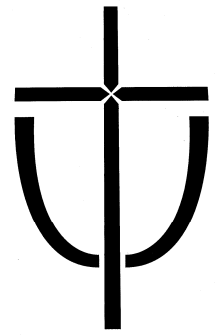


Still Speaking



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

August 2017

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **Sept. 20, 2017.** The deadline for that newsletter is **Friday, Sept. 15, 2017.***

Our Church Family	2
Faith Formation 2017-18	3
Wednesday Youth Programs	3
ReUnion Sunday	3
Madison Street Road Work	4
Moon Beach All-Church Retreat ----	4
Seminary Secrets Mini-Course ----	5
Sunday Adult Class	5
Back Bay Mission Week	6
EPH News	6
Priscilla Circle	6
Cultural Conversation	back page

Dear Union Friends,

Recently, I read an article that posited that time actually does go faster as one ages. The science was more speculative than fact based, but it reminded me that many, many of us feel time going by quickly. Example: summer. Do you remember the days when summers seemed to stretch on for eons, when they seemed almost endless? Do you also feel now as if they're almost over before they begin?

While this summer has sped by, I still feel the giddy anticipation of fall, particularly the fall season at church. Our children's Sunday faith formation is gearing up for a great year, including the addition of an additional classroom! In just three years, we've grown from one classroom to three. Our Wednesday night youth ministry is also gearing up, thanks to lots of volunteer leaders, cooks, and eager youth. We look forward to growing in faith, serving out of gratitude, and developing relationships. We will continue to offer the playground in worship, helping families to both integrate into worship and have developmentally appropriate activities available.

In Adult Education, the Second Sunday Series has a full, diverse slate of topics in store, including current issues in LGBTQ rights, human trafficking, race in the criminal justice system, Cuba, and the history of the spirituals. Julie Harder's Wednesday night Seminary Secrets scripture classes will resume with some "mini-series" on various topics, and Julie will also be offering some Bible basics series on Sunday mornings during education hour.

The Immigrant Welcoming Advocacy Team is excited to be launching a survey next month to help better understand the congregation's interests and willingness to roll up its sleeves and get to work on issues, and they'll also be conducting one-on-one conversations to take the pulse of the congregation as well as to build relationships.

Along with coordinating our ReUnion Sunday potluck on September 10 and initiating a new round of Eight to Eat, Inreach Ministry is also rolling out two new ministries this fall. Watch for details of a new card writing ministry intended to help members connect with those we are praying for, and a new meal ministry intended to serve folks coming home from the hospital, grieving, welcoming new babies, etc.

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings**August 13****10th Sunday after Pentecost**

Gen 37:1-4, 12-28 •
 Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b OR
 1 Kings 19:9-18 • Ps 85:8-13
 Rom 10:5-15; Matt 14:22-33

August 20**11th Sunday after Pentecost**

Gen 45:1-15 • Ps 133 OR
 Isa 56:1, 6-8 • Ps 67
 Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32
 Matt 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 27**12th Sunday after Pentecost**

Ex 1:8-2:10 • Ps 124 OR
 Isa 51:1-6 • Ps 138
 Rom 12:1-8; Matt 16:13-20

September 3**13th Sunday after Pentecost**

Ex 3:1-15 • Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b OR
 Jer 15:15-21 • Ps 26:1-8
 Rom 12:9-21; Matt 16:21-28

September 10**14th Sunday after Pentecost**

Ex 12:1-14 • Ps 149 OR
 Ezek 33:7-11 • Ps 119:33-40
 Rom 13:8-14; Matt 18:15-20

September 17**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

Ex 14:19-31 •
 Ps 114 OR Ex 15:1b-11, 20-21 OR
 Gen 50:15-21 • Ps 103:(1-7), 8-13
 Rom 14:1-12; Matt 18:21-35

September 24**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

Ex 16:2-15 • Ps 105:1-6, 37-45 OR
 Jon 3:10-4:11 • Ps 145:1-8
 Phil 1:21-30; Matt 20:1-16

(continued from page 1)

The big Outreach project for the fall will be facilitating our second annual Service Sunday on November 5. We will gather for a brief Communion service which will nourish us to be sent out into the community to do service projects. After our work is done, we will return to church to share about what we have done over a chili lunch.

These are just some highlights of the months to come. As you can see, our ministries have been busy over the summer, working to develop meaningful ways for us to grow in faith. I look forward to sharing in these efforts with you, making God's love more tangible in our world.

Grace and Peace,
 Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

Our Church Family**Attendance**

June	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	July	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
1st Sunday	151	134	1st Sunday	99	112
2nd Sunday	100	102	2nd Sunday	134	105
3rd Sunday	102	108	3rd Sunday	106	117
4th Sunday	139	--	4th Sunday	95	--
5th Sunday	--	--	5th Sunday	80	95
Totals	492	344	Totals	514	429
Average	123.0	114.7	Average	102.8	107.3

Union Church Faith Formation 2017-18

Our Sunday School kicks off with an open house on September 10. Children, parents and teachers will get to know one another in the Cloud Room. This year we will have three classrooms: the K4-4th graders will start the morning together in the Cloud Room at the top of the stairs and then divide into two age-appropriate rooms, and the 5th graders on up will gather in the Youth Room downstairs. This allows us to gather more children together to learn and live the faith, while at the same time being able to be flexible to teach to their learning styles and ages.

Our curriculum for ages 4 through 4th grade will be "Shine" (<https://shinecurriculum.com/>), a dynamic Sunday school curriculum that engages Christian communities and families in their life together through Bible Stories, spiritual practices, peacemaking, service, and more. The 5th grade on up group will use Shine's "Gen Y" curriculum.

—————→ **Sunday School Open House is Sunday, September 10 at 9:00 a.m.** ←————
Youth Group Orientation is Wednesday, September 13 at 5:45 p.m.

Our Wednesday night programs will begin on September 13 with dinner at 5:45 p.m. followed by youth groups (Pilgrim Fellowship for 5th-8th grade and Young Christians in Action for 9th-12th). Youth will engage in "purposeful play," mission projects, learning, and relationship building.

We have a tremendous slate of teachers, leaders, aides, cooks, and bottle washers lined up this year, and we still need more. As with everything at church, our child and youth formation ministries don't work without the ongoing efforts of our members and friends. **All parents of participating children and youth are requested to be a part of an open house – September 10 at 9 a.m. for Sunday School and September 13 at 5:45 p.m. for Youth Groups. At these, we will share what you can expect for the year and what is expected of participating families. It is very important that all parents find a niche to help with these programs. The programs simply cannot exist without you.**

Registration materials will be mailed home, can be accessed via the link in the August 25 all-church email, or by contacting the church office.

Wednesday Youth Programs

Wednesday youth programming starts September 13 with youth group orientation. The schedule for a typical Wednesday evening will be as follows:

5:45 p.m. **Dinner**

6:15 p.m. **Youth Groups**

Pilgrim Fellowship

(grades 5 through 8)

Young Christians in Action

(grades 9 through 12)

See you on the 13th!

ReUnion Sunday Sunday Morning, September 10, 2017

8:45 Nursery Opens

9:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

9:00 Sunday Adult Class (see page 5)

9:00 Faith Formation Open House

Children, parents and teachers will get to know one another in the Cloud Room

**10:00 Worship in the Sanctuary
with Communion**

Potluck (in Pilgrim Hall following Worship)



Madison Street Road Construction



The reconstruction of Madison Street began the week of July 9 with activity beginning in the block immediately north of Cass Street. Work moved south in early August, and the two photos above capture the digging that occurred in front of the church on August 9.

Moon Beach All-Church Retreat (Sept. 15, 16, 17)

What is the Moon Beach Retreat? Where is Moon Beach Camp and what do we do there?

Moon Beach Retreat is a weekend of fun, fellowship and reflection. It is a great place to share worship opportunities, discussion and camaraderie, with friends new and old.

Moon Beach Camp is in St. Germain just west of Eagle River and is part of the Outdoor Ministry program of the United Church of Christ. It sits on the shores of Moon Lake and Little Saint Germain Lake. The cabins overlook Moon Lake and have been redone so each is furnished, heated and has a bathroom with a shower. There is a large beautiful lodge, and the camp is fully staffed with wonderful, helpful people. The camp offers the peaceful quiet of northern Wisconsin among pine, oak and birch trees.

Friday, after arriving and getting settled, there will be snacks and fellowship time around the fireplace in the lodge. We are treated to three delicious meals on Saturday prepared by the camp and then a fabulous brunch Sunday morning. Saturday, after breakfast, adults are invited to meet with our leader/facilitator in the lodge (topic and leader to be determined). Children will have their own separate program. The afternoon and evening are up to you. There will be some activities and sometimes a short service project for benefit of the camp. There is a beautiful beach with a variety of watercraft, hiking trails and beautiful places to just sit, read and reflect. The evening is game time highlighted by ice cream sundaes and a bonfire.

Sunday morning is check out. We pack up, enjoy brunch, have an informal worship service by the fireplace, clean up the cabins, and are usually on our way home around 11 o'clock.

The cost for the retreat is \$140 per adult and \$25 per child. Financial aid is available (talk to Pastor Bridget). A registration form has been included with this newsletter.

Seminary Secrets Mini-course: Biblical Scholarship 101

True or False? Regarding the origin of the Bible: God whispered words into the authors' hearts and the authors wrote them down (in English, of course), after which the Bible floated down from the sky, complete with paragraph headings and red print when Jesus speaks. If you answered False, you have taken the first step to understanding how our Bible came into being! In fact, the Bible is the product of many minds and took over 1,000 years to come into its present form. How did this whole process occur? Who decided which of the many religious writings of biblical times "made the cut" and got into our Bible? The ancient manuscripts for any given book have many discrepancies; how do translators decide which to choose when creating an English translation? And most importantly, why does any of this matter?!

True or False? The only tool needed to understand the Bible is the ability to read and think for oneself. Unfortunately, the answer is again False. Understanding what the original authors were getting at requires a number of tools, which biblical scholars have been using for at least a century. Would you like to learn about these and practice putting them to use? It's fun AND useful!

**If these questions pique your curiosity,
plan to attend this Seminary Secrets mini-series:**

What: Biblical Scholarship 101: Canon, Translations, Basic Biblical Scholarship

When: Wednesdays, September 13, 20, and possibly 27; 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Chapel Classroom (behind Bagby Chapel)

For Whom: Anyone who's interested, whether you know the Bible well or have never opened it. Seminary Secrets students: this is a chance to review!

Homework: Short readings will be provided prior to class.

Leader: Julie Harder. Julie has a master's degree in Theology and has taught Religious Studies at St. Norbert College.

Sign Up: Email Julie at jblackharder@gmail.com OR sign up at Union Central.

Sunday Adult Class 9:00 a.m. on September 10 God Smites the Egyptians: Foundational Text or Horrifying One?

The Passover story (Exodus 12.1-36) is so foundational to both Jewish and Christian tradition that it is referred to over and over again in later biblical texts—in both the Old and New Testaments. For example, when John's Gospel refers to Jesus as "The Lamb of God," it is the Passover Lamb that is being referenced. So one could argue that knowing this story is necessary to a full understanding of classic Christian tradition. On the other hand, a close reading of the story itself portrays God as a vindictive, self-aggrandizing, and indiscriminately violent tyrant. How are we, as 21st century, progressive, thinking Christians, to reconcile both these realities?

On September 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Classroom (behind Bagby Chapel), Julie Harder (jblackharder@gmail.com) will guide us through a close reading of this text, looking at its literary, historical, and cultural context. Come join the discussion! Bibles will be provided, but you may wish to bring your own so you can underline, make notes in the margins, and so on.

Orientation, Safe Sanctuary Training, and Scheduling for Teachers, Aides, and Youth Group Leaders

Safe Sanctuary Training: All volunteers who work with youth are required to participate in a yearly training regarding safe conduct and how to keep our children safe from abuse. Volunteers may **choose either Thursday, August 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. or Sunday, August 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. RSVP to the church office.**

Teacher and Aide Orientation: Teachers and aides in K4-1st and 2nd-4th grade Sunday Morning Faith Formation, please plan to stay for an extra hour the day you participate in Safe Sanctuary Training, for a brief orientation to classroom policies, procedures, and faith formation theories. (That means Thursday, August 24 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. or Sunday, August 27 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.) Again, please RSVP to the church office. A light lunch will be provided on the 27th.

***note: the 5th and up Sunday Morning Faith Formation leaders, PF/YCA advisors,
and cooks will meet separately for orientation, dates TBD.**

K4-1st and 2nd-4th Teacher and Aide Scheduling Meeting: Gather in Pilgrim Hall (9 a.m.) on Sunday, August 20 with your calendars to plan which Sundays you will lead for the first semester. RSVP to Deb Rose at debrose1104@gmail.com.

Back Bay Mission Week (November 25—December 3)

Back Bay Mission is a UCC mission supporting the homeless and disadvantaged in Biloxi, Mississippi. Union Church sent volunteer workers there several years ago. Our work then was mostly rehabbing homes after Hurricane Katrina.

Now we have a core group prepared to work alongside others from UCC churches in De Pere and the Northwoods. The designated week is late November; we will travel beginning Sat., Nov. 25, and return home by Sunday, Dec. 3. Workdays are Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri. leaving Wednesday for potential sightseeing and other activities of choice.

Travel expenses are estimated at \$175 per person and there will be food expenses while at Back Bay. We will be staying in dorms on the campus.

Union Church would hope to send a carload of participants so please consider joining us or at least inquiring about the trip. Call or email Pastor Bridget or Helen Krueger if you are interested in learning more. You will be rewarded by a meaningful, satisfying experience of helping others.

Priscilla Circle Meets September 26

Members of Priscilla Circle will gather at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26 in the English Room. Helen Krueger will host. A guest speaker will talk about the Future Phoenix program at UW-Green Bay.

Altar Flowers

During these last weeks of summer, why not consider bringing in fresh cut flowers from your garden to place on our altar? The flowers can be placed there in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event or just to brighten up the sanctuary. These dates are available:



All of August
All of September

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 Partnership Opportunity *Landlords Wanted!*

Do you have a 2 to 4 bedroom rental property? Single home or duplex? Can you picture it being used for mission and ministry?

EPH is looking for landlords who will partner with us to provide stable rental properties for families who need a chance at a good home. EPH will support the landlord with rent guarantees and minor maintenance and upkeep. In some situations, our partnership organizations will provide case management to help address barriers faced by our families.

If you are interested in exploring a partnership with EPH – a partnership to serve families on their journey to self-sufficiency – please call the EPH office at 920-676-3779 and ask for Sue.

—David Pietenpol

Other EPH News

On a recent Wednesday morning we learned of a mother and four children (one of whom was 8 days old) living in her car. Due to the nature of the family's situation, our Salvation Army case management team asked if there was any way the family could be placed on Friday.

The only home without a family had not been cleaned because the aging cupboards were in the midst of being refinished. At least that's what we thought. After placing a few calls, we learned that the home had been cleaned and that the start of refinishing of the cupboards was delayed a few days. A few more calls and volunteers moved in another twin bed, a crib, and made the beds. The family moved from their car and into a home with 48 hours.

Just lucky? Stars perfectly aligned? Or God at work?

“Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.”
—Proverbs 19:21

—Sue Morzenti

Union Church Calendar

August 13, 2017—September 30, 2017

August 13 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

August 16 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Wednesday Weeders
6:00 p.m. Cultural Competency Conversation

August 17 Thursday

5:00 p.m. Faith Family Field Trip to First Congregation UCC in De Pere

August 19 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Saturday Snippers

August 20 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Teacher and Aide Scheduling Meeting
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

August 23 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Wednesday Weeders

August 24 Thursday

6:30 p.m. Safe Sanctuary Training
7:30 p.m. Teacher/Aide Orientation

August 26 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Saturday Snippers

August 27 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Safe Sanctuary Training
12:30 p.m. Teacher/Aide Orientation

August 30 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Wednesday Weeders

September 2 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Saturday Snippers

September 3 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

September 4 Monday

Labor Day—Church Office is Closed

September 5 Tuesday

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:00 p.m. New Member Ministry
6:30 p.m. Education Ministry

September 6 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group

September 7 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

September 10 Sunday

ReUnion Sunday

8:45 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:00 a.m. Sunday Adult Class
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Open House
10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion Followed by a Potluck in Pilgrim Hall

September 12 Tuesday

5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
5:30 p.m. Inreach Ministry
6:30 p.m. Common Ministry

September 13 Wednesday

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

September 14 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

September 15-17 Friday-Sunday

All-Church Retreat at Moon Beach

September 17 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
NO FAITH FORMATION

September 20 Wednesday

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

September 21 Thursday

4:30 p.m. CASA Parent Cafe
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

September 23 Saturday

Wedding at 2:30 p.m.
Jacqueline Lipburger & Timothy Cook

September 24 Sunday

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

September 26 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

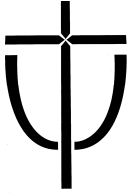
September 27 Wednesday

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

September 28 Thursday

4:30 p.m. CASA Parent Cafe
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

- Chancel Choir returns Sept. 7
- Seminary Secrets returns Sept. 13
- Youth Groups return Sept. 13
- Faith Formation (formerly Sunday School) begins Sept. 24



Union Congregational
United Church of Christ
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GREEN BAY, WI

Cultural Competency Conversation

As our relationship grows with COMSA, the community service organization working to help Somali community members integrate into Green Bay, it makes sense to start out with some Cultural Competency Conversations. Join Mahamed Rage and other Somalis on **Wednesday, August 16 at 6 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall** to learn about Somali culture, the Muslim faith, and how we can be culturally sensitive as we welcome these new neighbors to the Green Bay community. All are welcome! RSVP to the church office. Light refreshments will be served.

What is COMSA?

Community Services Agency, Inc., or COMSA, is an organization that aims to help Somali refugees find services and build a more integrated community in the Green Bay area. The organization officially opened on July 2 with an open house at Trinity Lutheran Church on Broadway where it has an office.

Union Congregational United Church of Christ

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(920) 437-9266

Bridget M. Flad Daniels

Senior Minister
bridget@unionucc.com

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>