

# UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## United Church Of Christ



*Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.*

**April 12, 2026 Second Sunday of Easter**

\*Please rise in body or spirit.

You are invited to join in the liturgy **in bold type.**

*Childcare is available on the first floor  
of this building for children ages 0-4.*

*Children K-5th grade are invited to  
Sunday School following the Message  
for All Ages.*

*Please wear a name tag so we can  
greet one another by name  
(There are blank name tags in the  
back of the sanctuary).*

**PRELUDE – Shalom**

Dan Forrest

*Peace, I leave with you,  
My peace I give to you: Peace. Peace. Shalom.  
Not as the world gives, I give to you,  
Do not be afraid.*

Jeremy Whitener, John David Whitener, & Jeremy Carlisle

**WELCOME**

Rev. Bob Chase

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God's love!

**All: We are called to be Easter people!**

One: Evil cannot claim us!

**All: Fear cannot bind us!**

One: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen, indeed! Amen!**

**\*OPENING HYMN – May Peace Be in Your Hearts**

Ghanian Folk Song

***May peace be in your hearts, may peace be in your homes,  
May peace be in your land, may peace be in our world.***

## **PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

**Gracious and Eternal God, you never abandon us the way that we sometimes abandon you. We doubt your power and your compassion. We call upon your name, but too often without expectation that you will answer. We blame you for the things we have collectively caused or that life demands. Yet, we give ourselves credit for the good that comes our way. We offer empty apology devoid of real repentance. We want to be absolved without engaging in repair. Help us to cherish grace as a gift and mercy as a miracle. Have mercy on us, Holy One. Amen.**

## **MOMENT FOR SILENT REFLECTION**

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

## **PASSING THE PEACE**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**John 20:19-31**

Scott Randel

## **MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES**

Rev. Bob Chase

## **SPECIAL MUSIC – Be Thou My Vision**

Sanctuary Choir

Words: Mary E. Byrne

Music: Arr. By Heather Sorenson

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.  
Naught be all else to me save that Thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

*Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise.  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always.  
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,  
Blessed Redeemer, my treasure Thou art.*

*High King of heaven, my victory won!  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, still be my light.  
Be Thou My Vision, O Ruler of all.  
Be Thou my Light when I walk through the night.*

## **SERMON**

"Peace Be With You"

Rev. Freeman Palmer

## **\*HYMN #438 – It Is Well with My Soul**

VILLE DU HAVRE

Words: Horatio G. Spafford

Music: Philip Bliss

*(see music next page)*

STRUGGLE AND CONFLICT

438

When Peace, Like a River  
(It Is Well with My Soul)

Ps. 146; Col. 1:19-23; 2:13-14; 3 John 1:2

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873; alt.

1 When peace, like a riv - er, up - holds me each day, when  
2 Though e - vil should tempt me, though tri - als should come, let  
3 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought— my  
4 O God, speed the day that is filled with your light, when

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, What - ev - er my lot, you have  
this blessed as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my  
sin— not in part, but the whole— Is nailed to the cross and I  
clouds are rolled back as a scroll; The trum - pet shall sound and the

Refrain

taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."  
help - less es - tate, and has paid life and blood for my soul: It is  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall ap - pear, "e - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
It is well with my soul.

*This hymn was written out of grief over the loss of the author's four daughters in the sinking of the SS Ville du Havre. After leaving his Chicago law practice, Horatio G. Spafford and his wife settled in Jerusalem.*

Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE 11.8.11.9. with refrain  
Philip P. Bliss, 1876

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rev. Bob Chase

**Joys and Concerns**

Young Mo Koh, father of Seo Hee Koh  
Patrice McKenzie, mother of George Black  
Bob and Blythe’s son-in-law, Mike  
Ellyn Minor  
Dick Olson  
Joan and Bill Icklan  
Maureen and Kevin Ward, friends of Linda Cary

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord’s Prayer (unison)**

**Our {name for God}, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY**

**Invitation**

Rev. Bob Chase

**Music for Meditation**

Jeremy Carlisle

**\*Response of Thanksgiving – Doxology**

*GOODNESS*

Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. William B. Abernathy

Music: Paul M. Vasile

4  
Praise to our God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise to our God all crea-tures  
7  
here be - low; Praise to our God for all that love has done; Cre -  
a - tor, Christ, and Spi - rit Our God the Three in One A - men.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*HYMN #471 – What a Covenant**

*LEANING*

Words: Elisha A. Hoffman  
(see music next page)

Music: Anthony J. Showalter

*Deut. 33:27**Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887, alt.*

1 What a \*cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

*Refrain*

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

\*Or, "fellowship"

*In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.*

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain  
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

**\*BENEDICTION**

Rev. Freeman Palmer

**\*MUSICAL BENEDICTION #81 – God Be with You**

Words: Jeremiah E. Rankin

Music: William G. Tomer

***God be with till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.  
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet  
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.***

**POSTLUDE**

Jeremy Carlisle

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**THANK YOU** for joining us for worship this morning. Please sign a welcome card if you are visiting and put it in the offering plate. Please stay for coffee hour in the Assembly Room immediately following the service.

**THANK YOU** to the Sunday Welcome Team and the Sanctuary Choir.

Sound Operator: Joe Cristiani

Livestream Video: Nkenge Jones

**Rev. Katrina will be out of the office until Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Leah will be out of the office through Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Please call Rev. Katrina for pastoral care concerns.**

**THANK YOU Guest Preacher Rev. Freeman Palmer!**

Rev. Freeman L. Palmer serves as the Conference Minister for the Central Atlantic Conference United Church of Church. Freeman began this call in February 2019 after serving nine years as Associate Conference Minister, Congregational Development, for the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ.

**THIS WEEK**

**MONDAY, APRIL 13**

**7pm Interfaith Yom HaShoah Remembrance At Bnai Keshet in Montclair**

As a part of the service, Pamela Romanchuk will speak. She is the granddaughter of four Holocaust survivors. She will share her family's stories of survival, legacy, and the enduring strength of the Jewish people.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14**

**12:30pm Rev. Katrina Leads Daytime Bible Study (Guild Room)**

For four Tuesdays, beginning on April 14<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Katrina will be leading a daytime Bible study group around the book of Revelation.

**7pm-8:30pm "Holy Hangout," A Family-Friendly Evening Bible Study**

All are welcome. Email Seo Hee Koh, or Sarah or BJ Carter (bjcarter@unioncong.org) for the location and details.

## **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15**

### **10:30am Gentle Yoga**

Email Sara T. or call the church to confirm the location – Zoom or in person.

### **Noon Union Sages (Guild Room)**

### **7pm Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary)**

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 18**

### **9am Women's Breakfast (Assembly Room)**

Get ready for a morning of fast-paced fun! At our next breakfast, we'll be rolling the dice for a few rounds of "Bunco." This game is easy to learn and relies entirely on luck. The winners of each round move to another table. It's a fantastic way to say hi to everyone. Come join us for a wonderful breakfast with friends. Guests are always welcome. Please RSVP to Karen Ermler at [karen.ermler@gmail.com](mailto:karen.ermler@gmail.com).

### **5pm After Hours At Union (Assembly Room)**

All ages are invited to join us for a chance to unplug from our screens and connect with a shared meal, worship, and games. RSVP at [www.unioncong.org/spring](http://www.unioncong.org/spring) or by clicking on the church web calendar listing.

## **NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 19**

### **10am Gospel Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary)**

Join us for this joint service with Grace Presbyterian Church. The choir will be directed by Chaequan Anderson and will feature a band. A freewill offering will be taken to support IMANI.

**After worship: Youth Group gathers in the Sunday School Room following worship**

### **1pm Union Film Group Screens "Murder On The Orient Express" (Guild Room)**

### **Friday, April 24 at 6pm: The Let's Watch Film Series Presents "The Visitor" (Assembly Room)**

Join us for a powerful, humanistic drama that deftly explores identity, immigration, and other major post-9/11 issues. It also has strong echoes of today's situation in

the Trump era with a depiction of detention centers and deportation procedures. Please see today's email or the web calendar listing for a link to the film's trailer. You can RSVP at [bit.ly/letswatchthevisitor](http://bit.ly/letswatchthevisitor).

**Sunday, April 26: Earth Sunday and Second Hour With Northeast Earth Coalition following worship**

**CHURCH CONTACT INFO: Church Office: 973-744-7424**

Rev. Katrina Forman, Lead Minister, 973-744-5802, [kforman@unioncong.org](mailto:kforman@unioncong.org)

Rev. Leah McCullough, Minister of Pastoral Care and Faith Formation,  
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Jeremy Whitener, Co-Director of Music, [jeremy@unioncong.org](mailto:jeremy@unioncong.org)

**Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**  
**An LGBTQ+ Open and Affirming Congregation**  
**176 Cooper Avenue, Montclair, NJ 973-744-7424**  
**[www.unioncong.org](http://www.unioncong.org)**



# Gospel Music Celebration

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND  
UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PRESENT

SUNDAY, APRIL 19 AT 10:00 AM

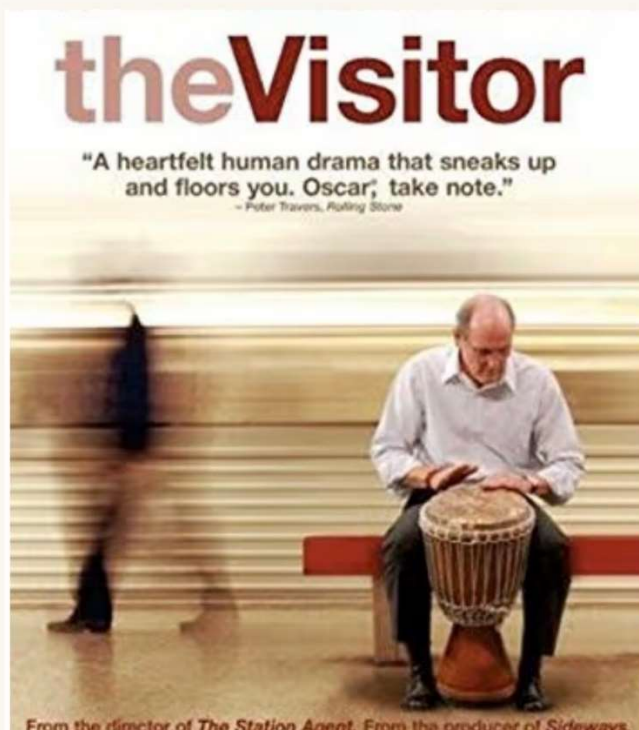
DIRECTED BY CHAEQUAN ANDERSON AND  
FEATURING THE GOSPEL CHOIR AND BAND  
A FREEWILL OFFERING WILL BE TAKEN TO SUPPORT IMANI

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
176 COOPER AVE  
UPPER MONTCLAIR, NJ  
OFFICE @ GRACEMONTCLAIR.ORG  
(973) 744 - 2565



UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
**'LET'S WATCH' MOVIE SERIES PRESENTS:**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 6PM**



The Visitor is a quiet, deeply moving drama that explores themes of loneliness, immigration, and the unexpected connections that can bridge cultural divides.

**ASSEMBLY ROOM**  
**176 Cooper Avenue, Montclair**

**[RSVP at bit.ly/letswatchthevisitor](http://bit.ly/letswatchthevisitor)**

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL ISABELLE.GENEST@AOL.COM**