

OCTOBER 25, 2026



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
a just world for all



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE COMPASSIONATE LIFE



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

October 25, 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

"I Will Enter His Gates"

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.

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

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: Our journey with the people of Israel now brings us to the edge of
grief. Nothing is as it was. The story has changed.**

All: We welcome God's grace.

One: We come to remember what it means to be alive.

All: We invite Christ's love.

One: We come together to imagine and dream beyond the pain. Into the unknown, we lean on each other to share our stories.

All: We welcome the Spirit's comfort.

One: Let us find ourselves in God's story today.

All: Let our stories come alive with God's love.

***INVOCATION -**

Christ is with us!

Christ is in our midst!

Come, dwell with us, O God. Mountains may crumble. Time might pass, and it will feel like everything has changed, but you will be in our breath. You will be with us. You will be Spirit, Comforter, Encourager and Guide, reminding us to breathe in and breathe out. Come and breathe with us now. O God, fill us with your presence in each breath. 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 You to Survive"

I need you, you need me, we're all a part of God's body, stand with me, come be with me, we're all a part of God's body. It is God's will that every need be supplied, you are important to me, I need you to survive, you are important me, I need you to survive. (Repeat)

OFFERTORY STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Patti Yacks
Fellowship Team

Song: "All Together We Have Power"

***DOXOLOGY** (*Deacons Stephen 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**

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

READING OF SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 34:1–12

Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, across from Jericho. There the LORD showed him the whole land—from Gilead to Dan, all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. Then the LORD said to him, “This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.”

And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over.

Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.

Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, who did all those signs and wonders the LORD sent him to do in Egypt—to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17

O God, you have been our dwelling-place

in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

You turn us back to dust,

and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past,

or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away; they are like a dream,

like grass that is renewed in the morning;

in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;

in the evening it fades and withers.

Turn, O God! How long?

Have compassion on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,

and for as many years as we have seen evil.

Let your work be manifest to your servants,

and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Sovereign our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—

O prosper the work of our hands!

Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard how he had bested the Sadducees, they gathered their forces for an assault. One of their religion scholars spoke for them, posing a question they hoped would show him up: “Teacher, which command in God’s Law is the most important?” Jesus said, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’ This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs from them.”

As the Pharisees were regrouping, Jesus caught them off balance with his own test question: “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said, “David’s son.” Jesus replied, “Well, if the Christ is David’s son, how do you explain that David, under inspiration, named Christ his ‘Master’? God said to my Master, Sit here at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool.” “Now if David calls him ‘Master,’ how can he at the same time be his son?” That stumped them, literalists that they were. Unwilling to risk losing face again in one of these public verbal exchanges, they quit asking questions for good.

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PREPARATION

“Goodness of God”

Soloist, Michelle Benght

SERMON

“The Compassionate Life”

Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Blessed Assurance”

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“What the World Needs Now Is Love”

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

Junior Deacon Nathan, Kirk Dorhout, Sabita Shah

Deacons Assisting

Judith Mooers

Union's Joys & Prayer Concerns

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

Concerns:

Vanessa's family and friends; Joan Gerson; Ada Harvey's husband, Jim; Dorothy Bates; Linda Padmore; Paula & Kirk's daughter, Jenny; Sharon Smith; Sam Clark; Zaida's family & friends; Susan Young's family and friends, Jan Mark; Debbie Englert; Linda Padmore; Stephen Spencer; 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

Students will explore the greatest commandment and it's roots in the Hebrew Scriptures.
Today's Sunday School teacher is Rebekah Gay.



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS SUNDAY



Each October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM) brings people together to raise awareness, inspire action, and support those affected by breast cancer. It's a powerful reminder that awareness matters—but it's our actions that save lives. Today, October 25, 2026, we will celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness!

COMMUNITY KICK OFF

Kick off a new year of working together for justice in Palm Beach County.

FEATURING A

County Commission Candidate Forum on Affordable Housing

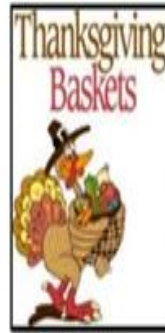
Hear directly from candidates for Palm Beach County Commission about their plans to address our affordable housing crisis.



**Monday,
October 26th
7pm**



St. Juliana Catholic Church
4500 S Dixie Hwy, West
Palm Beach 33405



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

The Fellowship Team is accepting monetary donations for Thanksgiving gift cards so families can purchase their own

Thanksgiving Meal. We would like to set a goal this year for 8 Meals of \$50 each. You can see George Gerson or Paula Dorhout to make donations.

Thank you very much for your support.



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/>



HOW DO YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS CONNECT?

The Nominating Team will review your forms as we prepare for the 2027 Ministry Teams' slate.

What calls you deep in your heart?

What does your inner voice speak?

Is there a deep gift you have that might meet a deep need? Place your Spiritual Gift Discernment form in the box on the soundboard. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Sheila or Paula Dorhout, Moderator.



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-ning; 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-ning, 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.

All Together We Have Power

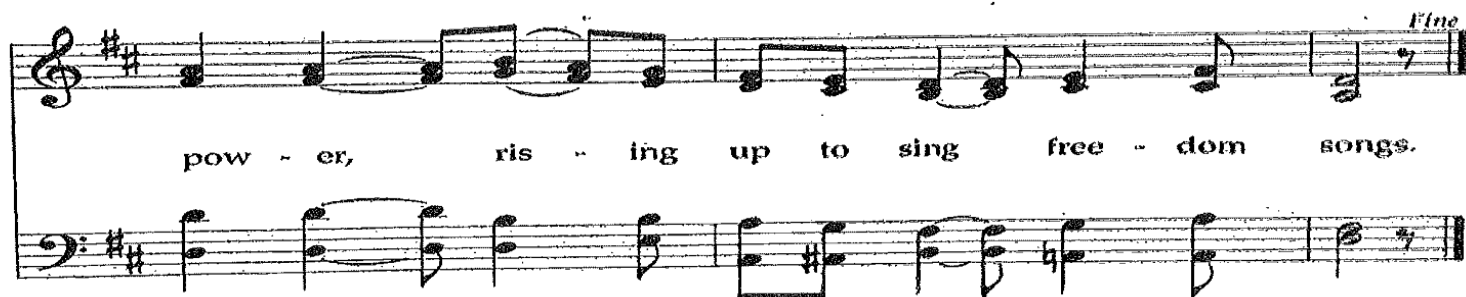
Isaiah 58:12



All to - geth - er we have pow - er, ris - ing



up a - gainst all the wrong; all to - geth - er we have



pow - er, ris - ing up to sing free - dom songs. *Fine*



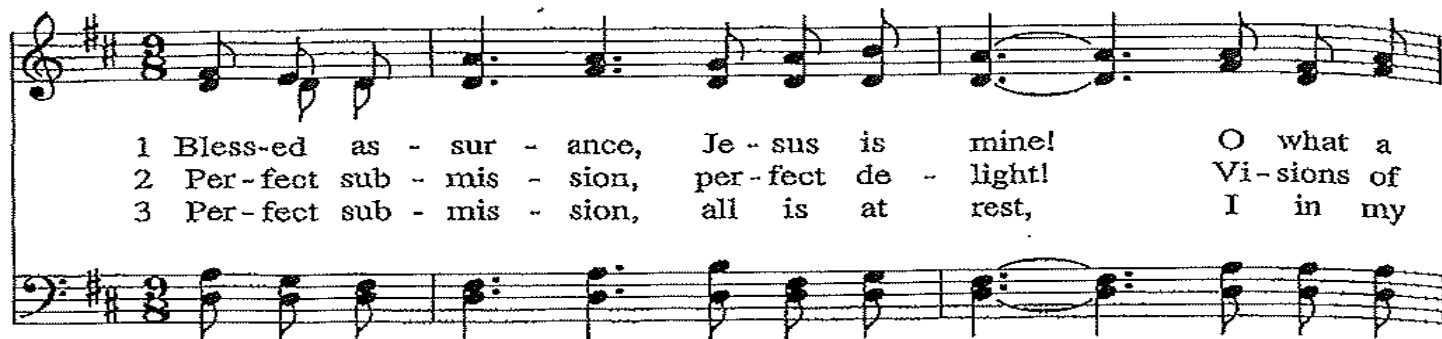
1. The Spir - it in us feels so strong,
2. When we are sti - fled and op - pressed;
3. When things a - round us don't feel right,
4. The Spir - it in all brings new birth,



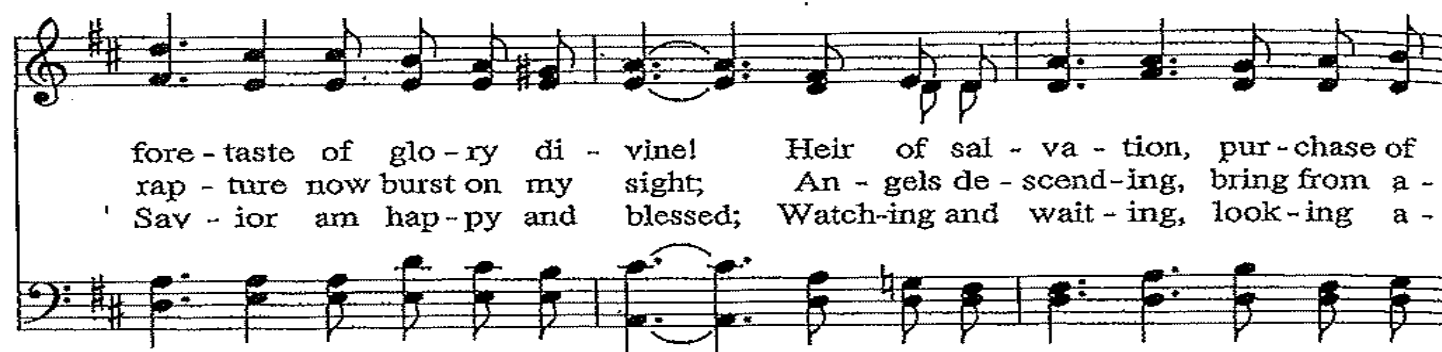
giv - ing us hope to la - bor long.
we will all share our deep dis - tress.
we will re - sist with all our might.
mov - ing with love through all the earth. *D.C. al Fine*

Acts 17:30-31; Rev. 7:9-14

Fanny Crosby, 1873; alt.



1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per-fect sub - mis - sion, per-fect de - light! Vi-sions of
 3 Per-fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my



fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blessed; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -



God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

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 Benghttt

Tom Richards

Sexton (Temporary)

Vanessa Nuñez

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, October 25, 2026

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

11:15 AM – Fellowship - All are welcome!

12:15 PM – Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday - Friday – The Prayer Room is Open!

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

Sunday, November 1, 2026 Communion & Honoring All Saints/ Souls day

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

11:15 AM – Fellowship - All are welcome!

12:15 PM – Handbell Rehearsal



YOU ARE INVITED



132 YEARS

**Church Anniversary Celebration
November 22, 2026**

Ministry Investment Opportunities!

***Anniversary Luncheon Sponsor**

***Silent Auction Participation**

***Church Calendar**

Life People ask Jesus questions for a variety of reason. Sometimes they want to seek answers or ideas. They want to know more about themselves and their place in Christ's kin-dom. They want to hear Jesus' teachings and stories. And sometimes, they just want to trick Jesus, or trip him up. They want to ask him a question with no answer. When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." After this exchange, Jesus asks a question that those gathered cannot answer, about the nature of humanity and divinity. Question and answer exchanges are part of living and loving. On this Higher Education Sunday, we honor those institutions connected with the United Church of Christ where questions are welcome not as a barrier to faith, but as a sign of it. There are 48 educational institutions related to the United Church of Christ, including academies, colleges, universities, and seminaries. They span the United States. Each is independent, self-governing, and fully accredited. Each institution expresses partnership with the church. Closely related schools participate as full members of the UCC Council for Higher Education. Others are historically related, which means they recognize a past relationship with the church but are not full members of the Council. These institutions provide opportunities to explore moral values, the importance of social responsibility, an ethic of service, and the ability to think critically. Many have campus ministries that are ecumenical and interfaith. Each embodies the UCC ethos where God is Still Speaking (<https://www.ucc.org/about/higher-education/>).