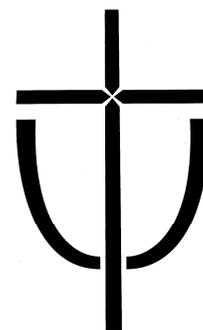




# Still Speaking



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

October 2019

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published  
the week of **November 20, 2019.**  
The deadline for that newsletter is  
Friday, **November 15, 2019.***

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When we celebrated the reception of New Members earlier this year, I recounted a phrase I heard from one of the greatest preachers of our time, Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, pastor of Trinity UCC in Chicago. Rev. Moss captivated me with the idea of a “bank shot blessing.”

For those of you who aren't basketball aficionados, a bank shot is when the ball hits the backboard before going into the basket. The points are scored, but indirectly. A bank-shot blessing, then, would be a blessing we receive through someone else, indirectly.

Moss cited the story in the Gospel of Luke in which a paralytic man's friends cut a hole in the roof of the house where Jesus is teaching and lower their friend on a stretcher through the roof so that he can encounter Jesus. Jesus is pleased with the friends, but he blesses the man. The friends banked the shot so that their friend could score, could be blessed.

So, Rev. Moss's question is, how often are you the beneficiary of a bank-shot blessing? How often are the blessings in our lives set up by the goodness and mercy and generosity of others? The admonition, of course, is that you have to be sure to hang out with people who will bank your shot. Sometimes we need relationships that can open roofs for us, relationships that put us into situations where we will encounter Jesus, the sacred.

But at Union, we don't find it good enough to seek the kind of friends who bank our shots, who help us to connect to Jesus, who help us to be blessed. No, ours is a community that seeks to bank others' shots, that seeks to set up blessings for others.

Outreach Ministry comes to mind when we're thinking about banking others' shots – from our Christmas gift tag project which provides items to people in need, to our cooking and serving at NEW Community Shelter, to our work on JOSHUA's Prison Reform Task Force, to the work of the Immigrant Welcoming Advocacy team – Outreach obviously sets others up to receive a blessing. And yet, when I think about all the rest of our ministries, they, too set up bank shots – our Youth Group Leaders and Faith Formation Teachers and Aides who model God's love for our children and youth, our musicians who share their gifts which make our worship

*(continued on page 2)*

(continued from page 1)

sublime, our coffee hour servers whose hospitality allows us to really connect with one another at a meaningful level – all are setting others up for a blessing.

This weekend, we'll receive sixteen more people into membership in our church - sixteen people who have both been blessed through the ministry that Union does and who want to be a part of being a blessing to others.

Along with Rev. Moss' bank shot blessings, I lift up Jesus' teaching that "from those to whom much has been given, much is required."

Friends, as our annual pledge campaign steps into high gear, I am honored to pastor a congregation in which so many people truly understand how deeply blessed we really are. It's a joy to see and hear you acknowledge your blessedness, and in turn unlock your generosity of time, gifts, and resources.

Thank you for being people who work together as a team to seek God's blessing for both ourselves and for others.

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

## Lectionary Readings

### October 27

#### 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Joel 2:23-32 and Psalm 65 or  
Sirach 35:12-17 or  
Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22  
and Psalm 84:1-7  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

### November 3

#### 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and  
Psalm 119:137-144 or  
Isaiah 1:10-18 and Psalm 32:1-7  
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
Luke 19:1-10

### November 10

#### 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Haggai 1:15b-2:9 and  
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98  
or Job 19:23-27a and Psalm 17:1-9  
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17  
Luke 20:27-38

### November 17

#### 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25 and Isaiah 12 or  
Malachi 4:1-2a  
and Psalm 98  
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13  
Luke 21:5-19

### November 24

#### Reign of Christ

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79  
or Jeremiah 23:1-6  
and Psalm 46  
Colossians 1:11-20  
Luke 23:33-43

### November 28

#### Thanksgiving Day

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 100  
Philippians 4:4-9  
John 6:25-35

## Jazz Worship on November 3

Join us in worship on Sunday, November 3 at 10:00 a.m. for a Jazzy Worship celebrating Thanksgiving and Harvest.

## Second Sunday Series: November 10 Insights Into the Early Racial History of Union

The founding members of Union Church reflected the métis, or mixed-race, population of early Green Bay. Dr. Victoria Tashjian will discuss the original church members as well as Union Church's role as an Underground Railroad station circa 1855, twenty years after the church's organization. Dr. Tashjian is on the faculty of St. Norbert College where she teaches in the history department. Join us in Bagby Chapel at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome.

## Attendance

September	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
1st Sunday	92	86
2nd Sunday	143	114
3rd Sunday	58	53
+ retreat	59	54
Sunday Total	117	107
4th Sunday	115	141
5th Sunday	159	95
<b>Totals</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>543</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>125.2</b>	<b>108.6</b>

**A CONVERSATION ABOUT  
GREEN BAY CORRECTIONAL**

WE HAVE A BILLION DOLLAR DECISION TO MAKE



SAVE THE DATE FOR A CONVERSATION THAT  
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS. MORE DETAILS TO  
COME SOON.

Thursday, November 21st 2019  
at 6pm at Saint Matthew Church (130 Saint  
Matthew Street, Green Bay WI 54301)

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.JOSHUA4JUSTICE.ORG](http://WWW.JOSHUA4JUSTICE.ORG)

## JOSHUA Forum on Future of GBCI

On November 21, JOSHUA is sponsoring a forum on the future of the Green Bay Correctional Institution (GBCI). Over the last year, there has been discussion in Madison to close the prison and build a new one in another location. JOSHUA's Prison Reform Task Force supports the closing of GBCI but feels that the state should look at alternatives to building a new prison.

Over the last 30 years, prison population in Wisconsin has risen from about 3,000 to over 25,000. We also have over 60,000 formerly incarcerated individuals on supervision. While incarceration rates continue to rise here, other states are closing prisons, finding alternatives to incarceration, lowering their crime rates and saving millions of dollars. This is not a partisan issue. States as different as Minnesota and South Carolina have made huge inroads in addressing these issues.

JOSHUA believes that Wisconsin needs to investigate these initiatives and chart a new path.

Please consider attending the forum to find out how we can become more humane, have less crime, and save taxpayer dollars all at the same time.

### Women's Advent Event is Monday, December 2

Come and prepare your spirit for the celebration of our Savior's birth through music, scripture, readings and fellowship. Invite your friends! If anyone is interested in helping out with this event, please contact Denise Olson at 660-9364. Thanks!

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

### Priscilla Circle Meets November 26

Members of Priscilla Circle will meet in the English Room at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 26. The program will be announced at a later date.



*Whoooo Goes There?*  
Everyone! Join the fun!

If you are Trick or Treating in the  
**Astor Neighborhood**  
make sure to stop by  
**Union Church**  
on Halloween Night, October 31, 4 - 7 p.m.  
Come if you dare.



Three or four friendly adults are needed to hand out candy.  
Donations are welcome. Contact Pastor Bridget at [Bridget@unionucc.com](mailto:Bridget@unionucc.com).

## Upcoming Sunday Adult Education

9:00 a.m. in the Bagby Chapel

### October 27 — How Union Church Can Be Greener

Union member Mark Smith is doing an energy audit on our building. Come hear some of his findings and discuss how we can be greener.

### November 3 and November 24— John Shier on The Problem of Evil (Parts 1 and 2)

For hundreds of years Christians have struggled to find an answer to the question: If God is all good, all knowing, and all powerful, how then can there be evil in the world? Many, many answers have been attempted but none have seemed very convincing. In this two-part series, we'll examine the history of this problem.

## Love Over All

Pledge Campaign 2020



Thank you for putting "Love Over All"! Please return your pledge card by **November 10** to help us plan and budget. Additional cards are available at the church doors or you can pledge online at [www.unionucc.com/giving](http://www.unionucc.com/giving) or simply email your intentions to [finance@unionucc.com](mailto:finance@unionucc.com).

## In the Names of Those You Love, Give the World a Present!

Honor your friends and family this holiday season with gifts that make the world a better place. Gifts bought at a Heifer International Living Gift Market enable hungry families around the world to become more self-reliant.

Heifer International provides families with food and income-producing animals, trees, bees, and seeds, and training in their care. These gifts build bridges, begun by you, of hope and love between many people. Undernourished children receive daily nutrition from milk or eggs. Increased family income can mean school for the children, health care and better housing. The family learns farming methods that improve the soil for crops and that renew the environment to make it richer and more sustainable for future generations.

The family and whole communities are empowered as they go beyond these immediate needs to fulfill new dreams. And the families "pass on the gift" by giving one or more of their animal's offspring to another family in need. Veterinary services, extension advice and organizational support are important Heifer International components for ensuring lasting benefit.

By supporting the efforts of Heifer, we have the opportunity to promote the empowerment of women, contribute to ending hunger and poverty, and encourage an educational movement toward sustainable farming and agricultural practices. In addition to this traditional mission of Heifer International's work, we can also support Heifer's efforts to aid in the restoration of areas torn apart by catastrophic misfortunes.

Please visit Union's Living Gift Market on Sunday, November 17, after worship. Visit our hosts and learn how the resources provided by Heifer benefit the recipient communities. Consider making a donation. Enjoy a few treats. Maybe do some of your holiday shopping! And....possibly meet and greet a few special visitors! Thank you!

—Joni Delwiche, Joan Dudek

## Green Gospel in the Church Library — Love, Not Politics

Christians advocate for and actively respond to issues of the common good. Many of these common goods benefit a group specifically – for instance, women’s health care rights or employment protections for LGBT workers. Climate change action is different. The rich cannot purchase their own protected planet while the rest of us cope with global warming. My benefit from lower carbon emissions does not exist without you having the same benefit.

It makes sense for Union Church, a member of a denomination with the motto “that they all may be one,” to commit to climate efforts which are global and without exclusion. But how does a congregation prepare for this work of common good? Here are two starting places.

Caring for Creation: The Evangelical’s Guide to Climate Change and a Healthy Environment by Mitch Hescocox and Paul Douglas. This avowedly conservative book instructs, “Acknowledging a changing climate doesn’t rest on a slender thread of evidence.” The authors, one a former Evangelical pastor and the other a meteorologist, address the distrust and denial of their co-religionists by parsing the variety of hypotheses that scientists considered while accumulating and sifting through a huge data base of temperature, rainfall, melting, and storm patterns before coming to a general agreement about global warming and its causes.

The authors’ argument rests in the notion that creation care is people care. Quoting Katharine Hayhoe, a noted Evangelical and climate scientist: “Christian values demand we take action. Climate change disproportionately affects the poor and the vulnerable – the very people Christians are called to care for and love.”

If you have friends or family members who doubt or deny climate change, you might want to read this book to better understand their point of view and as a model for how to talk with them about climate change.

Love God, Heal Earth: 21 Leading Religious Voices Speak Out on Our Sacred Duty to Protect the Environment. A book from the liberal side of the political spectrum. The Reverend Sally Bingham, an Episcopal priest, began her environmental work in the late 1990s. Early activism coalesced into Interfaith Power and Light, a church-based movement that promoted church use of green energy. She edited this 2009 collection of hopeful essays written by mainline clergy, imams, Zen priests, rabbis and Catholic sisters, calling it “a snapshot of a moment in human history – Earth history – when the future hung in the balance and communities of faith came together out of love for Creation.”

This book is testament to the global reach of climate concern and a prompt to raise our own level of urgency. One simple way is simply to talk more about personal changes, church-based changes, system-wide solutions that climate change calls for and to open our hearts to the suffering and losses our world has already sustained.



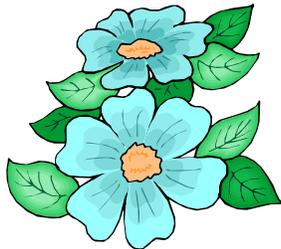
### For Those Who Served

On Sunday, November 10, we will recognize and honor those who have served our country in the Armed Forces. If you are a veteran and not on this list, contact the church office (437-9266) with your information including branch of service, rank and years of service. Then, plan to be with us in worship as we give thanks for those who served our country.

**Joe Bethel, James Bowley, Steve Davis, Jim Effland, Phil Enscoe, Bob Fahres,  
Don Fenlon, Richard Garber, Cathy Ghoca, Daniel Ghoca, Bob Haglund, Lon Johnson,  
Bill Johnson, Jerry Kalkofen, John Krueger, Vern Lanoue, Dick Lathrop, Ted Ludolph,  
Rolf Lulloff, Tom Martin, Tom Peterson, Mel Polarek, Bob Rose, Bruce Shafer,  
John Shier, Mark Smith, Julie Tetzlaff, Ray Thompson, Ed Tucker, Glen Verstegen,  
Jack Whittemore and Jim Wise.**

# Our Church Family

## 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:

**November 3**  
**November 10**

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.

## EPH Wish List

- |                |                     |   |
|----------------|---------------------|---|
| brooms         | baby highchairs     | bath and hand towels (neutral colors)           |
| desk scissors  | laundry baskets     | bed blankets (full and twin sizes)              |
| facial tissues | paper towels        | children's toothbrushes                         |
| first aid kits | umbrella strollers  | fabric softener sheets (unscented)              |
| foil           | 2020 wall calendars | mattress pads (full and twin sizes)             |
| plastic wrap   |                     | plastic food storage containers (various sizes) |

Email: ephmanager1@gmail.com or call 920-676-3779 to arrange a time to drop off and for volunteering. Thank you for your generosity and support!



### Hosted by G.I.F.T. 2019

(Gathered In Faith Together)

Special Message shared by:

WaYa Thao  
Friends of the Brown County  
Community Gardens

A light social will follow.

For more information, call  
Pastor Larry Lange @ Grace Lutheran Church  
(920) 432-0308

## Greater Green Bay Area Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Prayer Gathering

**Tuesday, November 26, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**at St. Anne Episcopal Church**  
**corner of South Libal & Chicago Street in East De Pere**  
(map it at 347 South Libal St. De Pere 54115)

All are welcome to the greater Green Bay area annual  
*Thanksgiving Interfaith Prayer Gathering*  
co-sponsored by a variety of congregations known as  
G.I.F.T. (Gathered In Faith Together)  
The prayer service will be led by various religious leaders  
representing the co-sponsoring congregations.



This gathering will be interpreted for  
the Deaf Community, Family and Friends  
and will include the "Sign the Good News Deaf Choir."



# Union Church Calendar

## October 27, 2019—November 26, 2019

**October 27 Sunday**

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY**

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: How Union Church Can Be Greener
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Chili Potluck in Pilgrim Hall—please bring a chili, a side, or a dessert

**October 29 Tuesday**

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

**October 30 Wednesday**

- 5:40 p.m. Youth Group Halloween Party at the home of Pastor Bridget
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

**October 31 Thursday**

- 4:00 p.m. Trick or Treat at Union Church

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**November 3 Sunday**

**A HARVEST OF JAZZ WORSHIP  
Celebrating Farms and Farmers**

**Fall Back—Daylight Saving Time ends**

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: The Problem of Evil (Part One)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary

**November 5 Tuesday**

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

**November 6 Wednesday**

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

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**November 10 Sunday**

- PLEDGE SUNDAY AND  
RECOGNIZING OUR VETERANS
- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series: Dr. Victoria Tashjian
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Quarterly Meeting

**November 12 Tuesday**

- 10:00 a.m. Visitation Ministry
- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Gay-Straight Alliance

**November 13 Wednesday**

- 8:00 a.m. Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets (TBD)

**November 14 Thursday**

- 5:00 p.m. New Members/Inreach Ministries
- 6:00 p.m. Common Ministry

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**November 17 Sunday**

- HEIFER LIVING GIFT MARKET
- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Heifer Living Gift Market

**November 19 Tuesday**

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

**November 20 Wednesday**

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

**November 21 Thursday**

- 6:00 p.m. JOSHUA Forum at St. Matthew Church

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**November 24 Sunday**

- MEMORIAL SUNDAY
- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: The Problem of Evil (Part Two)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

**November 26 Tuesday**

- 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle
- 7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. Thanksgiving Interfaith Prayer Gathering at St. Anne’s Episcopal Church



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

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GREEN BAY, WI

## 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](mailto:office@unionucc.com)  
(920) 437-9266

#### **Rev. 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>