

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



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.
- 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.

Seeking Pageant Director Understudy

After close to a decade serving as director and assistant director of our annual Christmas Pageant, Christie Reese and Heather Collins are looking to pass the baton. They plan to organize the 2026 pageant and would love to have a couple of understudies work with them this year with the intention of picking up the reins next year.

Directing the pageant includes recruiting church members and friends for the roles, working with the church music staff to coordinate the music for the service, tweaking the script if need be, recruiting costume managers, and running the rehearsal the weekend of the pageant. It's a fun, rewarding way to offer your time, and is one of the highlights of the church year.



GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE:

"Medley on Tallis' Canon"

With music and silence we begin worship, praying quietly and opening our hearts to God.

THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY

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.

*GATHERING PRAYER (in unison)

God of Mercy and Compassion, your thoughts are not our thoughts and your ways are not our ways. Help us to seek you where you may be found, inspire us to call on you, trusting that you are near. Turn our faces, our voices, and our lives toward you so we might know goodness, receive what we most need, and share Jesus' gifts of healing and hope with others. Amen.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (responsive)

One: Holy Giver, when we become afraid of what lies ahead, when we want to go back to the old ways instead of seeking your new way,

All: forgive us and open us to you.

One: Holy Giver, our hands are open to receive your gifts. When we don't see the signs of hope we expect, when we complain, when we blame the other,

All: forgive us and open us to you.

One: Holy Giver, our hearts yearn to receive your gifts. When we work so hard to get something that we forget your goodness and think our lives are wholly a result of what we've done, gained, or achieved,

All: forgive us and open us to you.

All: Holy Giver, you have saved us by your love. Now we ask you to transform us by your grace.

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

One: The Psalmist reassures us that, "The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." May we trust in this and remind one another of what Paul taught the Romans:

All: For I am convinced that neither death nor life nor rulers nor principalities nor height nor depth nor anything else in all of creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

***OPENING HYMN**:

"Sing a New World into Being"
(see page 6)

NETTLETON

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Jonah 3:10-4:11

p. 861

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

"Sing a New Song to the Lord"

Natalie Sleeth

HOLY GOSPEL:

Matthew 20:1-16

p. 21

SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HYMN:

"The Kingdom of God"
(see page 7)

Amanda Udis-Kessler

THE OFFERING

Offertory:

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Susan Geschke

Union's Bell Choir

traditional Nigerian

*Praise Response

"Imela"

I - me - la, i - me - la, i - me - la, O - ka - ka.

I - me - la, Chi - ne - ke. I - me - la On - y'o - ma.

Translation

Thank you, great God.

Thank you because you are good.

Pronunciation Guide:

ee-meh-lah Oh-kah-kah

ee-meh-lah Chee-neh-keh

ee-meh-lah Ohn-yoh-mah

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 THANKSGIVING (in unison)

God of Infinite Grace, we have been fed by stories of faith, sustained by sacred relationships, and nourished by the hope of your resurrection promises. We offer our thanks to you, the God of plenty. May this sacrament go to work in us, that we might be put in the service of your grace. May the Spirit's abounding hope emanate out of us as we walk the way of Christ. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN:

"For Everyone Born"
(see page 8)

FOR EVERYONE BORN

*THE BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE:

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

arr. Joel Raney

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Melissa Stepp**, and **Brittany Hendrix Malone** who offered our Children Moments.

Today's written prayers are inspired by those found in Seasons of the Spirit 2008.

The rose on the altar celebrates
the birth of **Kieran Shannon Evans**, born August 8.
Proud grandparents are **Melissa and Michael Stepp**.

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Sing a New World into Being

Mary Louise Bringle

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NETTLETON

Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second 1813

1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.

Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;

dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.

Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.

The Kingdom of God

Lyrics: Amanda Udis-Kessler 2019

Music: Adrian Valerius's Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck 1626

2. King - dom of God is an up - side-down king - dom. The first are now
3. King - dom of God is a lot like the lea - ven we use in our
4. King - dom of God wel-comes all to the ta - ble, no mat - ter your

last and the last are now first. The hum - ble ex - alt - ed, the chil - dren bear-ing
bak - ing when we add the yeast. The work of a wo - man will point us to the
sta - tus, your heart will be fed. What - e - ver your sad - ness, the Realm of Love is

wis - dom. The weal - thy and the poor have their sta - tions re - versed. The
hea ven, a wai - ting the le pers, the lost, and the least. The
a - ble. What - e - ver your la - bel, par - take of the bread. The

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN
11.10.11.10 with refrain



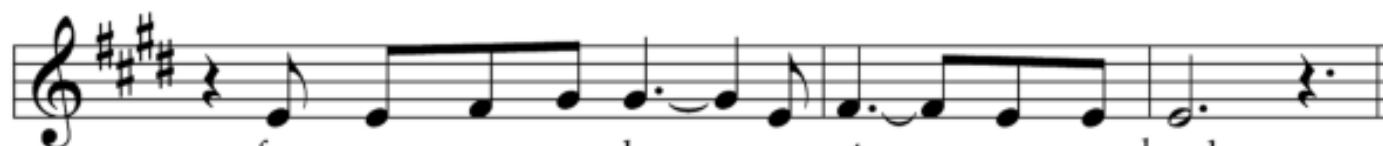
1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
and all those be - tween, be - yond, and be - sides,
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
ex - pan - ding our world, dis - man - tl - ing pow - er,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
each val - ued for what their voice can pro - vide.
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain



and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



jus - tice and joy!



Living Gift Market is October 4

Heifer International is a program 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 your neighbor to life year-round. Families who receive our gift not only benefit from the animal, but they also pass on the gift to other families in their community. This allows them to help others as you have helped them.

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, pigs, rabbits, honeybees, ducks, chickens, and so much more.

Come out to the courtyard after church on October 4. We will have exhibits, live animals, and treats and enjoy the Living Gift Market.

If you are interested in volunteering or hosting a table at the event, sign up on the sign-up sheets in the church hall or contact Wendy Woodward at (847) 814-5168 or email wwoodward@hotmail.com.

SOUPER COOKS SHELTER MEALS

Souper Cooks is a group of volunteers who prepare and serve meals at the New Community Shelter (301 Mather Street).

New Season Begins Sept. 24 — We serve on the 4th Thursday of the month (except in June, July, August and November).

Preparing the Meal: 1:00 p.m.

Six to eight volunteers prepare the meal at Union Church.

Serving the Meal: 4:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

A team of 3 to 4 volunteers greets and serves the community at the NEW Community Shelter.

Learn More and Volunteer!

Contact Marty Berry (mjpberry@sbcglobal.net)
or Achim Seifert (seif904@sbcglobal.net)

Union
CONGREGATIONAL



Julie Harder, M.D., trained as a Gottman Institute Leader,
presents the Free Online Workshop:

FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP

The Seven Principles

Couples Workshop

BASED ON
NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLER
OVER A MILLION
COPIES SOLD



Are you in a committed relationship,
or considering marriage?



Is your relationship OK, but you'd like
to make it even happier?



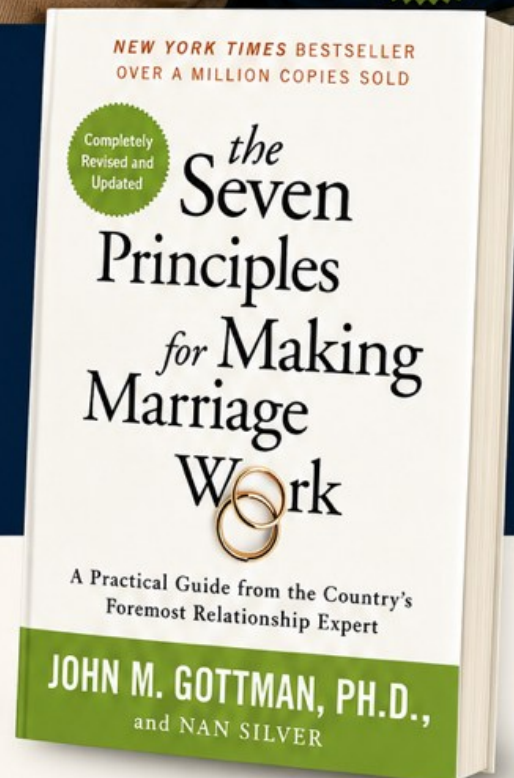
Are you arguing in circles about
the same issues?



Would you like evidence-based
strategies for relationship success?

Dr. John Gottman observed thousands of couples over forty years, analyzing their interactions, then following them for years to see which couples stayed happily together and which split up.

From this data Dr. Gottman developed proven strategies to help couples succeed.



WHEN?
Saturdays,
October 17 & 31 and
November 7 & 14
12–3:15 pm EST



FREE!
+ \$55+ shipping
for the course
materials.



SIGNUP CLOSES
October 1st



Email Dr. Julie Harder at
julie.harder.projects@gmail.com
for more details and to register.

OR, GO TO THESE LINKS:



FAQs:
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STRONGER CONNECTION. HEALTHIER RELATIONSHIP. A BETTER FUTURE—TOGETHER.

Build the relationship you both deserve. We all can love better.