

UNION TIDINGS

A monthly publication of Union Congregational United Church of Christ
5088 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach, FL 33415

Volume 132, Issue 9

October 2025

LAMENTING WITH HOPE!

In times like these, we need our Savior to comfort us. As we lament the new national policies causing harm to so many of our neighbors. And yet, we seek hope for a better tomorrow because of our faith in God.

To face these challenging times, we can look to the faith stories that have been passed on to us from the bible or those angels we have met to mentor us along the way. They remind us that change happens. When change happens, we often lament. Those who have shared their faith stories remind us that it is okay to be saddened by the uncertainty of what comes next.

What these stories teach us is that we do not have to endure change alone. It takes a village. And this village involves seeking mercy and equal justice for everyone, everywhere. The impact of the swiftness of the changes in our society is being seen in the job loss, closing of hospitals, food insecurity, health care affordability, mass shootings, and the uncertainty of affordable housing for seniors. But it can also be seen in our personal lives or in the lives of our loved ones.

Change can bring about loss. A loss in the way things were, not only in our wider society, but also can be felt at home, church, school, or amongst extended family and friends. And yet, we are taught that our faith helps us through whatever we face in the moment because we can be free to grieve with one another.

Being part of a loving church community is a wonderful way to grow together in faith. As our worship offers moments of lament. We pray together and hear God's word together. We sing together. We pass the peace together. Our presence in this sacred hour reminds us that we are free to grieve. We are free to grieve whatever it is we are going through. And free to grieve what others are going through. Because we are meant to be here to encourage one another as a community and as the Body of Christ.

*In our lament, may we trust that the Lord will protect us and bring us peace. (Numbers 6:24-25)
May it be so.*

*With Hope,
Pastor Sheila*





Joan Gerson; Pastor Sheila's Uncle Leonard's family & friends; Shameer Mohammed; Timothy Blood; Tom Richards's sister, Cindy Richards-Wallace & his friend, Jackie Sloan; Jan Mark; Ada Harvey's grandson, Grant; David Ramirez; Irv Koehler; Tom Richards; Linda Padmore's family & friends; Rod Jennings's family & friends; Marion Gaetano's family & friends; Jane Grandusky's husband, Mark; Bonnie Avery's family and friends; Teresa Byrd; Lin McNaughton's mom and cousin, Cade; Linda Padmore's daughter, Jeannine; Linda Harvey; Susan Young's sister, Genie; Kirk Dorhout; Evelyn Chouris; Charlotte Snowden; Renna McGinnis; Beth White's family & friends; Frank Byrd's family & friends; Melanie Shepherd; Charlene Buck; Linda Padmore's niece, Yvette & sister, Christine; Rosemarie Lightfoots's sister, Anita; Beth White; Louise's friend, Martha; Donna's brother, Clevert; George Gerson's Brother, Michael; Melanie's Friend, Donna; Borjana's son, Petar; Ruth Deischer's sister-in-law, Susan Deischer; Renna McGinnis; George Gerson's friends, Diane & Timothy Scott; George Gerson's nephew, Glenn; Ruth Cassidy's husband, Bill; Rose's daughter, Tyshawna for healing & recovery; Jan Mark's son, Gary; Justice & Peace efforts; grieving, depression and anxiety; all refugees; Ukraine War; Puerto Rico; Haiti; Gun violence everywhere; Environmental concerns; Maui, HI, Florida; Israel conflict; Palestinians; Hurricane victims; Wild fires; Immigrant families; Attack on DEI;

2	Ron Willoughby
6	Deborah Debogery
6	Jeanne Martin
6	Beth White
8	Yvonne Feliciano
10	Debbie Chea
12	Jan Mark
13	Shelby Norris
26	Christopher Grant
30	Carolyn McElroy

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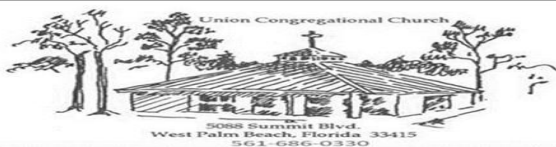
ONLINE:
UNIONUCC.NET (GIVE)

ENVELOPE:
CASH AND CHECKS MADE
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FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY



Every Sunday, beautiful flowers adorn our altar. We have a flower chart for sign-ups. Also, you can call the office or send an email to office@unionucc.net. Garden flowers are \$10 and floral arrangements are \$40. As an added bonus you can list the flowers in the bulletin in memory or in honor of someone or a special occasion. You are also welcome to take the \$40 arrangement home.



Please remember Union Congregational United Church of Christ in your Will and Estate Planning. Please contact the church office for more information.

UNION STANDS UP FOR JUSTICE!



PATANISHI
TRAINERS & MEDIATION
CENTRE (PTMC)
Empowerment and Quality Incorvare

Great job!
Pastor Sheila!!

**CERTIFIED
PROFESSIONAL
MEDIATION
GRADUATION
CEREMONY
COHORT 5**

Friday, 26 September -
8:00 PM -10:00 PM

Time zone: Africa/Nairobi

Rev. Dr. Elias Otieno Agola
Lead Trainer PTMC

Keynote Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey
Snr. Pastor, Union Congregational
United Church of Christ
West Palm Beach, Florida USA



Missions & Outreach News

Newsletter October 2025

Prayer Room: Books have been purchased and we will be sorting through the old books to fill the bookcase. We are asking if anyone has used devotional books that they would like to donate it would be greatly appreciated.

- The prayer room has received a private donation of \$2,000 for the continued upkeep of the room.
- Donna has agreed to make the curtains saving us the cost of purchasing store bought ones.
- We are aiming to have an open house by end of Oct. Date to be announced.

T Shirts: We are excited to offer Union T-shirts for people who are participating in outreach activities. If you are interested in receiving a T-shirt, a signup sheet will be on the soundboard with the details.

Food pantry: Currently we are purchasing the food at Aldi and the Dollar Store. Due to a change in store policy, we now must pick up the food from the shelves as opposed to putting in an order and we pick it all up at one time. Therefore, we need many more volunteers to shop for the items. Some members prefer to donate cases of canned food. We are also looking into the cost of shopping on Amazon for various items.

Free Little Library: Our two little libraries will be getting new roofs. We will continue to hand out books during distribution of our food bags. Jane has volunteered to provide two signs stating our church's name and install them in the existing flowerpots.

Hustle to End Hunger: The run will take place on Oct, 05. This year we are happy to announce that both Debbie Chea and Judith Mooers will be participating. It is not too late to help support them with a donation.

NIN: Neighbors in Need collection will be on Oct 5. NIN envelopes are in the back of the chairs. Announcements have been in the bulletin.

Scholarships: This year we awarded two scholarships. Congratulations to both of our students, in our next budget we will request \$500. per graduate.

Fellowship: M&O has fellowship for the month of Oct. We will be decorating for Fall and Halloween. The first Sunday we will put up international flags to honor World Communion Sunday.

Marion Gaetano
Missions & Outreach
Chairperson



POSITION AVAILABLE **Music Director**

INSPIRE, LEAD, & GROW our Music Ministry!

Do you have a passion for Worship through music? Union Congregational United Church of Christ is searching for a dedicated and enthusiastic Music Director for our growing, intergenerational & diverse congregation. We are excited to find a director who can honor our traditions while bringing fresh, creative ideas to our music ministry.

Email your resume and a letter of interest to:

zaida@unionucc.net.



Community Problems Assembly

JOIN PEACE FOR AN EXCITING EVENING AS WE SELECT OUR NEXT COMMUNITY ISSUE AND
HAVE IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH WITH STATE LEADERS.
YOUR VOICE MATTERS: BE PART OF THE CHANGE!

Lake Worth UCC
1415 N K St, Lake Worth Beach, FL 33460 LAKE WORTH, FL 33460

Monday,
October 27, 2025
7:00 PM 8:30 PM

PEACE
PEOPLE ENGAGED IN
ACTIVE COMMUNITY EFFORTS



UNION'S CALENDAR

Church Anniversary Celebration on
November 23, 2025



All are invited to share a photo of yourself for
Union's 2026 Calendar. Your photo will be
featured on your birthday month.

Please send your photo and birthday month to
Zaida@unionucc.net.



UNION'S TALENT SHOW!

Church Anniversary Celebration
on November 23, 2025



As part of the celebration, there will
be a Talent Show during our
Anniversary Luncheon. All who are
interested in participating, please
signup on the soundboard.

PEACE VILLAGE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

October 21st

Sign-up for the Board of County
Commissioners Meeting on October
21, 2025, when they will vote on
whether to award funding towards
the Peace Village Affordable Senior
Housing Project.

PEACE at
Union Congregational
United Church of Christ



PEACE is a justice ministry made up of **26 church**
congregations from throughout Palm Beach County,
FL. Understanding that Micah 6:8 and other biblical
texts require us to do justice, PEACE brings these
congregations together to powerfully address the
systemic causes of injustices happening in our
community.

The first step is to identify the issues and concerns
affecting our communities through what PEACE calls
the Listening Process. The listening process involves
each PEACE church holding "house meetings" at their
church to listen to congregational members share their
stories of what they see as serious community
problems or issues that affect them or their friends and
neighbors.

On September 14, 2025, Union held our house
meeting where 12 members of our church family
shared stories in a safe and sacred place.

Issues that were shared included affordable housing,
cost of housing and property insurance, need for rent
control especially for the senior population, age
discrimination in the work force, job security, on-going
racism, immigration, educational concerns (what is
being taught in school to our children), homelessness,
need for social service assistance and resources for
mental health services.

Although our house meeting has been completed,
other PEACE members throughout Palm Beach are
still in the process of holding their house meetings, and
like us, their congregation members are sharing and
collecting stories of serious community problems. All
house meetings are expected to be completed by
October 15.

The results of the house meetings held throughout
Palm Beach County in September and October 2025
will be shared with all congregations at the next
Community Problems Assembly. This meeting will be
held on October 27th at 7pm at the Lake Worth UCC.
located at 1415 N. K Street in Lake Worth.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

so please join us for this exciting meeting as PEACE
selects the new community issue that will be
addressed over the next year. Please contact Pastor
Sheila (sheila@unionucc.net) or Paula Dorhout
(kirkpaula@gmail.com) with any questions. Also,
please let us know if you would like to carpool to the
meeting, we would be happy to assist with
transportation.



YOUTH & KIDS CORNER

PEACE organizer, Megan, engaging with the Youth at Union on what it means to be a part of PEACE!


PEACE
PEOPLE ENGAGED IN
ACTIVE COMMUNITY EFFORTS



Children & Youth at
Union UCC Singing
"We Are The World!"

October



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming World Communion Sunday	6	7 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	1 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	2 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	3 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	4 Food Pantry 9am- 11:30 am 
12 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	13	14 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	8 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	9 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	10 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	11
19 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	20	21 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	15 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	16 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	17 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	18
26 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	27	28 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	22 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	23 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	24 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	25
			29 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	30 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	31 9am-1pm Office Hours Sanctuary open for prayer	

SAVE THE DATE

YOU ARE INVITED



**Church Anniversary
Celebration on
November 23, 2025**

Ministry Investment Opportunities!

***Anniversary Luncheon Sponsor**

***Silent Auction Participation**

***Talent Show**

***Church Calendar**

*Union Congregational United Church of Christ
5088 Summit Boulevard
West Palm Beach, Florida 33415
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October News Especially for you:

