

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 30, 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 one, 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.



50th Ordination Anniversary

Plan to join us in worship on Sunday, September 6, as we celebrate Rev. Steve Hartman's 50th ordination anniversary. Steve's ministry has been an incredible gift to the church. Come pray in gratitude and continue the celebration with a light lunch to follow.

Bell and Chancel Choir Rehearsals to Begin in September

Bell Choir begins on Tuesday, September 8 at 5:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir begins on Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Questions? Contact Music Director, Haley Steele, at music@unionucc.com.

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

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2026

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE:

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

arr. Joel Raney

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: To those who tumble out of bed and stumble to the kitchen.

All: To those who are carrying all the colors and stories of their lives, some bright, some worn, some stitched together from scraps, all of them precious in God's sight,

One: To those who look around and notice this world is astounding and time is fleeting,

All: God invites us here to have our minds expanded, our hearts opened, our imaginations stretched, and perhaps even our lives turned a little upside down.

One: We come to learn again what it means to love one another.

All: Paul tells us to let love be genuine, to bless rather than curse, to rejoice with those who rejoice, to weep with those who weep, and to make room for one another's joy and sorrow.

One: Help us to make room for transformation.

All: Open us to your ways that draw us beyond the expected, into the possibilities we find when we live with integrity and grace.

One: For there is enough room in God's love for every heart, every story.

All: Come, let us worship the God whose love is deeper than our fear, stronger than our pride, and wider than we can imagine.

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)**

One: Holy God, we confess that we do not always know how to love. Sometimes we confuse love with holding on. Sometimes we call it love when what we really want is control. Sometimes we cling to what is familiar even when the Spirit is asking us to let go. Let us take a moment to silently offer our prayers of confession to God.

(Silence is kept.)

One: Let us pray.

All: Teach us the kind of love Paul describes— a love that is genuine, patient enough to listen, brave enough to speak, humble enough to rejoice in another's joy, and tender enough to weep with those who weep. Give us courage to follow Jesus, even when the path leads somewhere we would not have chosen. And when love asks us to release what we cannot keep, give us grace to trust that letting go is part of resurrection. Amen.

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

Hear this good news: God does not love us because we have gotten love right. God loves us while we are learning. God meets us in the long night and keeps faith with us until morning. The darkness is not forever. Christ promises the light of a clear blue morning, that in time we will see the light of a brand new day, and there will be grace to meet us when it comes.

There is nothing you have done that places you beyond the reach of grace. There is no place you can go where God's love does not follow. So receive this forgiveness. Receive this mercy. And rise again to practice the love that has already been given to you. In Christ, we are forgiven, healed, and loved. Amen.

*** PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

*** HYMN:**

"Woke Up This Morning"
(see page 5)

WOKE UP THIS MORNING

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Romans 12:9-21

p. 162

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC: *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"* Harry Rowe Shelley
Aygul Garryeva and
Emily Lakatos, duettists

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28 p. 18

THE SERMON: Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN NO. 316: *"We Limit Not the Truth of God"* OLD 22nd
(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: *"The Lord's Prayer"* Albert Hay Malotte
Aygul Garryeva and
Emily Lakatos, duettists

*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.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Gracious God, we offer these gifts, praying that our lives become an offering.

**Use what we give to feed those who are hungry, welcome those who are lonely,
protect those who are vulnerable, and make more room in this world for love.**

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN:

"They'll Know We Are Christians"
(see page 7)

ST. BRENDAN'S

*THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

"Joshua Fit the Battle at Jericho"

arr. Joel Raney

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Heather Collins**,
Shawn Malone who offered our Children's Moments,
and **Aygul Garryeva and Emily Lakatos** for our special music and offertory.

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Safe Sanctuary Training for Teachers, Aides, and Youth Group Leaders

Union Church policy requires all volunteers who work with children and youth to participate in a yearly training regarding safe conduct and how to keep our children safe from abuse. Volunteers may choose to either Zoom on **Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m.** or receive the video of this Zoom meeting to watch at another time. RSVP to the church office at office@unionucc.com to receive the link.

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation Continues

Gather in Bagby Chapel at 9 a.m. for these informative and inspiring conversations. Note: our intent is to have Adult Faith Formation at least on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, and sometimes even more.

Join members of the Salt & Light Immigration Advocacy Team to discuss immigration misinformation concerning crime, economic stress, public health constraints, etc. This will occur over 2 sessions: the first **on September 20** and the second **on October 18**. The information will be presented from video format from the Coalition for Humanitarian Immigration with time for discussion. You will walk away with facts and data that can help shed light on common misconceptions.

Woke Up This Morning

African-American traditional

Tune: WOKE UP THIS MORNING Irr.
African-American spiritual Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

1. I woke up this morn - ing with my mind
2. Sing - ing and pray - ing with my mind
3. Can't hate your neigh - bor with your mind

Hal-le - lu - jah,

Je - sus, — Woke up this morn - ing with my mind
Sing - ing and pray - ing with my mind
Can't hate your neigh - bor with your mind

Je - sus, Woke up this morn - ing with my mind
Sing - ing and pray - ing with my mind
Can't hate your neigh - bor with your mind

Hal-le - lu - jah,

Je - sus, — Hal-le - lu, Hal-le - lu, Hal-le - lu - jah.

Hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah.

We Limit Not the Truth of God

Tune: OLD 22nd C.M.D.
Anglo-Genevan Psalter, 1556

316

George Rawson, 1853; alt.

Alternate tunes: FOREST GREEN; ELLACOMBE

1 We lim - it not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
2 Who dares to bind to one's own sense the or - a - cles of heaven,
3 E - ter - nal God, In - car - nate Word, Spir - it of flame and dove:

to no - tions of our day and place, crude, par - tial, and con - fined;
for all the na - tions, tongues, and climes and all the a - ges given?
en - large, ex - pand all liv - ing souls to com - pre - hend your love;

No, let a new and bet - ter hope with - in our hearts be stirred:
That u - ni - verse, how much un - known! that o - cean un - ex - plored!
And help us all to seek your will with wis - er powers con - ferred:

O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

They'll Know We Are Christians

Text: Peter Scholtes, b.1938

Tune: ST. BRENDAN'S, 7 6 7 6 8 6 with refrain; Peter Scholtes
© 1966, F.E.L. Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corp., 1991



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will



one in the Lord, We are one in the
walk hand in hand, We will walk with each
work side by side, We will work with each



Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we
oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to -
oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll



pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -
geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our
guard hu - man's dig - ni - ty and save hu - man's



stored:
land: And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our
pride:



love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are



Chris - tians by our love.

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.

Help Us Reimagine Our Church Kitchen!

Union's kitchen is ready for some attention, organization, and fresh energy and we'd love your help. We're looking for a small but dedicated team of volunteers to be part of rethinking how our kitchen is organized and used. We'll meet Tuesday mornings from 8:30–10:30 a.m. starting September 8 to sort, organize, simplify, and clean with a goal of creating a kitchen that works well for everyone. No special skills required.

Interested? Come join us Tuesday morning where we'll put forth ideas, strategize and take a deeper look at our needs. If you're unable to join us but have ideas you'd like to express, please talk to or email Emily Lakatos at 630-240-3876 or emilycLakatos@gmail.com.

WOW! Priscilla Circle!

We warmly invite all senior women of our congregation or, as we like to say, **WOW (Wise Older Women)**, to join us for Priscilla Circle! This special women's circle has been a part of Union for more than **90 years**.

We meet on the **fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m.** in the cozy English Room. Our meetings are a wonderful opportunity to nurture meaningful connections as we share fellowship, enjoy light refreshments, and engage in interesting presentations on a variety of topics.

Our next gathering is September 22 at 1 p.m. We hope you'll join us!

If you have questions or would like to be added to our reminder email list, please contact **Julie Thiel** at mjthiel@hotmail.com.

Seminary Secrets: When Scriptures Conflict

Ever notice some Bible passages seem to contradict others? We see this not only in “what happened,” but also in how God is portrayed and what God wants from us. This can be confusing for those who look to the Bible as the foundation of Christian tradition! The first step in clearing up the confusion is to understand the historical and political contexts of the individual authors. Seminary Secrets will explore some of these contradictory texts and address some thorny questions.

General info about Seminary Secrets classes:

WHAT? We learn about the tools that biblical and theological scholars employ in their interpretations and arguments. We apply these new insights to our lives as Christians.

LEADER? Julie Harder. Julie holds a master’s degree in theology/biblical studies.

FOR WHOM? Adults curious and willing to do a little reading to prepare for the sessions.

HYBRID OPTION: These classes have both an in-person and Zoom-in option.

“HOMEWORK”: Most sessions have a short reading assignment to complete beforehand.

Specific info about the When Scriptures Conflict series:

DATES: Wednesdays, starting September 23. We will probably continue throughout the fall, but if you can’t come to all sessions, see below.

TIME AND WHERE? 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel Classroom (or via Zoom)

HOW TO SIGN UP; GET READING ASSIGNMENTS: Email Julie at jblackharder@gmail.com.

WHAT IF I CAN’T ATTEND ALL SESSIONS? Each session is recorded, so you can view/listen to any you miss. Also, our main topic will be divided into several smaller topics, so you might attend some mini-topics and miss others. (An exact schedule will be sent to all who sign up.)

QUESTIONS? Email Julie at jblackharder@gmail.com.

Love Learning — Birth to Three Years Old

Between August 30 and September 20, Union Church will collect donations for “Love Learning.” In the past, Union Church has collected diapers for Love Life Ministries. Love Learning is a part of LLM, but instead of providing diapers, Love Learning provide books for young children, newborn to 3 years old.

We’d love new books, but gently used work too! Board books can handle the excitement of this age group as they learn eye-hand coordination and the patience to turn a page. Love Learning serves Latino families and bilingual books are popular. Finding Spanish/English books can be a challenge, but we can order them online. If you would like us to do the shopping, a monetary donation is welcome. Simply mark your donation “Love Learning” when you place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. Thank You for considering Love Learning with your donation!

—Toni Champeau and Jean Smithback

Weekly Planner

August 31 — September 5

Tuesday:

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry

5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry

Wednesday:

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

NEXT SUNDAY: September 6 **15th Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev. Steve Hartman's
50th Ordination Anniversary

10:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion
in the sanctuary
(or stream it online)
followed by a light lunch
in the church hall

ReUnion Sunday is September 20

8:45 a.m. Nursery Opens

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

9:00 a.m. Adult Faith Formation

Session 1: Immigration Misinformation

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Open House

Mayflower I and II and Fellowship Room

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
with **Holy Communion**

Potluck in the church hall following Worship

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 **Meets September 2**

Join us at 7:00 a.m.
at Denny's on 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, Ella Hamilton

Nursery Attendants:

Jenna Stevens, London Graham, Katelyn Mertens, Scott Nixon