

# UNION TIDINGS

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

*Volume 127, Issue 2*

*February 2020*

## *Give Me a Clean Heart... So I May Serve Thee*

*Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26th, and at 6:30PM we plan to have delicious soup, followed by our 7:30PM service which officially brings us into the Season of Lent!*

*During the Season of Lent, we are called to focus on our personal spiritual growth, and to exercise our capacity to show love and kindness to the wider world. To help us along the journey, all are welcome to grab a free Lenten prayer card from the Prayer Room. In addition, we will have discussions based on our Lenten devotional books at our bible study classes.*

*In worship, our Lenten journey will tell of the Hebrew people going out of Egypt and into a promised new land, and will focus on their journey, Jesus' journey, and our journey of discipleship today. As the worship experience will remind us that we seek to have a deeper relationship with God, and a greater understanding of our faith.*

*Worship during Lent also tells of both the ordinary and unexpected people of the bible who are like us, to teach us that the story of God's unconditional love continues. As there are people like Peter who have denied Jesus; people like Paul who were once persecutors of Jesus' disciples; people like Ananias who gave the gift of healing and reconciliation; and people like Tabitha who cared for others.*

*Lent reminds us that individuals such as these, and the small community of Jesus' followers after the Resurrection, were the beginning of the worldwide church we know today. And it should not be doubted that a group of small people, even one person, can make a significant impact on the world.*

*Let us pray this Lenten prayer: 'O God, you give me new life through your Son. May I seek you with an undivided heart, and grow day by day in your likeness.' Amen.*

*With God's Love,*

*Pastor Sheila*



## FEBRUARY USHERS



Ushers

- 2 - Diaconate
- 9 - Susan Harrell, Robert Herold,  
Jane Louise Smith, Jason Yens/Youth
- 16- Derrick Chea, Donna Minott,  
Ralph Tarricone, Steve Ventimiglia
- 23- Barbara Gruber, Vanessa Nuñez,  
Charlotte Snowden, Melanie Shepherd



*Kay Koch; Ray Lyons, Rosemarie Lightfoot's grandson, DeVon; Marjorie Hanson; Fran Whitney; Amanda's grandson, Puerto Rico earthquakes; George Gerson's brother, Jerome; Melanie's friend, Grace; Beth White's friend, Carolyn Welch; Debbie Bott's friend, Barbara. Sis Murphy; Pastor Sheila's friend, Rashell Rogers' family & friends; Evelyn Chouris' nephews' family, Schall Family & Friends; Dottie and Norma's friend, Sharon's family & Friends; Rosemarie Lightfoot, Christopher Grant, family & friends; Evelyn Chouris' grandson, Christian; Rev. Misti Johnson Arce; Debbie Chea's brother, Joseph Peter Chea; Pastor Sheila's friend, Franchon; Linda Chapman; Jan Mark's daughter, Laura; Bob Modini's son, David; Linda's sister, Yvette, and friend Deborah; Franz Henry; Cleo's friends: Valentina & Angel Guerra; Billie Wilson and daughter Tonja; Barbara Bullock, Charlie Rodriguez, family & friends; Lillyana's mother; Joe & Estelle Fanucci; Fercella Panier's father; George Gerson's family friend, Lilly; Ruth Dietel, Stacea Bowen, family & friends; John Webster's daughter, Sheila; Joanna Hollis' friend, Drew; Ariel Hines, Carolyn & Kent McElroy, Amy McMath's father, Tom McDeavit; Richard Lightfoot's brother, Joseph; Susan DiAmicis' niece, Stephanie; Isabelle Chapman, Jeff Felton Jr.; Charlotte Snowden's son-in-law, Randy; Holly Dozier, Carol Whitlock, Immigration concerns; Justice & Peace efforts*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 George Gerson
- 7 Shermeria Scott
- 10 Stephen Spencer
- 13 Alicia Niemela
- 15 Phil Bruderman
- 16 Vanie Joseph
- 20 Harry Jackson
- 25 Dorothy Boswell
- 27 Alice Payne

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE 2020

MONTH	LEADER	TEAM
January	Rose-Marie Lightfoot	Council
February	Alice Payne	Men's Fellowship
March	Ruth Cassidy	WAAM
April	Charlotte Snowden	Stewardship
May	Barbara Gruber	Justice and Peace
June	Susan D'Amicis	Women's Fellowship
July	Jane Grandusky	Trustees
August	Jane Louise Smith	Fellowship
September	Donna Minott	Youth/Christian Ed
October	Jan Mark	M & O
November	Sabine Wiesbauer	Young at Heart
December	Jody Kistenmacher	Diaconate

## FEBRUARY FELLOWSHIP TIME

Many thanks to Rosemarie Lightfoot and the Council of Ministries for sponsoring our January Fellowship Time.



## FELLOWSHIP TIME IN FEBRUARY

Men's Fellowship and Alice Payne are in charge of the fellowship for February. Any and all support is appreciated with goodies for this special time after church.

# The Ebony Chorale Black History Month Concert



A special thanks to Bob & Jane Louise Smith for keeping our floors clean and shiny!



Bunco Night is always fun, playing and laughing in fellowship with our church family. Stay tuned for our next Bunco night. All are invited to join us!

## MESSAGE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Team effort is vital in making dramatic changes in many lives. We may never know how many lives we touch with our financial contributions, our talents and our time.



Together we love ourselves and one another by sharing God's love that is for all people. We have been called, let us answer the call with a "yes, here I am Lord, use me." If not now, then when? Now is the time to let our light shine brighter than ever before, with our words of encouragement and inspiration, ours acts of love and kindness to all people.

Thank you God for always providing.



### PLEDGE CARDS

Thank you to all who have submitted their for your pledges for 2020. If you haven't submitted yours, you can fill one out and place them in the offering plate. There are some extra cards on the soundboard. STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM



### OFFERING ENVELOPES

The **2020 offering envelopes** are available in the Narthex, please take a moment to pick them up on Sunday before leaving church.



### FOOD PANTRY THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

*We served 41 bags of food on February 1st.  
This included 153 individuals.  
A well deserved thank you to all of our volunteers on this team.*

**Our next Food Pantry date is March 7th.**

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

February 11<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting  
-- 10:00 AM

February 18<sup>th</sup> - General Meeting--10:30 AM Program - Jan Mark, Devotions -- Joanna Hollis Refreshments -- Estelle Fanucci/Joanna Hollis Coffee and dessert will be provided, just bring a brown bag lunch.

Gold Coast Regional Meeting Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> -- 11am to 2pm at First Congregational Church of Lake Worth. Lunch will be provided--no charge.

Reading for Renewal - Check out books to read and get credit.

All women of the church are invited to participate in all activities.

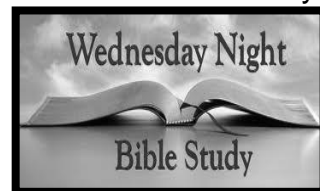


## BIBLE STUDY

In February we will have Bible Study Wednesdays, February 5th, 12th and 19th.

Potluck Dinner- 6:45 PM / 7:15 PM - Bible Study & Youth Group gathering with Mr. Rogers every other Wednesday.

**Everyone is invited to join us.**



On **Wednesday, February 12th, Rev. Amanada Harmeling will join us for Bible Study with a Twist.** A book discussion on W. E. B. Du Bois' *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903), which is a seminal work in African American literature and an American classic. In this work, Du Bois proposes that "the problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color-line." His concepts of life behind the veil of race and the resulting "double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others," have become touchstones for thinking about race in America. In addition to these enduring concepts, *Souls* offers an assessment of the progress of the race, the obstacles to that progress, and the possibilities for future progress as the nation entered the twentieth century.

## YOGA

Yoga is held **Tuesdays at 5:00PM.**

During February, Yoga will be held each Tuesday at 5:00pm except February 18th. There will be no yoga February 18th.

You can make your body stronger doing yoga, helps the mind also, you will need a mat, large towel and comfortable clothing. This is an easy yoga with stretches, balancing and meditation. Contact Charlotte @561-656-4132 for more info.



## YARD WORK - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Most of the yard work on our church property is completed, thanks mostly to Bob Smith.

It would be nice to have a few more hands assisting a couple days a week. If you can volunteer some hours, please call Bob at 561-385-8292 and leave a message. He'll return your call to coordinate days and times. If you have clippers bring them with you. Thanks.



## GLEANNING

There is a sign-up sheet on the soundboard for all those who would like to participate in gleaning on **February 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

# MISSION

*'Missions – a set of tasks that fulfills a purpose, to teach people about Jesus Christ, to Love God and to love others as yourself.'*

Greetings Union!

It's February already, so we've got to get moving. ☺ We're on a mission to find more projects and more ways to help those in need. We had our food pantry available on Sat. Feb 1st to feed those in need. Our goal is to stomp out hunger one family at a time. Our next Mission event will be CWS Blanket & Tools Sunday coming up on Feb 23rd. The scripture is taken from Hebrews 13:6, "...And don't forget to do good & share with those in need." This offering provides blankets and kits to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other crises (including homelessness and poverty). We will also have our first Mission & Outreach meeting of the year on Feb 23rd after fellowship.

Lets continue to strive for more; more love, more grace, more patience, more peace, more of God! The year 2020 offers us another chance to strive for more & to be more like Christ, daily! We're on a 'Mission'!

Thank you Union Congregational for supporting us as we make every effort to reach our *mission* goals!

God Bless,

Rosemarie Lightfoot - Chairperson



## FAMILY PROMISE

THANK YOU to everyone who helped out with our December Family Promise week! Union is scheduled to host FAMILY PROMISE again beginning March 8th. Your HELP is always needed to: spend a night as a host; make a dinner; host ½ a day on Saturday March 14th; provide breakfast foods, drinks, snacks; a Saturday afternoon activity such as movie tickets; help set up and take down the bedrooms; help do the laundry at the end of the week. If you can help with any of the above please contact Jane Grandusky 561-602-3035 or Judith Mooers 561-575-5384. And if you can't help out this time, a financial donation is always accepted to help defray the cost of food items we will need to purchase. **Helping the homeless families is one of the many blessings of our church.**



## MODERATOR MESSAGE

It's already February & it's also Black



History month! We got off to an amazing start by sponsoring the Ebony Chorale in concert. Every voice was lifted in song in remembrance of how far we have come as a people & how much farther we have to go. Thank you WAMM & Bryan Ijames for putting these musical series' events together. As we know, there's a lot happening in this world today & quite a few injustices that can make you wonder where God is & why He's not fixing it. And yet, no matter what's going on around us, we as Christians must remain faithful & believe that God will 'deliver us from evil.' So, we must

*"Do everything without complaining... Live ... as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world of crooked and perverse people." ~ Philippians 2:14-15.*

As Pastor Sheila reminded us in her sermon last Sunday, as a church we must be the *lighthouse* on the corner that is a welcoming beacon to those who are seeking shelter from the storms of this world. It reminded me that no matter what's going on in my life, my lamp has to stay lit, & I can't let it burn out. We have to keep studying the Word, keep praying, keep pressing toward the upward calling of God & never give up. Our light has to continually shine so that others will be drawn to Christ through us.

Union, let us continue to strive to be the church that God has called us to be.

God Bless, Rosemarie Lightfoot ~ Moderator

## PER CAPITA

As part of being a church within the United Church of Christ denomination means paying our PER CAPITA 'dues'. Per Capita is asked of each church in our Florida Conference to help defray the costs of operating our Conference ministry. Basically, we are asked to pay \$15 for each member of the church. **This year the total Per Capita due from Union will be approximately \$2116.** It would definitely help our finances if each member could pay their own \$15 Per Capita dues. Just label your donation 'Per Capita' and the money will go directly to pay your member dues to our Conference. If you financially cannot afford the full \$15 right now, that is fine. Contribute what you can toward the dues. Every bit helps us meet our budget goals for the year. Blessings and Gratitude, Your Trustee Team



# YOUTH & KIDS CORNER



During worship, on the first Sunday in January, the children shared their vision for 2020. They included: a place where there's more kindness, where people are treated fairly and People can live in peace.





We celebrated MLK Sunday with our Guest Rhythm Weavers Drummer, Buckley Griffis who led the kids in a drumming circle. Helping us remember Dr. King was a Drumming Major for Justice.



# FEBRUARY 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9AM -12 Food Pantry
2 10 AM Worship— Communion Sunday 11:15 Fellowship 4PM—Ebony Chorale	3	4 5PM Yoga	5 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:45PM Potluck Dinner 7:15 PM Bible Study / Youth Gathering	6	7	8
9 10 AM Worship— 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 Trustees Meeting	10	11 10 AM Women's Fel- lowship Board Meeting 5PM Yoga	12 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:45PM Potluck Dinner 7:15 PM Bible Study / BHM Book discussion Rev. Amanda Harmel-	13	14 	15 11 AM -2PM Gold Coast Regional Women UCC—Lake Worth 4:30 PM Young at Heart
16 10 AM Worship— Multicultural Sunday 11:15 Fellowship Taste Testing / J & P Display 11:30 Deacon's 11:30 WAMM	17	18 10:30 AM Women's Fellowship Meeting	19 5:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:45PM Potluck Dinner 7:15 PM Bible Study / Youth Gathering	20	21 Coral Gables Youth Group	22 8:30 AM Gleaning
23 10 AM Worship— New Members Sunday 11:15 Fellowship 11:30 M&O Mtg	24	25 5PM Yoga	26 6:30 Soup Dinner 7:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service 	27	28	29

**WORSHIP SERVICE  
FEBRUARY 26, 2020**

# Ash Wednesday

**Come join us for  
fellowship and worship.**

**6:30PM Soup Fellowship Dinner**

**7:30PM Ash Wednesday Service**

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**MULTICULTURAL  
SUNDAY**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH**

**MULTICULTURAL SUNDAY CELEBRATION  
A SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE AND A  
CULTURAL TASTE-TESTING FELLOWSHIP TIME**

During fellowship time, we will share food from your youth/cultural background. Members who would like to share a dish or two from their own heritage or upbringing are invited to do so  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH.**

You will have an opportunity to sample foods from around the United States or World, depending on how creative our members/chefs can be in sharing their ancestry. There is a sign-up on the soundboard to bring a dish to share.

**ALL ARE INVITED.**

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND FELLOWSHIP  
AND BRING YOUR FAVORITE FOOD.**

**MULTICULTURAL  
SERVICE**

*Union Congregational United Church of Christ*  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Heartwarming News to:*

Let all  
**THAT**  
**YOU DO**  
be done in  
**LOVE.**  
1 Cor. 16:14

**February 2020**