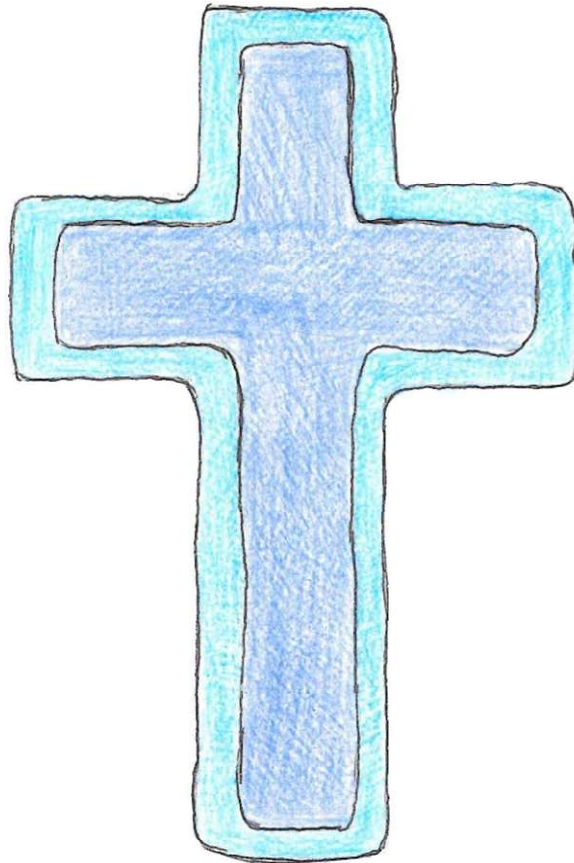




Glen Ridge Congregational Church

UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church Of Christ
Loving God. Loving Neighbor. Building Community.

May 31, 2026 --- Confirmation Sunday
A Joint Service of Union and Glen Ridge Congregational Churches



Artwork by Natalie Russell

*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-5 are invited to attend Sunday School following the message for all ages.*

Prelude – Kum Ba Yah

African-American Spiritual, arr. Judith E. Treisback
UCC Ringers

Welcome

Revs. Katrina Forman and John Sampson

***Call to Worship**

Elijah Harris

One: Come and Worship, all you who are called to serve God.

All: We are called to serve God with all our hearts.

One: God calls all people -

All: As we all are his children, young and old.

One: We will have faith in God's call -

All: As we wait patiently for God's path to be revealed to us.

***Hymn (insert) – We are the Church (vs. 1-4)**

PORT JERVIS

Words & Music: Richard K. Avery & Donald S. Marsh

Refrain (Unison)

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to -

geth - er! All who fol - low Je - sus,

all a - round the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth - er!

1 The church is not a build - ing, the church is not a stee - ple,
 2 We're man - y kinds of peo - ple, with man - y kinds of fac - es,
 3 Some - times the church is march - ing, some - times it's brave - ly burn - ing,
 4 And when the peo - ple gath - er, there's sing - ing and there's pray - ing,
 5 At Pen - te - cost some peo - ple re - ceived the Ho - ly Spir - it

the church is not a rest - ing place, the church is a peo - ple.
 all col - ors and all a - ges, too, from all times and plac - es.
 some - times it's rid - ing, some - times hid - ing, al - ways it's learn - ing.
 there's laugh - ing and there's cry - ing some - times, all of it say - ing:
 and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.

Prayer of Transformation (unison) Gabe Ramirez
Holy and merciful God, you sent us into the world with words of peace, yet we confess that we often carry fear and sadness. We are not always eager to understand. We may not trust in you when we need you most. We do not always listen for your word. Forgive us, oh God. Help us to be patient so that we can hear your call. Help us to keep our faith even if we may not understand where you are leading us. Amen.

Assurance of Grace

***Passing the Peace**

Scripture Reading Samuel 3:1-10

Xavier Sullivan

Message for All Ages

Natalie Russell, Erety Swett

Sending/Receiving Music #327 – Jesus Loves Me (vs. 1)
(Children preK-5th go to Sunday School)

Special Music – A Joyful Ring

UCC Ringers

Barbara B. Kinyon

Reflections

Vivian Taylor, Hema Rohling

Baptisms of Elijah Harris and Xavier Sullivan

Parents of Elijah Harris: Veronica and Vincent Harris

Parents of Xavier Sullivan: Christy Crawford and Craig Sullivan

Congregational Response:

Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the ones about to be baptized as they live and grow in Christ?

We promise our love, support and care.

Prayer of Dedication (prayed in unison):

God of wonder and grace, we thank you for your love revealed here as our churches, these parents, and these young people come together making covenant promises. We pray that we will have the grace to uphold the promises made here this day, providing a safe shelter of your love in which they may continue to grow, learn and lead. We pray that these parents may continue to feel the sweet wonder of your presence so apparent here today. We pray that Elijah and Xavier may know that they are never alone as they journey through life. Amen.

Confirmations

Please find information about our confirmands listed after the Postlude at the end of the service.

Congregational Response:

We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of Christ's love and justice in the world.

*Hymn #351 – I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

WATERLIFE

Words & Music: John Ylvisaker

Prayers of the People

Erety Swett

The 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

Elijah Harris

Music for Meditation – To God Be the Glory

William Howard Doane

Jeremy Carlisle

*Response of Thanksgiving – Doxology

GOODNESS

Words: Thomas Ken, adapt. William B. Abernathy

Music: Paul M. Vasile

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

Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn (insert) – Here I Am, Lord

Words and Music: Daniel L. Schutte

(turn page)

G Am D G C G D
Leader or All

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em C Am7 D G

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way. I will
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Fin - est

Am D G C G D

made the stars of night, I will make their dark - ness bright.
 break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 bread I will pro - vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em C Am7 C/G D D7

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain
All G C G D G C G D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you

Am7 G Am7 D G C G C

call - ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you

G C G D G Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Postlude – I've Got the Joy

Traditional, arr. Valerie W. Stephenson

UCC Ringers

Confirmation Class Bios:

Elijah Harris goes to Buzz Aldrin Middle School just down the street from Union Cong. He likes playing basketball and hanging out with his friends.

Gabe Ramirez is a student at Grover Cleveland Middle School in Caldwell, New Jersey. He has gone to Glen Ridge Congregational Church since he was born. He enjoys playing basketball, fishing, and riding bikes with his friends. He has enjoyed meeting everyone on his confirmation journey, and it has been fun to learn about his church.

Hema Rose Rohling is in 9th grade and goes to Glen Ridge High School. One of her hobbies is playing the piano. She has been playing since 2020 and has performed in several recitals. She loves to cook with her grandma in the kitchen, where they make many unique dishes. Hema has also been playing volleyball for a couple of years, and she loves to practice lacrosse with her brothers. In her free time, she enjoys playing many different sports with her friends, binge-watching movies and shows, and bike riding, especially when her friends go for gelato. During confirmation, Hema has enjoyed learning about other religions and how they differ from Christianity.

Natalie Russell goes to Mount Saint Dominic Academy. She likes to play field hockey and hang out with her friends. She is excited about getting confirmed because she wants to learn more about her faith.

Erety Swett is a middle schooler in Montclair, NJ. He attends Union Congregational Church with his two siblings and parents. He enjoys playing lacrosse and basketball in his free time. Next year, he will attend Montclair High, and he hopes to play football.

Xavier Vaughn Sullivan is the son of Christy and Craig Sullivan and brother to Cassius. Xavier, an attendant of Union Congregational Church, is an incoming freshman at Montclair High School. He enjoys basketball, rowing with Montclair Crew, studying film and media production, and volunteering with Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Vivian Taylor is a freshman at Glen Ridge High School. She is a competitive swimmer and spends much of her time in the water! She loves being with family and friends, and enjoys travel - a recent highlight being a family trip to Japan last summer. Vivian looks forward to becoming an official member of the church, and continuing in her faith journey.

With special thanks to our Confirmation Mentors

From Glen Ridge Congregational Church: Nate Cromie, Sondra Howell, Susan and Peter Hughes

From Union Congregational Church: Linda Cary, Ellyn Minor, Vicki Paulson

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, or scan the QR code on the back of the pew to submit a welcome card electronically. Please stay for coffee hour in the Assembly Room immediately following the service.

Next Sunday Is Pride Sunday “Coat Of Many Colors: The Gospel According To Dolly Parton”

Join us for a special Pride service inspired by the music and life of Dolly Parton. Rev. Katrina will preach from the story of Joseph in Genesis 37.

This Week:

Jon Thomsen and Rev. Leah will be out of the office through June 5th.

Tuesday, June 2

12:30pm Daytime Bible Study (Guild Room)

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

Wednesday, June 3

10:30am Gentle Yoga (Guild Room or Offsite)*

Noon Union Sages (Guild Room)

7pm Handbell Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6

7pm Pride Choir Presents “Wondrous Journeys.” The concert is free, but an RSVP is required at www.pridechoir.com. Friday includes a preshow cabaret starting at 6:15pm.

Generosi-TEA Saturday June 6, 3-5pm, Assembly Room at Union Cong

The Generosity Team is hosting a new event this year to thank those who have pledged to Union for this calendar year and celebrate the ministry those pledges make possible. In addition to tea (with tea sandwiches, scones and desserts), there will be a raffle, music from Rob Middleton’s jazz trio, our children and youth choir, and a few crafts for kids. There’s still time to pledge for this year: <https://www.unioncong.org/pledge/>
RSVP for the TEA at <https://bit.ly/unioncongtea>

**call the church office for the location*

Sunday, June 14th

Following worship, stay for our Annual Meeting in person in the Assembly Room + Zoom

**Annual Meeting Agenda
June 14, 2026, 11am, Assembly Room and Zoom**

Agenda

- Approval of 2026-27 Missional Priorities
- Election of Governing Board Officers and Members
 - Jenny Hand – Secretary – two-year term
 - Barbara Ross – At Large – one-year term
 - Rob Middleton, At Large – two-year term
 - Kevin Shaw – At Large – two-year term
 - Joaquin Cespedes – Youth Representative
- Election of Leadership Discernment Committee Members
 - Alison Beringer – three-year term
 - Marcie Wallace – one year extension
 - Armen Khachaturian – one year extension
- Adoption of 2026-27 Annual Budget
- Review of Five-Year Plan
- Approval of Capital Campaign

Congregational Motion

Recognizing the need to renovate and modernize the church building and sanctuary to make them more welcoming, accessible and flexible, the congregation:

- endorses project objectives to install the HVAC system; improve accessibility throughout the building, including programming spaces, restrooms, and stairways; renew the sanctuary; install new staff offices, elevator, and mechanical lift; and improve exterior accessibility;
- approves initiating a Capital Campaign with a goal of raising at least \$1,500,000; and,
- authorizes the Governing Board to borrow from church reserve funds in amounts not to exceed documented commitments for campaign pledges, grants, the sale of the P2 lot, and/or energy incentives until these commitments are fulfilled.

Funds borrowed from church reserves would be used to develop architectural designs and drawings and address other building renewal and capital campaign needs, including the creation of interim workspaces, in advance of the construction phase planned for spring/summer 2027. There are several potential sources of funds for the project besides the capital campaign. We expect to have greater clarity about sources and scale of these funds by fall 2026. No church reserve funds above this authorization will be used for the project without congregational approval.

Submitted by: Christine Brown, Moderator and Barbara Ross, Secretary

Sunday, June 21st

Music Sunday, Honoring of Graduates, and outdoor games on the church lawn.

Calling All Graduating Students!

We would like to honor our youth and young adults who are graduating from high school and college at our Sunday, June 21st worship. Parents, youth, and young adults, please fill out the form at <https://bit.ly/unionhonor> to give us details about the graduates. Deadline for info 6/10.

Volunteer at the church's Montclair Pride booth (June 13th): <https://bit.ly/unioncongride>

Sound Operator: Joe Cristiani

Livestream Video: Nkenge Jones

Three Ways To Donate To The Church

Text to Give : New Text To 833-357-1440. Type "GIVE [AMOUNT] OFFERING" (ex: GIVE 20 OFFERING for \$20 donation). Hit "Send." Click link that is sent and make your donation.

Give Online : Go to www.unioncong.org and select the green DONATE button in the top right corner of the church's homepage.



Scan QR Code:

Union Congregational Church (Union Cong for short) is a vibrant community of faith where we can connect to God through worship, service, education, and joyful community connections.

We aspire to reflect Christian hospitality and Christ's love by making everyone feel welcome and affirmed. As a congregation, we seek to grow in relationship with God and neighbor, and use our gifts to create a more just world.

Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

An LGBTQ+ Open and Affirming Congregation
176 Cooper Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07043
973-744-7424 contact@unioncong.org

Rev. Katrina Forman, Lead Minister,
973-744-5802, KForman@unioncong.org

Rev. Leah McCullough, Minister of Pastoral Care and Faith Formation,
973-746-4285, LMcCullough@unioncong.org

For full staff contact information, visit the About tab at www.unioncong.org.