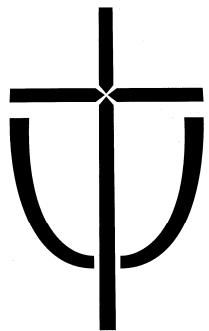




# Still Speaking



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

September 2019

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of October 16, 2019.*

*The deadline for that newsletter is Friday, October 11, 2019.*

**Love Over All Gala ----- 3**

**Blessing of the Animals Jazz ---- 3**

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**Green Gospel----- 6**

**Christmas Tree Sale---- back page**

The mantra in the grey box to the right has caught my imagination for months now. I came across it while trying to develop a new banner to hang outside of our Mayflower entrance. We've had our wonderful "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here," banner hanging there for close to 10 years, much longer than anyone imagined it would last.

**Love over hate  
Love over indifference  
Love over ignorance  
Love over ego  
Love over fear  
Love over barriers  
Love over borders  
Love over  
And over  
And over  
Again.**

Over the years, I've had many conversations with people about that banner. When we hand out candy to trick-or-treaters on Halloween, we get a lot of positive feedback. Every year or two, someone in a New Member class will mention that the banner either drew them in, or reassured them that this is the right church for them.

That theme of extravagant welcome is central to who we understand ourselves to be as the United Church of Christ: a community dedicated to Jesus' work of welcoming the stranger, welcoming people with questions and doubts, welcoming people who may look different or sound different or love differently.

So finding a new slogan or phrase was going to be tough. When you've literally been flying an "all are welcome" flag, what comes next? We could simply replicate it, swap out the 10-year-old banner with a new one with fresh colors. But the reality is that even something as radical as extravagant welcome gets stale after 10 years. We needed something new, but it needed to be golden.

Then, as I was scrolling through recipes on Pinterest one evening, the poem above popped into my feed, and I was mesmerized. When I saved it and went back a week later, it seemed just as compelling. When I shared it with Common Ministry, they too found that it is just so...Union.

Much like the slogan on the banner we'll be retiring, this "Love Over All" theme captures the essence of who Union is and what we believe and do. Union is a church that prioritizes love over doctrine, love over policies, even love over beliefs.

*(continued on page 2)*

## **Lectionary Readings**

### **September 22**

#### **15th Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 and Psalm 79:1-9  
or Amos 8:4-7 and Psalm 113;  
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

### **September 29**

#### **16th Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 and  
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 or  
Amos 6:1a, 4-7 and Psalm 146;  
1 Timothy 6:6-19 • Luke 16:19-31

### **October 6**

#### **17th Sunday after Pentecost**

Lamentations 1:1-6 and  
Lamentations 3:19-26 or  
Psalm 137 or Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
and Psalm 37:1-9;  
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

### **October 13**

#### **18th Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 and  
Psalm 66:1-12 or  
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c and Psalm 111;  
2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

### **October 20**

#### **19th Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 31:27-34 and  
Psalm 119:97-104 or Genesis 32:22-31  
and Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5;  
Luke 18:1-8

(continued from page 1)

This “Love Over All” was perhaps most visibly demonstrated 20 years ago next month when, after months of careful prayer and study and discussion, on October 24, 1999, Union Congregational UCC voted to become Open and Affirming, prioritizing love over all that is listed above, and more. What a tremendous, prophetic witness! For some it was a stretch, for others it was a homecoming. We placed love over all – over our history, over tradition, over expectations.

And this prioritizing of love over all has borne fruit. We have been Christ’s healing balm in hundreds of lives because of this priority.

But “Love Over All” is far from exclusively about being ONA. It’s about centering ourselves in God’s love and grace. And so as we step into our next 20 years of prioritizing “Love Over All,” does one of the lines above resonate with you in a particular way? How is your faith calling you to prioritize love? Is there a “Love over \_\_\_\_\_” line that you would add?

Please plan to join us to celebrate “Love Over All” at our ONA Gala Anniversary Fundraiser on October 18 (see page 3) and at our special 20th ONA Anniversary Worship at 10 a.m. on October 20 with a cake and punch reception to follow. Most importantly, please plan to continue to prioritize “Love Over All.”

With Never Ending Gratitude,  
Pastor Bridget

## **Our Church Family**

## **Our Annual Pledge Drive**

### **“Love Over All!”**

kicks off during worship  
Sunday, September 29

Union Congregational UCC:  
Loving all for over 20 years



The Rev. Chris Davies, team leader for Faith INFO (Innovation, Faith Education, and Formation) for the UCC, works "supporting congregations in moving forward in bold ways, and highlighting creative efforts of people doing new ministries."

Proceeds will benefit the new Pride Center of NE Wisconsin, a nonprofit working to purchase a building in Green Bay to house an LGBTQ+ community center for all ages.

## Love Over All 20th Open and Affirming Anniversary Gala & Fundraiser

Benefitting the Pride Center of Northeastern Wisconsin

- Date:** Friday, October 18, 2019  
**Place:** Hyatt Regency Ballroom (333 Main St.)  
**5:30 p.m.** Gathering  
**6:00 p.m.** Dinner & Speaker: Rev. Chris Davies  
**7:00 p.m.** Dancing (music by DJ Shaun Anthony)

Tickets are \$40 per person — A cash bar will be available  
Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, October 4.

Family style dinner with main dishes of roasted chicken and pasta primavera (vegan), with sides of green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, coleslaw, rolls and cupcakes

## St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals Jazz Service

On Friday, October 4 (7 p.m.) bring your beloved, and well-socialized, pet to church! (Or, bring a picture of your less-well-socialized furry friend!) We'll hear some great jazz tunes about animals (and our love of them), sing some hymns celebrating animals set to jazz changes, share some stories, readings, prayers about our beloved animal friends, and wrap up with a blessing of the animals on our way out. Open to all.

## Attendance

August	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
1st Sunday	93	77
2nd Sunday	112	83
3rd Sunday	100	99
4th Sunday	94	90
<b>Totals</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>349</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>99.75</b>	<b>87.25</b>

## Want to Learn More About Union Church?

On Wednesday, October 9 and Thursday, October 17, our New Member Ministry will host Inquirers Classes for those interested in knowing more about Union Church and membership. On October 9, we will meet in the English Room from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided. On October 17, we will meet in the English Room from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

These classes are a way to introduce those interested in Union to who we are and what we believe. If you need child care, call the church office (437-9266). On Sunday, October 27, we will receive those who choose to covenant with our congregation into membership and will host a chili potluck after worship.

For further information or to sign up, please call the church office.



## **Neighbors in Need**

The United Church of Christ offers grants to organizations nationwide engaged in justice work including our very own On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic. Our church will support this effort with a special offering on Sunday, October 6. Any gift, no matter the amount, shows we share a hope for a world free of poverty and prejudice.

## **For all who love our annual Women's Advent Event!**

We are in need of a new chairperson for this year's Women's Advent Event. You may have a new vision for this beloved event or just some great ideas to help it grow!

If you have loved preparing your spirit for the Christmas season in this special way, you are the right person to lead this year's event. Sue Tucker, past-chair, has the templates you'll need for publicity, past scripts, and lists of persons who have helped in numerous ways to put on the event.

If you are excited to see this event again happen, contact Sue at 497-4606 for more information.



## **The Balances of Nature in the Church Library**

Biologist Rachel Carson wrote in 1962 in Silent Spring:

In some quarters nowadays it is fashionable to dismiss the balance of nature as a state of affairs that prevailed in an earlier, simpler world --- a state that has now been so thoroughly upset the we might as well forget it. Some find this a convenient assumption, but as a chart for a course of action it is highly dangerous. The balance of nature is not the same today as in Pleistocene times, but it is still there: a complex, precise, and highly integrated system of relationships between living things which cannot safely be ignored...

Land ethicist and scientist Wes Jackson commented in 1980 in Nature as Measure on the role of our creation story in establishing a hierarchy rather than a balance in nature:

In the last twenty years, molecular biologists have discovered that the basic structures of all life forms are made of the same twenty amino acids, and...the genetic code which orders the assembly of these molecular building blocks has one world-wide alphabet. This is really important, for the Judaeo-Christian myth in Genesis described a bimodal creation: God created everything except humans, paused a while, and then went on to create us. That pause has been important in the consciousness of Western society and in Islam. It has contributed to the belief that we are fundamentally different from other forms of life.

In a contrasting view, J. Philip Newell in 1999 reflects in his introduction to Celtic spirituality, The Book of Creation, on God's commandment to Moses to remove his shoes for he stood on holy ground:

We need to find new ways of reopening the doors of our senses to creation...The experience of feeling the earth with our feet is a symbol of rediscovery that needs to happen if we are to come back into a true sense of relationship with creation...It is the experience of the goodness of the earth that will help sustain our commitment to care for the earth.

In Sacred Instructions (2018), Sherri Mitchell, calls on us to embrace the balances of nature as both a spiritual and political covenant:

My tribal stories have taught me that our inherent rights as Penawahpskwe are derived for our first treaty or agreement: the agreement we made with the Creator when we first emerged into this world. The agreement was forged under the balanced laws of creation, and it provides us with the foundational authority for all the rights we stand on today...we have the right to live unencumbered on this land, with full access to the sources of our survival ... as long as we uphold our responsibility to live in balanced harmony with the rest of creation. [These rights] are strengthened or weakened by the degree of responsibility that we take to uphold our agreement.

Our modern sense of nature was birthed in the conservation movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the writings of John Muir, Theodore Roosevelt and Aldo Leopold. The scientific jeremiad of Rachel Carson jolted modern consciousness out of an unthinking compliance with industry. Creation spirituality in many religions points us to the political and social justice implications of the climate imbalances of today. The books mentioned here are just a few of the church library's resources to explore in the upcoming year of the Green Gospel. Find them in the basket under the window.

## Seminary Secrets Resumes October 9: What the heck do we do with Paul?

**What one person shaped Christianity most profoundly?** Most would answer, "Jesus, of course." But a case can be made that the Apostle Paul was as influential. In his letters, we find terms and concepts that Jesus apparently never uttered, but which became woven into Christian theology, ethics, and jargon. This influence is particularly astonishing given that Paul was not a follower of Jesus during Jesus' earthly ministry; in fact, most scholars have concluded that Paul never even met or listened to Jesus. (Somewhat weirdly, he never mentions Jesus' basic teachings.) Perhaps this influence was partly due to the fact that Paul wrote his letters long before the gospels were penned; in effect, he got his ideas out there first!

Understanding Paul's thought is further complicated by the fact that of the 13 letters in the New Testament that claim his authorship, only seven were indisputably written by him. So some of what is commonly attributed to Paul (women should submit to their husbands) was actually written by later authors who often were trying to "correct" Pauline ideas with which they disagreed! (In fact, women had positions of leadership and respect in Paul's churches.)

We spend a lot of time studying the gospels, both in worship and in Faith Formation, but I have found studying Paul to be indispensable in understanding both how Christian theology got where it did and where we as Jesus' followers are called to take it. Over time, I've concluded that Paul's letters contain both profoundly helpful insights and claims that either have little to do with Jesus' teachings or are anachronistic. How to tell the difference is key!

### In the upcoming Seminary Secrets series, we will:

Review the tools biblical scholars use to study Paul's letters, including determining which were penned by him vs. anonymous successors.

Study passages that encapsulate Paul's key theologies, especially ones that have influenced Christian teachings.

Discuss criteria we should use to evaluate each of these theologies.

### General info about Seminary Secrets classes:

**WHAT?** We learn about the tools that scholars employ in their interpretations and arguments. We apply these new insights to our lives as Christians.

**LEADER?** Julie Harder. Julie holds a master's degree in theology/biblical studies and has taught religious studies at St. Norbert College.

**FOR WHOM?** Anyone who is curious and willing to do a little pre-session reading.

### Specific info about this miniseries:

**DATES?** Wednesdays, October 9, 16, 23, 30; November 6 and possibly 13.

**TIME?** 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. (coincides with youth groups)

**WHERE?** Chapel Classroom (behind Bagby Chapel)

**HOW TO SIGN UP & GET THE READING ASSIGNMENTS:** Contact Julie at [jblackharder@gmail.com](mailto:jblackharder@gmail.com) or 920-465-0752.

**OPTIONAL SUPPER:** Coming from work? Take advantage of a meal in Pilgrim Hall at 5:45 p.m.—free will offering appreciated but not necessary.

**QUESTIONS?** Contact Julie!

## Priscilla Circle to Meet September 24

Priscilla Circle will meet Tuesday, September 24, at 1 p.m. in the English Room. Dr. Jon Pahl will talk about his latest book and more. Helen Krueger will host.

## Diaper Drive with Love Life

By donating disposable diapers and wipes, we partner with other local churches to help local low income families care for their babies and toddlers. We help families of all races and faiths. Some are immigrants, some have always lived here; they all need a hand up and have qualified for the WIC program. Your donations will be taken directly to the church where they are distributed and given in allotted amounts to those in need. They can also receive formula, gently used clothes and baby furniture. The Literacy Center partners with us, in the Love Learning program, to provide books in English and Spanish. Our toy box is a popular spot for the little ones as the mothers shop for needed items. There are big smiles as they leave with a "new to them" toy.

Last year Love Life East served 782 children from 616 families. Please join this outreach program for the little ones in need. Bring your diapers to the coat room in the coming Sundays. The greatest need is for sizes 4, 5 and 6. Thank you.

—Jean Smithback

# *the Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*



The Seven Principles Workshop for Couples is based on the internationally acclaimed research of Dr. John Gottman as presented in his bestselling book—*The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*. This educational workshop is designed to help couples improve their friendship, enhance romance and intimacy, and manage conflict constructively.

**Leader:** Julie Harder, who completed training by the Gottman Institute to become a Gottman Leader

**Format:** This structured program, designed by the Gottman Institute, includes short lectures alternating with private couple exercises (no public sharing of issues).

**Benefits:** Provides structure, motivation, and accountability to truly enhance your relationship, using evidence-based tools gleaned from Dr. Gottman's 40 years of research.

**Location:** Union Church, 716 S. Madison Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin

**Cost:** \$120 per couple includes books, presenter, and light snacks (\$100 for Union Church members; \$15 Early Bird Discount; scholarships available by contacting Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels at the church office)

**Dates and Times:** Saturdays, November 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 1:30 to 5 p.m.

**Registration and Payment Deadline:** Registration forms and payment must be received by **Wednesday, October 16** (necessary to order materials); **Early Bird deadline is Wednesday, October 2.**

**Register:** Fill out a registration form and return it with payment (cash/check/charge) to the church office by the deadline.

Online or phone registrations are not available so **please submit a hard copy**; downloadable forms are available at <http://unionucc.com/members/updates/>. If you do not have internet access, contact the church office at 437-9266 and we can mail a form to you. For Union members, forms are also available on the "Union Central" table.

**Space is limited; registration will close when the workshop fills.**

**Workshop is appropriate for heterosexual and gay/lesbian couples who are:**

- Contemplating engagement
- Newlyweds to decades-long marrieds
- Pre-marital
- In other long-term committed relationships

**It is inappropriate for:**

- Couples in severe relationship distress
- Mental health problems
- Significant emotional or physical abuse
- Relationships where one/both partners are addicted to drugs/alcohol or other compulsive behavior

**Questions?** Contact Julie at [timandjuleh@gmail.com](mailto:timandjuleh@gmail.com) or 920-465-0752.

## **The Green Gospel: Our Theme for Adult Education, 2019-2020**

We chose the Green Gospel as our theme because while the climate crisis is unprecedented, there are resources to address it in our tradition. We'll be starting with the following Sundays at 9 a.m. in Bagby Chapel.

**September 22**

**"Trees in Christian Scripture and Our Climate Crisis: Greening Power"**

Jon Pahl will lead a discussion about the Bible's view of trees, incorporating insights from art and literature.

**September 29**

**"The Apocalypse and Green Gospel: Uninhabitable Earth and the End of the Anthropocene?"**

Jon Pahl will lead a discussion about how we might find hope in face of apocalyptic despair, and how we might organize and act to mitigate some of the damage already done to our beautiful planet.

# Union Church Calendar

September 22, 2019—October 31, 2019

## September 22 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education: "Trees in Christian Scripture and Our Climate Crisis: Greening Power"  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

## September 24 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## September 25 Wednesday

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

## September 29 Sunday

**Annual Pledge Drive Kickoff  
"Love Over All!"**  
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: "The Apocalypse and Green Gospel"  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

## October 1 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry  
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry  
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  
6:30 p.m. Education Ministry

## October 2 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group  
5:45 p.m. Dinner  
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA  
6:15 p.m. Bookworm Yoga

## October 3 Thursday

6:00 p.m. Visitation Ministry Training

## October 4 Friday

7:00 p.m. Feast of St. Francis Jazz  
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## October 6 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
  
Neighbors in Need Offering  
World Communion Sunday

## October 8 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry  
6:30 p.m. Education Ministry  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  
6:30 p.m. Adult Gay-Straight Alliance

## October 9 Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Inquirers Class  
5:45 p.m. Dinner  
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA  
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

## October 10 Thursday

5:00 p.m. New Member Ministry  
6:00 p.m. Common Ministry

## October 11 Friday

*Still Speaking* Deadline

## October 13 Sunday

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

## October 15 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## October 16 Wednesday

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

## October 17 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Inquirers Class

## October 18 Friday

5:30 p.m. Open & Affirming Gala  
(Hyatt Regency Ballroom)

## October 20 Sunday

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

## October 22 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## October 23 Wednesday

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

## October 27 Sunday

### New Member Sunday

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

## October 29 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## October 30 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets



Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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## Christmas Trees for Sale

Yes, it's almost Christmas tree time! Your Christmas Tree Committee has been hard at work planning a new selling season. We learned a lot last year and hope to make numerous improvements this year. If you recall, we raised just over \$2,000 for the church and, of course, we would like to raise more this year which means more trees and wreaths. Especially successful was the wreath sale due to the outstanding decorating talents of many people.

We will need your help! Here are dates you should know:

- **Sat., Nov. 23** from 1 to 5 p.m. wreath decorating
- **Fri., Nov. 29** starting at 4 p.m. we start selling trees
- **Sun., Dec. 1** after church finish decorating wreaths and make swags

We intend to accept pre-orders for wreaths for the congregation only. Of course, if you would like to decorate your own, please join us on the above dates. If you have time on Friday evenings or Saturday and Sunday afternoons, we will need your help selling trees and wreaths. No experience needed. Tell your friends and neighbors to buy from us. Share the Tree Lot on Facebook and review it on Yelp.

If you have questions, please call any committee member: Dan Baierl, Jeff Carels, Bill Johnson, Larry Krueger, Ann Rakow-Weist, Achim Seifert, Julie Tetzlaff or Glen Verstegen.

### 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

#### Dr. Jon Pahl

Minister of Faith Formation  
and Community Engagement

#### 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](http://www.unionucc.com)