



Jensen Beach
Community Church
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

jbccucc.org

The Tower Chimes

Winter 2021 Edition

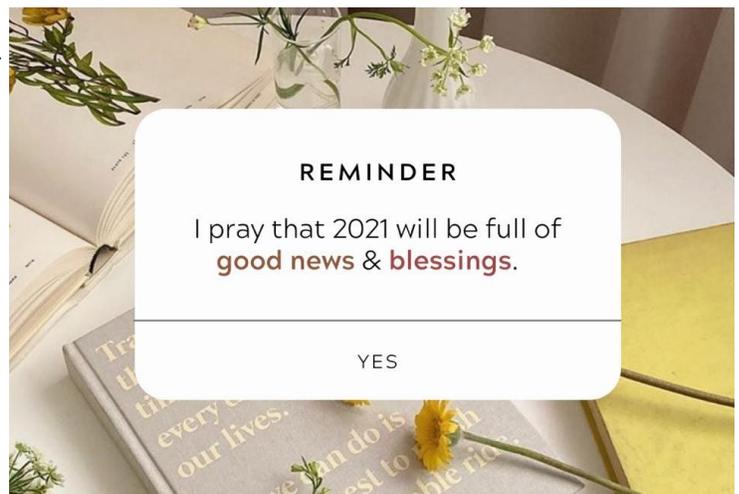
Hello Church,

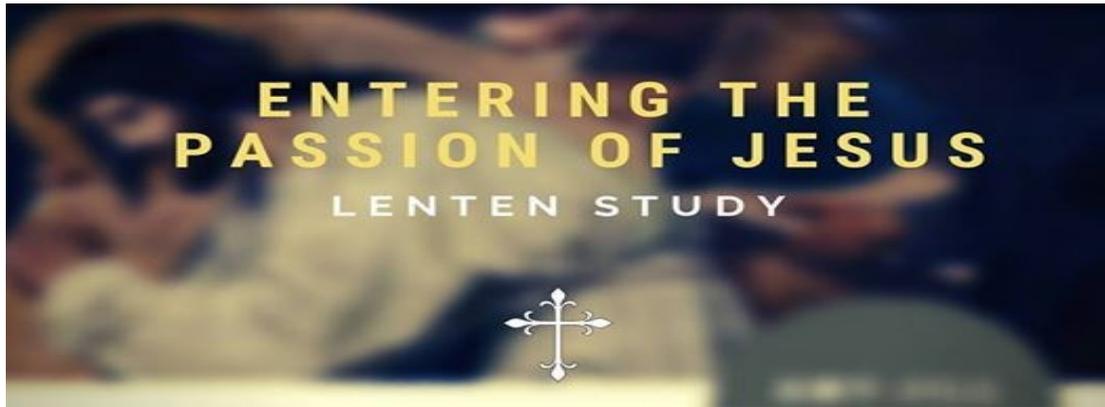
Welcome to 2021! Has it been everything you thought it would be so far? What were your expectations for 2021? Some of us may have thought that 2021 surely had to be better than 2020, others may have imagined it as an opportunity to carry over what we learned in 2020 into a new and exciting year or some may have thought it would just be more of the same. Honestly, I think all of those are true in some way or another. 2020 gave us a lot of time for reflection into our lives and even forced us to slow down in some ways while at the same time learning new ways of doing even the simplest of tasks, like going to the grocery store. There were a lot of changes that came in 2020 and they have continued to carry us into 2021 in our personal lives, our professional lives and in the lives of our church community, but for each lesson there has been opportunity to witness the presence and power of God, even in the toughest of times. I believe it has been an ultimate lesson in surrender and trust and for that I am grateful.

You will be receiving the annual report soon and in it you will find that, even though Campus operations and worship are different, we are very much “Being the Church” during these times. You will read about the ways in which we have adapted with new policies and procedures, changes that needed to be made so we can continue day to day operations, but you will also read about the many outreach ministries of this church that continue to thrive, as well as the amazing volunteers that keep us moving forward. With our presence in this community, we are still helping many with our ministries and we are moving forward with God.

Recently in a sermon from the Gospel of Mark, I preached about how each one of us plays a role in our community that we are indeed like pebbles being tossed into still water causing a wave of ripples to form. We truly never know how one small kind act can cause a ripple of effect for other people. I ask you to think about the small acts of kindness that you may be able to share with others. A kind word and a warm smile can go a long way in a world that sometimes feels cold and distant. As we continue to “Be the Church” we are the ripple-makers and sometimes we are even the wave-makers. There is a lot of work still left to do and I am confident that as we move forward on the hill, we will be changing our lives and the lives of others through our outreach, worship, and ministries among the people as we trust in God, surrender to God and Love like God! May we each continue to be blessed on this journey and look forward to what 2021 has in store for us with the power and presence of God within each of us.

Love, Light and Grace shall lead us,
Pastor Michelle

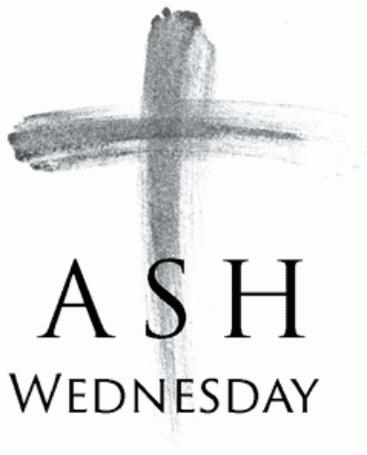




Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week
1 PM in the Sanctuary or via Zoom

Using *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by professor and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine, we will explore the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. We will see how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. Entering the Passion of Jesus will provide a rich and challenging learning experience for us in this Lenten season.

This group is led by Pastor Michelle begins on Wednesday February 17 at 1:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, mask and social distancing in effect or you may join us via Zoom. The study will be six weeks and will conclude on Wednesday March 24th. Books may be purchased at online retailers or if you need assistance getting a book please contact the church office. If you plan to participate via Zoom please contact Pastor Michelle @ Revcarter@jbccucc.org or 772-334-0716 and we can get you the log in information.



Ash Wednesday

An Ash Wednesday meditation will be prerecorded and sent to our email list as well as posted on our Facebook page. We will not be holding an in person Ash Wednesday evening service, however if you would like to receive ashes or Communion Pastor Michelle will be available between 10-11 or 2:30-4:00 PM for individual distribution, please use the Sanctuary entrance (Glass Doors).

Holy Week and Easter

Please watch for updates on services for Holy week and mark you calendars for our Easter Service April 4th @ 10 AM.



We are now livestreaming services! If you would like to participate in assisting behind the scenes, contact Alex Bryant at

communications@jbccucc.org

Finance Team Update

We are grateful for the gifts we receive and are humbled to share them with the community. We are the stewards of God's kingdom. In God We Trust.

April – December 2020	Church	Education-PS	Outreach-TS	Total
Income	88,194.	141,680.	77,463.	307,337.
Expenses	(175,596)	(165,858)	(93,061)	(434,514)
Transfer Funds	59,867.			59,867.
Transfer SBA PPP Loan	18,945.	30,989.	5,266.	55,200.
Net Income (Loss)	(8,590)	6,811.	(10,332)	(12,111)

Notes:

COVID-19 mandated closures from mid-March through May.

Received funding from the SBA Payroll Protection Program.

Re-opened Thrift Store in June, Preschool in August and Church Sanctuary in November.

Transferred investment earnings to fund \$8,000 for community food aid, \$23,867 for capital project costs, \$18,000 to self-finance box truck and \$10,000 for Covid-19 costs.

Without the transfers and the SBA PPP loan, the net loss would be (\$127,177).

Per Capita Membership is due at \$15.00 per member. The funds are sent directly to Florida Conference, UCC. Initial offering is used to offset the costs of the envelopes we use throughout the year. A suggested gift of \$5.00 will assist us with this expense.

PRESCHOOL

The Preschool is off to a great start for the New Year! The children were so happy to be back at school with all their friends. The teachers are keeping them busy with lessons and activities centered around the cold and snow.

Miss Tara and Miss Shannon's 2- & 3-year-olds learned all about Artic animals and cold weather. They made some cute snowmen, an artic fox, snowy owls, and icicles. They finished out the month learning all about dinosaurs. The class painted dinosaurs with Duplo blocks, made handprint dinosaurs and stamped dinosaur tracks. They especially enjoyed singing Baby Shark and dancing to the Freeze Dance. They finished out the month with a cute teddy bear picnic.

Miss Heather and Miss Margaret's 3- & 4-year-olds made some cute melting snowmen, penguins, and with the children's handprints they made winter cardinals on a snowy tree branch. The children danced around to the Snowkey Pokey and had

the most fun digging out polar animals from a big ice block. In addition, they are learning to spell and trace their names.

Miss Gigi and Miss Dyana's VPK classes worked with the letters L, M, N, and O. The letter M was a big hit with counting, estimating, and sorting M & M's. They also munched on mini muffins, marshmallows and milk. The letter N was just as fun. The children made nifty necklaces that they could nibble on. For letter "O" the children had fun trying to mix oil and water and found out it does not mix at all. They added food coloring and watched how the "color molecules" just floated in the water. The children had a great time taste testing green and black olives, working with opposites, and exploring the ocean for the letter O. The classes also celebrated the 100th day of school!

Sue T.
Preschool Director

LETTERS OF GRATITUDE

Dear Friends at JBCC

Sunday, January 10th was my mother's 100th Birthday. I want to thank all of you who sent cards. She was surprised to get so many and really enjoyed opening and reading them. My mother also received a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the church. That was so thoughtful and it really surprised her.

We had a party for her with all the family, grandchildren, great grandchildren and cousins via Zoom. At 100 years of age, it was hard to comprehend this new technology, but she really enjoyed seeing the family and having everyone sing happy birthday and join her eating birthday cake. All in all, despite the virus, she had a day full of celebrations.

Thank you all for helping make her day special.
Janet H.

Thank you Kay F. and her community for their contributions to our food pantry! A letter of thanks...

Dear Carol and Pinelake Village Community,

We greatly appreciate your support of our Outreach Ministries. Through your efforts, we will be able to provide more food and necessities for those who are in need. Currently we offer bags of non-perishables and grocery cards to help alleviate food insecurity.

We have noticed an increased demand for food during these difficult times. With your help, we can all help each other. Thank you again for your generous donations. We appreciate your support.

Blessings,
Susan G
Financial Secretary

To My Church Family,

This is a letter of love and gratitude. 10 years ago I fell upon this church ironically by wandering into your Thrift Store. It was the week before the "blessing of the animals" having a beloved daughter/dog, Juliet, I was reeled in.

There are no coincidences only "Godincidents." Before I knew it, I was a member of the church, a Sunday school teacher, an usher, a greeter and a deacon. After Pastor Dave left and a few attempts, we were blessed with Pastor Michelle. At that time, Kevin and I were dealing with helping my mother's journey home to heaven. With the support of friends and my new church family, my mother crossed over with love and dignity.

Left with a terrible void in my life, I prayed for direction in finding a job I could love. Lo and behold I got a call asking if I'd be interested in becoming the Thrift Store Manager! 2 1/2 years later I am still in awe of that store and all the earth angels that we have been blessed with. I couldn't have conjured up a better staff and group of volunteers.

Nancy W., as Assistant Manager, astounds me in her professional efficiency, gracious attitude, along with her loving generosity to our staff, volunteers, and patrons. I wanted to thank her and John W., and the Church, for going to bat for us and getting a new/used truck. This truck is a necessity in our business to help with our church ministries. We are very grateful for a *safe*, reliable vehicle.

To sum it up, 2020, a year of chaos, confusion, alienation from loved ones and in some cases great loss, as a whole United Church we will prevail and become stronger in our faith and our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve.

Your Friend and Family in Jesus Christ,
Sincerely,
Victoria B.

Thrift Store Hours

Tuesday-Friday
10am-4pm
Saturday
10am-2pm



Food Pantry Hours

Monday
10am-12pm
Wednesday
1pm-3pm

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

December

Harold T. 12/05
Dave D. 12/08
Victoria B. 12/10
Chandler H. 12/23
Joseph B. 12/20
Katie F. 12/23
Ruth M. 12/28

January

Karla G. 1/23
Sharon H. 1/28
Richard H. 1/28
Matthew M. 1/29
Judy K.. 1/30

February

Jan T. 2/11
Betty B. 2/18
Bruce B. 2/28

March

Marguirite K. 3/09
Kay F. 3/13
Kenneth S. 3/17
Howard M. 3/21
Virginia T. 3/22
Ray S. 3/28

April

Jody M. 4/3
Chris H. 4/16
Patty M. 4/27

MEMBER PRAYER LIST

Carol R.
Joe B.
Marguerite K.
Virginia T.
Frank & Beverly W.
Carole U.

Extended Care

Stanley C.

Prayer Request:

I have been experiencing some health concerns and I will be scheduled for a Health Catheterization for further diagnosis. I am blessed to have family in town to assist me during this time. Additional prayers are welcomed and please know I am working closely with Leadership Team to keep them informed of additional needs as they arise.

--Pastor Michelle

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE



The service started shortly after sundown with soft, recorded piano music playing in the background, setting the mood for this evening. Pastor Michelle Carter welcomes everyone to a time when we can acknowledge our feelings that we may have during this time, and offer them to God. The “long dark night of the soul” and of winter of which our memories of past experiences, of pain and sorrow can be overwhelming.

Prayer of **INVOCATION**: God of mercy, you have given us the grace to pray even though our hearts are broken. Comfort your Holy people, speak to us of peace and healing and lessen our loss and grief.

Pastor Michelle begins to light each of four candles, describing what each one stands for, followed by a minute of silence and a reading of a Bible passage by Susan G., and then a minute of music by Joanne F., softly playing and singing the beautiful song “**This Is The Air I Breathe,**” by Michael W. Smith, with the lighting of each candle. **COMMUNION SERVICE**: We remember the time when Jesus faced difficulties and destructive forces. When we face the winter of our lives, may we find the courage to let go and trust in our Lord’s guiding, warming light. And as we eat at this table tonight, let us remember Jesus has shown us that his love will guide us through the darkest of nights into the brightest of times. She breaks the bread and pours the wine and the congregation opens their communion packets and joins her in the Lord’s meal.

Jensen Beach Community Church UCC December 13th 2020 Advent Service



Sharon H. plays several popular Christmas hymns as today's prelude.



Joanne F. plays the bells



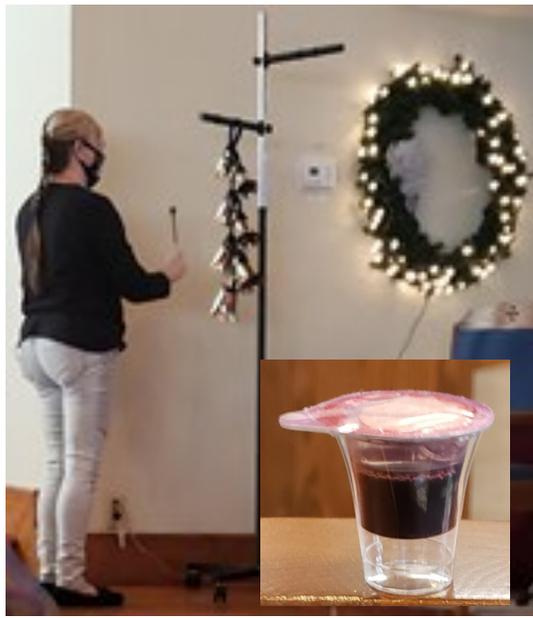
Sharon H. plays a melody of popular Christmas Hymns as the prelude this morning followed by Joanne Fisher playing a single handed solo on the vertical bells. Susan G. lights the 3rd candle of Advent named Hope, as her husband Karl, reads the scripture. Below: Dave and Joanne F. along with Pastor Michelle Carter sing and play 3 contemporary hymns throughout the service.

Jesus Died for Me
Dream Small
I Am Who You
Say I Am



Jensen Beach Community Church, UCC

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 2020 4:30 and 7:00 PM



The services started with Sharon H. playing Christmas Hymns followed by Joanne F. playing the vertical bells. Next, Pastor Michelle greets everyone with a **warm welcome** and explains the use of the packet they received at the door upon arrival. First there was the candle and a small plastic cup to snuff it out with and then a self contained Communion cup, pictured in the center photo under the wreath. She explained by peeling off the top paper you would find a wafer and, of course, the second layer the juice.



This year, Pastor Michelle and the Deacons decided to change the look of the Chancel area and make a slightly simpler look. This was accomplished by removing all of the choir chairs in the loft and using two Christmas trees on either side of the cross in place of the poinsettia tree, which we have used for so many years, and of course in the center, they have placed our beautiful Crèche under the cross. They spent an immense amount of time, as usual, in getting down all of the trees and wreaths and putting them together. They certainly have done a most remarkable job.





PRAYER OF INVOCATION: O God of the Baby of Bethlehem, we come into your presence with praise and thanksgiving. We hear the glad tidings of angel voices, we come to experience this good news of great joy for all of the people. As the shepherds traveled here, excited, expectant, hopeful and perhaps bit skeptical. Let the words of the scripture seep into our hearts, to be treasured and pondered anew. We are here, we are ready oh God! Let the Light of your love, break forth! Amen

After Sharon H. played a Hymn on the piano, it was time to light the **Advent Wreath**. Below left, Gary T. is lighting the candles, while his wife, Jackie is reading the accompanying scripture for the 4:30 PM service. **Center:** Jayme M. is reading the scriptures at the 7PM service and Jakob L. is seen lighting the Advent wreath. To the right, we see Rachel and Loren J. as they also participated in the reading of the scriptures as well. Rachel and Loren have recently returned from an extended mission to Guatemala working with the indigenous people teaching and learning, often in very difficult situations. Welcome back. Kay F. is pictured below in the reading of the scriptures.



Joanne F. sang "The Everlasting Lord" tonight, and of course, she plays the vertical bells as well, with ease. Her husband Dave, who is in the sound booth this evening, plays a great electric bass guitar and is often up here with Joanne and the others playing on Sundays. Michelle continues: *We journey into the world with good news and great joy. We journey with hope and peace, joy and love abounding, within us and among us. We do not leave the story behind, for we are the story. The continuing story of Christ.*



Today begins anew the adventure of God among us calling us to move forward in the world and to be children of the light sharing the good news to all that will listen and caring for the least among us. We journey into the world with hope, peace, joy and love abounding among us. We are the story that began that night. A story about ordinary people doing extraordinary things. What kind of extraordinary things will we do as acts of kindness, what voices of justice will we hear. We now, in 2020 in the middle of this pandemic, we are witnesses to people doing extraordinary things. May we journey through tonight, through days to come, with the angels blazing the way to come and the light shining in the darkness, *may we continue to tell the story.*

Sharon H. plays:

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

Written in 1862

Old French Hymn



With the wearing of masks, social distancing and other precautions, services have worked out well.

OFFERTORY: We offer our gifts to God in the spirit of generosity and hope. We reflect on these gifts that we offer and we thank God for coming unto us and we praise God for Christ's birth into our world. We are sometimes cold and fearful as they were in those days and we are uncertain in so many ways, unclear what God wants for us. To all who open themselves to God, God will come. May the light of the world come alive in each one of us as we give of ourselves in time, talent and treasure. Let us give thanks to God for our offering.



COMMUNION: Life is a gift and we celebrate it. May we rejoice in the beauty of this special time. We celebrate tonight, God is with us. Beyond our words and images, for we know God is beyond those things, but tonight we find joy in the image of God coming to us in the form of a Christ child. Bread and wine, the fruit of the vine and the earth. Bless these offerings that they may continue to allow your light, to shine among us, in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Like all of us, Jesus grew in wisdom as he aged. He questioned, he searched for meaning, he shaped his convictions, he experienced his own religious traditions. He experienced love and he came to know love's connections with God. He stood firmly in his own religious conviction he preached good news to all people dreaming of a better humanity. Bread and wine the fruit of the vine and the earth, that which he gave us to keep us connected to the story. We remember that on that night before he died, when he shared a meal with his friends, Jesus took bread and he gave thanks and he broke it. He poured out wine and gave thanks for all of the blessings in his life, honoring God so faithfully in his life and ours saying do this remembering me.

Pastor Michelle says *this is an open table, open to all who believe in Jesus Christ*. She asks for the Lord's blessing this night, as she lifts the loaf of bread and breaks it and then pours the cup full of wine. As the parishioners peel the top of their containers off and partake of the wafer, representing Jesus' body, then peeling back the bottom and drinking the juice, representing his blood.

As Sharon H. softly plays **"Let Us Break Bread Together"** on the organ, in the background (we take the bread and wine, as we remember the sacrifice of our Lord). Pastor Michelle continues: Oh come and touch our world and our lives, come and take us out of our darkness into the glorious light. We give thanks to God for being among us in the love of family and friends, in whatever has been in the circumstances of life now and in whatever the future holds. Holy one, as we go out from this place, may we share of the generous gift that we have received. Thanks be to God.



With Silent Night, Holy Night playing and everyone humming with their masks on, Pastor Michelle lights a candle from the altar candle and the Deacons light theirs from that, then they go among the pews lighting everyone's candle. Even in this year's perilous time of Covid-19, the light is carried forth and we give thanks we are able to gather again, in our church to give thanks.

Michelle: On that night within the light, the word became flesh, and that child was born to be the light for all of us, take the light and let it fill each one of us. Light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome us. Thanks be to God. As you leave this place of worship tonight, may the light and grace of God shine brightly on your journey and your loved ones. **God Bless.**



May we journey through tonight, through days to come, with the angels blazing the way to come and the light shining in the darkness. *May we continue to tell the story.* Look for the light, share it with others and be sure to support our youth. They are our future.



AROUND THE CAMPUS



WORSHIP SERVICE JANUARY 31, 2021



Jan 31st... Joanne F. plays and sings "The Goodness of God" and "I Love You God" with all my heart, my mind, my strength, and soul. She also joins Pastor Michelle Carter in two songs, "I will Follow You," and "Grace Upon Grace." We are looking for others to join us with their voice or instruments. How about it?



January 31, 2021 It was Pastor Michelle Carter's first Sunday back after a well deserved 2 week vacation and a very busy Advent and Christmas season not to mention with all the new dealings with the Covid-19 virus and special needs of the Preschool and all of that along with preparing the Sanctuary for its reopening. So many things and details to be seen to. Welcome back Pastor, we are all glad to see you back again. Pastor Michelle opened this morning with some announcements and comments from the people. She

reminded us of the Annual Meeting date of March 7th, and there will be letters sent out to the congregation as the time draws a little closer. She reminded people that Richard H. could still use some help maintaining the grounds of the church from volunteers watering to pruning and other needs. Also, Alex B. who started our Sunday filming of our services, first from Pastor Michelle's home and now the church Sanctuary needs someone to spell him once in a while. Folks, you, I and other members help run the church and without our participation, there is no church. Maybe you do not think you can help, but perhaps you know someone, a grandson or granddaughter that would like to come in and play an instrument or sing for us. Perhaps one that is extra talented with electronics that could lend a hand with Alex one or two Sundays a month. The Pastor can't do it all. Let's give her a hand. Victoria stood up and commented on how well the Thrift Store did last week with gross sales of some \$17,529. She wanted to thank all of the volunteers that come into the store to help sort and price merchandise, move things around for display and handle the front counter and register. Also the truck drivers and assistants that go out and pick up items, sometimes with great difficulty at some stops. Pastor Michelle echoed Victoria's remarks and also thanked Nancy W. the Assistant Manager, as well.

Pastor Michelle spoke on the scriptures of Mark 5:7-9 where Jesus was heard to say: And he shouted in a loud voice, "What do You want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You before God not to torture me!" "What is your name?" Jesus asked. "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." Michelle went on to tell of some early experiences in her life. She explained, during the healing process we can help and lessen whatever problems are around us by asking God to come into our lives. She recalls in college a professor asking the class to sit in a circle in silence. And after a considerable amount of time and being left alone a blessing came into their hearts, delivered by God. A spiritual, mental blessing of healing was delivered to them through silence. Tell God of your problems, confess if you will, wait in silence, with an open mind, He will come to you also.

Richard H.

LITANY OF GRATITUDE FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

from January 31st Worship Service

One: O God of Absolute Necessity,
who reveals to us our interdependence and in-
herent worth.

We lift up to you now all essential workers and
their life-saving ministries.

**All: Let us ground ourselves in the roots of
gratitude.**

One: For sanitation and environmental ser-
vice workers,

for janitors and mask-makers,
who create spaces of welfare and well-being.

Many: May they too be protected and safe.

One: For healthcare workers and rescue
breathers,

for emergency and crisis intervention teams,
for veterinarians and funeral directors,
who hold both life and death in their compas-
sionate care.

All: May they too be held and safe.

One: For food service workers and farmers,
for postal workers and transportation provid-
ers,

who deliver sustenance and connection.

All: May they too be nourished and safe.

One: For those working with children and
older adults,

for housing providers and direct service pro-
fessionals,

who cultivate community at every stage and
experience of life.

All: May they too be nurtured and safe.

One: For teachers and school workers,
for poets, musicians, and artists,
who gift the world with wisdom, beauty, and
joy.

All: May they too be inspired and safe.

One: For chaplains, spiritual directors, and
therapists,
for body workers, doulas, and traditional heal-
ers,
who journey alongside the presence of pain as
well
as perseverance.

**All: May they too be companioned and
safe.**

One: For activists, protestors, and organizers,
for poll workers, policy-writers, and journal-
ists,

who cry out for justice and hold power ac-
countable.

All: May they too be heard and safe.

One: For uncompensated caregivers,
for family and friends,
who lift each other up and leave no one be-
hind, alone, or lost.

All: May they too be supported and safe.

One: But may they be more than just honored
and safe.

May they flourish,
and have rest.

Many: And have us as their rest protectors.

One: May they feel loved
and not alone.

**Many: Because we will show up for them,
as they have shown up for us.**

One: Together, let us build the City of God
one moment,
one relationship,
one ballot,
one ministry
at a time.

Many: Amen.



THANK YOU
ESSENTIAL WORKERS



Jensen Beach Community Church UCC

3900 NE Skyline Drive - Jensen Beach, FL 34957

Phone: 772-334-0716
 Preschool: 772-334-0815
 Thrift Shop: 772-334-1635
 Church Fax: 772-334-2935
 E-Mail: jbccoffice@gmail.com
www.jbccucc.org

Especially Prepared For:
 or Current Resident



Sunday Worship 10:00am

Pastor	Rev. Michelle Carter
Organ/Piano	Sharon H.
Admin. Assistant	Jessica M.
Preschool Director	Sue T.
Thrift Shop Manager	Victoria B.

The **EMBLEM** of the United Church of Christ is based on the ancient Christian symbol known as the Cross of Victory or the Cross Triumphant. The cross surmounted by the crown and all of it atop the orb signifies Christ over all the world. The orb, representing the world, is divided into three parts to signify Jesus' command to his disciples: "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." On the perimeter of the emblem appears both the name of the church and the scripture text: "That they may all be one."



It is the **MISSION** of our church to honor God, as known through Jesus Christ, our Savior, by fulfilling the command to make disciples of people everywhere, in all that we do.

The **VISION** of Jensen Beach Community Church is to be happily working for the increase in the love of God and neighbor through sharing, teaching, outreach, and worship, while inviting all who wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ to join us in this privileged calling.