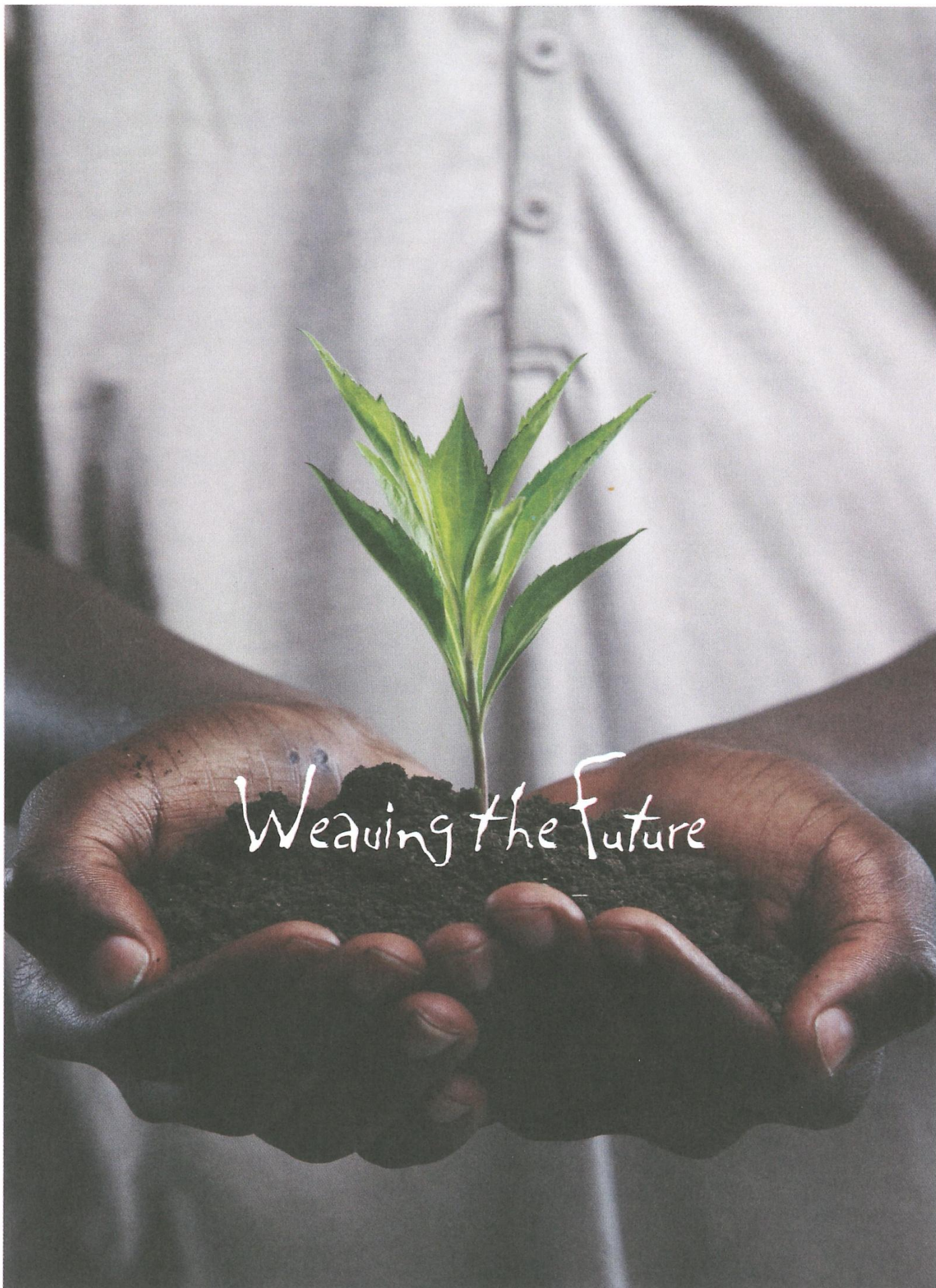
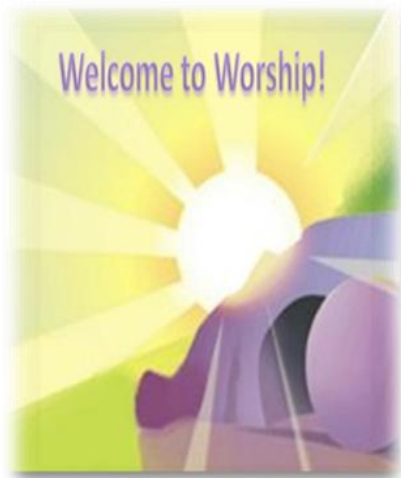




Weaving the Future



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

July 26, 2026

*Please stand as you are able.

This service is livestreaming. Thank you. ❤️

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

"Enter, Rejoice, and Come In"

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.**

*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: People, come gather around. Take this time to step out of the obstacle course of daily life and step into the loving embrace of God.

All: Here we can stop stressing and cease the juggling of having to manage it all,

One: here we can catch our breath and regain our balance,

All: here we find treasure that no wealth or striving can buy,

One: here the Spirit offers us kindness and care,

All: here we are home in the loving family of God.

***INVOCATION**

Christ is with us!

Christ is in our midst!

Loving God, we praise you for the opportunity to gather in worship. Open our hearts as we bring ourselves before you in humble desire to follow your ways and know your wisdom. Open our eyes and help us see how our lives impact others and this created world. Open our ears and help us to hear the voices of those who have been silenced for too long. Open our minds and help us to understand our impact on the world and our more rightful place in it. Show us your glory, and guide our thoughts and reflections as we worship, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

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 Need Thee Every Hour"

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

Genesis 29:15-28

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Psalms 105: 1-11, 45b

O give thanks to God, call on God's name,

make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to God;

tell of all God's wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

Seek God and God's strength;

seek God's presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works God has done,

God's miracles, and the judgments God uttered,

O offspring of God's servants Abraham and Sarah,

children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

God is the Sovereign our God,
whose judgments are in all the earth.
God is mindful of the covenant forever,
of the word that God commanded for a thousand generations,
the covenant made with Abraham,
God's sworn promise to Isaac,
which was confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,
saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance."
that they might keep God's statutes and observe God's laws.
Praise be to God!

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Another story. "God's kingdom is like a pine nut that a farmer plants. It is quite small as seeds go, but in the course of years it grows into a huge pine tree, and eagles build nests in it." Another story. "God's kingdom is like yeast that a woman works into the dough for dozens of loaves of barley bread—and waits while the dough rises."

"God's kingdom is like a treasure hidden in a field for years and then accidentally found by a trespasser. The finder is ecstatic—what a find!—and proceeds to sell everything he owns to raise money and buy that field. "Or, God's kingdom is like a jewel merchant on the hunt for excellent pearls. Finding one that is flawless, he immediately sells everything and buys it. "Or, God's kingdom is like a fishnet cast into the sea, catching all kinds of fish. When it is full, it is hauled onto the beach. The good fish are picked out and put in a tub; those unfit to eat are thrown away. That's how it will be when the curtain comes down on history. The angels will come and cull the bad fish and throw them in the garbage. There will be a lot of desperate complaining, but it won't do any good." Jesus asked, "Are you starting to get a handle on all this?" They answered, "Yes." He said, "Then you see how every student well-trained in God's kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it."

"Or, God's kingdom is like a fishnet cast into the sea, catching all kinds of fish. When it is full, it is hauled onto the beach. The good fish are picked out and put in a tub; those unfit to eat are thrown away. That's how it will be when the curtain comes down on history. The angels will come and cull the bad fish and throw them in the garbage. There will be a lot of desperate complaining, but it won't do any good." Jesus asked, "Are you starting to get a handle on all this?" They answered, "Yes." He said, "Then you see how every student well-trained in God's kingdom is like the owner of a general store who can put his hands on anything you need, old or new, exactly when you need it."

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Weaving the Future”

Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Be Not Dismayed”

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Soon and Very Soon”

Arr. Aaron Adderley

DEPART TO SERVE

ELECTION EXPO 2026



NONPARTISAN • NETWORKING • ICE CREAM • COFFEE • FAMILY FUN

FREE

ALL WELCOME

SEPTEMBER 28 | 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE GYMNASIUM
4200 S. CONGRESS AVE., LAKE WORTH



MEET
CANDIDATES
ONE-ON-ONE

- ✓ Free Voters' Guide
- ✓ Voting Machine Demo
- ✓ Election Dates & Deadlines
- ✓ Amendments & Referendum



SAVE THE DATE

July 26, 2026!



Kids, Teens, & Adults
All are invited to participate in Union's
Chancel Choir & Handbell Choir.

No Experience Necessary.
If interested, please contact the office by
email: zaida@unionucc.net
or call 561-686-0330.



SAVE THE DATE:

AUGUST 9TH

BACK TO SCHOOL

"SUNDAE"

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026

AFTER WORSHIP

ALL ARE WELCOME!





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 Isaac, Kirk Dorhout, Joanna Hollis

Deacons Assisting

Judith Mooers

Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns

Joys: All Birthdays in July! Our Church Family! Live Streaming! Summertime!

Concerns:

Zaida's family & friends; Susan Young's family and friends, Jan Mark; Debbie Englert; Dorothy Bates; Linda Padmore; Stephen Spencer: Joan Gerson; Paula & Kirk's daughter-in-law, Melissa; Adderley's mom, Maxine; Lin's mom; Sharon and Donna's family and friends; Phyllis Adderley; Martha Yanick family & friends; Stephen Spencer family and friends; 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



Flowers are presented by Dorothy Bates.
To our precious beautiful gift sent from GOD.
Happy 9th Birthday Gloryannell!
You bring so much joy to our family!
We are happy to have you in our lives.
Love you from your grandma, sister, daddy and mom.



Sunday School Highlight

Students will listen to Paul's words of encouragement and rejoice that nothing can separate them from the love of God. Today's Sunday School teacher is Louise Dempster.



Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.

1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;

Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;

Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-nig; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,

Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-nig, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

I Need Thee Every Hour

476

1 I need thee ev - ery hour, most gra - cious Lord;
 2 I need thee ev - ery hour, stay thou near by;
 3 I need thee ev - ery hour, in joy or pain;
 4 I need thee ev - ery hour, teach me thy will,

no ten - der voice like thine can peace af - ford.
 temp - ta - tions lose their power when thou art nigh.
 come quick - ly, and a - bide, or life is vain.
 and thy rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.

Refrain

I need thee, O I need thee; ev - ery hour I need thee!

O bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to thee.

WORDS: Annie S. Hawks (1835-1918); ref. Robert Lowry (1826-1899)
 MUSIC: Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

NEED
 6.4.6.4.Ref.

STEWARDSHIP NOTE

Thanks for your continued support during these summer months. We are pleased to be God's love and light.



Be Not Dismayed

(God Will Take Care of You)

Civilla D. Martin, 1904; alt.

Ps. 91



1 Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be - tide, God will take care of you;
 2 Through days of toil when heart grows frail, God will take care of you;
 3 All you may need God will pro - vide, God will take care of you;
 4 No mat - ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;




Be - neath God's wings of love a - bide, God will take care of you.
 When dan - gers fierce your path as - sail, God will take care of you.
 Noth - ing you ask will be de - nied, God will take care of you.
 Lean, wea - ry one, up - on God's breast, God will take care of you.



Refrain



God will take care of you, through ev - ery day, o'er all the way;




God will take care of you, God will take care of you.
 take care of you



AUGUST NEWSLETTER ARTICLE ANNOUNCEMENTS REMINDER



Please submit any articles for the August Newsletter by **Tuesday, August 4th**. Send via email to Zaida at zaida@unionucc.net. Thank you!

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

Ministers of the Church
Pastor
Music Director
Vocalists

All of Us
Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey
Aaron Adderley
Michelle Benght
Tom Richards
Vanie Joseph

Sexton

Email Address: Pastor Sheila sheila@unionucc.net
Office - Zaida Pacheco zaida@unionucc.net / office@unionucc.net
Union Congregational Church, UCC: unionucc.net
Florida Conference, UCC www.uccfla.org
National UCC: www.ucc.org

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

Go to **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, July 26, 2026

10:00 AM - Worship / Sunday School – (Live Streaming Worship)

11:15 AM – Fellowship - All are welcome!

12:15 PM – Music Rehearsals

Tuesday, July 28nd – Wednesday, July 29th - Office is Closed

Sunday, August 2, 2026 - Communion Sunday

10:00 AM - Worship / Sunday School – (Live Streaming Worship)

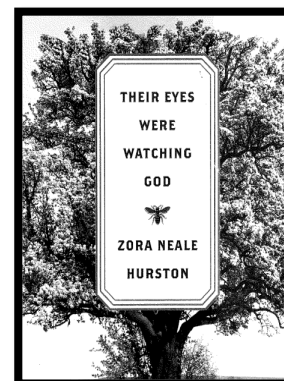
11:15 AM – Fellowship - All are welcome!



SUMMER READING

Their Eyes Were Watching God,

by Zora Neale Hurston. On August 9th, we will reflect on our Orlando trip and the book. For book information, contact Paula Dorhout.



July 26, 2026

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Weaving the Future

I have been on a quest to understand better the days of old by learning how to master 18th-century living skills long forgotten. My most recent adventure was a class on how to grow flax, spin it into thread, and then weave it into cloth.

It was there at the loom that I found my weaving became a prayerful act, and with each pass of the shuttle, I thought of the series of “The Kingdom of God is like” parables that Jesus shared so long ago.

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed — the smallest of seeds that grows so great it becomes a haven where birds make their nests among the branches. The Kingdom of God is like yeast that rises into a pillowy loaf of warm bread.

The Kingdom of God is like ...

I mused that if Jesus was at the loom with me, he would begin teaching how the Kingdom of God is like a weaver creating a tapestry with various colors of threads.

The effectiveness of Jesus’ many teachings have always been that he was able to take what was right in front of him and make it a teachable God moment. It was a gift that made God’s Kingdom more accessible to others. There was no secret handshake or password to gain entry. Rather, the Kingdom was and is all around in ways we are often blind to.

Take a look where you are right now. What is a Kingdom of God parable Jesus would speak of?

Chances are you are sitting in a pew, and you think there is no sign of the Kingdom. Look again.

Could it be that the Kingdom of God is like the threadbare cushion you might sitting on? Its patted down stuffing testifying to the generational stories of faith that need to be heard and the ones that still need to be told. Or perhaps the Kingdom of God is like a cracked vase that is holding the flowers on the chancel. Once shattered but not discarded. Rather, lovingly restored by hands who still saw its beauty and worth.

The Kingdom of God is like...

It’s now your turn to see with eyes of faith and make a new parable for today.

Story-telling God, may our voice speak of the parables still needing to be told. May everything we see and savor, touch and taste, remind us of the goodness of Your kingdom that is here on Earth all around us. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.