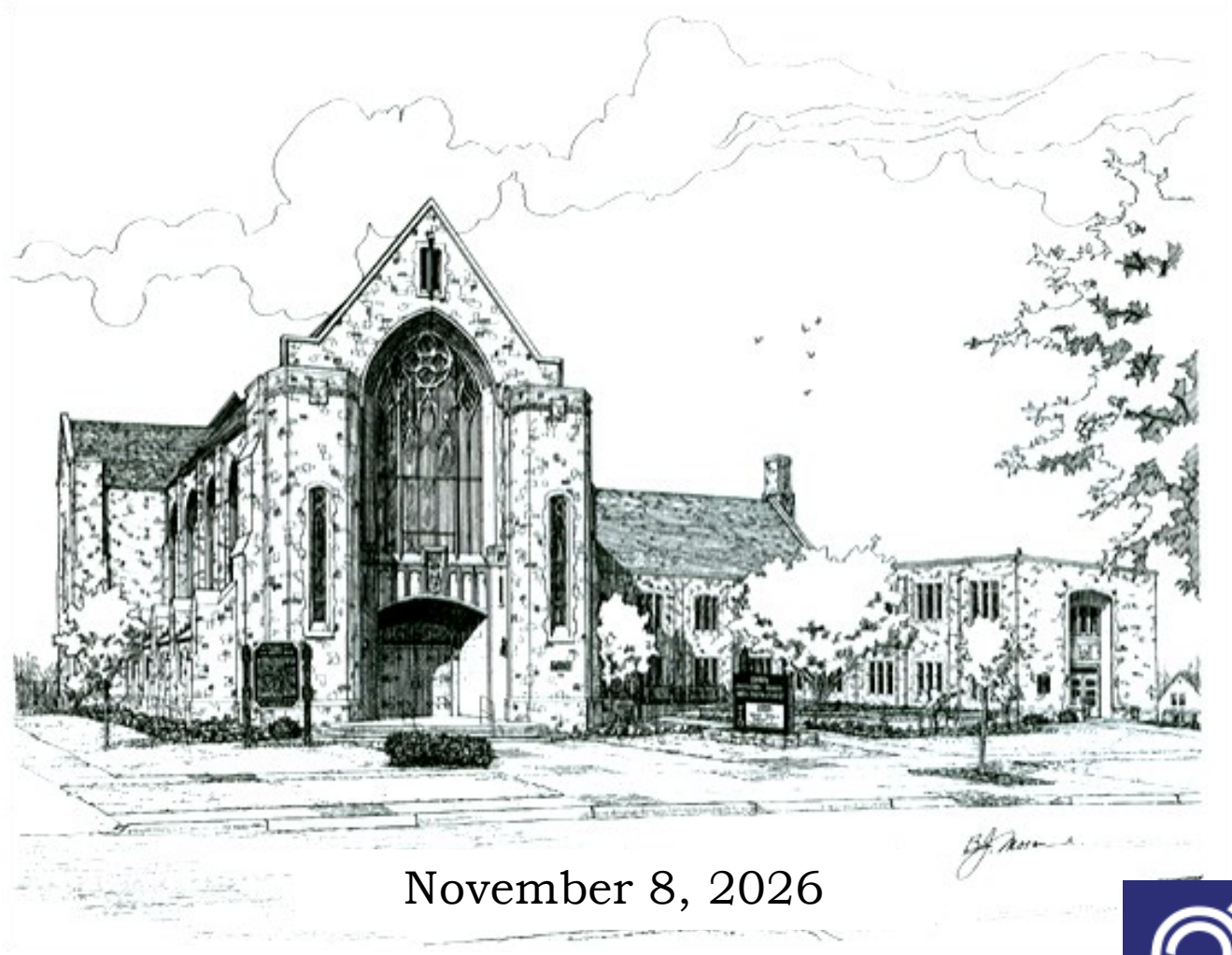
Union Congregational United Church of Christ

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 8, 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.

Hearing Loop
Switch hearing aid to T-coil

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.

Union's Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

Our tree lot will open Friday, November 20 and be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from then until December 20 or when all trees and wreaths are sold. We are asking for your help by purchasing a tree and/or a wreath and by volunteering to staff the lot for a 2-hour shift. See your This Week at Union email for a link to volunteer or call the church office. Lot hours will be:

Friday (2 to 6 p.m.), Saturday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Sunday (noon to 4 p.m.)

We also ask for volunteers to help decorate the wreaths starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 14. Other than that Saturday, there will no scheduled times to decorate, so we ask you to come when convenient during normal office hours (8 to 4, M-F). Supplies and wreaths will be available in the church hall.

We thank you for your past support and look forward to another successful season selling trees and wreaths.

—Christmas Tree and Wreath Committee

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

24th Sunday after Pentecost
Pledge Sunday; Honoring Our Veterans

November 8, 2026 10:00 a.m.

(*) invites all who are able to stand

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE: *"Song from a Secret Garden"* arr. Rolf Lovland

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.

*GATHERING PRAYER: (in unison)

Faithful and Ever-Present God, you have called your people through every generation to choose the ways of love, to seek justice, and to walk in faithfulness. As we gather today, remind us that faith is more than words we speak or traditions we inherit. It is a choice we make again and again in how we live, how we love, and how we care for our neighbors.

Keep our lamps burning with compassion and courage. Give us wisdom for the days ahead, steadfastness when the road grows difficult, and hearts ready to recognize your presence in the people and places we might otherwise overlook. May our worship renew our commitment to the work of your kin-dom, until justice rolls down like waters and love has the final word.

In the name of Jesus, the One who calls us forward, we pray. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

One: God of grace, we confess that we do not always live as though our choices matter. We allow ourselves to be distracted by what is easy instead of what is right, by what benefits us instead of what serves our neighbors and the fullness of creation. We let our lamps grow dim when the work of love becomes exhausting, and sometimes we mistake believing the right things for actually living them. Let us take a moment of silence to call to mind that which we would lay before the Lord. (Silence is kept.)

One: Let us pray:

All: Forgive us when we turn away from suffering, when fear keeps us from acting with courage, and when we forget that faithfulness requires more than good intentions. Renew our spirits, O God. Help us choose the ways of compassion, prepare us for the work that lies ahead, and strengthen us to live the faith we profess. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

One: Hear the good news: God's grace meets us wherever we are and calls us toward a new beginning.

All: **We are forgiven, renewed, and given fresh opportunities to choose love, practice justice, and keep our lamps burning with hope. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

(Please turn and offer a sign of Christ's peace to one another.)

*HYMN NO. 591: *"This Is My Song"* FINLANDIA
(see page 5) The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

SCRIPTURE READING: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-18 p. 215

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 "prayground" in the south transept to play and pray quietly or to drop them off downstairs to play in the nursery.

CHORAL ANTHEM: *"God Has Work for Us to Do"* Mark Miller

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13 p. 28

THE SERMON: Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HYMN: *"For Everyone Born"* FOR EVERYONE BORN
(see page 6)
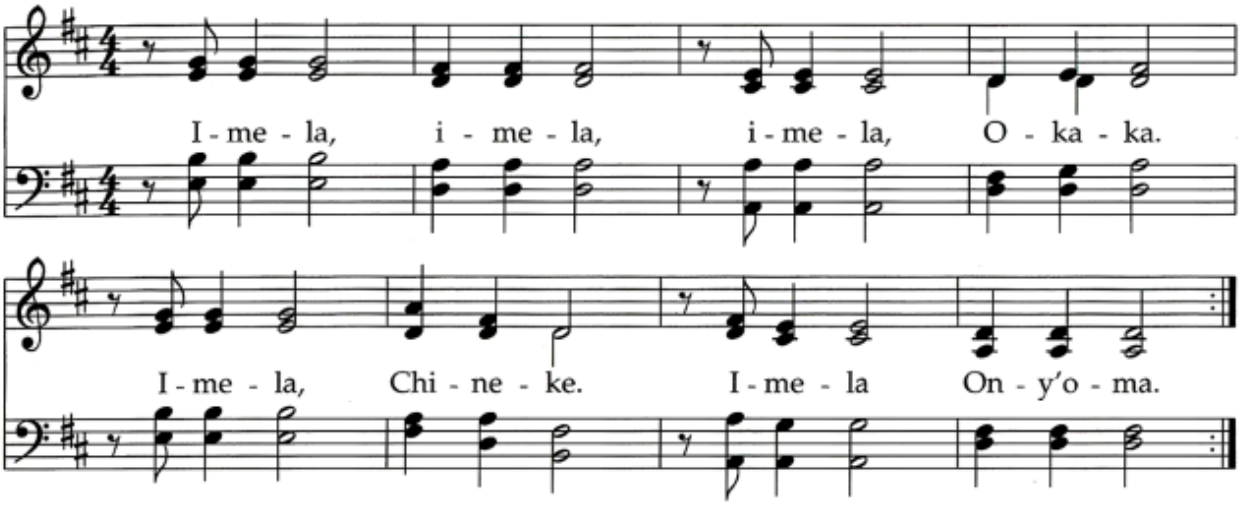
THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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: *"Two Old Tunes"* arr. Thomas Keesecker

*Praise Response *"Imela"* traditional Nigerian



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

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Generous God, you have entrusted us with gifts of time, talent, resources, and love. Receive these offerings as signs of our commitment to the ways of your kin-dom. May they become food for the hungry, welcome for the stranger, shelter for those without a home, courage for those seeking justice, and hope for all who have been told they do not belong. Bless these gifts and the lives that offer them. May our generosity do more than sustain a church; may it help us become a people whose faith shines brightly in the world, whose doors open widely to all, and whose love is made real in action. In gratitude for all you have given us, we dedicate these offerings to your work of healing, reconciliation, transformation and love. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 495: *"Called As Partners in Christ's Service"* BEECHER
(see page 7) The New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Julie Macier**, and **Ed Tucker** who offered our Children's Moments.

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Honoring Those Who Served Our Nation

Air Force

Phil Enscoe
Captain
4 years of service

Army

Robert Fahres
Specialist 1st Class
2 years of service

Donald Fenlon
Specialist 4
2 years of service

Cathy Ghoca
Captain
7 years of service

Daniel Ghoca
Captain
4 years of service

William Johnson
Specialist 5th Class
2 years of service

Larry Kabat
Specialist 5th Class
2 years of service

Ted Ludolph
Captain
4 years of service

Rolf Lulloff
Major
2 years of service

Thomas Martin
1st Lieutenant
2 years of service

Bob Rose
Major
3 years of service

Julie Tetzlaff
1st Lieutenant
10 years of service

Ray Thompson
Specialist 4th Class
3 years of service

Edward Tucker
1st Lieutenant
4 years of service

Glen Verstegen
Spec 5 (E-5)
3 years of service

Army Reserve

Steve Davis
Master Sergeant
24 years of service

Bruce Shafer
Captain
9 years of service

Navy
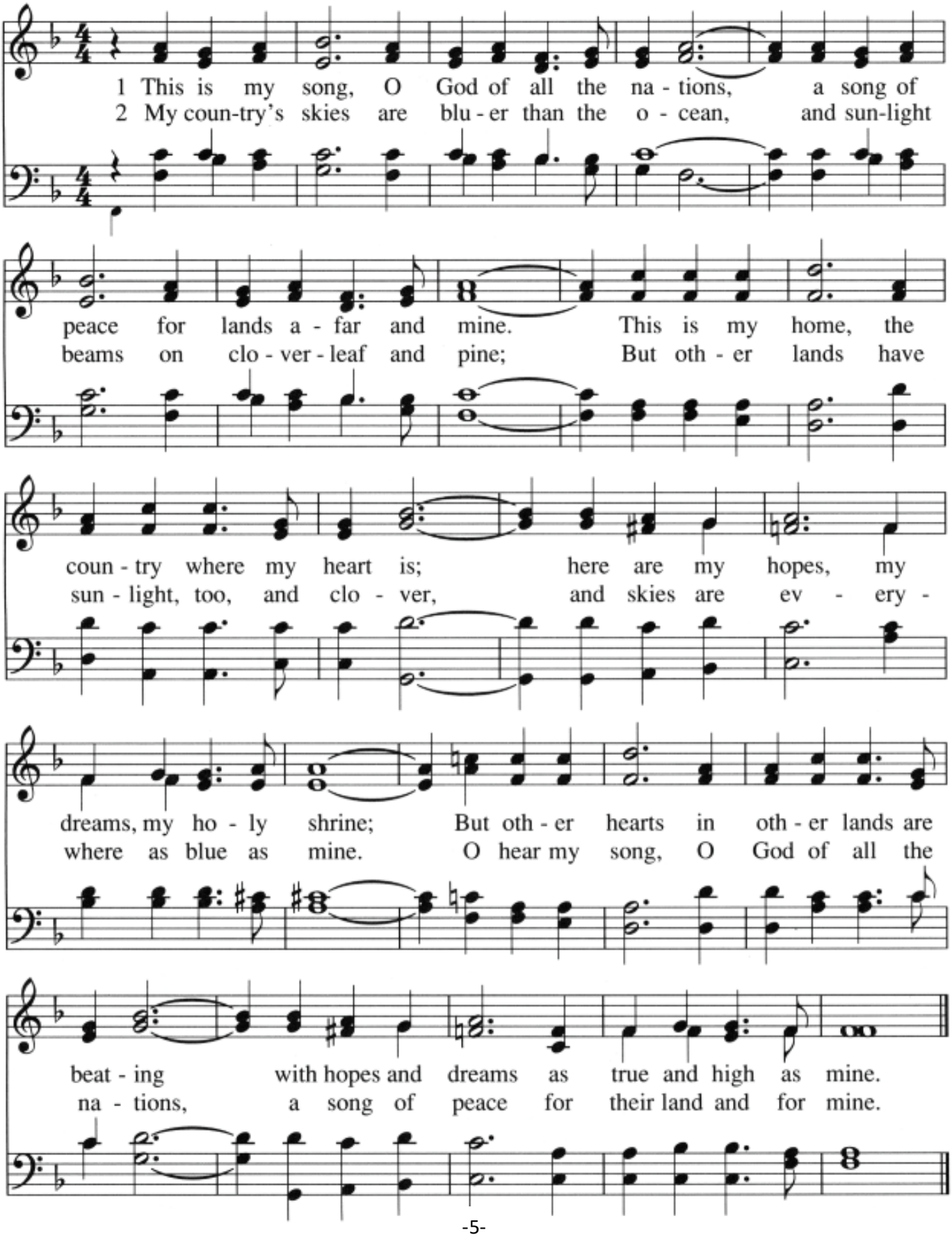
Joe Bethel
Signalman 3rd Class
4 years of service

Robert Haglund
Seaman 1st Class
1 year of service

John Krueger
Senior
Chief Petty Officer
20 years of service

591 This Is My Song
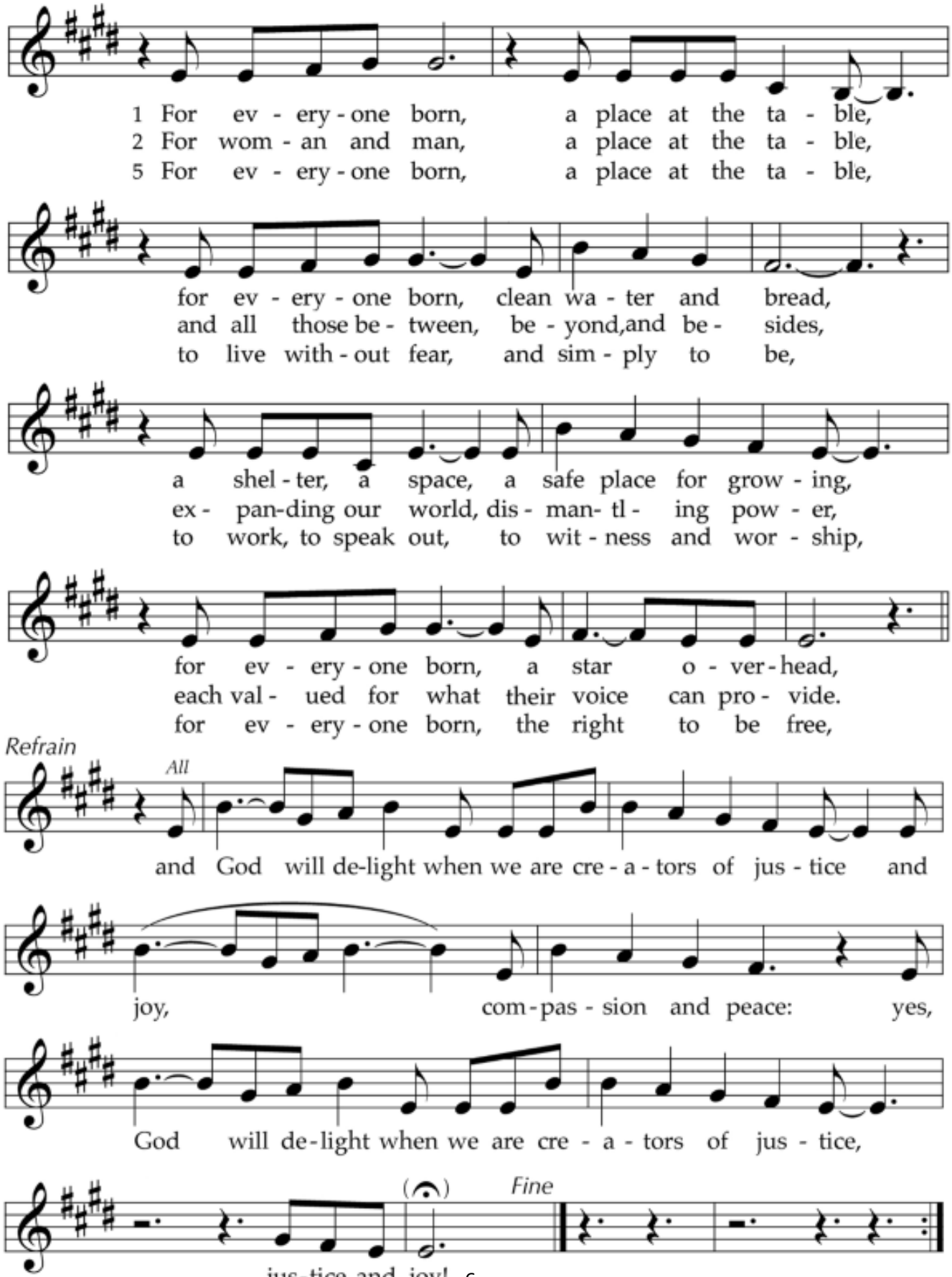
Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.10.
Jean Sibelius, 1899 Arr. for The Hymnal, *1933 Lloyd Stone, 1934 Ps. 82:8*



TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998 *Text © 1998 Hope Publishing Co.*
MUSIC: Brian Mann, 2006 *Music © 2006 Brian Mann*

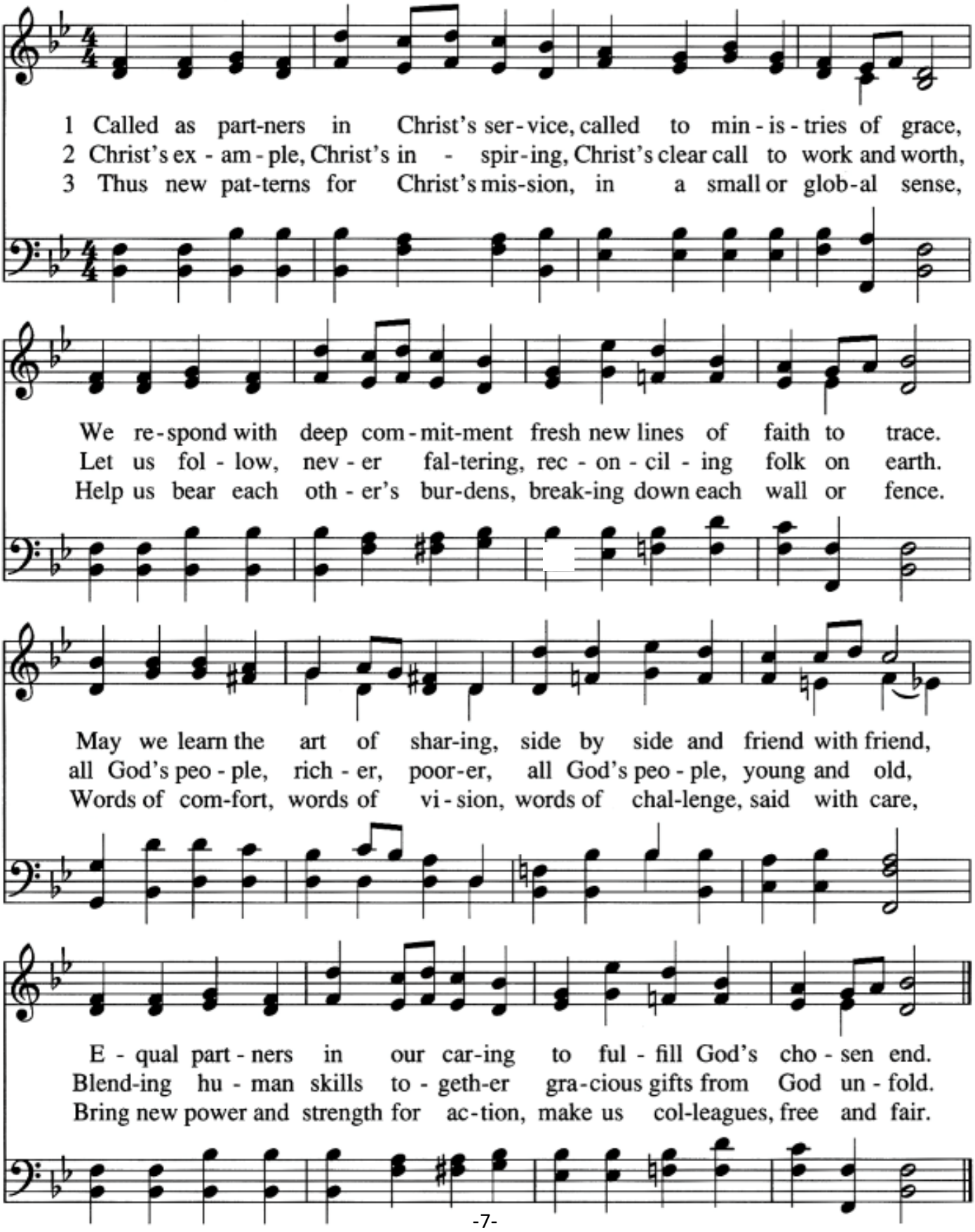
For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN
11.10.11.10 with refrain



Called as Partners in Christ's Service 495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981 Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D. *John Zundel, 1855* *John 15:12–17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14–22*



Thank You, Union Church!

Thank you, most sincerely, for the 132 board books, and the money (over $450) to purchase more of the appropriate books for Love Learning on the East Side. The children, from low-income families, love the pictures and stories. They often don't have books of their own for their parents to read to them. These books are a good start on their Love Learning adventures. Thank you again!

—Love Life/Love Learning East Side of Green Bay

Adult Education: The Rest of the Christmas Story

The familiar Christmas story usually starts with an angel visiting Mary and ends with the Wise Men going back to their own country. But what about Zechariah in the Temple? The birth of John the Baptist and Zechariah's prophecies about him? Mary, Joseph and Jesus visiting the Temple when Jesus was a newborn?

If these stories sound unfamiliar, it's probably because our liturgical calendar doesn't have room for all these readings. But Luke wrapped his birth story within these other vignettes for a reason. So studying them helps highlight some of his key messages.

At Adult Education (9 a.m.) on Sunday, December 20, Julie Harder will walk us through these lesser-known scriptures so we can enrich our understanding of Luke's Christmas story.

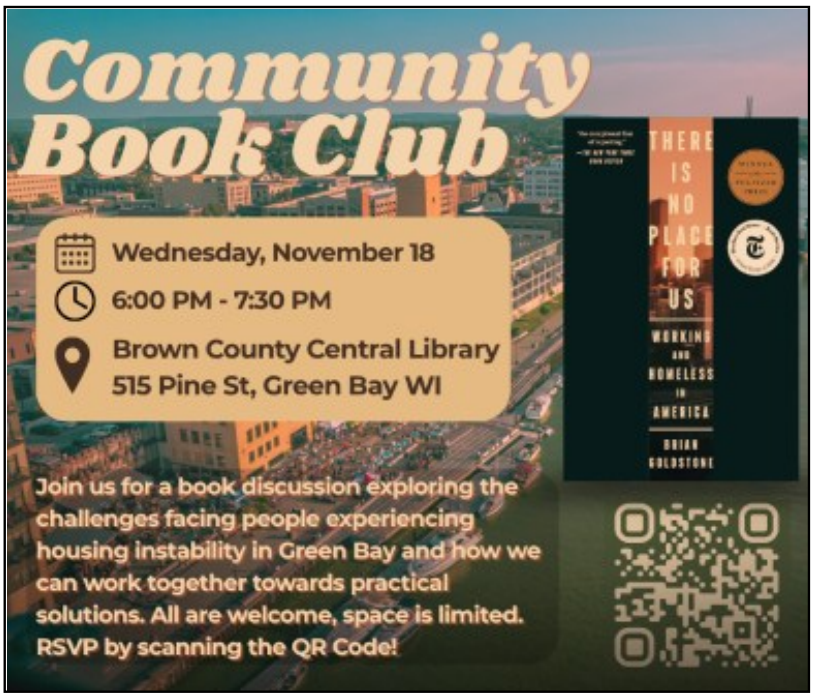
On the First Day of Christmas… We Feed Our Neighbors!

"O come, all ye faithful…" — especially if you're faithful to the idea that Christmas is about more than presents under a tree. You could be part of bringing *"tidings of comfort and joy…"* to our neighbors in need.

We have an opportunity to make and serve the evening meal at the NEW Shelter on **Christmas Eve, December 24**. What better way to celebrate than by sharing a meal and a little kindness with our neighbors? As you're making your Christmas Eve plans, consider sharing an hour to make others' holiday brighter.

Souper Cooks volunteers prepare a meal at **1:00 p.m.** at Union and/or serve it at **4:45 p.m.** at the **NEW Community Shelter on Mather Street**. Cooking usually takes about an hour; serving takes a little more than an hour. You can choose to **cook, serve, or do both**. No special training is needed. Just as the finest gift the Little Drummer Boy could find to give was his drumming, all that's needed is for you (and maybe your family) to come lend a helping hand. *"Joy to the world" will sound even sweeter when you've been part of making the world a little better for someone else.*

Contact Marty Berry mjpberry@sbcglobal.net or Achim Seifert seif409@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.



Read. Learn. Discuss. Act.

Join us for a community discussion of *There Is No Place for Us: Working and Homeless in America* by Brian Goldstone. This powerful book highlights the experiences of individuals and families navigating homelessness and housing insecurity in today's housing market.

Join us at the Brown County Central Library on Wednesday, November 18, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. to participate in a discussion of the book's themes and other relevant conversation. All are welcome.

Joshua Delegate Wanted!

Union has been a member of Joshua since its was formed in 2004, and we are seeking someone to represent us on Joshua's board starting in January. Joshua is an organization formed by various faith traditions to work for social justice in the Brown County area. While some organizations focus on immediate needs, Joshua works on the long-term systemic issues in our area by working with public and private sectors. Active areas include Transformational Justice, Housing, Immigration, and Environmental Justice. More information can be found at joshua4justice.org. If you are interested in representing Union, please call Tim Harder (920.664.0752).

Neighbors in Need Offering is Next Sunday

The United Church of Christ offers grants to organizations nationwide engaged in justice work. Our church will support this effort with a special offering on Sunday, November 15. Any gift, no matter the amount, shows we share a hope for a world free of poverty and prejudice.

Adult Faith Formation Continues

Sunday Morning at 9 a.m. in Bagby Chapel

November 15 — Origins of the Lord's Prayer
Join Julie Harder to learn the origins of this ancient prayer and how it speaks to us today.

Weekly Planner

November 9 — 14

Monday:
6:00 p.m. Prospective Member Gathering

Tuesday:
4:00 p.m. Education Ministry
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Wednesday:
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

Thursday:
5:00 p.m. Membership Ministry
6:00 p.m. Common Ministry

Saturday:
9:00 a.m. Wreath Decorating in the Church Hall

NEXT SUNDAY: November 15
25th Sunday after Pentecost
Neighbors in Need Offering

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Education: Origins of the Lord's Prayer
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**

Ladies Lunch Bunch Meets November 16

Join us at 11:30 a.m. at the Village Grille in Allouez

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