

September 24, 2017

### United Church of Christ Reaches Out in Love

A Disaster Ministries team from the national United Church of Christ is traveling this week (Sept. 20-26) to parts of the country ravaged by hurricanes Harvey and Irma to learn more about the mission work in which local churches are involved and to plot long-term recovery plans. It's part of the UCC effort to love stricken communities in Texas and Florida back to life.

Team members are travelling first to Florida to help church communities prepare for the next steps in recovery, to look at setting up response networks, and to see what type of ministry work will be needed for long-term recovery from the hurricanes. In Texas, the Disaster Ministries team is already well into planning and launching long-term recovery.

On Sept. 24, the Disaster Ministries team will be worshipping with a congregation on Marco Island ravaged by Hurricane Irma. The team is working with local churches to ensure that UCC has a personal presence to help people as they decide how they need to recover and to assist those who may fall through the cracks.

The team will meet with the UCC Florida Conference disaster coordinator who reported that assessments as to what needs to be done in the state have been proceeding slowly, as areas become accessible, and the power returns.

The Disaster Ministries team will also be monitoring current recovery work, to see how the gifts to the UCC Hurricane Irma appeal can best be used, now and going forward. For instance, the UCC just sent a solidarity grant to the Miami Shores Community Church. With no power, and under a boil water advisory, the church had been distributing ice, canned food and drinking water to anyone who needed it and using the building's generator to charge cell phones and tablets.

The grant, using money from funds designated for Hurricane Irma recovery, may help the congregation realize plans to offer a hot meal to feed the families in their neighborhood who have not been able to cook.

The team will also work with the disaster coordinator to determine the best timetable for volunteers. Volunteers will soon be sent out on a very limited basis as part of the early response with more volunteers assigned in six to eight months to focus on housing recovery and rebuilding work.

UCC will be present in these areas of devastation as long as there is a need, being what the church is called to be.

- taken from article written by Connie Larkman on ucc.org website

## UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

September 24, 2017

Sunday Morning Worship

10:00 AM



### Welcome

in Christ's name to all who are visiting.

We are an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. Please let us know you were here by filling out one of the guest cards provided by the ushers. We are blessed by having you here. May you also be blessed because you worshipped God with us.

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**September 24, 2017**

**10:00 AM**

**GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER**

**Music for Quiet Reflection**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Matthew 20:1-16)**

One: Our eyes are heavy. Our hope is soaring. We wait in the marketplace.

**ALL: Our God is gracious.**

One: Our feet are tired. Our expectations rise. We are hired first.

**ALL: Our God is merciful.**

One: Our backs are sore. Our spirits are low. We are paid last.

**ALL: Our God is slow to anger.**

One: Our temples flare. Our anger rages. We take what belongs to us.

**ALL: Our God abounds in steadfast love.**

**Opening Hymn** "Come, Thou Almighty King" #4 green hymnal

**Opening Prayer (unison) (inspired by Matthew 20:1-16)**

Call all the laborers, O God; Call your laborers who woke early, Call your laborers who came late. Call your laborers who feel wronged Call your laborers who feel overlooked, Call your laborers who can't feed their children with this wage, Call your laborers who know they are working in your fields Call your laborers who use their wage to increase your love, Call all your laborers, O God, Tell us to roll up our sleeves For we know that we have work to do. Let us find you in the work we share here and now, in Christ's presence we pray. **Amen.**

**GOD'S PEOPLE LISTEN**

**Anthem** "Ever Faithful" by Cindy Berry

**Learning Community Conversation**

(Children leave for Sunday School through the Fellowship Room afterwards)

\* **Fellowship Hymn:** "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" #292 green hymnal

**Reading from Scripture** Matthew 20:1-16 pew Bible #20 NT

L: God is still speaking to us through the Living Word.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** "Order? Order?? Order!!!"

**Anthem** "Sing Out Your Song Christians of the World" by Besig & Price

**GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND**

**Responding in Prayer**

Sharing Celebrations & Concerns

Morning Prayer

**The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)**

Response

**Responding through Giving**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

When our eyes are heavy, we dream of another world.

When our spirits are low, we turn to each other.

When our anger flares, we need each other's gifts most.

We give our gifts of tithes and offerings to create your kingdom of heaven.

Offertory:

**Hymn of Praise:** "The Doxology"

\* **Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

O God, you have called your laborers to give their gifts.

Bless these offerings so that they reflect the work of the kingdom of heaven.

With Christ, our servant, we pray. Amen.

**GOD'S PEOPLE LEAVE TO SERVE**

\***Closing Hymn** "Jesus Calls Us" #343 green hymnal

\***Benediction**

\***Response**

**Organ Postlude:**

\***Congregation:** Please rise in body or in spirit.