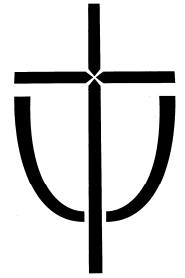


Still Speaking



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

April 2017

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

Our next newsletter will be published
the week of **May 1, 2017.**

The deadline for that newsletter is
Friday, April 28, 2017.

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Dear Union Friends,

We've had a rich Lenten season at Union! Our ministries have worked together to provide meaningful ways for our members and friends to prepare for Easter.

We made a lasting impact with the "Together We Can Reach Farther" campaign for One Great Hour of Sharing in which our Outreach and Education ministries raised \$2,475 for the UCC's refugee, disaster relief, and development ministries all over the world. We encircled the sanctuary with symbols of our offering, showing our children how far our efforts can reach when we work together.

The Advocacy team led us in a study of *Becoming Welcoming Communities*, a curriculum developed by the Wisconsin Council of Churches to study both Biblical teachings on welcoming immigrants as well as the rich history of immigration here in Wisconsin. More than 25 people participated over the four-week series.

Our Lenten Cluster this spring took on a new twist. Every Sunday evening in Lent, we came together over soup and popcorn to screen a film and discuss its faith implications. Participants, many of whom have participated in the Lenten Clusters in the past, said that this was a great format for engaging real issues of faith and life.

Thank you to all who made these meaningful opportunities possible.

All of these Lenten offerings have been preparations for Easter, ways to open our minds and hearts to the church's celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

But did you know that Easter is a season, too?

Many of us will come together to worship on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, culminating in our joyous Easter celebration. Afterward, some will hunt for eggs, and the Inreach Ministry will serve a delicious breakfast.

For some of us, pondering the spiritual implications that Pilate "washed his hands" of Jesus' fate will hold new meaning given the political landscape of 2017. For others, Peter's abandonment of Jesus when the chips were down will hold particular resonance this year. There are any number of rich reflections and practices that can round out our Lent.

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings**April 9—Palm Sunday***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

April 13—Maundy Thursday

Ex 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Ps 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Cor 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 14—Good Friday

Isa 52:13-53:12; Ps 22

Heb 10:16-25 or

Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

April 15—Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14 or Lam 3:1-9, 19-24

Ps 31:1-4, 15-16

1 Pet 4:1-8

Matt 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

April 16—Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6

Ps 118:1-2, 14-24

Col 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matt 28:1-10

April 23—2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps 16

1 Pet 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 30—3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Ps 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Pet 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

May 7—4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; Ps 23

1 Pet 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

But we are an Easter people! We celebrate that the powers that be can subvert the truth, they can bury the hope that was Jesus' ministry of inclusive love and healing grace, that mob rule can make it look like fear and bitterness and personal gain get the last word, but as an Easter people, we celebrate that love wins!

So this year, I encourage you to take on an Easter discipline.

What would it look like to be an agent of the resurrection for the 50 days after Easter, from Easter to Pentecost? Would you write 50 notes of gratitude and kindness and hope to people you know need picking up? Would you make 50 little anonymous gifts to strangers because of the gift of God's gracious love? Does an Easter discipline look like volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, helping families to experience the new life of resurrection? Is your Easter discipline continuing to refrain from negativity for the next 50 days, committing yourself to spreading healing instead of bitterness? Maybe it's taking a walk every day, keeping your eye out for signs of the resurrection and God's grace.

We've had a rich and meaningful Lent. My prayer now is that, with God's grace, our Easter will be even more powerful.

May it be so!

Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

Our Church Family**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. No reservations are necessary. Bring your friends and eat after early worship (8 a.m.) or before worship at 10 a.m. A free-will offering would be gratefully accepted.

Our Attendance

March	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
1st Sunday	122	142
2nd Sunday	166	138
3rd Sunday (Palm Sunday in 2016)	137	158
4th Sunday (Easter Sunday in 2016)	139	238
Totals	564	676
Average	141.0	169.0

**Second Sunday Series:
DREAMers is April 9**

Marisa Leza, bilingual admissions adviser, UW-Green Bay, will share her experience as a DREAMer on Sunday, April 9 (at 9:00 a.m.) in the Bagby Chapel. Join us!

**Islam
As a Lived Religion
Sunday, April 23 (9 a.m.)
in the Bagby Chapel**

Join Dr. Bob Kramer of St. Norbert College as he works to give us an understanding of Islam as a religion in comparison to Judaism and Christianity, as well as review how Muslims have historically related to their non-Muslim neighbors. The goal is to rise above newspaper headlines and develop some understanding of Islam as a lived religion. Dr. Kramer is a historian and dynamic speaker who has done extensive work in Africa and the Middle East. Join us!

Holy Week at Union Church

Palm Sunday—April 9

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation

9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series—DREAMers
Marisa Leza, UWGB bilingual admissions adviser

10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Procession; Worship in Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. Confirmation Class



Maunder Thursday—April 13

7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary



Good Friday—April 14

7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service in the Sanctuary



Easter Sunday—April 16

8:00 a.m. Easter Worship with Holy Communion in Bagby Chapel

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in Pilgrim Hall

No Faith Formation or Confirmation Class
Nursery available for both Easter services

10:00 a.m. Festival Service of Worship in the Sanctuary



**We
Can
Do
More!**

At our annual meeting, we, as a congregation, made a commitment to expand our church's role with our members and our community. We committed to put out a call for a Pastor of Faith Formation and Community Engagement.

Every spring and fall, we welcome a New Member class. We are thrilled to see hordes of children racing to the front for Children's Moments. We can do more. We can do better.

We are justifiably proud of the work we do in our community and the organizations we support. We are recognized as THE social justice church. We can do more. We can do better.

This position will be funded from three sources:

- We will use some of the surplus we have accumulated over the years.
- Gifts & Memorials Ministry has agreed to support this position for three years.
- A 2nd mile campaign seeking \$50,000 of new/increased pledges.

Recently, you received a letter from Pastor Bridget that explained our ambitious mission. That mailing also included a second pledge card for 2017. Please complete your 2nd mile pledge as soon as possible indicating how much you can add to your existing pledge or to make a new pledge. If you are unable to make an additional pledge, we understand and are thankful for all you do for Union.

So far, 48 families have responded and have pledged an additional \$30,000. That is a great start, but we need to hear from the rest of you. Follow-up phone calls will begin shortly. Please save us all time by returning your pledge card or by calling the office. Thank you.

—Larry Rose, 2017 EMC Chair

Priscilla Circle Meets April 25

Members of Priscilla Circle will gather at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25 in the English Room.

Phone Directories available April 30

Updated Union Church phone directories will be available to members of the congregation on Sunday, April 30. Members can pick up a copy at either entrance to the sanctuary or on the table outside the church office. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call (437-9266) or email the church office (office@unionucc.com).

Now is a great time to let the church know if your phone number, address, email or other information has changed. We do our best to ensure information is accurate, but we can always use help. Thank you!

Who's Graduating?



We would like to recognize our 2017 graduates in our June newsletter. Please let the church office know (437-9266 or office@unionucc.com) if you will be a 2017 graduate (high school, college) and what type of degree (associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctorate, etc.) you have earned. We would like to say congratulations and give others a chance to do the same!

Parent to Parent

How We Integrated our Kids into Worship Time

Bringing one's kids to worship can be a challenge! Worship is primarily geared to adults, and therefore can be mind-numbingly boring for children. On the other hand, if a parent wants his/her child to be a part of the life of the church, letting them skip worship week after week sends a message and deprives the child of being exposed to key traditions. What's a parent to do?

The solution that worked for Tim and me was to structure our kids' worship experience in a way that was appropriate for their developmental stages and particular personalities—and to gradually increase their involvement in worship as they matured. As I recall, this played out as follows:

Infancy: We brought our babies into worship, ready to leave for the nursery should they become too noisy (i.e. inconsolable crying).

Crawling/mobile stage: Our kids—all three—were extremely hyper. I would look with envy at those parents whose 9 month olds and toddlers would sit patiently on their parents' laps. Sigh. My kids would be crawling under the seats after the first five minutes. So ... they got put in the nursery so we could focus on an hour of spiritual recharging!

Older toddler/preschool stage: When they could sit still for 20 to 30 minutes, they came into worship for the first part, during which we had them well supplied with Bible picture books (one useful tradition we stuck to was that any books/entertainment in worship had to be Bible or Christian related). They left after the children's sermon—either for the nursery or for the preschoolers' Sunday School that our church at that time provided. (At Union, the Storyteller time would work well for this).

School age: By kindergarten or first grade, we expected them to stay for the whole service, and to actually start participating, especially after they could read. Of course, we would help by sharing a bulletin and hymnal with them, pointing out the responses and lyrics. At first, we only required this for the first part of the service (usually up to the sermon), after which they could read a children's Bible. As they matured, we gradually required them to participate further into the service, until they were participating the entire time.

We found that this gradual introduction into worship prevented unrealistic expectations on our part that could lead to open rebellion on their part. The key seemed to be to assess each child's tolerance for sitting still, listening, etc., and not asking too much too soon. This worked really well for us. (A bonus was that all of our kids became very familiar with basic Bible stories due to their early routine of reading children's Bibles during the service.)

Parent to Parent Happenings

At the last sharing meeting, the group decided to make the second Sunday of each month our default meeting time. The next opportunity to share with other parents will be Sunday, April 9, at 9 a.m. in the Chapel Classroom.

Also, please join our Facebook page, "Parent to Parent – Union UCC Green Bay" where you can read about ideas that came up during our sharing meetings, find out about upcoming meetings, and share your reactions and thoughts!

—Julie Harder

Madison Action Day

On Thursday, March 30, Pastor Bridget and three of our church members traveled to Madison to join JOSHUA, WISDOM, and statewide interfaith affiliates to stand together as part of a sacred community. More than 800 individuals prayed, learned, and marched together (in the rain) to support policies that affect individuals in our own community and statewide. Issues addressed included: crimeless revocation (re-incarcerating people for rule violations without any new crime being committed); inhumane treatment statewide via solitary confinement; immigration; transit; healthcare; and the “Back 40 mine project” (impact to the Menominee River, the Bay of Green Bay and sacred tribal lands from proposed mining).

Our members met with representatives at the Capitol including Senator Robert Cowles (rightmost in photo above) and Senator Dave Hansen. Please continue to support JOSHUA, learn more at upcoming open forums planned here at Union, and watch our weekly bulletin for more information.

Solitary Confinement

JOSHUA is hosting a life-size replica of a solitary confinement cell from April 30 to May 6 at First United Presbyterian Church in De Pere. There will be forums and public events that week, but also time for groups to tour the cell. If you would like to tour, call or text 920-362-1511 or email joshua4justice@gmail.com.

On any day in Wisconsin, at least 900 prisoners are in solitary confinement, enduring 23 or even 24 hours alone, often for weeks or even longer. JOSHUA hopes that by providing a way for people to experience solitary confinement, even for a few moments, we can shine a light on this issue, making it more visible to our citizens.

A Meaningful Getaway

Searching for a meaningful getaway? How about an adult mission trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi? Back Bay is a community ministry of the United Church of Christ that meets the needs of those suffering from poverty and its effects while building pathways to social justice.

A group from UCC churches is planning a service trip from November 25 to December 3. Work days are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Participants work in the food pantry, rehab homes, and help in the homeless shelter. Cost is \$175 per person for materials and lodging. Additional costs for hotels en route, gas, and food while at Back Bay Mission depend on final numbers going, the sharing of rooms, and so on.

To learn more, visit <https://thebackbaymission.org/>. Contact Pastor Bridget if you are interested.


Adventure Camp July 10-13 (Monday – Thursday) 9 a.m. to Noon



- Bible Stories**
- Crafts**
- Games**
- Music**
- Snacks**

Kindergarten through Fifth Grade
[children entering kindergarten through completing 5th grade]

at First Congregational UCC
1018 Cedar Street, De Pere (920-336-4038)

Come join the fun! 

Registration forms available at Union Central

Used Book Sale Time Again

Come to the used book sale in Pilgrim Hall on Sundays, May 7 and 14, before and after church. It's always a fun time.

Thanks to all who have brought book donations to the church library. I will be sorting throughout the month of April, so continue to clean off those bookshelves and bring in your novels, your children's books, your heavy tomes. We accept everything mostly.

Please no textbooks or encyclopedias.

Books sell for 50 cents and 1 dollar. Thanks!

—Cathy Putman



**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.



SPRING FLING

Youth Sunday is May 7

Join the youth of Pilgrim Fellowship (PF) and Young Christians in Action (YCA) as they share their gifts and leadership in worship on Sunday, May 7.

Annual Union Church Rummage Sale is May 20

The annual Union rummage sale will occur on Saturday, May 20, from 8 a.m. to noon. The rummage sale is sponsored by Outreach Ministry, and the money raised goes toward Outreach projects. Your donations of household items such as books, kitchen items, toys and sporting goods, videos and records, house decor and overall fun stuff in good condition is needed. Purses and adult t-shirts are welcome since they are highly collected, but other clothing items are not being sought for this "quick sale" which focuses on both useful and fun/unique items. Donations of clean, working items in good shape are welcome starting Sunday, May 14 through Friday, May 19 in the classroom located behind Bagby Chapel.

Many volunteers are needed to bring tables and items out in front of church on Saturday, May 20 from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m.; volunteers are needed to help staff the sale from 8 to noon; and volunteers are needed to take items that don't sell and bring them to non-profit collection sites. For more information, contact Stacie Christian at canoechix@hotmail.com or 920-639-8421.

Thank you so much for sharing your items and time to provide services for others!

Union Church Calendar

April 9—May 11, 2017

April 9 PALM SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Parent to Parent
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series:
Marisa Leza, DREAMer
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Confirmation

April 11 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 Gay-Straight Alliance

April 12 Wednesday

4:55 p.m. Youth Choir
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

April 13 MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Worship in the sanctuary
with Holy Communion

April 14 GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. Worship in the sanctuary

April 16 EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Worship in the chapel
8:30 a.m. Breakfast in Pilgrim Hall
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

**No Faith Formation or
Confirmation Class
on Easter Sunday**

April 17 Monday

Church Office is Closed

April 18 Tuesday

NO Bible Study

April 19 Wednesday

4:55 p.m. Youth Choir
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
5:30 p.m. Inquirers Class

April 20 Thursday

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

April 23 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Education:
"Islam as a Lived Religion"
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Confirmation

April 25 Tuesday

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

April 26 Wednesday

4:55 p.m. Youth Choir
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

April 27 Thursday

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

April 28 Friday

Deadline for May's "Still Speaking"

April 30 New Member Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Education: JOSHUA
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Confirmation
11:15 a.m. Salad Potluck

May 2 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:00 p.m. New Member Ministry
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry
6:30 p.m. Education Ministry

May 3 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group
4:55 p.m. Youth Choir
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
May's "Still Speaking" is published

May 4 Thursday

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

May 5 Friday

6:00 p.m. Spring Fling

May 7 Youth Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Confirmation
Used Book Sale
before and after worship

May 9 Tuesday

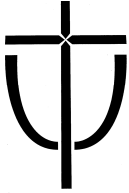
1:00 p.m. Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
5:30 p.m. Inreach Ministry
6:30 p.m. Common Ministry
6:30 p.m. Adult Gay-Straight Alliance

May 10 Wednesday

4:55 p.m. Youth Choir
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA

May 11 Thursday

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



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

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PERMIT NO. 53
GREEN BAY, WI

----- Union Church -----
New Member
Salad Potluck
(Pilgrim Hall)



April 30, 2017

Immediately following New Member Reception
in worship

Bring a salad to share and
meet our newest members at this event

Please sign up at Union Central

You can still attend our Inquirers Class at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19.
Please call the church office (437-9266) to sign up.

**Union Congregational
United Church of Christ**

716 S. Madison Street
Green Bay, WI 54301
e-mail: office@unionucc.com
(920) 437-9266

Bridget M. Flad Daniels

Senior Minister

Steven B. Hartman

Pastor of Visitation

Sandy Polarek

Moderator

Church Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For more information about us,
visit our web page
at <http://www.unionucc.com>