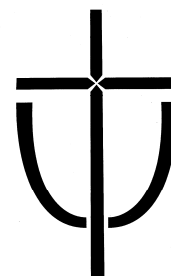




# Still Speaking



Indeed, the word of God is living and active...  
-Hebrews 4:12

March 2016

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published  
the week of **April 13, 2016.***

*The deadline for that newsletter is  
Friday, **April 8, 2016.***

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**Daylight-Saving Time begins  
Sunday, March 13**

There was a dear member at my previous church who, for a couple of years, would come to my office regularly with mailings that he had gotten from charitable organizations. He would bring me these solicitations and ask me whether the organizations were legit.

For a while, I tried showing him how to search for an organization online, showing him some sites that rate charities on a number of different criteria. The thing was, he wasn't very tech savvy, and even those rating websites are often suspect.

Eventually, he came to the conclusion that he was going to limit his charitable giving to the organizations that the church supported, because he trusted that their Board of Outreach and Mission (similar to our Outreach Ministry) had vetted the organizations and trusted their work.

The way that he felt about his charitable giving is similar to how I feel about giving to One Great Hour of Sharing, the yearly offering in which the UCC joins together with several other Protestant denominations across the country to gather funds for Disaster, Refugee, and Sustainable Development Ministries. There are so many disasters that I want to respond to in some way, so many global issues of poverty and need, and so many organizations working with them. My mind boggles at the prospect of weighing how much of my charitable giving should go to Syrian refugee relief, how much to teaching girls to read in sub-Saharan Africa, and how much to temporary water filters in Flint, more or less figuring out who is doing that work well.

That's one of the reasons I am grateful for One Great Hour of Sharing. Through OGHS, the UCC responds to development, disaster, and refugee needs in 138 countries, and provides disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States.

The United Church of Christ responds as a member of organizations such as Church World Service and the ACT Alliance while we also support the direct mission efforts of church-based organizations with which our office of Global Ministries has direct partnerships. Nearly one-third of the UCC's

*(continued on page 2)*

**Lectionary Readings****February 28****Third Sunday in Lent**

Isa 55:1-9; Ps 63:1-8  
1 Cor 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

**March 6****Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12  
Ps 32 • 2 Cor 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**March 13****Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Isa 43:16-21; Ps 126  
Phil 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

**March 20****Palm Sunday**

Ps 118:1-2, 19-29 • Luke 19:28-40  
(Liturgy of the Palms)  
Isa 50:4-9a • Ps 31:9-16  
Phil 2:5-11 • Luke 22:14-23:56 or  
Luke 23:1-49 (Liturgy of the Passion)

**March 24****Maundy Thursday**

Ex 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14  
Ps 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Cor 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**March 25****Good Friday**

Isa 52:13-53:12  
Ps 22 • Heb 10:16-25 or  
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

**March 26****Holy Saturday**

Job 14:1-14 or Lam 3:1-9, 19-24  
Ps 31:1-4, 15-16 • 1 Peter 4:1-8  
Mt 27:57-66 or Jn 19:38-42

**March 27****Easter**

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa 65:17-25  
Ps 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Cor 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

offering of over \$2.2 million is shared through Church World Service to support refugee, disaster, development, and advocacy programs.

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 92 cents is used directly for mission programming; 6.5 cents for interpretation materials, 1 cent for administrative costs, and 0.5 cents for program monitoring and evaluation (accountability). Most administrative costs are paid for by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support.

Part of what is important to me here is that the way the UCC does mission is integrated into the life of the communities we serve and is respectful of their culture and heritage. Funding decisions are made by asking our worldwide mission partners, "What would you have us do with you?"

The Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, whose work in the UCC's national offices includes helping local churches to understand OGHS, tells this story:

*In April of 2015, the Himalayan Mountains shook and the people of Nepal experienced a devastating earthquake. People were killed. Homes and communities tumbled. Nepal has few resources as a nation for massive rebuilding. Explanations exist: tectonic plates shift. People have few resources, and homes are poorly built. On-going and long-lasting political turmoil and violence reflect and create social instability. Nepal's closed government is suspicious of outside groups, especially outside religious groups. It might have seemed easier for the rest of the world to go about our business and let the Nepalese deal with this tragedy on their own.*

*But, as part of global church disaster agencies with global credibility of technical expertise and insistence on serving all, the United Church of Christ was part of immediate response through organizations already in place in Nepal. Seeking partnerships of organizations serving globally with particular skills in housing construction, the UCC was part of the construction of earthquake-resistant homes. As participants in the 2015 global Paris Climate Summit, the UCC was part of changing attitudes and international norms to address climate change that is making the mountainous Himalayan region of Nepal even more unstable.*

Friends, we all have innumerable causes and organizations to which we are asked to give every day, and discerning among them is hard. I choose One Great Hour of Sharing because I trust their methods and their values. If you would like to join me in supporting OGHS, our annual offering will be taken up on March 6, or you can contribute by marking your check/envelope OGHS at any time. All gifts are deeply appreciated.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

**If you would like to**

- read more about OGHS
- contribute to the UCC's work on a specific cause or when a disaster strikes
- learn about ways that you and our church can be more active in the areas OGHS serves

visit [www.ucc.org/oghs](http://www.ucc.org/oghs)

## Visioning Team Progress Report

The Visioning Team has developed a working draft of a new Purpose Statement (below), approved by Common Ministry at its January meeting:

**Union’s purpose is to strive to do the will of God, and to make the Christ spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations. Our church celebrates God’s love by ...**

**Creating a safe harbor for all,  
Serving each at their point of need, and by  
Promoting personal and social transformation.**

### We Created Five Goals to Accomplish the Purpose

The goals are based on the keywords in the Purpose Statement. The next step is to develop strategies to accomplish the goals.

### Process for Developing Strategies

We will recruit a three-to-five member team to brainstorm strategies for each of the five draft goal statements. These teams will be composed of members who have the skills and

passion for the goal. The team will meet one time for one hour. They will be asked to generate as many ideas as they can for their assigned goal. More ideas for strategies will be gathered using Google and a post-it “wall” in Pilgrim Hall.

### Prioritizing the Strategies for Each Goal

UCC Consultant John Wimberly will meet with our Visioning Team and with our Stewardship Ministry on Friday, April 8. Strategies not used will serve as a pool of resources for future action; as we complete strategies, we draw on the pool for more activities.

**More updates to follow; our timeline targets approval by Common Ministry of a final strategic plan this May.**

### Visioning Team Members

Pastor Bridget, Mary Kay Bishop, Shana Espinosa, John Feldhouse, Ed Tucker, Barbara McClure-Lukens, and Bruce Shafer

## Holy Week at Union Church

### Palm Sunday — March 20

- 9:00 a.m. Church School
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education—Is America a “Christian” Nation? (with Dr. Michael Lukens)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary — Palm Sunday Procession

### Maundy Thursday — March 24

- 7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

### Good Friday — March 25

- 12:00 Noon Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary

### Easter Sunday — March 27

- 8:00 a.m. Easter Worship with Holy Communion in the Chapel
  - 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in Pilgrim Hall
  - 10:00 a.m. Festival Service of Worship in the Sanctuary
- No Church School or Storyteller; Nursery available for both services!**

## Attendance

January	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
1st Sunday	129	105
2nd Sunday	123	172
3rd Sunday	111	141
4th Sunday	125	120
5th Sunday	127	--
<b>Totals</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>538</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>123.0</b>	<b>134.5</b>

**Invite a Friend  
to Church!**

## One Great Hour of Sharing is March 6

"Walk the Extra Mile" is the theme of this year's One Great Hour of Sharing collection which helps out refugees, disaster victims and those in need globally. The offering is a way to show solidarity with the world. A portion of the moneys, which come from congregations of many denominations, will help ever growing population of Syrian refugees with their urgent needs.

We will collect the offering Sunday, March 6, although you can make an offering at any time by marking your check or envelope OGHS.

Thank you to all who gave to The Christmas Fund. We had a very strong offering this year!

## New Community Shelter

Union Church will be serving at New Community Shelter on Maundy Thursday, March 24, from 5 to 6 p.m. Any age is welcome. We need from six to eight persons. There is a sign-up sheet upstairs in Pilgrim Hall.

If you plan to attend the Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. that night at Union, you will have enough time to make the transition.

## Easter Breakfast

**Sunday, March 27**

**8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.**



Inreach Ministry invites those attending Easter worship to enjoy a delicious breakfast in Pilgrim Hall. Reservations are not necessary.

Bring your friends and eat after 8:00 a.m. worship or before worship at 10:00 a.m.

## An Update from Nick Bush

Dear Pastor Bridget and Union Church,

A Fijian missionary, brother and friend in the faith, Semi Ratulele, accompanied our team to Athens. He has been in missions with YWAM (Youth With a Mission) for 23 years and has been on a similar number of short-term missions. When I asked him how this mission stacked up compared to all the others, he told me outright, "This is the best." Our connection in Greece fell through just before going to Athens, and consequently the Spirit of God alone led our team and it was full of divine appointments. We were led to a woman, Maureen Hurly, from Toronto, who is retired and has been doing philanthropy all over Europe for 10 years. She told us that the workers are needed most in Athens and that we were right on time.

We sorted and organized a basketball stadium full of boxes of goods donated for the refugees. We then distributed these goods directly to refugees. We hosted a make-shift thrift store at a local multinational church. We met dozens of believers fleeing violent persecution from all over the Middle East. Please pray for them also.

Jesus Christ came alive in me on this mission in a way I never thought possible. I knew God was guiding me and providing for me since I gave Him my life. But it's now as though He is living my life with me in a very intimate way, moment by moment. I'm so grateful to know Him in this way!

We worshipped in front of the parliament/royal palace building, in many different squares, and at coffee shops. I played a drum. It was fun. There was a refugee building that I volunteered in reserved for families. Single men, due to conflicts in the past, are not allowed in and are forced to live outside in the various squares throughout Athens. It's quite sad.

Our team would rise early and meet refugees coming in off of Titanic-sized ferries at Piraeus, the port of Athens. Between 500 and 2,500 refugees come in on each boat, sometimes 3 per day. We gave them food, clothes, baby carriers, diapers, backpacks, toys and Love. Some of them told us they hadn't eaten in 3 days and were very thankful. Many spoke English. Various organizations and leaders we worked with told us time and again that they were impressed with our team, that they had never gotten so much done in such a short time. We truly made a big impact wherever we went and with whatever God had us do. Being on frontline missions and in such a beautiful place was such a blessing. We read the one of Paul's sermons that he gave on Mars Hill, at the very spot he spoke 2,000 years ago! God moved so much in each member of our team, we all grew quite a bit. And like I said, you would be proud of our team, God did so much through us as well. Thanks for praying.

—Nicolas Bush



## Easter Flowers

Contributions for the Easter altar can be sent to the church office along with this form. Please indicate any special memorial or acknowledgement so that it may be printed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

- Please send your contribution by Sunday, March 20.
- Flowers may be taken home after 10 a.m. Easter service.
- If you are able to help water our Easter flowers, please contact the church office (437-9266) or make a note below. Thank you!

## Flower Order

I/We will provide flowers for the Easter Altar.

Dedication \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Our Church Family

## Union Church Phone Directories

Updated Union Church phone directories will be available to members of the congregation beginning on Palm Sunday. Members can pick up a copy at either entrance to the sanctuary or on the table outside the church office. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call (437-9266) or email the church office ([office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com)) and we will get a copy to you.

Now is a great time to let the church know if your phone number, address or email has changed. We do our best to ensure information is accurate, but with a congregation of more than 500 members, we can always use some help. Thank you!

**Second Sunday Series**

**Noel Halvorsen**

**Executive Director of NeighborWorks**

**March 13**

Executive Director of NeighborWorks Noel Halvorsen will speak at 9 a.m. in the Bagby Chapel on Sunday, March 13. Noel will explain what NeighborWorks is and what it is doing to assist low-to-moderate income families achieve home ownership. Join us!

**Priscilla Circle Meets March 22**

Priscilla Circle will gather at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22 in the English Room. Judy Larmouth will host.

**Book Sale May 1 and May 8**

The Church Library Book Sale will be held on Sundays, May 1 and May 8. Now is the time to bring your loved, but no longer needed, books to the church library. This fun event is made possible by the congregation's willingness to share. So experience the joy of tidying up and clean out those shelves!

**Altar Flowers**



Please consider providing flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event. These dates are available for you to provide flowers:

**All of March and most of April**

Please call the church office at 437-9266 or sign up on the board next to the office if you'd like to provide altar flowers. Thank you.

**Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH) News**

“What expectations do you have of families?”

This is a question which comes up often. The most accurate response is, “It depends on the needs of the family.”

When a family enters one of our homes, a Salvation Army (TSA) case manager completes an assessment looking at 17 different areas of self-sufficiency. The assessment tool was developed collaboratively by our partnership, and assesses areas such as housing, income, education, mental and physical health, and financial acumen to list just a few.

Using the assessment results as a starting point, a case manager guides and assists the family in setting goals for themselves and in developing weekly action plans for evaluating progress. As an example, a young mother who came to us in January has goals related to budget counseling, education, nutrition for her family, and spiritual growth. Working together, our EPH/TSA partnership is providing safety, stability, and solutions for homeless families in our community.

—Sue Morzenti

**CHILI COOKOFF**



March 5th, 2016  
2-5 PM \$5/Members  
\$10/Non Members  
Contest entrants are free!!!  
At: Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
716 S. Madison St.  
Green Bay, WI  
Sponsored by:

PVINC.ORG



**POSITIVE VOICE**

Questions? Email Lloyd at LSchaefer3@new.rr.com or call 920 437 9266.



# Union Church Calendar

## February 28—April 16, 2016

**February 28 Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Church School  
 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed—Is America a  
 “Christian” Nation?  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
 6:30 p.m. Lenten Book Study

**February 29 Monday**

5:00 p.m. Outreach Ministry

**March 1 Tuesday**

1:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry  
 6:30 p.m. Education Ministry

**March 2 Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast Group  
 4:45 p.m. New Member Ministry  
 4:55 p.m. Youth Choir  
 5:30 p.m. Inquirers Class  
 5:45 p.m. Dinner  
 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA  
 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

**March 3 Thursday**

5:30 p.m. Handbell Ensemble  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

**March 5 Saturday**

2:00 p.m. Chili Cookoff

**March 6 Sunday**

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**

9:00 a.m. Church School  
 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed—Is America a  
 “Christian” Nation?  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
 6:30 p.m. Lenten Book Study

**March 7 Monday**

6:30 p.m. Sacred Conversation

**March 8 Tuesday**

1:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 5:30 p.m. Inreach Ministry  
 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Ministry  
 6:30 p.m. Common Ministry  
 6:30 p.m. Adult GSA

**March 9 Wednesday**

4:55 p.m. Youth Choir  
 5:45 p.m. Dinner  
 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA  
 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

**March 10 Thursday**

5:30 p.m. Handbell Ensemble  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

**March 13 Sunday**

**New Member Sunday**

Daylight-Saving Time Begins  
 9:00 a.m. Church School  
 9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
 6:30 p.m. Lenten Book Study

**March 15 Tuesday**

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

**March 16 Wednesday**

4:55 p.m. Youth Choir  
 5:45 p.m. Dinner  
 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA  
 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

**March 17 Thursday**

5:30 p.m. Handbell Ensemble  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

**March 20 Palm Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Church School  
 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed—Is America a  
 “Christian” Nation?  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
 6:30 p.m. Lenten Book Study

**March 21 Monday**

6:30 p.m. Sacred Conversation  
 (tentative)

**March 22 Tuesday**

1:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

**March 23 Wednesday**

NO PF or YCA; NO Seminary Secrets

**March 24 Maundy Thursday**

7:00 p.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
 Chancel Choir rehearses after worship

**March 25 Good Friday**

Noon Worship in the sanctuary

**March 26 Holy Saturday**

Noon Chancel Choir rehearses

**March 27 Easter Sunday**

8:00 a.m. Worship in the chapel  
 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

**March 28 Monday**

Church Office Closed

**March 29 Tuesday**

NO Bible Study

**March 30 Wednesday**

NO YOUTH GROUPS

4:55 p.m. Youth Choir  
 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

**March 31 Thursday**

5:30 p.m. Handbell Ensemble  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

**April 3 Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Church School  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

**April 4 Monday**

6:30 p.m. Sacred Conversation

**April 5 Tuesday (Spring Gen. Election)**

1:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 5:00 p.m. New Member Ministry  
 5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry  
 6:00 p.m. Outreach Ministry  
 6:30 p.m. Education Ministry

**April 6 Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast Group  
 4:55 p.m. Youth Choir  
 5:45 p.m. Dinner  
 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA  
 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

**April 7 Thursday**

5:30 p.m. Handbell Ensemble  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

**April 8 Friday**

3:30 p.m. Stewardship Special Mtg.  
 5:30 p.m. Visioning Team

**April 10 Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Church School  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

**April 12 Tuesday**

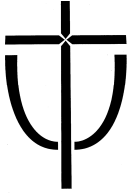
1:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 5:30 p.m. Inreach Ministry  
 5:30 p.m. Stewardship Ministry  
 6:30 p.m. Common Ministry

**April 13 Wednesday**

4:55 p.m. Youth Choir  
 5:45 p.m. Dinner  
 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA  
 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

**April 14 Thursday**

TBA Handbell Ensemble  
 NO Chancel Choir  
 Lakeland College Choir Visits  
 (watch for details in the weeks ahead)



Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
716 S. Madison Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301

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PERMIT NO. 53  
GREEN BAY, WI

----- Union Church -----  
New Member  
**Salad Potluck**



March 13, 2016  
Pilgrim Hall

11:30 – 12:30  
Immediately Following  
New Member Reception

Bring a salad to share and  
meet our newest members at this event

Please sign up at Union Central

**Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

716 S. Madison Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301  
e-mail: [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com)  
(920) 437-9266

**Bridget M. Flad Daniels**

Senior Minister

**Steven B. Hartman**

Pastor of Visitation

**Lou Ann Norsetter**

Moderator

**Church Office Hours**

**Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

For more information about us,  
visit our web page  
at <http://www.unionucc.com>