



Thin Places



Union Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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Rev. Michael J. Small – Pastor

WELCOME TO UNION CHURCH! Your presence with us enhances our worship - because “no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!”

VISITORS AND GUESTS are invited to sign the guest book in the entry hall beyond the sanctuary doors.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP: We ask all to sign the Friendship Register while the offering is being taken. Then pass it to the center of the aisle noting your neighbor so you may greet them by name. Please leave the pad on the pew, and it will be picked up after the service.

YOU ARE INVITED to come to the Friendship Hall on the main floor after worship for refreshments and fellowship.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Hearing aid units* are available on the table in the entry way or from an usher. *Large print bulletins*, with hymns, are also available from ushers.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN WORSHIP Children worship bulletins, sheets to color for younger children, and “quiet bags” are available on the table in the entry way.

SUNDAY SCHOOL for K-6th grade is downstairs following the anthem except on Communion Sundays (first Sunday of the month) when all are invited to remain in worship.

NURSERY DOWNSTAIRS: infants – 4 years old – see an usher.

THE PRAYER LIST AND SLIPS FOR PRAYER REQUESTS are available on the table in the entry way. Place the Prayer Requests in the offering plate or leave them in the church office.

CDs of the worship service are available from the church office.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are 8:00 am – 12:00 pm Tuesday thru Friday. If you would like an item included in the bulletin, *please email or fill out the form located in the office no later than 9:00 a.m. Thursday.*

February 19, 2012
“Witness to Wonders”
Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration
THE SERVICE OF WORSHIP



WE GATHER AS PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY THE DIVINE

▼ **GATHERING MUSIC**

Sheryl Kaubisch

MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Lois Anderson

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT – RINGING THE BELL

CHORAL BEGINNING

“There's a Spirit of Love in This Place”
Words and music by Mark A. Miller

Choir

GREETING

The Rev. Michael J. Small

▲ **HYMN**

“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”

TNCH 182

CALL TO GATHERING

Don Hoppe

One: Gathering in this sacred place we anticipate new wonders each week.

All: Wherever two or three are gathered to worship, a holy spirit is present.

One: Open our eyes to witness the fantastic love and wondrous joy waiting to be revealed, even this day, even in this place.

All: We will want to linger and camp in this sanctuary but when we leave today may our hearts be open to all the wonders of God’s beautiful world.

PRAYER OF GATHERING

O Holy One, on mountaintops and valley floors you reveal to us the light of your love. Our hearts desire is to bask in the amazing glory of the divine presence. With each encounter we are changed and transformed. Draw us nearer that we might receive a double portion of your Holy Spirit. Help us, O Holy One, to live our lives as a reflection of divine glory. May we walk among our brothers and sister as a blessing, bearing light into dark places, hope to displace despair, and love that casts out hate. Our world is hurting and we need the followers of Jesus to follow more closely. Maybe then we will hear your voice speaking to us and saying, “listen to my Child, the Beloved!” Amen

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you. Amen.

CHORAL CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn Supplement 1

*Sing to the glory of the God who creates us.
Sing to the glory of the Christ who redeems us,
Sing to the glory of the Holy Spirit,
Who sustains and comforts us;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end, world without end, world without end. Amen*

WE LISTEN

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

“Enter Our Hearts”, verse 1

Enter Our Hearts



1. En - ter our hearts, en - ter our hearts, O
2. En - ter our lives, en - ter our lives, O



Spir - it of pow'r and love. May we pro -
Spir - it of pow'r and love. May we ful -



- claim your ho - ly name. O
- fill your ho - ly will. O



Spir - it en - ter our hearts. _____
Spir - it en - ter our lives. _____

(two minutes of silence)

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“Enter Our Hearts”, verse 2

CHILDREN'S TIME (if present)

ANTHEM

"Sing and Dance, Children of God" by Michael Bedford

Choir

READING OF SACRED TEXT

Mark 9:2-9 from *The Inclusive Bible*

² Six days after that, Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone.

³ And there Jesus was transfigured before their eyes; ³ the clothes Jesus wore became dazzlingly white—whiter than any earthly bleach could make them.

⁴ Elijah appeared to them, as did Moses, and the two were talking with Jesus. ⁵ Then Peter spoke to Jesus, “Rabbi,” he said, “how wonderful it is for us to be here! Let us make three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!” ⁶ Peter did not know what he was saying, so overcome were they all with awe.

⁷ Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them; and there came a voice from out of the cloud: “This is my Beloved, my Own; listen to this One.” ⁸ Then suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore—only Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Promised One had risen from the dead.

REFLECTION

“Witness to Wonders”

The Rev. Michael Small

WE RESPOND

RESPONSE

Hymn Supplement 1

May your words to us, O Holy One, be planted in our hearts and blossom in our lives. May our words to you, O Listening One, find harmony in your will. For we pray in the name of the Living One, our Companion and Savior, Jesus Christ.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER (A commonly used form is printed below. You are welcome to use the version of the Lord’s Prayer most meaningful to you. Alternatives: TNCH 60)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil – for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory – forever. Amen

GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(Please pass the Friendship Register)

OFFERTORY

▲ DOXOLOGY and PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

▲ HYMN

“Beautiful Jesus”

TNCH 44

PASTORAL BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Hymn Supplement 1

*May God's blessing shine upon us, may we go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
Amen, Amen.*

POSTLUDE

* * * * *

USHERS today are Harley Kaiser and Bud Leines.

VALET PARKING is available from 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. Just pull up to the canopy for A-1 service. Todd Shaner is your valet.

ATTENDANCE last Sunday Service: 54 Adults, 3 Children.

~~~~ CALENDAR ~~~~

TODAY, FEBRUARY 19:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Jeff Peterson

8:45 AM Choir Practice

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Nursery downstairs for infants – 4 years old

Sunday school for grades K – 6th

11:00 AM **COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP** are offered in the Friendship Hall after the service. **SERVERS** today are Harley and Vae Kaiser and Linda Suvada.

11:30 – 12:30 AM **Adult Study**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20:

9:30 – 11:00 AM **Book Study** - Library

1:30 – 2:30 PM **Bone Builders** – Lower Level

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21:

9:00 – 10:30 AM **Women's Bible Study** meets at Birch View Gardens using Upper Room Discipleship materials.

10:00 – 11:30 AM **Handbell Practice**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Ray Black

1:30 – 2:30 PM **Bone Builders** – Lower Level

3:45 – 6:00 PM **Gifts of the Heart**

6:00 – 6:30 PM **Family Table** – Time changed due to Ash Wednesday

7:00 – 8:00 PM **Youth Group-** cancelled tonight only

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Helene Melgaard

9:00 AM **Sunday Bulletin information deadline**

6:00 PM **Board of Christian Learning**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24:

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Morning out**

1:30 – 2:30 PM **Bone Builders – Lower Level**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Elsa McNelis

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Coffee House**

NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Bob Lyngen

8:45 AM **Choir Practice**

10:00 AM **Worship**

10:00 AM **Nursery downstairs for infants – 4 years old**

Sunday school – Grades K – 6th

11:00 AM **COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP** are offered in the Friendship Hall
after the service. **SERVERS** will be (your name here?).

11:30 – 12:30 **Adult Study**

**Mission of the Month:
Our Church's Wider Mission**

CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE: www.unioncchackensack.com where you will find current pictures, an extended weekly bulletin with more announcements, the current newsletter and the calendar.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST – Minnesota author William Krueger will be at the Pine River – Backus School Media Center at 6:30pm. The event is free and open to the public. More information along with other dates, times and locations is posted on the kiosks.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH - at 3:45pm there is Gifts of Heart and then at 6:00pm please attend the community Lenten Service here at UCC.

NORTHWOODS ARTS COUNCIL DINNER SHOW: SUNDAY MARCH 4TH. This year's show includes a ham and scalloped potato dinner and the old time radio show, "*The Housekeeper*." The show will be at Union Church in Hackensack. Tickets are

\$10.00 each. No tickets will be sold at the door. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available at Southside and Swanson's in Hackensack or Call Ed or Jean at 675-6619.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – is different days! Mark your calendar for Wed –Thurs-Fri – June 27-28-29!

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE is only 5 months away! Donations of all kinds accepted ANYTIME! Please bring donations to the lower level of church or talk with Sheila if you need pick up service by our youth.

Summer Forums: It's time for the Board of Christian Learning to begin scheduling the 2012 summer forums. Do you have any ideas? Is there a topic of interest you would like to see us pursue? If so, please put your idea(s) in the suggestion box in the entry hall.

GRANTS FOR HOME REHABILITATION Information is available on the table outside the church office.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The sign-up sheet for treats and serving is pretty empty.

Please keep fellowship fun and tasty by signing up!

Thank you to all who have served and continue to serve!

Liturgical Colors and the seasons of the church year

The use of colors to differentiate liturgical seasons became a common practice in the Western church in about the fourth century. At first, usages varied considerably but by the 12th century Pope Innocent III systematized the use of five colors: Violet, White, Black, Red and Green. The Lutheran and Anglican churches that emerged from the Reformation retained the traditional colors but they disappeared entirely (along with most other ritual) from the worship of the Reformed churches. During the 20th century, the ecumenical Liturgical Movement prompted the rediscovery of ancient Christian ritual—including the traditional colors of the Western church. To these have been added Blue and Gold—colors that were used in some Western rites before the 12th century.

Briefly, the colors express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons of the liturgical year. Violet is the ancient royal color and therefore a symbol of the sovereignty of Christ. Violet is also associated with repentance from sin. White and Gold symbolize the brightness of day. Black is the traditional color of mourning in some cultures. Red evokes the color of blood, and therefore is the color of martyrs and of Christ's death on the Cross. Red also symbolizes fire, and therefore is the color of the Holy Spirit. Green is the color of growth. Blue is the color of the sky and in some rites honors Mary.

Congregations in the United Church of Christ have the freedom to use any combination of colors (or no particular colors) as seems best to them. The use of traditional colors, however, connects us to the wider Body of Christ and provides worship planners with visual aids that mark the transition from one season to another. Colors can be used in altar and pulpit decorations, vestments, banners and tapestries.