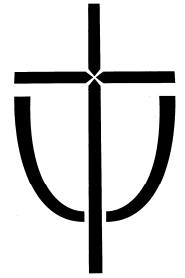


Still Speaking



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

March 2017

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

Our next newsletter will be published
the week of **April 5, 2017**.
The deadline for that newsletter is
Friday, **March 31, 2017**.

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Dear Union Friends,

This month I hand over my column to our Conference Minister, Rev. Franz Rigert, whose message is both prophetic and pastoral. Friends, we are all in this together.

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

Dear friends and colleagues,

Though I am typically a sound sleeper, lately I have found myself troubled in the night. I wake up with a nagging angst about the state of our nation. Things feel uncertain and unsteady. Many of the values I hold so deeply seem compromised. I worry more than ever about the dignity and equality of all human beings and the absence of kindness in our public discourse.

While it is obvious this partisan divide remains bitter and wide, we are wise to remember that our beloved congregations reflect the polarities of our nation. We who are ordained in the United Church of Christ must take great care to balance our prophetic voices with pastoral sensitivity, holding the wellness and wholeness of the Church at heart. We are not authorized, or in any way encouraged, to exacerbate divisions. Rather, we are called to lead with love.

That said, when fundamental values are at stake, silence is not an option. Recall when Jesus entered Jerusalem and the multitudes shouted, "*Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.*" Some of the Pharisees turned to Jesus and said, "*Order your disciples to stop!*" He answered, "*I tell you if these were silent, even the stones would shout out.*" The late Fred Craddock, distinguished professor of New Testament, offers a wonderful commentary on this sentence: "In other words, some things simply must be said; the disciples are pressing what is ultimately and finally true; God will provide a witness though every mouth be stopped; opposition to Christian witness cannot succeed, and the truth will come out, it cannot long be silenced." (Interpretation Commentary on Luke, pages 227-228).

What then, shall we say? We are surely called by God, and expected by the IRS, to rise above partisan rants and to speak, instead, about the values of the Gospel. These values are more than a reflection of our unique identity in the United Church of Christ. They are the very embodiment of the life and teachings of Jesus.

Lectionary Readings

March 5 — 1st Sunday in Lent

Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Ps 32
Rom 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11

March 12 — 2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen 12:1-4a; Ps 121
Rom 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17 or Matt 17:1-9

March 19 — 3rd Sunday in Lent

Ex 17:1-7; Ps 95
Rom 5:1-11; John 4:5-22

March 26 — 4th Sunday in Lent

1 Sam 16:1-13; Ps 23
Eph 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

April 2 — 5th Sunday in Lent

Ezek 37:1-14; Ps 130
Rom 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

April 9 — 6th Sunday in Lent

Liturgy of the Palms
Matt 21:1-11 • Ps 118:1-2, 19-29
Liturgy of the Passion
Isa 50:4-9a • Ps 31:9-16 • Phil 2:5-11
Matt 26:14-27:66 or Matt 27:11-54

Jesus valued a wide welcome and a gracious hospitality toward the sojourner

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me" (Matthew 25:34-36). Against the backdrop of a travel ban for seven predominantly Muslim countries (temporarily stayed by the 9th Circuit Federal Judge), as well as a halt to refugees preparing to enter the US, over 50 congregations across our Conference have committed to talk about the issue of immigration. These discussions hope to provide a rich conversation, including reflection about our own family lineage and the opportunities our ancestors found.

Jesus valued justice and compassion toward the marginalized

"The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me . . . to bring good news to the poor . . . to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free the oppressed and announced that the time has come when the Lord will save his people" (Luke 4:18-19). These days we hold in prayer and advocacy all who are disenfranchised and marginalized: those suffering racial disparities, the LGBTQ community, refugees and migrant workers, victims of abuse and addiction, the unemployed and imprisoned, the sick and impoverished. Jesus spent a disproportionate amount of his time blessing those whom society relegated least, last, and left out. As of today, 58 congregations in the Wisconsin Conference UCC are now Open and Affirming, and far more are committed to the practice of inclusion by offering a warm and wide welcome to all!

Jesus valued faith over fear and would not be manipulated by scare tactics

"Peace I leave you, and my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:27). Homeland security continues to be a preoccupying concern for our country, as it should. Vigilance is necessary. Fear, however, can be used to psychologically paralyze people. It can cause societal hysteria and be used to justify all sorts of human rights violations, such as waterboarding, racial profiling and religious discrimination. I rejoice in the fact that scores of our congregations have been involved in interfaith conversations with Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh sisters and brothers. In my yard is a sign from World Relief that says: We are not afraid—wewelcomerefugees.com.

Jesus valued a life of humility for those in positions of power and leadership

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who . . . taking on the form of a servant, humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross" (Philippians 2:5-8). Never do we find Jesus seeking to be the center of attention. Never do we hear him boast or desire credit for the grace of God that flowed through him. Instead he said, *"Why do you call me good? No one is good but God."* (Luke 18:19). Arrogance is the camouflage of insecurity. Humility is the virtue of maturity. If we are to bridge any of these divides—the political divide, the economic divide, the racial divide—it will take humility. It will take more listening than shouting and as much self-examination as finger-pointing.

May God grant us courage and compassion, wisdom and love, as we wade through these uncharted and choppy waters together.

In Christ, may you sleep well!

Rev. Franz Rigert, Conference Minister
Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ

Our Attendance

February	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
1st Sunday	136	132
2nd Sunday	141	136
3rd Sunday	165	139
4th Sunday	181	142
Totals	623	549
Average	155.8	137.3

Our Church Family

Priscilla Circle Meets March 28

Members of Priscilla Circle will gather at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28 in the English Room.

Your Common Ministry



Clockwise starting with Gail Hohenstein (with laptop), Steve Jones, Virginia Riggs, Nicole Polarek, Heather Collins, David Thie, Jeff Carels, Christie Reese, Jeff Gibson, Deb Rose, Marlene Lanoue, Pastor Bridget, and Sandy Polarek

Did you know Common Ministry meetings are open to the congregation? If you have questions, concerns, or would simply like to see how our governing body operates, you are welcome to join us on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel Classroom. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 14.

2017 Common Ministry members are:

- **Sandy Polarek**, Moderator
 - **Jeff Gibson**, Vice Moderator
 - **Gail Hohenstein**, Clerk
 - **Jeff Carels**, Treasurer
 - **Steve Jones**, New Members
 - **Christie Reese** and **Lou Norsetter**, Outreach
 - **Virginia Riggs**, Worship
 - **Deb Rose**, Education
 - **David Thie**, Stewardship
 - **Heather Collins**, Inreach
 - **Nicole Kinjerski**, Communications
 - **Nicole Polarek** and **Marlene Lanoue**, Gifts and Memorials
-

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Together We Reach Farther

This year's OGHS collection will be March 26, but the Outreach, Education and Worship Ministries are inviting our church family to work together to see how many "pennies" we can raise throughout March to demonstrate to our young people that we can have more impact when we work together. We encourage everyone to contribute pennies (and silver and paper too). Please place your offerings in the marked collection cans or the regular weekly offering plate (If you place them in the offering plate, make sure your envelope is clearly marked for OGHS). Each week we will tally how many donations we receive, and the children will see how many "pennies" we can wrap around the sanctuary. Bring your change for OGHS all month, and show our kids the power of working together.

All funds raised will go to OGHS, an annual collection by the United Church of Christ and thousands of other churches. Monies are used to fund the UCC's response to global emergencies, rebuilding efforts, development programs, and refugee support. This offering works to make ongoing contributions of goods, services, and information that have a large impact on the lives of people in need around the world. When we all put our offerings together, no matter how small, we will make an important difference in the lives of our global neighbors.

"It is like a mustard seed, the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; yet when it grows up, it becomes the greatest of all shrubs so that all the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

—Mark 4:31,32

Join us for the Lenten Series: Becoming Welcoming Communities, Immigration in Light of Biblical Faith

Join us Sunday, March 5 (9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.) or Wednesday, March 8 (6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) in Bagby Chapel as we kick off our Lenten Series focused around the study of immigrant welcoming communities and concepts. **Session 1 (hosted on both March 5 and March 8) is titled *Sojourn to the Promised Land*.** The discussion will be on the comings and goings of different groups of people. We'll try to understand the conditions and elements that contribute to migration like political turmoil, population pressure, economic changes, invading armies, religious persecution, famines and other natural disasters.

Willingly or unwillingly, many people leave familiarity to make a new life in a new place. We'll try to understand Wisconsin's diverse population through a synopsis of historical immigration patterns. As Christians we'll discuss what it means to be welcomed and how the Bible tells us to show God's love to strangers and newcomers. Be prepared to discuss your own movements from place to place in your lifetime and even your family's immigration history. Finally we will learn about a controversial state law in Wisconsin passed in 1889 that targeted German speaking immigrants in the schools; ultimately the Bennet Law was repealed, but it had significant political repercussions.

We hope you will join us for our continuing Lenten Series sessions on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings in Bagby Chapel. Sign up at Union Central or by contacting the church office.

Session 2, *Practicing Hospitality*, hosted both March 15 and 19;

Session 3, *New Immigrants Living an Old Story*, hosted both March 22 and 26;

Session 4, *Becoming a Welcoming Nation*, hosted both March 29 and April 2.

Have questions? Please contact one of the Advocacy Team members: Barbara McClure-Lukens, Paco Espinosa, Lloyd Schaefer, Sylvia Garrido, Lou Norsetter, Bryan Lipke, Aaron Alexander-Wolf, or Tim Harder.

Extreme Makeover Work Camp

The Extreme Makeover Work Camp at Moon Beach will be June 5-10, 2017. Union Church has a group of dedicated workers who attend each year. Work involves general clean-up and set-up for the coming camp season as well as current construction projects. Workers with all levels of skill are needed. Please talk to Chuck or Helen Krueger to affirm your participation OR to find out more about the camp.



Lenten Cluster 2017 Goes to the Movies

This year our Lenten Cluster will go to the movies! Gather with your fellow Unionites, Pastor Bridget, and Michael Lukens as we screen and discuss the faith implications of one film every Sunday night of Lent. With themes of redemption, justice, and the role of the church, discussions promise to be lively.

We'll ask one or two participants to sign up to bring a big pot of soup every week, and Bridget will bring the popcorn. Plan on 5 p.m. until 7:30 or 8 p.m., depending on the length of the movie.

There are sign-up sheets at Union Central to participate and a separate one for those who would be willing to provide a large pot of soup, or you can contact the church office to indicate interest.

The five films and the dates of their screenings are:

March 5 — “Places in the Heart”

After a fabled argument between movie directors Robert Benton and Woody Allen, Benton took up Allen's challenge that no one could make a movie that was both theologically profound and truly artistic. The result: “Places in the Heart”—one of the finest films made about faith and saving grace. It tells the story of a Texas cotton-farm family in the crisis of the great Depression. A moving depiction of disruption and discrimination, re-creation, and triumph, it is expressly theological, without explicit religious language, simply a story of compassion, family unity, and an affirmation of fundamental human values and Christian community.

March 12 — “Gran Torino”

Set in Detroit with its formerly all-white pristine neighborhoods overtaken by waves of immigrants, Walt (Clint Eastwood) embodies the dreams of a better life of one early immigrant strand, the Polish, taking pride in his craft and his tidy home. Retired from his life's work on a Ford assembly line, Walt struggles as Blacks, Hispanics, and Asians are now his neighbors. His encounters with his Hmong next door neighbors shake his understanding of who he is and his place in the world. In this painfully timely movie, Eastwood explores fear of the other, depression, spiritual uncertainty, social dislocation, but most of all redemption.

March 19 — “Tender Mercies”

When all seems lost, life becomes desperate and new possibilities can only be miraculous. Yet, just when the world seems only to say No, God is saying Yes, showing that even ordinary life can be miraculous. Robert Duvall portrays a broken person, a drunk has-been. In a spare and stark setting, he begins to realize the extraordinary promise of new possibilities, through the soft care of a widow (Tess Harper), her young son, and the sudden rebirth of his career. Again, the grace of God is experienced in everyday life.

March 26 — “Babette's Feast”

Directed by Gabriel Axel, here is a lovingly layered tale of a French housekeeper with a mysterious past who brings quiet revolution in the form of one exquisite meal to a circle of starkly pious villagers in late 19th-century Denmark. “Babette's Feast” combines earthiness and reverence in a lush film that raises questions about piety and the intersection of divine and human expectations.

April 2 — “Amistad”

This award-winning film dramatizes the story of a group of Africans who rise up against their slave-trading captors on the ship Amistad and as a result are brought to trial in a New England court...The movie tells the story of slavery, the story of Christian abolitionists, the story of two presidents and their own struggles with a nation divided, and even the Gospel Story. Congregational Churches, some of Union's forebearers, raised funds and clothing for those on the Amistad, as well as providing for their defense in court. A film for our time as well, Amistad brings up questions of human rights, civil disobedience, and the role of the church.



*This article is part
of an ongoing series
in which the participants
of our Sacred Conversation
on Gun Violence
share their learnings.*

“Please, send me someone”

Of the many things I read on gun violence during this past 18 months, one stays with me. It doesn't have anything to do with statistics or mental health or even gun possession. The author is a Milwaukee poet named Muhibb Dyer and his poem came to light during the riots in Milwaukee last August. Dyer is a former gang member and now a community activist and founder of the organization, Flood the Hood with Dreams.

Dyer sets the scene: a young man has fallen on his hands and knees on Burleigh Street in Milwaukee. He is counting down the time until “them police, them jealous dudes and chicks” come for him. He laments going after the money out there on the street, even though it was to support his family.

*...“They never told me you were in me, God. They never told me you were always there.
And how was I supposed to know that being created in your image and your likeness
meant that if you made the Earth, Lord, I can make my own business,
and if you made the sun, I could make more than just babies
more than just babies but buildings and networks
and that busting guns wasn't the only way to get access to your power, Lord, ...*

*...“And now I've fallen. My time is up. I know they're coming.
And I don't even know if you listen to kids like us, Lord...*

*...“But I know now what I should have known then. And it took me to fall to see the light...
Please, send me someone anybody in humanity
that can teach me to love me teach me to love me teach me to love me.”*

When we look at the 30,000 plus people who get killed by guns in the U.S. today, two thirds are white men committing suicide. About half of those who are murdered – about 6,000 plus – are young men of color killed in urban settings. The rate at which black Americans are murdered is 19.4 in 100,000 compared to 2 in 100,000 for white Americans. This significant difference has existed in official statistics since 1950 and has been traced by historians back to the late 19th century. The crime rate has dropped since the 1990s and with it the murder rate for black Americans, but still, according to a statistical analysis by Nate Silver of fivethirtyeight.com, the U.S. rate for non-Hispanic black men is equivalent to the murder rate in Mexico, Brazil or Nigeria.

Politicians, when they are brave enough to talk about the high rate of black homicide, have differing interpretations. Some hearken back to the 1960s Moynihan Department of Labor report pointing to a breakdown of the black family. Others point to easy gun access through lax gun laws and lucrative gun trafficking. Poor schools and a loss of manufacturing jobs in the city are other often-cited causes.

When a young urban man repeatedly chooses a gun to ensure his survival, by the numbers he can expect an early death. Gun ownership controls, gun purchase stings, gun buy backs, and fighting gun trafficking have shown limited effectiveness. The solution that has worked best is saving young felons from themselves.

In 1996 in Boston, Operation Ceasefire initiated a model called focused deterrence. The program's organizers realized that most murders begin with a seemingly trivial beef that trades increasingly violent responses with no graceful way to bow out. Focused deterrence identifies and calls up those most likely to shoot (and be shot) – about 100 persons in an urban community. Holding them accountable, the police and other staff vow an immediate crackdown on the next shooter and immediate help for those who want out of the shooting cycle. Help is offered through rehab, jobs, GED assistance; crackdowns happened in court. The work took budget, planning, political buy-in and a dedicated group to maintain success levels.

Within two years of its launch, the murder rate in Boston dropped by 63%. Seven of eight communities that have tried focused deterrence had striking reductions in their murder rates. The approach was used in High Point, North Carolina with chronic domestic abusers with success. In Oakland, California the program suffered setbacks as police chiefs rotated in and out and too few resources were committed. A department with a policy of numerous low-level traffic stops of black and brown residents may have simply not been able to establish trust.

Milwaukee's response to the August 2016 protests was a plan to hire more police and implement more stops, a staple of the 'broken windows' theory of public safety. Community groups were outspoken in their rejection of the safety plan, calling for a new strategy. While policy is hashed out, Milwaukee increased its 2015 total of 153 murders to 154 persons in 2016.

So what is the answer to the poet's lament for "somebody to teach me to love me" before it's too late? From what I've learned, it's not gun policy. It's people policy. Trust and a dose of bravery.

—Cathy Putman

Firearm Ownership and Suicide Rates Among US Men and Women, 1981–2013.

Michael Siegel, MD, MPH, and Emily F. Rothman, ScD.,MS. American Journal of Public Health. June 2016. <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/abs/10.2105/AJPH.2016.303182> accessed 11/20/2016

"This is the Madness They Spark": Uprising in Milwaukee after Police Kill 23-Year-Old Black Man.

August 15, 2016. Democracy Now https://www.democracynow.org/2016/8/15/this_is_the_madness_they_spark

How the Gun Control Debate Ignores Black Lives. Lois Beckett. ProPublica. November 24, 2015.

Black Americans Are Killed At 12 Times the Rate Of People In Other Developed Countries. [Nate Silver](#) FiveThirtyEight.com June 18, 2015. <https://fivethirtyeight.com/datalab/black-americans-are-killed-at-12-times-the-rate-of-people-in-other-developed-countries/>

Oakland Police's New Push on Ceasefire Program. San Francisco Examiner August 11, 2013

<http://www.oaklandcommunity.org/2013/08/11/oakland-polices-new-push-on-ceasefire-program/>

Oakland police, stopping and handcuffing disproportionate numbers of blacks, work to restore trust Washington Post. Tom Jackman. June 15, 2016

Milwaukee residents raise public safety concerns. Mary Spicuzza. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

October 3, 2016. <http://www.jsonline.com/story/news/local/milwaukee/2016/10/03/milwaukee-residents-raise-public-safety-concerns/91466944/>

Milwaukee Homicides. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. February 20, 2017

<http://projects.jsonline.com/apps/Milwaukee-Homicide-Database/?src=old>



SPRING FLYING

Friday, May 5
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

at Ashwaubenon
Community Center
936 Anderson Drive
(behind Burger King on Oneida)

Join us for fun and fellowship for all
ages as we welcome Spring.

\$10 adults; children no charge

Main entrée, beverages and
dessert will be provided. Please
bring a hot dish, vegetable salad or
appetizer to share.

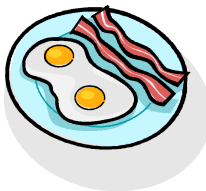
Sign up at Union Central.



Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 16

8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Inreach Ministry invites
those attending
worship on Easter to
enjoy a delicious,
home-cooked breakfast
in Pilgrim Hall. Reservations are not
necessary. Bring your friends and eat
after early morning worship (8 a.m.) or
before worship at 10 a.m. A free-will
offering would be gratefully accepted.



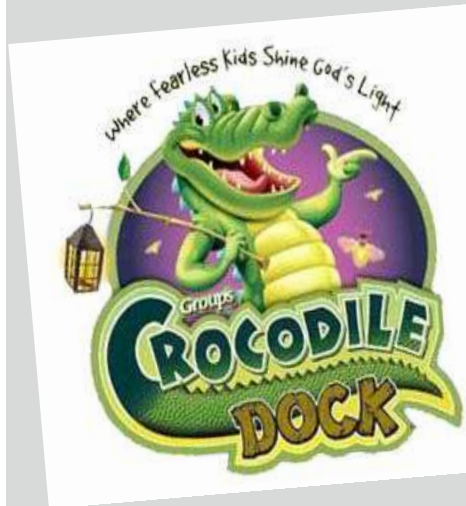
—Adventure Camp—

2017

July 10-13
(Monday — Thursday)

9 a.m.
to
Noon

Registration forms
available at Union Central



Kindergarten through Fifth Grade

[children entering kindergarten through completing 5th grade]

at First Congregational United Church of Christ

1018 Cedar Street, De Pere (920-336-4038)

Come join the fun!



Bible Stories — Crafts — Games — Music — Snacks

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral Catholic Church — St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church — Resurrection Catholic Parish — St. Norbert Abbey Church, St. Norbert Abbey

Vigil for Humanity

Sponsored by G.I.F.T.

(a local interfaith coalition)

G.I.F.T. = Gathered in Faith Together



Brown County Library
Auditorium
515 Pine Street, Green Bay

The event will be an opportunity for people from
many spiritual traditions to pray together,
emphasizing our understandings of the
interconnectedness
of humanity.

St. Mary of the Angels, Catholic Church — First Congregational United Church of Christ — St. Matthew Catholic Church

Grace Lutheran Church (E.C.A.) — Union Congregational United Church of Christ — Trinity Lutheran Church (E.C.A.)

Congregation Chnesses Israel — Open Heart Mindfulness Community — First United Methodist Church — St. Willibrord Catholic Church — St. Anne's Episcopal Church
Fox Valley Religious Society of Friends

Parent to Parent Why We Strive to be Consistent

In past newsletters, I've shared some reasons Tim and I involved our three offspring in a church family throughout their childhood and youth. Today I'm thinking about reasons we strive to do so **consistently**. Here's one:

Spotty attendance causes gaps in a child's foundation—they miss key parts of the tradition and the biblical story. For example, even though worship can be boring for kids, if they are there week after week, key biblical stories become familiar. The reality of this burst into my brain when I started teaching religious studies courses at St. Norbert College in 2010. I was astounded to find that many students—even those who had supposedly been raised in a church—were not familiar with the parable of the Good Samaritan. I asked myself, how can this be? I thought back on my own (Roman Catholic) upbringing and pondered how I had become familiar with such basic biblical texts. In the 1960s and '70s, Bible study was not really a part of Catholic "Catechism Classes" (the equivalent of Sunday School). Nor did my parents read me Bible stories at home (they were very private about their faith). Yet by the time I became an adult, I was well familiar with most foundational biblical texts.

How did that happen? It happened because my mother, a devout Catholic, made darn sure that we were in church 52 Sundays a year. Even if we were camping, we'd drive to the nearest town! I once calculated that 52 Sundays x 18 years x 4 scriptures a Sunday added up to a lot of the tradition getting into my head just by "osmosis." I concluded that my (supposedly) "churched" St. Norbert students must have missed a lot of Sundays if the Good Samaritan was new material to them.

I'm going to admit that Tim and I were not as rabid as my mom—if we were camping, we did not drive to the nearest church on Sundays. However, if we were at home in Green Bay, going to church on Sundays was our default routine. Deciding not to go because _____ (fill in the blank—we're tired; we had a long week; there's a boring guest preacher; etc., etc.) just wasn't even considered. This actually made it easier, since we never had to weigh the pros and cons of getting out of the house or struggle with our conscience. Even better, we didn't face arguments from our kids (*whiney voice* "Can we stay home this Sunday?"), since they just assumed that Sunday morning church was "what we did."

So here's a bit of encouragement to busy parents: although it's not easy making sure your kids are in faith formation class and worship every Sunday, it does pay off in the long run! They might not seem like they are always paying attention, but the message tends to soak in when administered regularly!

Parent to Parent happenings:

Next opportunity to share with other parents: Sun., Mar. 12, 9 a.m. (Chapel Classroom)
Check out our Facebook page, and please consider sharing your thoughts! *Note: The name of the FB page has changed to "Parent to Parent – Union UCC Green Bay"*

—Julie Harder



Mayflower Thank You

On behalf of myself, our teachers and our families, Mayflower would like to express our gratitude for the continued support and partnership of Union Church. Mayflower's mission and vision includes serving all members of our community, and with your generous support, we are able to offer scholarships and provide opportunities to attend our program to our extended community. We are humbled by the church's support of our program for the past 60 years and look forward to our continued partnership. We welcome any members of the church to stop by or tour Mayflower to see our program in action. Thank you again for your continued support, we are grateful.

Kindly,
Carol Beirl,
Mayflower Nursery School Director



at Union Church (Pilgrim Hall)

March 11 (noon to 3 p.m.)

**\$5 members
\$10 nonmembers**

sponsored
by:



Questions?
email Lloyd Schaefer at
lschaefer3@new.rr.com

Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH) News

What follows is a note from MaryAnn, a single-parent mother in one of EPH's long-term supportive housing homes:

"I can't begin to express how elated I am to have somewhere for my children and I to call home! It has proven to be by far one of the best things that has happened to my family after struggling and being in shelter for six months. All the searching I did to find a home for my children that was affordable just kept ending in failure."

"EPH found us somewhere to call home and we were moved in within two months; they helped my family tremendously without even knowing us. It truly was a blessing for my family. The kids are loving their rooms and the yard. My children can finally play to their hearts content. Thank you to everyone at EPH for all your help in getting us somewhere to call home. Thank you also for helping me get back on track financially over these past few months. Your energy and dedication to the community is only matched by the compassion, empathy, and respect with which you provide services."

Thank you partnership churches, for providing safety and stability for MaryAnn and her children. You are making a difference, one family at a time.

JOSHUA Madison Action Day

On Thursday, March 30, two coach buses will carry any interested individuals from Green Bay to Madison for a full day of advocacy events: meeting with our Brown County legislators working on the budget in Madison, and networking with hundreds of other JOSHUA/WISDOM affiliates statewide. Issues we will focus on include: education; immigration; environment (including standing with the Menominee Tribe to protect their waterways and the Bay of Green Bay from mining impact); prison reform initiatives (stopping the imprisonment of 17-year-olds into adult prison systems; inhumane treatment of inmates via solitary confinement in Wisconsin; banning inmates with mental illnesses from being placed in solitary confinement; stopping crimeless revocations; expanding transitional jobs for individuals released from prison to help them support their families); transit; and health.

JOIN US! Sue Exworthy will be available every Sunday in March after church service during coffee hour to answer questions about the JOSHUA and the Madison Action Day. Sign up, learn more. Scholarships are available for the \$35 fee for Madison Action Day. Speak to Pastor Bridget if you are interested in a scholarship. Encourage friends and family to come too; you do not need to be a member of JOSHUA or a member of this or any church to participate. If you desire to live your faith by being a part of education and advocacy on these social issues, have fun and network, please contact Sue during coffee hour or via email at exworthysue@gmail.com.

Union Church Calendar

March 5, 2017—April 2, 2017

March 5 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Lenten Study Series: Becoming Welcoming Communities
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Confirmation
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Cluster Movie: "Places in the Heart"

March 7 Tuesday

- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
- 5:00 p.m. New Member Ministry
- 5:30 p.m. Education Ministry
- 7:00 p.m. Vigil for Humanity at the Brown County Library

March 8 Wednesday

- 4:55 p.m. Youth Choir
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study Series: Becoming Welcoming Communities

March 9 Thursday

- 5:30 p.m. Handbells
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

March 11 Saturday

- 12:00 p.m. Chili Cook-off

March 12 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Parent to Parent
- 9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series: JOSHUA's Mental Health Task Force
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Confirmation
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Cluster Movie: "Gran Torino"

March 14 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 GSA

March 15 Wednesday

- 4:55 p.m. Youth Choir
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study Series: Becoming Welcoming Communities

March 16 Thursday

- 5:30 p.m. Handbells
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

March 19 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Lenten Study Series: Becoming Welcoming Communities
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Confirmation
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Cluster Movie: "Tender Mercies"

Second Sunday Series

9 a.m. March 12

JOSHUA's

Mental Health Task Force

JOSHUA's recently formed Mental Health Task Force has made great strides in the short time it has been in existence. Two of the task force leaders, Cheryl Weber and Sara Williams, will share some of their successes, what they're working on next, and how you can get involved. Join us!

March 21 Tuesday

- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study

March 22 Wednesday

- 4:55 p.m. Youth Choir
NO YOUTH GROUPS
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study Series: Becoming Welcoming Communities

March 23 Thursday

- 5:30 p.m. Handbells
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

March 26 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Lenten Study Series: Becoming Welcoming Communities
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Confirmation
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Cluster Movie: "Babette's Feast"

March 28 Tuesday

- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

March 29 Wednesday

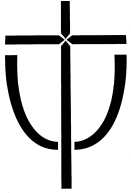
- 4:55 p.m. Youth Choir
NO YOUTH GROUPS
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Study Series: Becoming Welcoming Communities

March 30 Thursday

- 6:00 a.m. JOSHUA
Madison Action Day
- 5:30 p.m. Handbells
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

April 2 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Lenten Study Series: Becoming Welcoming Communities
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 11:15 a.m. Confirmation
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Cluster Movie: "Amistad"



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

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Are You Interested in Learning More About Union Church?



On Thursday, April 6 and Wednesday, April 19, our New Member Ministry will host Inquirers Classes for those who are interested in knowing more about Union Church and membership. On April 6, we will meet in the English Room of the church at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. On April 19, we will meet in Pilgrim Hall at 5:30 p.m. for dinner with the Union Church youth groups, adjourning to the English Room for the balance of our time together.

These classes are a way to introduce those interested in Union Church to who we are and what we believe – as Christians, as the United Church of Christ, and as a part of Union Church. If you need child care, please call the church office (437-9266). We will conclude by 8:30 p.m. on the 6th and by 7:30 p.m. on the 19th. On Sunday, April 30, we will receive those who choose to covenant with our congregation into membership.

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

Union Congregational United Church of Christ

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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>