



POWERFUL

WATERFEST



**UNION CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*We welcome all people to experience God's love,  
grow spiritually and engage in meaningful service.*

**SERVICE OF THE WORD  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 26, 2026**

\*Please stand as you are able.

*This service is livestreaming. Thank you. ❤️*

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***ENTER TO WORSHIP***

**GATHERING MUSIC**

*When you hear the music, please gather. Be seated and prepare for worship.  
Lighting the Candle, we remember God's presence with us.*

**PRELUDE**

"To God be the Glory"

**THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

Words of Welcome & Announcements

**INTROIT**

"There's A Spirit of Love in This Place"

**There's a spirit of love in this place, there's a spirit of love in this place. You can't see it, but it's there, just as precious as the air. There's a spirit of love in this place.**

Refrain: **O alleluia, sing alleluia! We bless your holy name.  
O alleluia, sing alleluia! There's a spirit of love in this place.**

Greeting One Another

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.***

\*Chorus:

***We are one in the bond of love; we are one in the bond of love, we have joined our  
spirits with the Spirit of God, we are one in the bond of love.***

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather here, listening for the voice of the giver and guardian of our lives.

**All: God comes to us as a good shepherd, calling us by name.**

One: We gather here, longing to follow in just paths of life.

**All: God comes to us as a good shepherd, leading us in right ways.**

One: We gather here to follow and praise God,

**All: whose good and steadfast love abounds all of our lives.**

## **\*INVOCATION**

Christ is with us!

***Christ is in our midst!***

**God, who calls us and leads us, we long to know your voice through thick and thin. We long to rest in your care for all of our needs. We hold out our hands as a sign of our desire to hear you and follow you. And we hold the hands of our neighbors, grateful that through them we also encounter you. Amen.**

## **\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **Sharing Joys and Concerns**

***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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.***

## **PRAYER RESPONSE**

"I Surrender All"

## **OFFERTORY**

“This Joy I Have”

**This joy I have, the world didn't give to me. This joy I have, the world didn't give to me. This joy I have, the world didn't give to me. No, the world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.**

**This love I have, the world didn't give to me. This love I have, the world didn't give to me. This love I have, the world didn't give to me. No, the world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.**

**This faith I have, the world didn't give to me. This faith I have, the world didn't give to me. This faith I have, the world didn't give to me. No, the world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.**

**This peace I have, the world didn't give to me. This peace I have, the world didn't give to me. This peace I have, the world didn't give to me. No, the world didn't give it, the world can't take it away.**

**\*DOXOLOGY** (*Deacons Joanna and Emma to bring offerings forward.*)

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God all creatures here below;***

***Praise God for all that Love has done:***

***Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.***

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT**

*(All children and youth are welcome to attend the Sunday School Class.)*

## **READING OF SCRIPTURES**

### **Acts 2:42-47**

That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met.

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

### **Psalm 23**

God is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**God makes me lie down in green pastures; and leads me beside still waters;**

God restores my soul

**and leads me in right paths for the sake of God's name.**

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff — they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

**you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
**and I shall dwell in the house of God my whole life long.**

## **John 10:1-10**

“Let me set this before you as plainly as I can. If a person climbs over or through the fence of a sheep pen instead of going through the gate, you know he’s up to no good—a sheep rustler! The shepherd walks right up to the gate. The gatekeeper opens the gate to him and the sheep recognize his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he gets them all out, he leads them and they follow because they are familiar with his voice. They won’t follow a stranger’s voice but will scatter because they aren’t used to the sound of it.”

Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again. “I’ll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep rustlers, every one of them. But the sheep didn’t listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

***Thanks be to God!***

**SONG OF PREPARATION**

“What a Friend”

Arr. Mary McDonald

**SERMON**

“Powerful Witness”

Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

“They’ll Know We are Christians”

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

“My Tribute”

Arr. Aaron Adderley

***DEPART TO SERVE***

### **UNION’S TRIP TO ORLANDO!**

The Christian Education/Youth and Justice and Peace Teams are planning an intergenerational trip to Orlando! The purpose of the trip is to gather as a church family to deepen relationships with fun activities while exploring historical sites that remind us about the importance of embracing peace and justice for all! An interest meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd, following morning worship. Also, please bring a \$30 deposit to the meeting so we can finalize planning details.

A signup sheet is on the soundboard for all who are interested in participating.





We **WELCOME** each of you to this celebration of worship. If you are visiting, we invite you to sign our Guest register in the Narthex. Offering envelopes are found in the pocket on the back of the chairs in the sanctuary for your convenience.

**Participating in Today's Service:**

**Readers**

Junior Deacon, Emma, Kirk Dorhout, Sabita Shah

**Deacons Assisting**

Judith Mooers

**Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns**

**Joys:** All Birthdays in April! Our Church Family! Live Streaming! Eastertide!

**Concerns:**

Paula & Kirk's daughter, Melissa; Adderley's mom, Maxine; Lin's mom; Sharon and Donna's family and friends; Joan Gerson; Phyllis Adderley; Dorthy Bates; Martha Yanick family & friends; Stephen Spencer family and friends; Jan Mark; Robert Herald family & friends; Timothy Blood; Tom Richards's sister, Cindy Richards-Wallace & his friend, Jackie Sloan; 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; Donna's brother, Clevert; George Gerson's Brother, Michael; Melanie's Friend, Donna; Borjana's son, Petar; 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; Medicaid & Food Assistance Programs; Mass deportations of Immigrants; War In Iran; Cost of Living Increases



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](mailto: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.

Sunday School Highlight

Students will consider what it means that God guides them day and night. Today's Sunday School teacher is Simone Shah.



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.  
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems  
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat  
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.  
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams,  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as, noth - ing else can do.  
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.  
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*  
 I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry

I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

# I Surrender All 596

Yield yourselves unto God. Romans 6:13

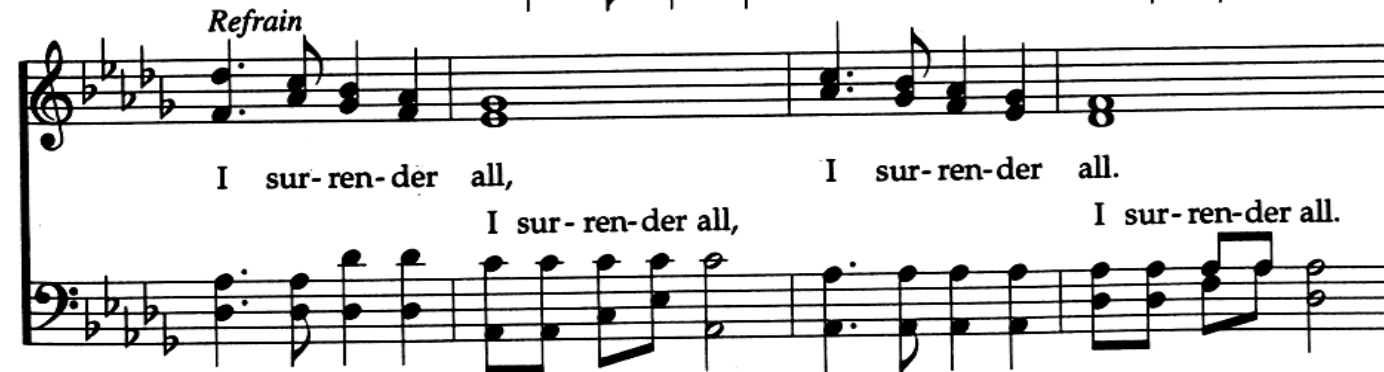


1. All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, All to Him I free-ly give;  
2. All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, Hum-bly at His feet I bow,  
3. All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, Make me, Sav-ior, whol-ly Thine;  
4. All to Je-sus I sur-ren-der, Lord, I give my-self to Thee;

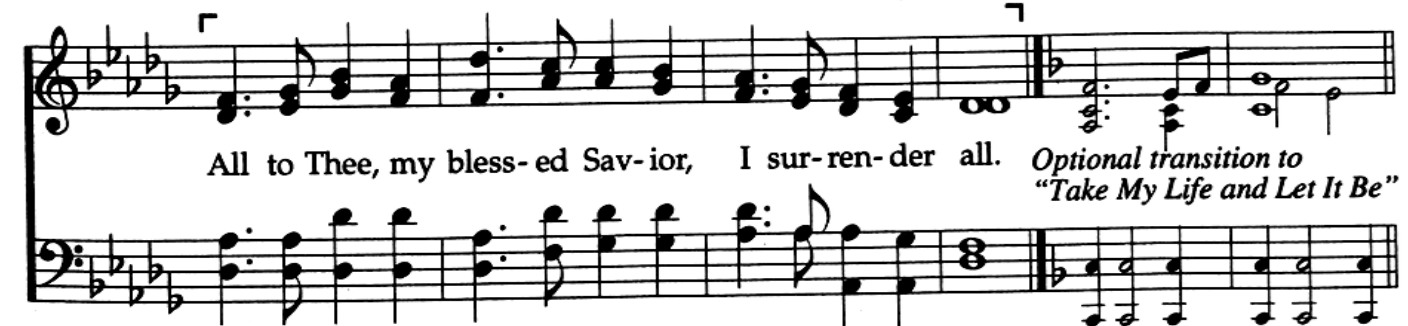


I will ev-er love and trust Him, In His pres-ence dai-ly live.  
World-ly pleas-ures all for-sak-en, Take me, Je-sus, take me now.  
May Thy Ho-ly Spir-it fill me, May I know Thy pow'r di-vine.  
Fill me with Thy love and pow-er, Let Thy bless-ing fall on me.

*Refrain*



I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all.  
I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all.



All to Thee, my bless-ed Sav-ior, I sur-ren-der all. *Optional transition to "Take My Life and Let It Be"*

## MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ANNOUNCEMENTS REMINDER

Please submit any articles for the May Newsletter by **Tuesday, April 28th**. Send via email to Zaida at [zaida@unionucc.net](mailto:zaida@unionucc.net). Thank you!



# 429 They'll Know We Are Christians

By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35

Unison

1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.  
2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.  
3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.  
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.  
We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.  
We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.  
And all praise to Christ Je - sus, His on - ly Son.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.  
And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.  
And all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one.

♩ Refrain

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

**YOU ARE INVITED!**  
Celebrating All Mother Figures  
Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>  
(Following Morning Worship)

**“Tea Time with Union’s Mothers”**



**Hymn Sing Sunday**



**SAVE THE DATE**

Sunday, June 28, 2026

Please fill out the form on the soundboard with your favorite hymn!

ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE



*Student*  
**APPRECIATION**  
**DAY**

**Sunday School Class Appreciation Sunday!**  
**Student Appreciation Party During Fellowship!**

Parents, please share highlights of your student's achievements and grade level. If you have a graduate, **share their names** by calling the office at 561-686-0330 or email Zaida: [zaida@unionucc.net](mailto:zaida@unionucc.net).  
Deadline: Noon on Thursday, May 16, 2024.



**KINDNESS IS LOVE IN ACTION!**



Union joins with the wider church and the United States of Kindness project in hopes to have a big impact on the way citizens treat each other by offering 250 Acts of Kindness, and we are already off to a great start!!

We will keep a sheet on the soundboard (or email [zaida@Unionucc.net](mailto:zaida@Unionucc.net)) for us to share how our Kindness is Love in Action! Join in on the good-fun of being Kind!!!

<https://www.ucc.org/ucc-and-values-in-action-partnership-working-to-promote-kindness-across-the-country/>



**UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
5088 SUMMIT BLVD, WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33415**

Ministers of the Church

Pastor

Music Director

Vocalists

Sexton

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Union Congregational Church, UCC:

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All of Us

Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

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[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

**Office Phone: 561-686-0330** - please leave a message.

Go to [www.unionucc.net](http://www.unionucc.net) to see more of our news.

**Office Hours are: Tuesday thru Friday from 9:00AM – 1:00 PM.**

**THIS WEEK AT UNION UCC**

**Sunday, April 26, 2026**

**10:00 AM - Worship – Facebook Live Streaming**

**11:15 AM - Fellowship – All are welcome!**

**11:45 AM - Deacons Meeting**

**Tuesday - Friday – The Prayer Room is Open!**

**9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Open during office hours!**

**Saturday, May 2, 2026**

**9:00 AM – 11:30 AM - Food Pantry Distribution**

**Sunday, May 3, 2026 Communion Sunday**

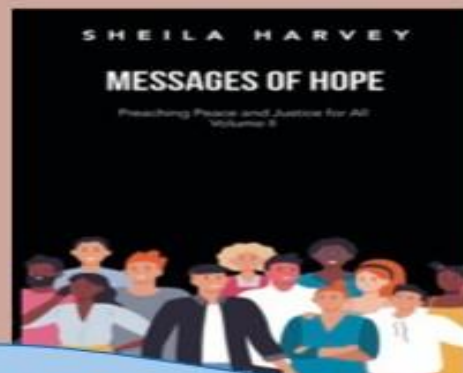
**10:00 AM - Worship – Facebook Live Streaming**

**11:15 AM - Fellowship – All are welcome!**

**11:30 AM - Orlando Trip Interest Meeting**



**MESSAGES OF HOPE**  
Preaching Peace and Justice for All  
Volume II



**Pastor Sheila will offer book signings throughout the Easter Season.**

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026

Psalm 23

### Powerful Witness

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.*

With that opening verse, Psalm 23 soars to the top of the greatest psalms of all time chart, becoming words whispered when lonely shadows are our only friends or when a sea of mourners need a blessed balm for broken hearts.

Psalm 23 is our perennial witness of the powerful truth that with the Lord we do not need anything else. But as popular as the psalm is, have you ever stopped to truly understand what the psalmist was saying about this incredible provision of love? For example, what does it mean to have a table prepared for us in the presence of our enemies?

Personally, I would not welcome such a dinner party in my life. But understanding ancient Middle Eastern culture helps us see better what God is up to for the host of a meal was not just offering a delectable leg of lamb. The host, through the meal, was offering protection for the guest that was invited. Once a seat was taken at the host's table, no enemy was allowed access to the guest. So that table prepared for us among all our enemies is God saying, "I got you. In the presence of danger, no harm will come to you because you are at my table."

While we are here unpacking familiar verses, let's take a closer look at the Lord anointing our head with oil. Yes, anointing one's head is a symbolic act of consecrating a person chosen by God, and we are all chosen — called — by God to care for one another. But anointing with oil was also a common practice among shepherds for their sheep. The oil would be poured on the sheep's head to act as a barrier against pesky flies. The oil would also act as a soothing balm, helping to heal scratches on the sheep's head from either branches, thorny brush or the occasional head-butting from another sheep.

So, when we hear the Lord anoints our heads, he is not just setting us aside for the holy work of loving our neighbors. He is providing us with a barrier against those proverbial buzzing insects and confrontational head-butts in life, because such annoyances just don't happen to sheep, do they?

Yes, the Lord is our shepherd. With him, we lack nothing. His protection of us is abundant.

*Shepherding God, it is a joy and a privilege to be part of your Son's flock. We thank You for the constant care You give us each day. May we never take such love for granted. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)

