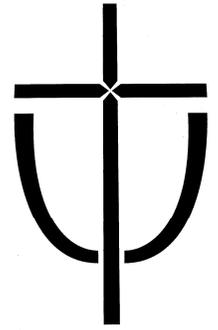




Still Speaking



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

November 2017

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter
will be published the week
of **December 6, 2017.***

*The deadline for that newsletter
is Friday, **December 1, 2017.***

Our Church Family -----	2
Sunday Adult Classes-----	3
Advent Prayer Partner-----	3
Christmas Altar -----	3
Love Life Ministry -----	4
Union Welcomes New Members -	4-5
Priscilla Circle-----	5
Thanksgiving Dinner at Veterans Manor -	5
George's Secret Elves -----	6
Christmas Fund -----	6
Thanksgiving Worship -----	back page

Dear Union Friends,

Recently, a friend relayed this story: She received a package in the mail from her sister. It wasn't her birthday, was months before the holidays. My friend had been having a particularly trying week at work, and her sister's surprise gift of a sweet smelling candle, some soothing lotion, and a couple of snapshots from their teen years were a balm for her aching spirit.

She texted her sister a heartfelt message, "Thank you for your thoughtful package. In the midst of a dark week, you were a ray of sunshine!"

Her sister responded, "Oh, it was just some stuff I'd been meaning to get to you for a while."

My friend says that the joy and comfort that she had felt about being remembered and supported dissipated with her sister's response. The giver, by diminishing the importance of the gift, diminished the receiver's joy.

To be fair, my guess is that the sister who sent the gift was trying to be modest. "It was no big deal." She didn't want to call attention to herself. She didn't send the gift for the purpose of praise or thanks. The difficulty is that our mothers were right all those years ago – it IS the intention that counts. When we deflect and diminish a thank you or a compliment we are in turn diminishing the intention.

Think about it. Have you ever received a bouquet of dandelions from a child? The sheer glee on the child's face is the true gift. Their intention is the true beauty.

So, too, in our social conventions of offering thanks and compliments. One of the wisdom figures of my seminary days was Dr. Judy Logue who wrote extensively on the dynamics of forgiveness and reconciliation. A grande dame from Baton Rouge, Judy was all poise and class. One day she pulled me aside. She had just complimented me about my work on a particularly involved assignment, and I had deflected out of modesty. "Let me tell you a secret," she said, "The kindest response to a compliment is 'Thank you!' and the classiest response to gratitude is 'You're welcome!'"

As we enter in to the season of Thanksgiving, I encourage you to be mindful of both sides of the equation – to be gracious both in the offering of

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

November 19

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Judg 4:1-7 • Ps 123 OR
 Zeph 1:7, 12-18 •
 Ps 90:1-8 (9-11), 12
 1 Thess 5:1-11
 Matt 25:14-30

November 26

Reign of Christ

Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24 • Ps 100 OR
 Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24 • Ps 95:1-7a
 Eph 1:15-23
 Matt 25:31-46

December 3

1st Sunday of Advent

Isa 64:1-9
 Ps 80:1-7, 17-19
 1 Cor 1:3-9
 Mk 13:24-37

December 10

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isa 40:1-11
 Ps 85:1-2, 8-13
 2 Pet 3:8-15a
 Mk 1:1-8

December 17

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isa 61:1-4, 8-11
 Ps 126 or Luke 1:47-55
 1 Thess 5:16-24
 Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24

4th Sunday of Advent

2 Sam 7:1-11, 16
 Luke 1:47-55 or
 Ps 89:1-4, 19-26
 Rom 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38

Our Church Family

(continued from page 1)

thanks and in the receiving of it. For someone else's offering of praise and thanksgiving is a holy act!

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.”

2 Corinthians 9:11-12

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

Attendance

October	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
1st Sunday	122	147
2nd Sunday	145	143
3rd Sunday	126	132
4th Sunday	115	166
5th Sunday	146	--
Totals	654	588
Average	130.8	147.0

Sunday Adult Classes:

(All classes take place in Bagby Chapel from 9 to 9:45 a.m.)

How the Bible Came to Be

November 19

Scholarship has shown that the Bible is the product of many minds and took over 1,000 years to come into its present form. How did this whole process occur? Who composed the texts? Who decided which of the many religious writings "made the cut" and got into our Bible? In short, how did we get the Christian canon?

LEADER — Julie Harder

Was Mary a Virgin?

December 3

"Round yon Virgin Mother (and child) ...," we sing every Christmas. Did you ever wonder why, when, and how the tradition of the virgin conception arose? Did all early Christian believers and authors of the New Testament subscribe to this tradition? [Spoiler alert: No.] Is there scriptural evidence that Mary was a virgin for life (as some churches teach)? What has the Church's exaltation of virginity as the most holy way to be meant for women's lives in the past 2,000 years?

LEADER — Julie Harder (jblackharder@gmail.com)

Why Does Christmas Matter?

December 10

Christmas is so significant for many of us, but this is often based on inconsistent reasons. We'll discuss what many of those dominant reasons are and what holds true for us.

LEADER — Michael Lukens

Sign Up to be an Advent Prayer Partner

Add Hope and Peace to your holiday to-do list.

In Advent, we steep ourselves in waiting, hope, and the interplay between light and darkness as we prepare for the coming of Christ. Amidst the busyness of the season, we'd like to encourage you to use it as an opportunity to enrich your practices of risk taking friendship and passionate prayer.

You can sign up to be an Advent Prayer Partner by filling out the form below and putting it in the collection plate or returning it to the church office by November 26. Later that week, you will be emailed a name of someone to pray for and their prayer requests. Your commitment is to lift up your secret Advent Prayer Partner each day in your prayers. Additionally, each week we will send an Advent-themed prayer technique. Our project will wrap up with you sending your prayer partner a note the last week of Advent, revealing your identity and sharing what you've been praying for them.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Please list one or two things you would like your Prayer Partner to pray for:

Christmas Altar

Please join us in preparing our altar for the Christmas season. We will be purchasing poinsettias by December 15. The average cost of each will be \$20.00 (two for \$35). If you wish to contribute, please fill out this order form and return it to the church office, indicating any necessary information for the bulletin.



Poinsettia Contribution

I/we would like to contribute for poinsettias

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Dedication for the Bulletin

Love Life Ministry

Book Fair December 10

You supported Love Life Ministry with your diaper donations in August! Please help us again by supporting our Book Fair at Barnes and Noble, 2498 S. Oneida Street, on December 10 from 10 a.m. until closing. Love Life will receive a percentage of your in-store purchases on the 10th, or online from December 10 through December 15.

It is easy to do: Just mention Love Life to the cashier in the store on December 10 or go to BN.COM/bookfairs online and use the code 12233623. We will be in the store on the 10th to remind you, and there will be refreshments and other activities, plus free gift wrapping. What a way to get some Christmas shopping done!

See Jean Smithback if you have questions. Thank you for your continued generosity.

—Union Church Outreach Ministry

12th Night Celebration

January 5 at 6 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of fun, fellowship and lively entertainment in our very own Pilgrim Hall. Bring your friends. Inreach Ministry will provide the main entrée, dessert, wine and beer. Please bring a dish to share. Child care will be provided.

Sign up during December at Union Central. Advance tickets are available for \$10 during coffee hour. Tickets are \$12 at the door.

—Inreach Ministry

Union Church Welcomes

Seven new members were welcomed into the faith and fellowship of

Britney and Caitlin Burkart-LaBar

WI 543

Britney's Cell: ()

Caitlin's Cell: ()

Britney and Caitlin met over 10 years ago and celebrated their five-year wedding anniversary this past summer. After trying for many years, the couple gave birth to their daughter, Declann Rose, in February. They also have a dog named Simon Peter.

Britney works for the city of Green Bay as the special facilities manager. Caitlin is a wedding consultant at David's Bridal. They also own an apparel printing company, Thirty.Three, LLC.

In their spare time, the family loves to travel and surround themselves with family and friends.



David Hassel

WI 543

David's Cell: ()

David is so happy to join all of us as a member of Union Church. He is a lawyer by training, but his passion is music.

David loves the rich tradition of music at Union and is thankful to participate in it from time to time. He looks forward to getting to know everyone better as he settles into his new home.



Daniel Weisse

WI 543

Daniel's Cell: ()

Daniel enjoys being in the immediate community and being there for the community. He is looking forward to helping out and meeting new people.



Seven New Members!

Union Congregational United Church of Christ on October 29.

Mike Ratachic

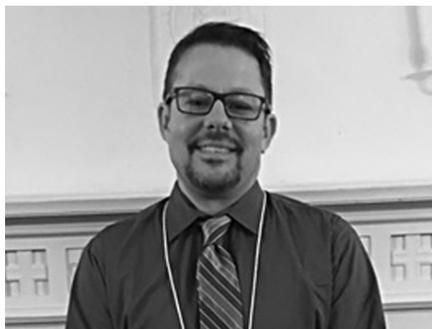
WI 543

Mike's Cell: ()

Mike was born and raised in Green Bay as an only child to Dick and Kathy Ratachic. He has been employed at Brown County Human Services since the age of 16 and is currently working as a case manager in the county's outpatient psychiatric hospital.

Mike is an avid drum and bugle corps lover and runner who enjoys football and roller derby. He was baptized and received his first Communion through the Catholic church. After age eight he only attended church occasionally and mainly did so to accompany his grandmother. He has since found his faith again after having come to Union Church.

Mike was drawn to Union because of its open and affirming stance and because of the church's support of the homeless and mentally ill. Union's activism in social justice and prison reform is admirable. Mike is honored to become a member of the church and is anxious to give back to his community.



Kathy and Achim Seifert

WI 543

Kathy's Cell: ()

Achim's Cell: ()

Kathy and Achim recently moved from Western Springs, Illinois after having lived there 27 years. They have three children and one grandchild.

Both are retired, Achim from commercial real estate and Kathy from teaching. Kathy hopes to continue her work with pottery and explore mixed media art, and Achim hopes to hone his woodworking skills. Both enjoy volunteering with youth, cooking, and gardening.

Kathy and Achim look forward to becoming a part of the Union family.



Priscilla Circle Meets November 28

Members of Priscilla Circle will meet at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, November 28 in the English Room. Stacie Christian will talk about antiques and "what you should give to your children and what you should sell." Deb Rose will host.

Thanksgiving Dinner at Veterans Manor

For many of us, the holidays wouldn't be complete without the food. You know . . . Grandma's famous cranberry relish, homemade pumpkin pie, green bean casserole and . . . you fill in the rest.

The same is true for folks living at the Green Bay Veterans Manor, and this year Union has a wonderful opportunity to provide a meal for the approximately 40 veterans living here in Green Bay. If you would like to help with this project, we will need people to provide items for the meal and people who would like to go to the Veterans Manor to serve the meal at noon on Thanksgiving Day (November 23) and visit with residents. In addition, we will need a few folks to be at church on Wednesday afternoon/evening and Thursday morning before 10 a.m. to receive and prep food items.

If you are interested in signing up to make an item or give of your time or treasure this Thanksgiving, please contact the church office, sign up at Union Central or contact:

Heather Collins

hblue621@gmail.com

920-639-8821

or

Christie Reese

christie.reese@gmail.com

920-273-5349

If you will be out of town or otherwise engaged over the Thanksgiving holiday, cash donations to support the meal and make the day memorable are also welcome.

George's Secret Elves Shopping List

George's Secret Elves are collecting food to send home with children for the school break.

- Mac and cheese (lots)
- Snack boxes raisins or cranberries
- Snack/lunch fruit cups
- Snack/lunch pudding cups
- Cans of SpaghettiOs and the like
- Cans of ready to eat soup (lots)
- Nutri-grain bars
- Ramen noodle packages
- Snack packages of crackers, Teddy Grahams, pretzels, instant oatmeal packs (all flavors), hot chocolate, apple cider or flavored water packets

Please deposit your food gifts in the boxes in the coat room or the box near the nursery on the lower level before November 30. Any large quantities, such as a flat, are best on the lower level so they can be transported easily.

Thank you for your generosity! If you would rather donate cash, please note it is for Elves and send it to the church office or put it in the offering plate. Our goal is to feed 600 local children this year. Feel free to reach out to Kathleen Johnson (kitkat.75@hotmail.com) with questions.

—Outreach Ministry

Four Who Served



(L-R): Cassie Inman, Jerry Kalkofen, Jeff Carels, and Ed Tucker served lunch at the NEW Community Shelter as part of Union Church's second annual Service Sunday which took place on November 5. (photo by Lou Norsetter)

Giving Envelopes

If you would like to receive weekly giving envelopes for 2018 and haven't received them in the past, please notify the church office by December 6. Conversely, if you no longer want to receive giving envelopes in 2018, please notify the church office by December 6. You may pick up envelopes as of December 15 outside the church office.

Thank you.

—Winnie Hutjens

Stock Gifts

Members and friends of Union Church, if you choose to make a gift of stock to the church, please initiate this transaction no later than December 15 if you would like your gift to be credited to your account this calendar year. Also, please let us know of your intention to make a stock gift so we are aware it is your gift when we see the stock sale come to us.

If you need information on how to make a gift of stock, please contact Winnie Hutjens at the church office.

Christmas Fund Offering is December 10

The Christmas Fund Offering provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks.

Please consider giving to our UCC church family. There will be special envelopes in the December 10 bulletin or mark a regular envelope with Christmas Fund. If contributing by check, simply make out your check to Union Church and mark Christmas Fund in the memo line. Your gift will be included on your annual giving statement. Thank you, Union family!

Union Church Calendar

November 19, 2017—December 30, 2017

November 19 Sunday

8:30 a.m. Youth Choir
 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
 9:00 a.m. Adult Education:
 How the Bible came to Be
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

November 21 Tuesday

7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. Interfaith Prayer
 Service at Cnesses
 Congregation Israel

November 22 Wednesday

NO YOUTH GROUPS
 NO SEMINARY SECRETS

November 23 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
 CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

November 24 Friday

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

November 26 Sunday

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

November 28 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

November 29 Wednesday

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

November 30 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

December 3 1st Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Youth Choir
 9:00 a.m. Adult Education:
 Was Mary a Virgin?
 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

December 4 Monday

6:30 p.m. Women's Advent Event
 (doors open at 6 p.m.)

December 5 Tuesday

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
 5:00 p.m. New Member Ministry
 5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry
 6:30 p.m. Education Ministry

December 6 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group
 5:45 p.m. Dinner
 6:15 p.m. Hanging of the Greens

December 7 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

December 10 2nd Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
 9:00 a.m. Adult Education:
 Why Does
 Christmas Matter?
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

December 12 Tuesday

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

December 13 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Dinner
 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
 6:15 p.m. PEO Meeting
 in English Room

December 14 Thursday

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

December 16 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Costume Distribution
 and Readers
 9:45 a.m. Pageant Walk-Through

 Pageant Rehearsal
 should be finished by 11:00 a.m.

December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

8:30 a.m. Costumes & Rehearsal
 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant
 in the sanctuary

December 20 Wednesday

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

December 21 Thursday

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

December 24 4th Sunday of Advent CHRISTMAS EVE

10:00 a.m. Family Worship
 8:45 p.m. The Music of Christmas
 9:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship

December 25 Monday

CHRISTMAS DAY
 CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

December 26 Tuesday

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

December 27 Wednesday

NO YOUTH GROUPS



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

Address Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

PERMIT NO. 53
GREEN BAY, WI

13th Annual

Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship

**Cnesses
Congregation
Israel**

**Tuesday,
November 21
at 7:00 p.m.**

Speaker: Bob Johnson,
co-chair of the faith-based
workgroup of Connections
for mental wellness

Offering to benefit
counseling scholarships for
Foundations counseling

Sponsored by
Gathered in Faith Together
(G.I.F.T.)

222 South Baird Street

Pie and fellowship follow!

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

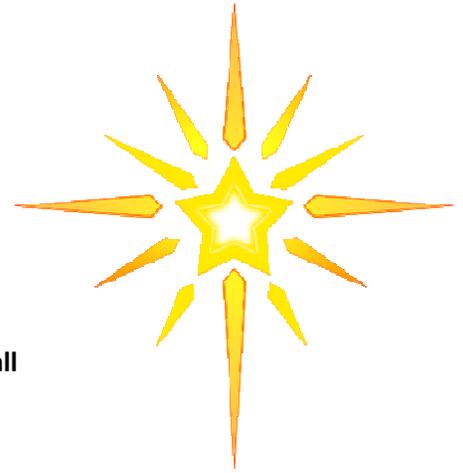
Moderator

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>

Advent and Christmas at a Glance



Sunday, Dec. 3 **First Sunday of Advent**

We will begin our preparation for the birth of our Lord.
We will light our first Advent candle.

Monday, Dec. 4 **Women's Advent Reflection in Pilgrim Hall**

Prepare your spirit for the celebration of our Savior's birth.
Doors open at 6:00 p.m. — Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 6 **Hanging of the Greens**

Blessing the greens at 6:15 p.m. — Decorating at 6:30 p.m.
Music provided by the Joyful Noise Band.

Sunday, Dec. 10 **Second Sunday of Advent**

This Sunday, we celebrate Joseph and Mary and their amazing part in the gift of God's love.

Saturday, Dec. 16 **Christmas Pageant Rehearsal**

For the Christmas Pageant rehearsal schedule, please see reverse side.

Sunday, Dec. 17 **Third Sunday in Advent — Christmas Pageant**

We tell the story of Jesus' birth in the drama of the Christmas Pageant.
NO STORYTELLER or FAITH FORMATION this Sunday.

Sunday, Dec. 24 **Fourth Sunday in Advent — Christmas Eve**

Our early service is more informal with special thought given to people of all ages. The late service of scripture, carols, and candlelight is preceded by wonderful Christmas music. Join us!

10:00 a.m. Worship with a special welcome to our children
8:45 p.m. The Music of Christmas
9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight worship

Monday, Dec. 25 **Christmas Day**

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to one and all! The church office is closed.

Tuesday, Dec. 26 **Day after Christmas**

The church office is closed.

Sunday, Dec. 31 **New Year's Eve**

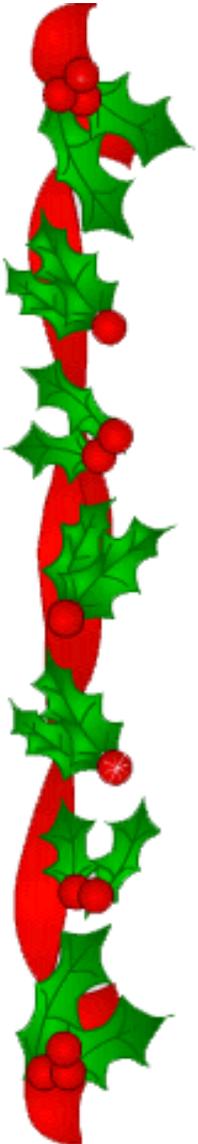
10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
NO FAITH FORMATION this Sunday.

Friday, Jan. 5, 2018 **12th Night Celebration**

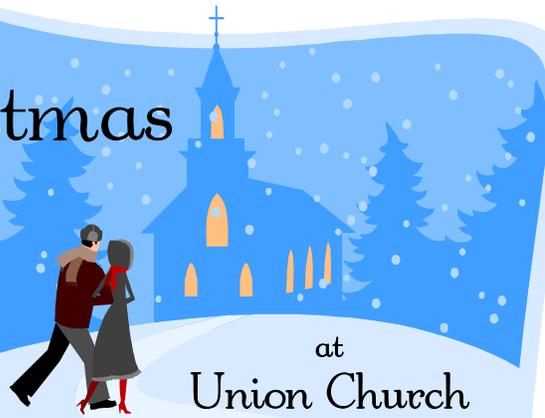
For details, please see reverse side.

Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018 **The Baptism of Christ**

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary.



Christmas Eve



at
Union Church

10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve for all ages with a special welcome to our children

8:45 p.m. The Music of Christmas

9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Join us...and invite your friends . . . as we celebrate the joy of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Women's Advent Reflection: "Out of the Darkness, Into the Light"

Prepare your spirit for the celebration of our Savior's birth!

Monday, December 4, 2017 in Pilgrim Hall

Doors open at 6 p.m. Program begins at 6:30 p.m. with dessert and fellowship to follow. Hosts and co-hosts are needed to decorate and provide a dessert for one table. Guests are welcome. Please sign up at Union Central or by calling the church office at 437-9266.

Reservations due by Wednesday, November 29.

12th Night Celebration

January 5 at 6 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of fun, fellowship and lively entertainment in our very own Pilgrim Hall. Bring your friends. Inreach Ministry will provide the main entrée, dessert, wine and beer. Please bring a dish to share. Child care will be provided. Sign up during December at Union Central.

—Inreach Ministry

Calling All Angels, Shepherds and Animals!

Come to the manger to greet the Baby Jesus.



Sign up at Union Central

Rehearsal — Saturday, December 16

9:00 a.m. Costume Distribution & Readers

9:45 a.m. Pageant Walk-Through
(rehearsal should be finished by 11 a.m.)

Pageant — Sunday, December 17

8:30 a.m. Costumes & Rehearsal
(sweet rolls & juice available for the cast)
10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant