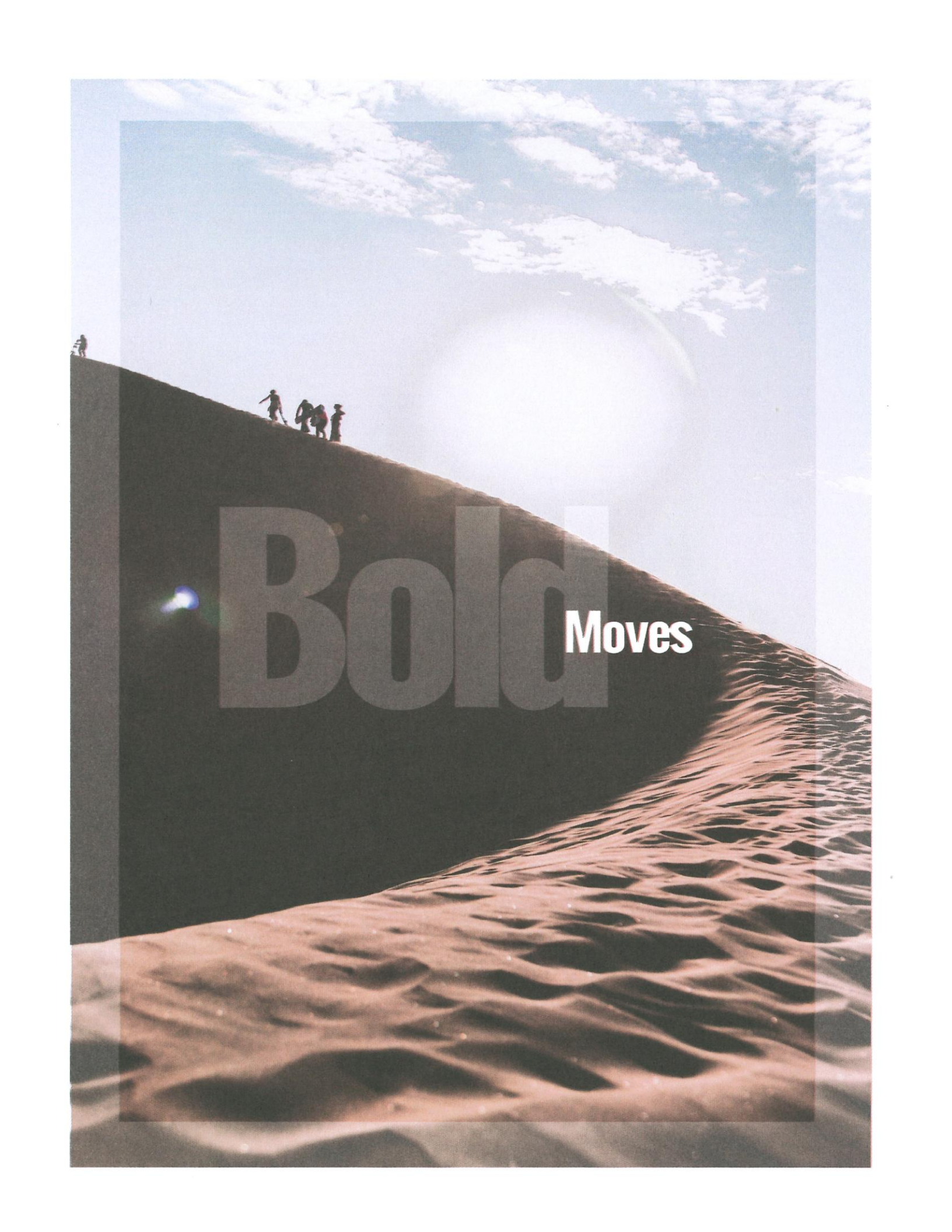


A photograph of a vast desert landscape featuring a large sand dune. The dune's surface is covered in intricate, wavy patterns of sand. At the peak of the dune, a group of about five people are standing, their silhouettes visible against the bright sky. The sun is positioned high in the sky, creating a strong lens flare and casting a long, dark shadow of the dune across the foreground. The sky is a pale blue with scattered white clouds. The overall mood is one of adventure and exploration.

Bold Moves



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
LAITY SUNDAY
August 16, 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

"You are Welcome Here"

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Words of Welcome & Announcements

INTROIT

"Come, Now Is the Time to Worship"

**Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come just as you are, to worship. Come just as you are, before your God.
Come.**

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 have climbed trees and over mountains hoping to find a place of
belonging.

All: Love is possible.

One: We cross the boundaries that divide us by ages and stages,
ethnicities and genders, hurts and disagreements.

All: Love is possible.

One: We open our hearts and ready our hands to reach out to one another, and

discover One who is within and beyond us.

All: Love is possible.

One: Let us worship together in love.

***INVOCATION**

Christ is with us!

Christ is in our midst!

We reach out to you, God, in our believing and in our doubting. We reach out to you with our dreams, our songs, and our listening. We know you have already reached out to us before we even thought about reaching out to you, so we come to give you thanks today. Amen.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "The Church's One Foundation"

PASTORAL PRAYER

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Congregational Prayer Paula Dorhout, Moderator

Gracious God, our hearts hold both joy and pain. We thank you for the bright moments this week—and quiet mercies that caught us by surprise. We also bring you our heavy burdens. We lift up those who are sick, those who grieve, and those facing futures they fear. Comfort the lonely, provide for the needy, and steady our fractured world with your peace. Now, hear the prayer Jesus taught us:

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 "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.

There's a presence of peace in this room, there's the presence of peace in this room. In God's tenderness is found peace that passes human bounds. There's the presence of peace in this room. *Refrain*

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Stephen Spencer, Trustee

"The Name of the Lord"

***DOXOLOGY** (*Deacons Judith and Isaac 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**

Generous God, we thank you for every gift. We give back these tithes and offerings with joyful hearts. Bless these gifts, multiply their impact, and use them to strengthen this church, support our community, and spread your love for all. Amen.

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

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph couldn't hold himself in any longer, keeping up a front before all his attendants. He cried out, "Leave! Clear out—everyone leave!" So there was no one with Joseph when he identified himself to his brothers. But his sobbing was so violent that the Egyptians couldn't help but hear him. The news was soon reported to Pharaoh's palace. Joseph spoke to his brothers: "I am Joseph. Is my father really still alive?" But his brothers couldn't say a word. They were speechless—they couldn't believe what they were hearing and seeing.

"Come closer to me," Joseph said to his brothers. They came closer. "I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into Egypt. But don't feel badly, don't blame yourselves for selling me. God was behind it. God sent me here ahead of you to save lives. There has been a famine in the land now for two years; the famine will continue for five more years—neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me on ahead to pave the way and make sure there was a remnant in the land, to save your lives in an amazing act of deliverance. So you see, it wasn't you who sent me here but God. He set me in place as a father to Pharaoh, put me in charge of his personal affairs, and made me ruler of all Egypt. "Hurry back to my father. Tell him, 'Your son Joseph says: I'm master of all of Egypt. Come as fast as you can and join me here. I'll give you a place to live in Goshen where you'll be close to me—you, your children, your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and anything else you can think of. I'll take care of you there completely. There are still five more years of famine ahead; I'll make sure all your needs are taken care of, you and everyone connected with you—you won't want for a thing.' "Look at me. You can see for yourselves, and my brother Benjamin can see for himself, that it's me, my own mouth, telling you all this. Tell my father all about the high position I hold in Egypt, tell him everything you've seen here, but don't take all day—hurry up and get my father down here." Then Joseph threw himself on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. He then kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Only then were his brothers able to talk with him.

Psalms 133

How very good and pleasant it is

when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head,

running down upon the beard,

upon the beard of Aaron,

running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon,

which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there God ordained the blessing,
the blessing of life forevermore..

Matthew 15:10-28

He then called the crowd together and said, "Listen, and take this to heart. It's not what you swallow that pollutes your life, but what you vomit up."

Later his disciples came and told him, "Did you know how upset the Pharisees were when they heard what you said?" Jesus shrugged it off. "Every tree that wasn't planted by my Father in heaven will be pulled up by its roots. Forget them. They are blind men leading blind men. When a blind man leads a blind man, they both end up in the ditch." Peter said, "I don't get it. Put it in plain language." Jesus replied, "You, too? Are you being willfully stupid? Don't you know that anything that is swallowed works its way through the intestines and is finally defecated? But what comes out of the mouth gets its start in the heart. It's from the heart that we vomit up evil arguments, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, lies, and cussing. That's what pollutes. Eating or not eating certain foods, washing or not washing your hands—that's neither here nor there."

From there Jesus took a trip to Tyre and Sidon. They had hardly arrived when a Canaanite woman came down from the hills and pleaded, "Mercy, Master, Son of David! My daughter is cruelly afflicted by an evil spirit." Jesus ignored her. The disciples came and complained, "Now she's bothering us. Would you please take care of her? She's driving us crazy." Jesus refused, telling them, "I've got my hands full dealing with the lost sheep of Israel." Then the woman came back to Jesus, went to her knees, and begged. "Master, help me." He said, "It's not right to take bread out of children's mouths and throw it to dogs." She was quick: "You're right, Master, but beggar dogs do get scraps from the master's table." Jesus gave in. "Oh, woman, your faith is something else. What you want is what you get!" Right then her daughter became well.

of them climbed into the boat, and the wind died down. The disciples in the boat, having watched the whole thing, worshiped Jesus, saying, "This is it! You are God's Son for sure!"

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PREPARATION

"Amazing Grace"

Arr. Craig Courtney

SERMON

"Bold Moves"

Book Reading by:
Louise Dempster, Deacon

***CLOSING HYMN**

"They'll Know We are Christians"

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

Joanna Hollis, Deacon

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine on you; be gracious to you; and give you peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

Arr. Aaron Adderley

DEPART TO SERVE



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

Michelle Benghttt, Jane Granduskey, Vanessa Nuñez

Deacons Assisting

Louise Dempster

Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns

Joys: All Birthdays in August! Our Church Family! Live Streaming!

Concerns:

Sharon Smith; Sam Clark; 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; 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; Linda Padmore's niece, Yvette & sister, Christine; Donna's brother, Clevert; George Gerson's Brother, Michael; Borjana's son, Petar; George Gerson's friends, Diane & Timothy Scott; George Gerson's nephew, Glenn; 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. 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

Based on the reconciliation between Joseph and his brothers, students will look for signs of God at work in the world. Today's Sunday School teacher is Michelle Benghttt.



The Church's One Foundation

Eph. 2:13-22; 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11

Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three-in - One,



we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.



From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,



with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.



The Name of the Lord

Unison

F Fmaj7 Bb/F

1 Bless-ed be the name of the Lord, Bless-ed be the name of the Lord;
 2 Glo-ry to the name of the Lord, Glo-ry to the name of the Lord;
 3 Ho-ly is the name of the Lord, Ho-ly is the name of the Lord;

C/F F F/A Bb C Bb/C C

Bless-ed be the name of the Lord Most High!
 Glo-ry to the name of the Lord Most High!
 Ho-ly is the name of the Lord Most High!

Bb/C F Fmaj7 Bb/F

Bless-ed be the name of the Lord, Bless-ed be the name of the Lord;
 Glo-ry to the name of the Lord, Glo-ry to the name of the Lord;
 Ho-ly is the name of the Lord, Ho-ly is the name of the Lord;

C/F F F/A Bb F/C C7 F

Bless-ed be the name of the Lord Most High!
 Glo-ry to the name of the Lord Most High!
 Ho-ly is the name of the Lord Most High!

Bb/F F F Bb/F

The name of the Lord is a strong tow-

F Gm/F F C C7sus

- er; the right-eous run in - to it,

F Bb/F F Bb/F

and they are saved. The name of the Lord is

F Gm/F F

a strong tow - er; the right-eous run in -

C C7sus F Bb/F F

- to it, and they are saved.

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.



KINDNESS IS LOVE IN ACTION CONTINUES!



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 enjoying putting our kindness into Action!

We have a sheet on the soundboard (or email 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/>



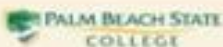
PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS ON Tuesday, August 18, 2026

For questions regarding your voting precinct, contact the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections at (561) 656-6200.



Union is a Voting Site for PRECINCT # 8631 only.

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



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

MEET
CANDIDATES
ONE-ON-ONE

Trustees hard at work!



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

We are excited to share that Union's Food Pantry is transitioning to a team-based approach. This new model will allow volunteers to share responsibilities, work together more effectively, and ensure the pantry continues to serve our community with care and compassion. By working as a team, we can build on each person's strengths, provide greater support for one another, and create a sustainable ministry for the future. We are grateful for everyone who has faithfully served the Food Pantry over the years and look forward to this new chapter of collaboration. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. A sign-up sheet will be on the soundboard for baggers and shoppers.

"BACK-TO-SCHOOL" APPRECIATION

A special THANKS to all who helped
make "Back-To-School Sundae"
a great success!

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

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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, August 16, 2026

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

11:15 AM – Fellowship - All are welcome!

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 – Florida Primary Election!

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM Union is a voting site. Precinct # 8631 only.

Tuesday - Friday – The Prayer Room is Open!

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

Sunday, August 23, 2026

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

11:15 AM – Fellowship - All are welcome!



**JUST
PEACE**
SUNDAY 9.20.2026

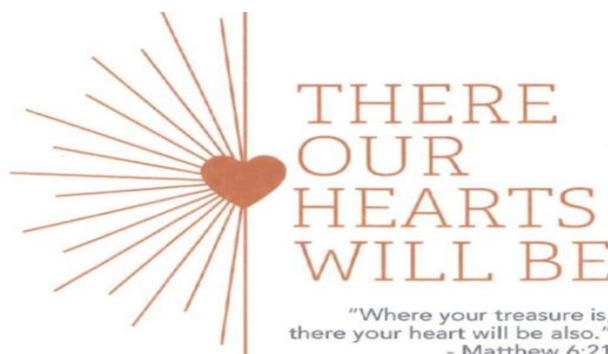
**God's Economy:
People Over Profit**

"I choose to give to this last the same as I
give to you... The last will be first, and the
first will be last." Matthew 20:14-16



STEWARDSHIP NOTE

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



"Where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also."
- Matthew 6:21

August 16, 2026

Genesis 45:1-15

Bold Moves

I recently heard a saying that if you hold tightly to grudges your hands are not free to catch the blessings.

Joseph, the dreamer in the Bible, had every right to hold a grudge. He was betrayed by his brothers and sold to a group of Ishmaelites who then brought him to Egypt.

The young boy could have allowed his circumstances to sour his spirit. But he didn't. Instead, Joseph grew up, rising to the position of prime minister to the Pharaoh. He was second-in-command of all of Egypt.

So, when a seven-year famine, in which Joseph had seen in one of his dreams, devastated his family's land of Caanan, he was now able to help his brothers who came seeking relief. At first, though, they didn't recognize Joseph as the brother they had sold. But as the story unfolds, the tears of realization and redemption flow freely among the broken siblings.

Joseph's story is not an easy one for us to embrace, especially when we prefer the heaviness of grudges to the lightness of forgiveness. But it is a story that reminds us that wrongs can be righted on the God path. In those times of feeling lost and wondering where in heaven's name is God, we must not let despair or even anger take hold.

I know this is easier said than done. Even as I write, I hesitate with each click of the keyboard because while my heart knows how gracious God is, my head is reciting a monologue of doubt. If my hands weren't typing, I am sure they would be found curled into a tight ball of frustration, hurt and anger.

It is not easy to believe that good can come out of something painful. But it can. Because God is our God of bold moves, and the boldest of moves was showing us that new life does emerge from the tomb.

Hope never dies. But holding on to that grudge is slowly doing its best to suffocate it. So put down this bulletin right now, unclench your hands, and catch that blessing.

Redemptive God, help us to let go of the grudges that we have been holding on to for far too long. May we realize they are serving no purpose in our lives. They are, in fact, robbing us of the life You want for us. With Your help, pry our clenched fists open now. We surrender all the hurt to you and wait patiently for the blessings. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.