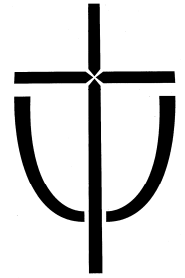


Still Speaking



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

May 2017

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

Our next newsletter will be published
the week of **June 7, 2017**.

The deadline for that newsletter is
Friday, June 2, 2017.

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In worship on May 21, we will celebrate with Eli Gregg, Nick Sheier, Kaia Stueck, and Emmaline Weist as they affirm their baptisms through the Rite of Confirmation. Alleluia!

One of the most ancient prayers of Confirmation reads: *Holy God, grant this person the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of right judgment and courage, the Spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the Spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.*

Sign me up!

Confirmation is more than a graduation from Sunday School (a term we don't use anymore – we call all of our education programs “Faith Formation” with the idea that developing faith is much more than intellectual learning; it is a whole-person experience that we never finish). Classically, we call Confirmation an affirmation of faith – the youth are affirming their baptisms.

Affirming our baptism is powerful. We recall that we are God's beloved, we acknowledge the power of evil and sin and refuse to allow those to be our masters, we allow God's promise to wash over us that no matter how we stray we will always be welcome home in God's loving embrace, we commit to being a part of God's healing action in the world.

This is something that we all could use a lot more of. It's rich and meaningful for a young teen as life and the world are blossoming in front of them, and I'm sure all of you reading this can think of other times in life when those affirmations strengthened you.

Thus, the importance of that ancient prayer of Confirmation I cited at the beginning. In Confirmation the youth makes a commitment to God and the church by affirming their baptism, and then God and the church make a commitment to the youth. We call on the Holy Spirit and ask it to be their protector and guide. We pray that, when times get tough, as they inevitably will, this young person will have God's Spirit of wisdom. Again, sign me up! Slather it on!

And we pray they will have God's understanding and right judgment. I could sure use an extra dose of that, and I'd be surprised if you didn't want that, too.

And courage. May I have a triple portion of that, please? In fact, let's squeeze as much of that on as we can.

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Last, the prayer calls for the Spirit of knowledge, reverence, and wonder and awe in God's presence. Three more gifts of the Spirit that adult life is all too often all too lacking.

As our teens round the corner on their preparation for Confirmation, I ask you to hold them in prayer: you may choose to think of each young one and pray the prayer that comes to mind, or you may choose to pray the ancient prayer of Confirmation above, contemplating some of the many situations they will find themselves in in the years to come, and how the gifts of the Spirit can be an aide in the face of life.

In Joyful Hope,
Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

Lectionary Readings

May 7—4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; Ps 23
1 Pet 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

May 14—5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60; Ps 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Pet 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 21—6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31; Ps 66:8-20
1 Pet 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 28—7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14; Ps 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Pet 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

June 4—Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30
Ps 104:24-34, 35b
1 Cor 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

June 11—Trinity Sunday

Gen 1:1-2:4a; Ps 8
2 Cor 13:11-13; Matt 28:16-20

Our Church Family

Our Attendance

April	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
1st Sunday	146	127
2nd Sunday (Palm Sunday in 2017)	183	115
3rd Sunday (Easter Sunday in 2017)	291	137
4th Sunday	131	154
5th Sunday	141	—
Totals	892	533
Average	178.4	133.3

Holy Week	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Palm Sunday	183	158
Maundy Thursday	57	65
Good Friday	80	51
Easter 8 a.m.	40	31
Easter 10 a.m.	251	207
Totals	611	512

Housing Collection Is May 14

May 14 is Mother's Day and it is also the Sunday that Union Church will take up our annual collection for Housing. Having a safe, secure place for their families to live and grow is important to all mothers, so on this day of honoring mothers and mother-figures, please consider making a contribution toward eliminating homelessness right here in our community. These funds are used, in part, to support the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH) of Green Bay. EPH is a local non-profit coalition that provides transitional housing to homeless families in Green Bay. Thank you!

—Christie Reese

Serving Dinner at Howe Community Center

Looking for a one-time service opportunity that you can complete in an hour and a half?

On Monday, May 15 at 5 p.m., Union Church is serving the evening meal at the Howe Community Center (526 S. Monroe Avenue) for Howe Elementary School students and their families. This is just down the street from Union, and it is a great way to get to know folks in our community. Volunteers need to arrive by 4:45 p.m. and plan to be there until about 6 p.m. – no cooking, just serving. Adults and children, ages 8 and up, can help.

Call Lou Norsetter at 497-4410 if you would like to join us!

Union Church Welcomes Eight New Members!

It was our joy to welcome eight new members to the faith and fellowship of Union Church on Sunday, April 30. Our new members are:

New members from left to right: Tim and Karen Hogan, Jenna Stevens, Janet Tolan, Joan Dudek, Kaley DeGrave and Andrew Hoffman. Not pictured: Denise Mancheski.

Kaley DeGrave and Andrew Hoffman

Andrew is from Oshkosh and is an accountant in the Howard area. Kaley is from Green Bay and is an auto claims adjuster in De Pere. Kaley and Andrew have been engaged for a little over a year and wanted to find a church where they felt at home. Andrew grew up going to St. Paul's UCC in Oshkosh which led them to search for a UCC church in the area. They attended a few Sunday services and fell in love with the charm of the church along with the kind and welcoming congregation. They are excited to become members, get to know everyone, and participate in the church. They are also excited for their wedding at Union Church on June 2, 2018. In their free time they enjoy the outdoors, quality time with friends and family, and traveling.

Joan Dudek

Joan lives on a small hobby farm with her wife, Joni Delwiche (a member of Union Church). Joan and Joni have cared for a variety of critters over the years (horses, sheep, dogs, cats, ducks and honey bees). Joan is an avid motorcyclist, and loves touring the country—especially visiting the beautiful national parks and scenic byways. Joni and Joan celebrated their commitment

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Who's Graduating?



We would like to recognize our 2017 graduates in our June newsletter.

Please let the church office know (437-9266 or office@unionucc.com) if you will be a 2017 graduate (high school, college) and what type of degree (associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctorate, etc.) you have earned. We would like to say congratulations and give others a chance to do the same!

Used Book Sale

May 7 and May 14

Come to the used book sale in Pilgrim Hall on Sundays, May 7 and 14, before and after church. Books sell for 50 cents or one dollar.

Immigration Stories

Plan to join us for Adult Education at 9 a.m. on Sunday, June 4 when Said Hassan and Mahamed Rage, two immigrants from Somalia who now live in Green Bay, come to tell us their story. Said and Mahamed are working to develop a community center and help their fellow immigrants integrate into U.S. society.

Work Day Thanks

The Stewardship Ministry would like to thank Karen Ludolph, Jeff Carels, Bob Rose, Bob and Carolyn Haglund, Ed and Sue Tucker, Clay, Christie, Carter, Christian and Charlie Reese, Bruce Shafer, and Bill Johnson for their cleaning efforts on April 29.

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ceremony in 1987, and they were legally married in 2013. (If you just did the math, Joni says that they were very, very young for that first ceremony!)

Joan is happy to be joining Union. She feels she has found a community that is in alignment with her spiritual and social views; at the same time, she thinks her involvement here will challenge her to consider other perspectives.

Karen and Tim Hogan

A brief experience with Union Church during a Christmas Church Walk over two years ago touched the Hogan's heart and continued to "tug" over the next couple of years. Karen and Tim finally attended a service at Union Church in October and immediately felt "at home." The beliefs of Union Congregational fit with what they believe, and as they learned more about the church and the work that it does, Tim and Karen knew they wanted to be a part of this community.

The Hogans have four wonderful daughters—Jessica, Jenna, Anna and Kara—ranging in age from 19 to 27. The couple is also about one month away from becoming grandparents for the first time! The Hogan family is anxiously awaiting the arrival of baby Emmett. Tim is a sales representative at Fairchild Equipment, and Karen is a second grade teacher with the Green Bay Public Schools.

Jenna Stevens and Denise Mancheski

Jenna is a returning UW-Green Bay student with a triple major in human development, psychology and Spanish. Denise is a St. Norbert College graduate who studied sociology and business.

Jenna and Denise both work for the YMCA. Jenna also works in the nursery at Union Church . . . which made her feel so welcomed that it sparked an interest to be part of Union Church.

Denise and Jenna have two beautiful pets: a rescued chocolate lab (Haddie Mae) and a cat (Kali). Jenna and Denise love spending time with their extended family and close friends. They also enjoy traveling, camping in the great outdoors and Wisconsin team sports. Go Badgers, Packers, Brewers, UW-Green Bay Phoenix and St. Norbert Knights!

Janet Tolan

As a child of the Green Bay community, Janet grew up with a strong faith and an affinity for hard work—two values that are with her yet today. Janet has always believed in God, Christ and the Holy Spirit; however, in her teens and twenties she found that her personal faith no longer fit with her religious practices. While her faith has never wavered, it was not until she learned about Union Church that she found a church that matched her inner personal beliefs and faith. She is very happy to become a new member. Janet is married to Laurie Beauchamp.

We Need You!

As the program year winds down and hints of summer start to fill the air, the church starts planning for the next program year. In order to make our wonderful educational, formation, and fellowship ministries work, we need all hands on deck, including:

- **Teachers** – people who are willing to lead lessons once or twice a month with our K4-1st, 2nd-4th and 5th graders on up. We have great curriculum, so your planning and prep is not hard at all.
- **Aides** – people who assist with the three classrooms named above, also once or twice a month.
- **Youth Group Advisors** – each youth group, Pilgrim Fellowship and Young Christians in Action, has 3 to 4 adults who work with the youth to plan and implement fellowship, faith formation, and service activities on Wednesday nights.
- **Cooks** – we provide dinner each week for everyone who participates in our Wednesday night programming. In the past, we've had 1 or 2 cooks who have taken on the whole year, cooking and serving on Wednesday. If you're interested in doing that, GREAT! Otherwise, we are open to alternative models. Could you cook and serve for a month or two? Would one week a month work for you? Could you cook earlier in the week, and serve on Wednesday? We're willing to be creative, whether we have a couple of cooks or a dozen, so long as people are fed!

If you would like to hear more about any of these wonderful ways to serve the church, contact Deb Rose (Education Ministry Chair) at debrose1104@gmail.com or 347-4976 regarding Teaching/Being an Aide/Being a Youth Group Advisor. Contact Heather Collins (Inreach Ministry Chair) at hblue621@gmail.com or 639-8821 regarding being a Cook, or contact Pastor Bridget.

Invite a friend to church!

A Meaningful Getaway

Searching for a meaningful getaway? How about an adult mission trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi? Back Bay is a community ministry of the United Church of Christ that meets the needs of those suffering from poverty and its effects while building pathways to social justice.

A group from UCC churches is planning a service trip from November 25 to December 3. Work days are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Participants work in the food pantry, rehab homes, and help in the homeless shelter. Cost is \$175 per person for materials and lodging. Additional costs for hotels en route, gas, and food while at Back Bay Mission depend on final numbers going, the sharing of rooms, and so on.

To learn more about this meaningful getaway, visit <https://thebackbaymission.org/>. Contact Pastor Bridget if you are interested.

Strengthen the Church Offering is June 4

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Most congregations, including Union Church, will receive the STC offering on Pentecost Sunday which is June 4.

**Remember to wear
your name tag!**

Jubilee House Coordinator Needed

Do you like working with others and building community through teamwork? We may have the perfect volunteer niche for you! Outreach Ministry is in search of someone interested in serving as Union’s unit coordinator for Jubilee House, the home Union maintains with the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH). The primary responsibility of the unit coordinator is to facilitate the transition of Jubilee House from one occupancy to another, including recruiting and directing volunteers from the congregation to clean, perform maintenance, take inventory and restock prior to a new family taking occupancy. Typically, a family resides at Jubilee House between 18 to 24 months. EPH is a local non-profit coalition that provides transitional housing to homeless families in Green Bay.

If you are interested in volunteering for this position or know someone who may be interested, please call or text Christie Reese, 920-273-5349, or contact the church office.

Union Church Rummage Sale is May 20

The sale is Saturday, May 20 (8 a.m. to noon). Books, toys, kitchen items, videos, house décor, sporting goods, records, and overall fun stuff in good condition are needed. Adult t-shirts and purses are welcome, but other clothing items are not being sought for this “quick sale.” Donations are welcome starting Sunday, May 14 through Friday, May 19 in the chapel classroom.

Volunteers are needed. Contact Stacie Christian at canoechix@hotmail.com or 920-639-8421. Thank you!

Altar Flowers

Why not consider bringing in some fresh cut flowers from your garden to place on our altar. The flowers can be placed there in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event or just to brighten up the sanctuary. These dates are available for you to provide flowers:

May 14, 28; June 11, 18, 25

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.

Garden News

Spreading Mulch

Two opportunities: We will begin Saturday, May 13 at 8 a.m. and work until 10. We will finish on Wednesday, May 17 from 8 a.m. until 10. Wheelbarrows, shovels, gloves are helpful. Don't have any? We will have extras. Any amount of time you have is welcome.

Planting the Garden

We will meet in the courtyard on Wednesday, May 31 at 8 a.m. to begin planting. Follow-up planting will be Saturday, June 3 from 8 a.m. until 10. On the job training. Come when you can.

Wednesday Weeders and Saturday Snippers

Weeders start May 17 with mulch spreading and continue every Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 9 until September. Snippers begin with the planting on June 3 and continue until the end of August. Feel free to pull any weeds you see at any other time as well. Thanks.

—Julie Macier



**Union’s Family
All-Church Retreat
September 15 to 17, 2017
Moon Beach Camp (near Eagle River)**

*Time for worship...Time for reflection...Time for fun...Time for friends
Time for wonderful food...Time in great cabins...Time on or by the lake!*

Join us for a great time. This retreat is for all ages—families, singles or couples.

Union Church Calendar

May 7—June 17, 2017

May 7 Youth Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
with Communion
11:15 a.m. Confirmation
Book Sale in Pilgrim Hall
before and after worship

May 9 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
5:30 p.m. Inreach Ministry
6:30 p.m. Common Ministry
6:30 p.m. Adult Gay-Straight Alliance

May 10 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA

May 11 Thursday

5:30 p.m. Handbells
6:30 p.m. Advocacy Team
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

May 13 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Spreading mulch

May 14 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Parent to Parent
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Confirmation
Book Sale in Pilgrim Hall
before and after worship

May 16 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

May 17 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Wednesday Weeders
5:45 p.m. Youth Group Cookout
6:15 p.m. Last PF & YCA

May 18 Thursday

5:30 p.m. Handbells

May 20 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Church Rummage Sale

May 21 Confirmation Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Confirmation Worship
in the sanctuary

May 23 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

May 24 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Wednesday Weeders

May 25 Thursday

5:30 p.m. Handbells

May 28 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

May 29 Monday

Memorial Day
Church Office Closed

May 31 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Wednesday Weeders

June 1 Thursday

5:30 p.m. Handbells

June 2 Friday

Deadline for June's *"Still Speaking"*

June 3 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Saturday Snippers

June 4 Pentecost Sunday

9:00 a.m. Adult Education
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
with Communion
11:15 a.m. Church Picnic

June 6 Tuesday

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:30 p.m. Education Ministry
6:30 p.m. Common Ministry

June 7 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Wednesday Weeders
June's *"Still Speaking"* is published

Wis. Conference Annual Meeting
June 9—June 11
Green Lake Conference Center

June 10 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Saturday Snippers

June 11 Trinity Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

June 13 Tuesday

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

June 14 Wednesday

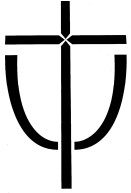
8:00 a.m. Wednesday Weeders

June 15 Thursday

5:00 p.m. Faith Family Field Trip
at Bay Beach
Wildlife Sanctuary

June 17 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Saturday Snippers



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

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GREEN BAY, WI



June 4 after worship

- Potluck-style meal with entrees off the grill
- Games for all ages
- Please bring a dish to pass
- No sign-up needed

Union Congregational United Church of Christ

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

Bridget M. Flad Daniels

Senior Minister

Steven B. Hartman

Pastor of Visitation

Sandy Polarek

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>