

UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, August 23, 2026

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, 8/26: Office Hours @ 9 - 11am
Red Wings fundraising afternoon
Food distribution @ 4 - 5pm

Thursday, 8/27: Work Group @ 7:45am (Rise & Grind)

Saturday, 8/29: New Heights AA @ 12 - 1pm

Sunday, 8/30: "Come from Away" ticket money due.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come From Away - Wednesday, October 14 @ 11am, at the Jewish Community Center. Join us to see a true story set to music, accounting the 38 planes that were diverted to Gander, Newfoundland after 911. Tickets are \$25, and checks can be made out to the church and given to Carol Turkett by 8/30.

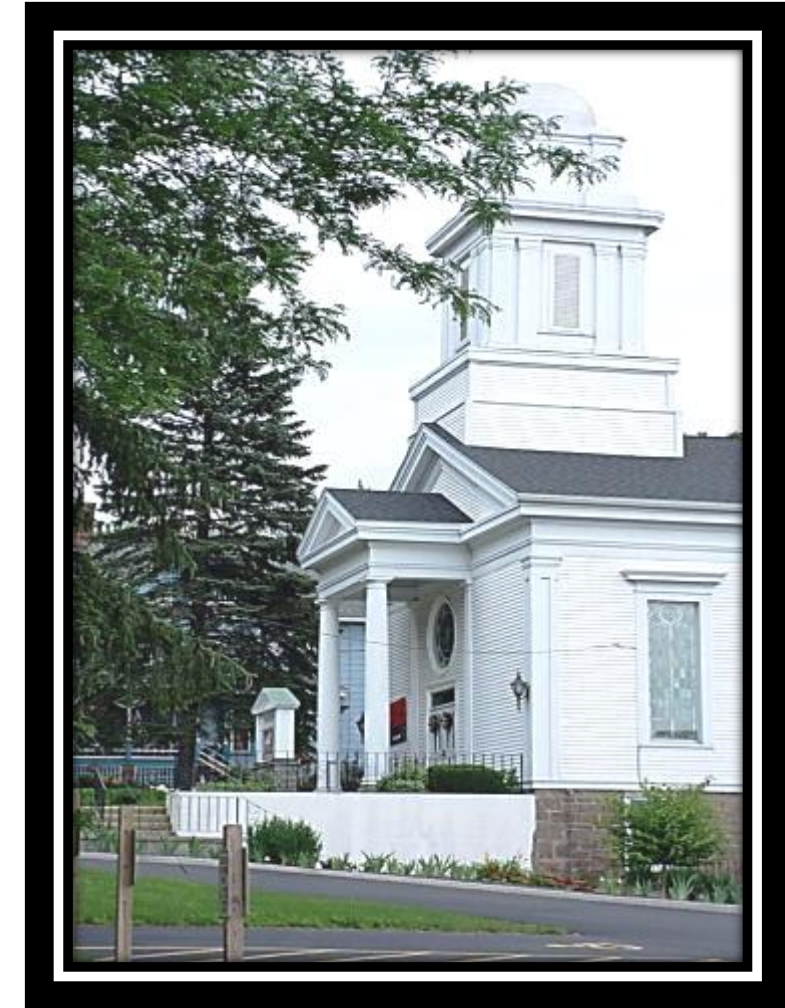
Sign up for the September book club! We're going to be walking through a spiritual formation journey together using the book *Sacred Rhythms* by Ruth Haley-Barton. We will meet for 10 weeks beginning on September 9th at 12pm, bring your lunch as we eat together and then discuss one chapter at a time.

Contact Info for Pastor Eliecia Young:

Email - pastoreliecia@gmail.com

Phone# - 480.235.6506

Office Hours - Wednesdays, from 9am - 11am



W e l c o m e to all who are visiting.

Union Church is an **Open and Affirming** church of the United Church of Christ. We practice extravagant welcome to all. Thank you for being here this morning! No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome.

UNION CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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10:00 AM

Thank you for joining us outdoors today! Please stay afterward for some ice cream and conversation! Make sure to put 9/27 on your calendars to join us outdoors again for a pet blessing service!

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Gathering Hymn	<i>“This Is the Day”</i>	#286
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*Call to Worship

One: Beneath the vast roof of the sky and upon the solid ground of the earth, God calls us together.

Many: We do not come alone. We come as a community, woven by grace.

One: The wind breathes through the trees, and the sun warms our faces. Creation itself sings a song of belonging.

Many: God invites us out of our isolation and names us neighbors, family, and friends.

One: Look to your left. Look to your right. We are surrounded by the body of Christ

Many: Here in this open space, under God's great canopy, let us lift our voices and worship together.

Passing the Peace

***Song** *“Do Lord”*

Unison Invocation

Gracious and loving God, you have called us together from many different places and experiences, reminding us that we are not alone and that we are members one of another. As we gather in this community, open our hearts to your presence and to one another. Transform us by your mercy, that having received your love, we may share it with others and hold the door open for all who seek a place to belong. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

L: God knows our brokenness and God is here bringing peace, healing and wholeness.

P: Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven and by the Holy Spirit we are nurtured to wholeness. Amen

***Song**

“We Shall Overcome”

Children's Chat

Scripture Reading:

Romans 12:1-8

L: God is still speaking to us through the living Word:

P: Thanks be to God.

Message

“Hold the Door Open”

Prayers of the People - Sharing our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

L: Lord in Your mercy.

P: Hear our prayer.

Invitation to the Offering

*** Special Music** *“They’ll Know We Are Christians”*

***Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

Merciful God, receive these gifts, and receive our lives as well. Transform what we offer, however small it may seem, and use it for your purposes. Where there is loneliness, help us offer companionship. Where there is fear, help us offer hope. Where there is pain, help us offer compassion. Remind us that we are many members, yet one body, and that each of us has been given something to share. We pray in the name of the One who calls us into community and makes us members of one another, Amen.

***Closing Song:**

“I’ve Got The Joy”

Benediction

*Indicates that you are invited to stand in body or spirit