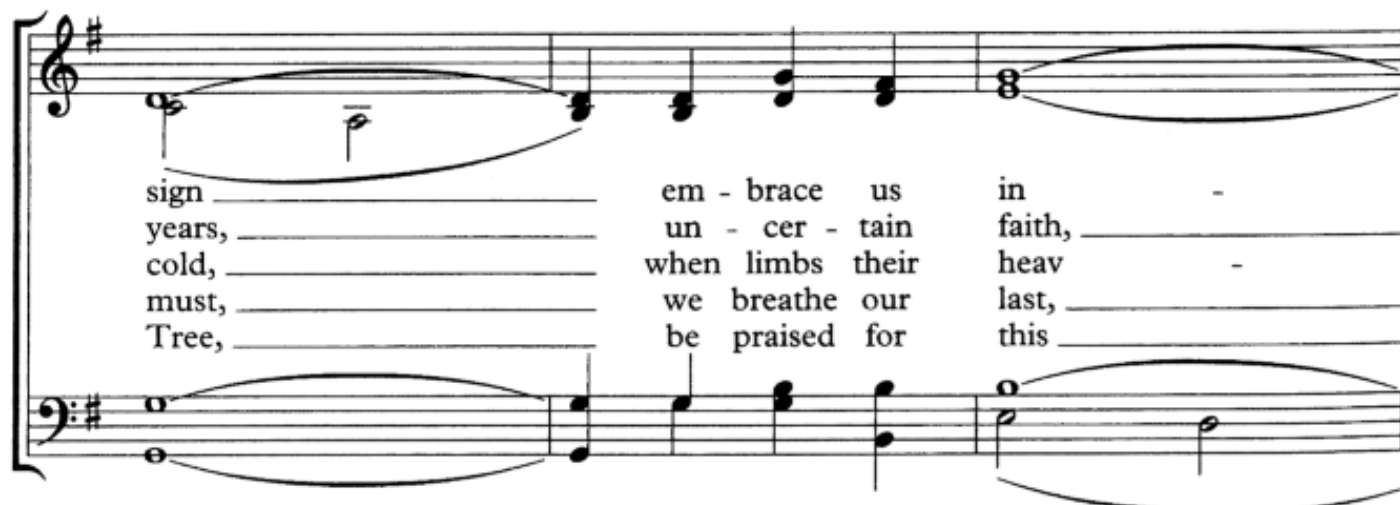
now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

O Blessed Spring

GIFT OF LOVE
LM



1. O bless - ed spring, _____ where Word and
2. Through sum - mer heat _____ and youth - ful
3. When au - tumn cools _____ and youth is
4. As win - ter comes, _____ as win - ters
5. Christ, ho - ly Vine, _____ Christ, liv - ing



sign _____ em - brace us in _____
years, _____ un - cer - tain faith, _____
cold, _____ when limbs their heav _____
must, _____ we breathe our last, _____
Tree, _____ be praised for this _____



— to Christ the Vine: _____ here Christ en -
— re - bel - lious tears, _____ sus - tained by
— y har - vest hold, _____ then through us
— re - turn to dust; _____ still held in
— blest mys - ter - y: _____ that Word and

joins _____ each one to be _____
 Christ's _____ in - fus - ing rain, _____
 warm, _____ the Christ will move _____
 Christ, _____ our souls take wing _____
 wa - ter thus re - vive _____

— a branch of this _____ life - giv - ing Tree.
 — the boughs will shout _____ for joy a - gain.
 — with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
 — and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
 — and join us to _____ your Tree of Life.

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

Let Us Talents and
Tongues Employ

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

Luke 10:1-9

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

Sunday Morning Faith Formation Needs You!



Education Ministry is currently seeking teachers and aides for our 2nd-4th grade classroom. Are you interested in passing on the faith and can you commit to 2 to 3 hours a month on a Sunday morning during the school year? If so, please reach out to a member of the Education Ministry. We have a great curriculum and even greater kids and colleagues—what we're missing is YOU!

Beth Lyman Piontek, Education Ministry Chair,
at beth.e.lyman@gmail.com or (920) 217-3564

Amy Heusterberg-Richards, Education Ministry Vice Chair,
at amyheus@gmail.com (920) 627-0033

Have a Ball at Moon Beach



Our All-Church Retreat (September 11-13) is a weekend of fun, fellowship, and reflection. Cost for the retreat is \$200 per adult and \$35 per child. Financial aid is available (talk to Pastor Bridget). You can sign up to attend by contacting the church office, or by filling out a form at Union Central.

Weekly Planner

August 3 — 8

Tuesday

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry

5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry

Wednesday

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

NEXT SUNDAY: August 9 **11th Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00 a.m.

Worship in the sanctuary
(or stream it online)

followed by Coffee Hour
in the church hall

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 Meets August 5

**Join us at 7:00 a.m.
at Denny's on Oneida Street**

Seeking Cooks for Wednesday Nights

Membership and Inreach Ministry is looking to schedule cooks for our Youth Group and Adult Education activities on Wednesday nights. Meals can be customized to your liking. Cooks sign up for 4 to 6 Wednesdays throughout the school year. Guidelines are:

1. Stay within the allotted budget.
2. Be able to estimate amount of food for about 25 to 30 people.
3. Can volunteer every week, once a month, or as often as you like.

Contact Pastor Bridget to learn more.

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, Ella Hamilton

Nursery Attendants:

Jenna Stevens, London Graham, Katelyn Mertens, Scott Nixon