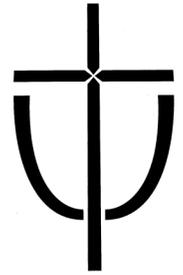




# Still Speaking



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

October 2020



Daylight Saving Time  
ends November 1

## We Are Union Now More Than Ever

There's a wonderful song in our hymnal entitled, "How Can I Keep From Singing?" This is an easy sentiment to have when life is going well. It's easy to express gratitude when your bank account is flush, when your relationships are strong, when your work is meaningful and career is moving forward, when world events are on a sunny trajectory.

But that's not what the song is about. In the chorus we sing:

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
While to that rock I'm clinging  
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth  
How can I keep from singing?

This song comes to mind as we engage our annual pledge drive amidst all that is the year 2020. While so much turmoil swirls around us, so much chaos, our faith tells us that our absolute bedrock is love, a love that cannot be squelched.

Being agents of that love is at the center of how, even in this year that has been so difficult for so many, We Are Union Now More Than Ever.

Your financial support of our ministries is what allows your pastors and guest preachers to craft meaningful, hope filled, relevant sermons rooted in the Good News of God's love week after week. We Are Union Now More Than Ever.

And, your financial support is what also allows us to put together the creative, inspiring, Spirit-filled services that continue to both comfort and challenge even as we worship online. We Are Union Now More Than Ever.

It is through your pledges that our music ministers have been able to offer the truly remarkable and diverse instrumental and vocal worship we share. As paid staff, Seong and Ray put in countless hours behind the scenes each week to make sure that by the time their work and that of our guest musicians reaches your ears each week it is truly inspiring. We Are Union Now More Than Ever.

We also are able to help others experience God's love through your financial support of our formation, outreach, and community engagement. Our advocacy work with JOSHUA, our in-kind donation of space to On the Mark

*(continued on page 2)*

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of November 11. The deadline for that newsletter is Friday, November 6.*

<b>Union's Pledge Campaign</b>	-----	<b>3</b>
<b>Union's BIG Read</b>	-----	<b>4</b>
<b>Anti-Racism Adult Education</b>	---	<b>4</b>
<b>Interfaith "Rivers of Faith"</b>	----	<b>4</b>
<b>Your Church Library</b>	-----	<b>5</b>
<b>ESTHER's Virtual "Banquet"</b>	----	<b>5</b>
<b>Stock the Box Drive</b>	-----	<b>6</b>
<b>Calendar</b>	-----	<b>7</b>

**Tree and Wreath Sale  
back page**

**Lectionary Readings****October 11****19th Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 32:1-14 and  
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23  
Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23  
Philippians 4:1-9  
Matthew 21:1-14

**October 18****20th Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99  
Isaiah 45:1-7 and  
Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

**October 25****21st Sunday after Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and  
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17  
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and  
Psalm 1  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Matthew 22:34-46

**November 1****22nd Sunday after Pentecost**

Joshua 3:7-17 and  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37  
Micah 3:5-12 and Psalm 43  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

**Readings for All Saints Day**

Revelation 7:9-17 and  
Psalm 34:1-10, 22  
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

**November 8****23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25  
and Psalm 78:1-7  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 or  
Amos 5:18-24 and  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or  
Psalm 70  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

*(continued from page 1)*

Dyslexia Clinic, our providing for people's basic needs through the Blessing Box, our anti-racism work, and so much more all would not be possible without your offerings. We Are Union Now More Than Ever.

I feel like that's proof of the Christ Spirit alive in our church community. While fear and division loom large in our world, and individualism and selfishness threaten to dominate, Union continues to be able to be a beacon of hope. THIS is what proves that what our church does is an essential service. Throughout the struggles of 2020, Union has both literally and figuratively been a lifeline of love and hope. We Are Union Now More Than Ever.

The lyrics of the entire hymn "How Can I Keep From Singing?" are worth praying over and over, and will resonate with a lot of folks this year. As you consider and pray about whether you will be able to pledge to our church this year and about what amount you'll be able to pledge, I hope you'll be edified that your offerings really do make a difference. It is through your financial support that we are able to make God's love real amidst the chaos, even this year. It is because of you that We Are Union Now More Than Ever.

Gratefully,

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

## Our Church Family

## Union Church's Pledge Campaign is Underway!

### "We are , , , more than ever!"

God's grace is **abundant**. God's love is **infinite**. God's Spirit is **working through us**. For this year's pledge campaign, we have chosen to ground our appeal in abundance, and in the ongoing work of the Spirit of God.

**"We are , , , more than ever."**  
(You fill in those commas in between.)

We are **the church** more than ever. We are **growing** more than ever. We are **affirming** more than ever. We are **servicing** more than ever.

These aren't just slogans. They are who we are ... and more.

We are grateful for your continued financial support. Thanks to Pastor Bridget's and financial secretary Winnie Hutjens' foresight in applying for a PPP Loan, and thanks to your generosity, we may have a small surplus at the end of the year (even in a pandemic).

Next year, however, is a different story. To meet our anticipated budget, we will need households to increase their pledges by an average of roughly 7 to 10%. That's what will allow us to continue our current ministries. Changes will be necessary—in ministries, in staffing, in outreach—without that increase.

We come to you confident that we can do this because God's grace is **abundant**. God's love is **infinite**. God's Spirit is **working through us**. Because you believe in the work that God is doing through us.

To pledge online, go to <http://unionucc.com/2021-pledge-campaign/>. Or, you can email [finance@unionucc.com](mailto:finance@unionucc.com) or call the church office (437-9266) to make your intentions known. THANK YOU!

—Jon Pahl, Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement

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## Video Testimonials

"This is the first of our seven Sundays dedicated to our annual pledge campaign this year under the banner "Union, More Than Ever," said Jon Pahl during the online worship service of September 27. "We'll be featuring brief testimonial videos each week giving some detail about all the wonderful things happening through our community."

At right, Achim Seifert records a testimonial as Patti King, Karen Hogan and Marty Berry (in back) prepare a salad for the New Community Shelter.



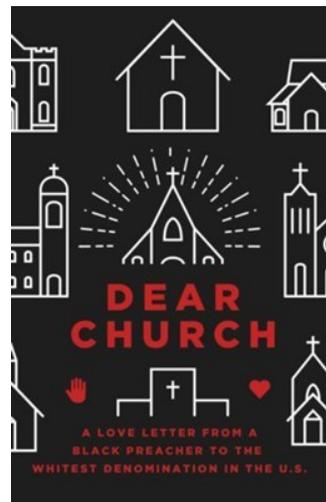
## Union's BIG READ starts October 25



Starting Sunday, October 25 (at 9 a.m.), we'll gather online to read together and discuss Pastor Lenny Duncan's book, "Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S." While addressed to ELCA Lutherans, Duncan's call for Repentance, Reparations, and Reconciliation will resonate with and challenge all Christians, including our beloved community at Union. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Lenny is a former student of Jon Pahl's. He has been on the front lines in Portland for the past several months. He serves as Mission Developer Pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in Vancouver, Washington, where he lives. As Duncan asserts: "The church is queer."

Lenny will meet with us via ZOOM on November 13, and will be our guest preacher on November 15. Join us for this study, and a conversation that promises to leave us changed for the better.



### Anti-Racism Adult Education Sundays at 9 a.m.

Every Sunday at 9 a.m. (through November 22) we'll be gathering online (the link is in This Week at Union) for our ongoing studies in how to be anti-racist. We began this past summer with a study of James Baldwin's classic book, "The Fire Next Time," and through most of October we're working our way through the UCC's own curriculum on white privilege, written by scholars and pastors like the Rev. John Dorhauer (General Minister and President of the UCC), Rev. Da Vita D. McCallister (Lead Pastor of First Church Sommerville UCC—featured in the photo), Rev. Traci Blackmon (Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries), and Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr. (President, Chicago Theological Seminary). Join us!

### Interfaith "Rivers of Faith" Events at UW-Green Bay

GIFT (Gathered in Faith Together, Green Bay's pre-eminent interreligious organization) has teamed up with the Mauthe Ecumenical Center at UW-Green Bay for a series of events this fall on the topic of "Rivers of Faith."

The metaphor comes from Diana Eck, founder and director of the Pluralism Project at Harvard, which advocates for and documents the growing religious pluralism of the United States. Her contention is that faith traditions, often understood in institutional terms, like boxes, are more organic, like rivers whose waters flow and merge.

Our own Jon Pahl was a speaker at the first event on September 17, where he shared a story from his book "Shopping Malls and Other Sacred Spaces." It was the story of his experience in a flash flood, as a metaphor for the changes he experienced in going to college and discovering critical thinking about religions.

The next two events are scheduled for October 15 ("When Many Rivers Become One") and November 19 (Interfaith Service) via ZOOM. Both events begin at 6 p.m. Rissel Peguero (and perhaps her sisters—Pegasis) will share some of their faith story on the 15th, along with representatives from two different faith traditions. The events are open to the public. See our This Week at Union email for the link to participate!



## Your Church Library

by Cathy Putman

### New Books in the Church Library

The church library has 93 books about racism and Blackness, including some of the currently popular anti-racism works.

This summer I read a few biographies of Civil Rights leaders as an anti-racism project. They included James Farmer, one of the founders of CORE; Bayard Rustin, one of the foremost strategists of the movement; and John Lewis, SNCC leader and longtime Congressman from Georgia. You'll find some of these and others in the church library.

From that reading much continues to haunt me. The first step in nonviolent direct action is seeking resolution through face-to-face meetings and communication. Peaceful protest was routinely met by violent backlash. Washington had little time and little trust for Civil Rights leaders until the protests became national news in Birmingham. And Rustin's observation that law and order do not exist in a vacuum, they exist to the degree that you have justice.

We continue to collect books about Native American history and experience including three recent titles for adults and one for children.

Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God,

by Kaitlin B. Curtice

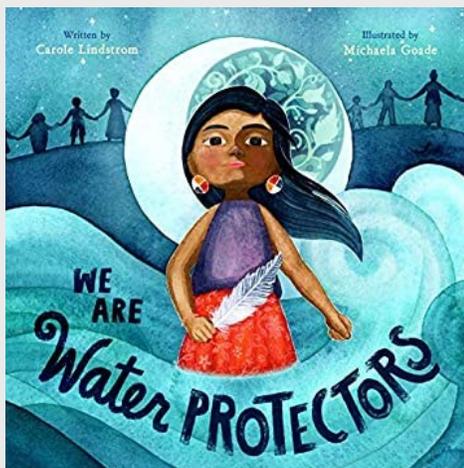
Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery, by Mark Charles

The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present, by David Treuer

We Are Water Protectors, by Carole Lindstrom

I don't want to give the impression that the library is just about the body politic. The scholarly Anchor Bible interpretation series is now shelved in the Chapel Classroom to make room for additional works on the origins, nature and meanings of the Bible. For a deep dive, take a look at Karen Armstrong's The Lost Art of Scripture.

Books mentioned by name are in the basket under the window.



## ESTHER's Virtual "Banquet"

### "Voices for Justice"

Sunday, November 1, at 5:00 p.m.

Keynote speaker:

**Rev. Traci Blackmon**

*"Until the lion tells the story,  
the hunter will always be the hero."*

—West African Proverb

Rev. Blackmon is Associate General Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries for the United Church of Christ and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ, three miles from Ferguson, Missouri. She was a registered nurse for 25 years prior to becoming an ordained minister.

As a featured voice on many regional, national, and international platforms, Rev. Blackmon's life work focuses on communal resistance to systemic injustice. Her response in Ferguson to the killing of Michael Brown resulted in national and international recognition, gaining her audiences at the White House, the Carter Center, and the Vatican. She co-authored the White Privilege curriculum for the UCC and toured the nation with Rev. Dr. William Barber of Repairers of the Breach and Sister Simone Campbell of Nuns on the Bus, proclaiming the need for a Moral Revival in the nations.

*"I speak for the lions. And we are many!"*

—Rev. Traci Blackmon

For more information go to:

<https://esther-foxvalley.org/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=6161>

## For Those Who Served

On Sunday, November 8, we will recognize and honor those who have served our country in the Armed Forces. Our list of veterans includes:



Joe Bethel, James Bowley, Steve Davis,  
Phil Enscoe, Bob Fahres,  
Don Fenlon, Richard Garber, Cathy Ghoca,  
Daniel Ghoca, Bob Haglund, Lon Johnson,  
Bill Johnson, Jerry Kalkofen, John Krueger,  
Vern Lanoue, 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.

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. Please plan to join us for worship as we give thanks for those who have served our country.

## Scripture Readers for Worship

Interested in offering a scripture reading during worship? Worship Ministry is always in need of people willing to serve in this way. Contact Gail Hohenstein at [ghohen@aol.com](mailto:ghohen@aol.com) if you would like to be added to our roster. The reading assignment and recording instructions are sent early each week by the church office to the scheduled reader.

## Prayer Vigils

In light of the public health crisis in Brown County, the JOSHUA Prison Reform Prayer Vigils are suspended for now. Keep your eye on our church communications for news of alternate plans for prayer and advocacy, and please keep everyone at Green Bay Correctional in your prayers.

Please note that the inspiration for the "10 Commandments of In-Person Worship" that appeared in our September issue was similar to a piece written by Union's former pastor, Rev. Dr. Chuck Mize.

## Stock the Box Drive is November 7

Please help us to continue to keep the Blessing Box in business.

A Stock the Box Drive will take place Saturday, November 7, from 9 a.m. to noon. Please bring nonperishable canned and packaged food items, personal care items, and paper products to church. If you are interested in sewing masks (both child and adult sizes) please bring them; they fly off the shelves. We are not able to accept homemade food items. We will be at the north Madison Street entrance, practicing appropriate safety measures, to accept the items.

If you are unable to stop by, please consider making a donation to help fill with items we run low on. You can donate online on Union's website or send your donation to the church; just put "Blessing Box" on the memo line of the check.

We look forward to seeing you. Thank you for helping support this ministry that is reaching many in our community!



# Union Church Calendar

October 11, 2020 — November 22, 2020

(All meetings online unless otherwise noted. Watch your email for links and contact us at [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com) to be added to our email list.)

## October 11 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: White Privilege  
10:00 a.m. Worship

## October 13 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir (in person)  
6:30 p.m. Education Ministry  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

## October 14 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

## October 15 Thursday

Prayer Vigil at Green Bay  
Correctional Institution  
suspended until further notice.

6:00 p.m. Mauthe Center  
"When Many Rivers  
Become One"

## October 18 New Member Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: White Privilege  
10:00 a.m. Worship

## October 20 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
3:30 p.m. Bell Choir (in person)  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

## October 21 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

## October 25 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: "Dear Church"  
10:00 a.m. Worship

## October 27 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

## October 28 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

## November 1 Sunday

Daylight Saving Time Ends  
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: "Dear Church"  
10:00 a.m. Worship with  
Holy Communion  
5:00 p.m. ESTHER's Virtual Banquet

## November 3 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  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

## November 4 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

## November 7 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Stock the Box Drive at  
Madison St. entrance

## November 8 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: "Dear Church"  
10:00 a.m. Worship

## November 10 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

## November 11 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

## November 12 Thursday

5:00 p.m. Inreach/Membership  
Ministry  
6:00 p.m. Common Ministry

## November 13 Friday

7:00 p.m. ZOOM Meeting with  
Rev. Lenny Duncan

## November 14 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Wreath Decorating in  
Pilgrim Hall

## November 15 Sunday

### Rev. Lenny Duncan Preaches

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education  
10:00 a.m. Worship

## November 17 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir (in person)  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

## November 18 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

## November 19 Thursday

6:00 p.m. Mauthe Center  
Interfaith Service

## November 20 Friday

4:00 p.m. Union's Christmas Tree  
Lot is open until 6 p.m.

## November 21 Saturday

10:00 a.m. Union's Christmas Tree  
Lot is open until 6 p.m.

## November 22 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
9:00 a.m. Adult Education  
10:00 a.m. Worship  
12:00 p.m. Union's Christmas Tree  
Lot is open until 4 p.m.



Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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Green Bay, WI 54301

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## Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale



Where are you getting your Christmas tree and wreath this year? How about at Union's 3rd annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale located in your favorite church's parking lot. We plan to open the lot on Friday, November 20.

We need your help to continue the success of this fundraiser. First, we need help decorating the wreaths. This will be done so we can work safely and abide by Covid-19 guidelines. We will decorate in Pilgrim Hall (more room to social distance) or wreaths can be taken home to decorate. We will not schedule specific decorating times, but ask you to come to church during office hours (8-4) and stay as long as you like. We will also make the church available on Saturdays with doors opening at 9 a.m. on November 14. Please let me know if you are interested in decorating or have questions or suggestions.

We are also seeking volunteers to staff the lot. It will be open Fridays (4-6), Saturdays (10-6) and Sundays (12-4) starting November 10 until we sell out. Volunteers will be asked to use a sign up sheet through the church website.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to another successful fundraiser.

—Jeff Carels

### 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>