

UNION TIDINGS

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

Volume 133, Issue 9

October 2026

How to be Amazing: Never Give Up!

“I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.” –Revelation 2:19

These are exciting times for our church! With so many new friends and caring ministries being embraced in our congregation, a wonderful energy permeates our sacred space here at Union.

Throughout the summer, our attendance in worship was strong, our commitment to service did not waver and our compassion to care for one another did not cease. The energy here at Union continues to remain connected to God's loving purpose for our lives, this church, and our neighbors near and far.

Seeing your faithfulness and the love shown through the many acts of kindness is stunning. We persevere to ‘be the church’ and the ‘people of the church’. Being encouraged each week, by the Holy presence of God, who is among us in our inclusive worship, multigenerational fellowship, religious formation, welcoming of new friends, in the ways we seek justice and peace, and in our continuous praise to God. Church, you are amazing!



*In honor of Union's 132 Years of 'Being the Church' in West Palm Beach, we are excited to 'Imagine Together with Hope' how we might continue shining God's love and light near and far. During several weeks, you will hear more about how we as a congregation are responding to God's invitation to bring our best before God. We hope you make plans to join us on **Sunday, November 22, 2026**, as we give thanks for the church and join in our **132nd Anniversary Celebration Luncheon and Silent Auction**.*

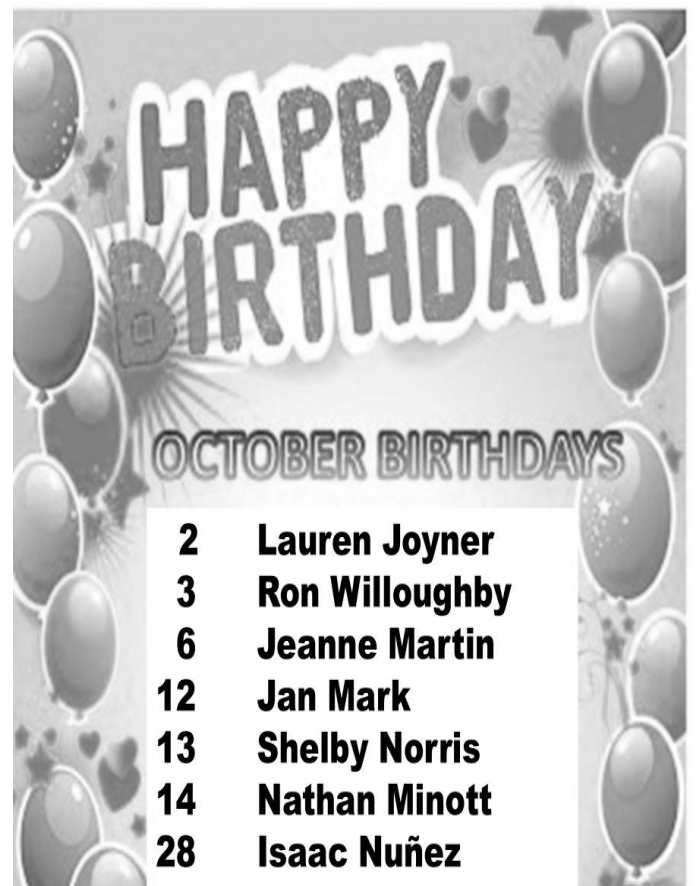
Thank you for your kindness and life-changing ministry at Union. May God continue to bless this church and each of our amazing members and friends. May it be so. Amen.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Sheila



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: 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



- | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 2 | Lauren Joyner |
| 3 | Ron Willoughby |
| 6 | Jeanne Martin |
| 12 | Jan Mark |
| 13 | Shelby Norris |
| 14 | Nathan Minott |
| 28 | Isaac Nuñez |

**How can I
give to
Union UCC?**

MOBILE:
Scan this
Code



ONLINE:
UNIONUCC.NET (GIVE)

ENVELOPE:
CASH AND CHECKS MADE
PAYABLE TO UNION UCC

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.



HAVE A GREAT
Labor
DAY

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.



Spiritual Gifts

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Sunday, October 11th, we welcomed our new members to Union Congregational United Church of Christ.

Denise Duggan
Carol Durney
Benjamin Helbling
Tory Renza
Patti Strawser
Demetra Sweeting



UNION'S CALENDAR
Church Anniversary Celebration on
November 22, 2026



All are invited to share a photo of yourself for Union's 2027 Calendar. Your photo will be featured on your birthday month.

Please send your photo and birthday month to
Zaida@unionucc.net by Tuesday, November 10, 2026.

PEACE

PEOPLE ENGAGED IN
ACTIVE COMMUNITY EFFORTS



COMMUNITY KICK-OFF

Monday, October 26, 2026
7:00 PM 8:30 PM

St Juliana Catholic Church
4500 South Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach, Florida, 33405



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/>



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.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

We are excited to share that Union's Food Pantry has transitioned to a team-based approach. This new model allows volunteers to share responsibilities, work together more effectively, and ensure the pantry continues to serve our community with care and compassion. In October, we distributed more than 100 bags to our neighbors. 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.





The Justice Corner
Did You Know?



Voting is something we do as individuals. Elections are something we do as a community.

A ballot cast in a curtained booth or on a kitchen table looks like a private act, and in a real sense it is. But the work of getting a ballot cast (registering, reminding, planning, driving, watching kids, asking the question one more time) belongs to everyone. Inviting your friends, family, and neighbors into an election is inviting them into deeper belonging and shared responsibility for the place you live. Our Faith Our Vote calls this voting with love: love for the neighbor standing in line beside you, the one who couldn't get a ride, the one who didn't think their vote mattered, and the one who hasn't been asked. Decades of political science research point to the same finding: the single strongest predictor of whether a person votes is whether someone they know and trust personally asked them to —a friend, a neighbor, a fellow congregant.

Where Does the UCC Stand on Democracy and Voting Rights

The United Church of Christ believes that having access to the ballot box is essential for being a faithful citizen. With increasing attacks on the Voting Rights Act, the UCC denomination has urged the church to strongly defend voting rights through advocacy, education, and public action. The UCC strongly opposes voter suppression measures like restrictive voter ID laws and cuts to early voting, especially when they unfairly affect communities of color. Democratic participation is crucial for a just society and protecting the most vulnerable. The UCC sees democratic participation as a way to show Christian responsibility and be part of a covenantal community. The church encourages members to not only vote but also actively participate in civic life, advocate for a government that is transparent and accountable, and defend the rights of all people to fully participate in the democratic process. This commitment reflects the UCC's long-standing dedication to advancing social justice and dignity for everyone.

Prayer

God of justice and compassion, we give thanks for the gift of community and the responsibilities of citizenship. Guide us to build a society where every voice is heard, every person is valued, and every voter can participate freely and safely in the democratic process. Strengthen us to resist fear, division, and hatred, and help us pursue truth, dignity, and common good. We pray in the name of Christ, who calls us to love our neighbors and seek justice. Amen.

Visit UCC website for more information on
Our Faith Our Vote 2026
Vote with Love 2026

<https://www.ucc.org/our-faith-our-vote/>

"There our Hearts will be"

Stewardship Campaign Oct. 2026

Mathew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Good morning, church family. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus offers a profound truth that flips how we typically view our lives. He says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Notice the direction of that sentence. He doesn't say our money follows our feelings. He says our hearts follow our investments. What we intentionally cultivate, care for, and pour our time, attention, and resources into—that is exactly where our passion, energy, and love will end up anchoring themselves.

As a United Church of Christ community, we often talk about an open, extravagant welcome. We talk about being a people of justice, a people of peace, and a community shaped deeply by grace. This stewardship season, our theme invites us into a deep spiritual alignment: **"There Our Hearts Will Be."** It challenges us to ask an honest question: Do the things we call our "treasures" actually reflect our deepest commitments? When we pour our resources into this congregation, we aren't just funding a line item on a budget or paying for electricity. We are planting our hearts directly into the soil of God's transforming work. We are placing our hearts with the **families** who find refuge and grace here. We are placing our hearts with the **hungry** served through our local food pantry. We are placing our hearts with every person who steps through our doors needing to hear that no matter who they are, or where they are on life's journey, they are loved by God. Stewardship isn't about performative giving or rigid obligation. It is the quiet, courageous, and joyful act of placing our lives and resources into God's hands. It's a spiritual practice that shifts our focus away from scarcity and anchors us firmly in God's abundant love. So as we reflect on this theme over the coming weeks, let's ask ourselves as a community: Where do we want our hearts to be? What kind of future are we willing to invest in together?

Let us practice a generosity that is rooted, Spirit-led, and transformative. Let us commit to putting our treasures where we truly want our lives to follow. May our giving be a clear, beautiful reflection of our faith.



Where our treasure is... there our hearts will be. Amen.

JOURNEY TO CELEBRATION SUNDAY



Each Sunday, you will hear Union's
Ministry Team Leaders share the many ways
we live into being the Church together.

Because of YOU our Church Changes Lives!

YOUTH & KIDS CORNER

UNION'S CHILDREN & YOUTH!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 1, 2026

11:30AM Brandon's book signing

12:00PM Youth Rehearsal for Celebration Sunday

12:30PM Pizza Party and talk about upcoming events

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT
OFFICE@UNIONUCC.NET.

October 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	2 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	3 Food Pantry 9am-11:30 am 
4 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming World Communion Sunday	5	6 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	7 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	8 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	9 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	10
11 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming New Member Sunday	12	13 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	14 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	15 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	16 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	17
18 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming	19	20 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	21 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	22 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	23 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	24
25 Worship 10 AM FB Live Streaming Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday	26 PEACE Community Kick-Off 7pm—8:30pm St Juliana Catholic Church	27 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	28 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	29 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	30 9am-1pm Office Hours Prayer room open	31

YOU ARE INVITED



132 YEARS

**Church Anniversary Celebration
November 22, 2026**

Ministry Investment Opportunities!

***Anniversary Luncheon Sponsor**

***Silent Auction Participation**

***Church Calendar**

*Union Congregational United Church of Christ
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October News Especially for you:

