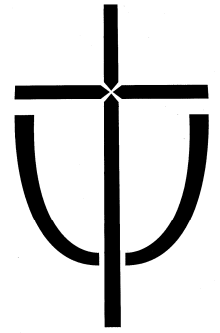


Still Speaking



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

September 2017

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **October 11, 2017**. The deadline for that newsletter is **Friday, October 6, 2017**.*

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Three Great Loves

Folks often ask me “Why be a part of a denomination if your church is congregational?”

It’s a good question. If each congregation of the United Church of Christ is wholly autonomous, setting its own policies, priorities, worship, etc., what does our denomination actually do?

One answer is that we understand that God works even more powerfully through us collectively than individually, that together we’re able to encourage and resource one another in a way that we couldn’t on our own.

A great example of this is the charge given to our churches by the General Synod of the UCC this summer to engage in three collaborative actions around God’s “Three Great Loves.” At Synod, John Dorhauer, President and General Minister of the UCC, launched this Three Great Loves initiative, “It is a call to the love of children, to the love of neighbor, and to the love of creation. During the next biennium, we want to discover what an entire denomination committed to these Three Great Loves can do to change the world.”

From now until the next General Synod in 2019 (which will be in Milwaukee, by the way), the national church is urging us to lift up, amplify, and augment the sacred work we are doing to care for children, reach out in welcome to our neighbors, and act as good stewards of the earth and all creation.

Dorhauer urged congregations to explore new ways to embrace these loves, and announced three denomination-wide initiatives: in the winter of 2017 the UCC will encourage a drive to provide basic human needs items to shelters housing refugees or the homeless; in the fall of 2018 there will be a denomination-wide school supply drive to address inequalities in our education system; at Synod in Milwaukee in 2019 there will be a sponsored 5K walk to raise money and awareness for ecology and creation.

Additionally, over the course of the two years, the UCC will be collecting stories on their website about congregations’ commitments to the love of children, love of neighbor, and love of creation.

“Three Great Loves is an invitation to act as one and to deepen our impact by pulling together in love, for justice, and with purpose,” Dorhauer

(continued on page 2)

Union’s Prayground

Worship is the integral part of our faith community at Union. Worship binds us together as a single faith community: praying, singing, confessing and celebrating in relationship with God. Our sense of community and our sense of belonging hinge on our worshipping together.

To ensure that we include all in our worship, we have taken a step to help include our younger congregants: we created a Prayground in the south transept. This is an activity center for our younger people that have a difficult time sitting in the pews. The Prayground offers our children more freedom of movement and additional options for quiet activities while still being a part of our worship community.

Integrating our children into our worship service is vital, ensuring they feel welcome in church as they grow older and come to understand the traditions and rituals associated with Christian worship. The Prayground is located toward the front of the sanctuary so that our children can easily see our activities during worship and feel a part of our worship. They can see older youth and parents participating in our worship by reading scripture, partaking in Communion, making their offering, or providing music. As a result they, too, will have a basis for becoming involved in worship as is developmentally appropriate.

The Prayground was established this summer as a test. Feedback from older and younger congregants has been positive, so we will continue to offer this wonderful way to welcome our youngest to worship this fall.

If you are a parent of a young child, take a moment to get familiar with the Prayground area with your child so that they are familiar and comfortable with entering that space during worship. And if you are an older congregant without children in worship, remember to sit up straight and present a good example. You are being watched.

said. “As disciples of the Risen Christ, we call ourselves to embody love and incarnate justice.”

Watch our church newsletters and emails for details on these initiatives and contact Christie Reese or Lou Norsetter, co-chairs of our Outreach Ministry, if you have ideas of how Union Church might more fully embrace these Three Great Loves.

Gratefully,
Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

Our Church Family

**Our
Annual
Pledge Drive**
*“Living in Grace,
Giving with Gratitude”*
kicks off during worship
Sunday, October 8

Attendance

August	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
1st Sunday	109	98
2nd Sunday	102	114
3rd Sunday	97	146
4th Sunday	124	111
Totals	432	469
Average	108.0	117.3

Priscilla Circle to Meet September 26

Priscilla Circle will meet Tuesday, September 26, at 1 p.m. in the English Room. Helen Krueger will be your hostess. Mary Sue Lavin will speak about the Phuture Phoenix Program at UW-Green Bay.

Neighbors in Need, October 1

The UCC denomination offers grants to small organizations nationwide engaged in justice work. Our church will support this effort with a special offering on Sunday, October 1. Any gift, no matter the amount, shows we share a hope for a world free of poverty and prejudice.

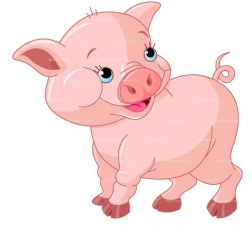
Second Sunday Series Returns October 8

Stacie Christian, Ph.D., Director of Inclusive Excellence and Pride Center at UWGB will lead a discussion on "What it means to be inclusive of LGBTQ+" during the Adult Education hour on October 8 at 9 a.m. in Bagby Chapel. Join the discussion, and bring a friend! Topics will include:

1. communicating with respect for individuals who are LGBTQ+
2. laws and policies that affect LGBTQ+ equity in the workplace and our communities
3. what allies can do to advocate for change to ensure equity



Heifer Living Gift Market Sunday, October 15 Pilgrim Hall after worship



I logged onto www.heifer.org the other day for inspiration regarding our upcoming Heifer Living Gift Market. I have been passionate about Heifer for a very long time, but in our current times I receive so many pleas for financial support from different organizations assisting those in need, I begin to feel the weight of those requests as a draining demand.

With our neighbors in Texas and Florida suffering the horrendous effects of hurricanes and flooding, and the Pacific Northwest regions devastated by wildfires, it is very easy to feel overwhelmed by the need that so many are experiencing. Unfortunately, the need is not isolated to the United States.

When I visited the Heifer website I saw the recent post on the World Ark Blog about the severe flooding in Nepal, India, and Bangladesh. Tens of thousands of families, homes, as well as livestock and resources have been swept away by the waters. Besides the natural disasters that have sent us reeling here in the United States, brothers and sisters of our world community are also losing their livelihoods and, in some cases, all that they have.

Heifer International has been working with local governments and regional cooperatives in these afflicted areas to organize rebuilding efforts for the farm families affected by these events. By supporting the endeavors of Heifer, we have the opportunity to promote the empowerment of women, contribute to ending hunger and poverty, and encourage an educational movement toward sustainable farming and agricultural practices. In addition to this traditional mission of Heifer International's work, we can also support Heifer's efforts to aid the restoration of areas torn apart by other catastrophic misfortunes.

"Passing on the gift," the fundamental backbone of the Heifer model, encourages us that even if we contribute just a portion, our cumulative offerings can be used to do much work.

Please visit the Living Gift Market on Sunday, October 15 after worship. Visit our hosts and learn how the resources provided by Heifer benefit the recipient communities. Consider making a donation. Maybe do some of your holiday shopping! And... possibly meet and greet a few special visitors!

—Elizabeth Delvaux and Jean Smithback

Diapers Needed in September

Area churches again are partnering with United Way to collect diapers during September. Love Life families benefit from your donations. These are low-income families on the WIC program. Sizes most needed are 4s, 5s, and 6s. Diapers can be put in the United Way box in the coat room across from the office during September. Let's keep those babies dry. Thanks.

—Jean Smithback

Want to Learn More about Joining Union?



On Thursday, October 12 and Wednesday, October 18, our New Member Ministry will host Inquirers Classes for those interested in knowing more about Union Church and membership. On the 12th, we will meet in the English Room at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. On the 18th, we will meet in the English Room at 5:30 p.m. for dinner with Union's youth groups.

These classes are a way to introduce those interested in Union Church to who we are and what we believe. Child care will be arranged if you need it. On Sunday, October 29, we will receive those who choose to covenant with our congregation into membership.

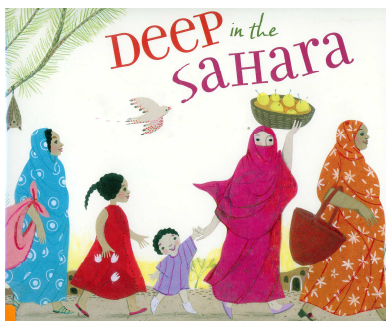
To RSVP, for more information, or to sign up for childcare, please call the church office at 437-9266.

Electrical Appliances Needed

EPH, the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing, is looking for electrical appliances in good working condition, as our supplies are very low. If you have an electric washer, dryer, stove or refrigerator that you would like to donate, please contact Sue at EPH (920-676-3779 or EPHManager1@gmail.com).

Sometimes Different, Sometimes the Same

The Somali social services organization, COMSA, presented a cultural competency conversation at Union Church in August. Two topics discussed by leader Mahamed Rage caught my attention. He talked about the varieties of Somali dress including the hijab or headscarf, which all of the Somali women in attendance were wearing, and shared stories in the Bible and Qur'an.



I was curious about how accurate a vibrant children's book we have in our church library was in describing the Somali experience. In Deep in the Sahara, a young girl Laila wants to wear the veil, called a malafa, in her country of Mauritania located in the northwest Africa. Set in a traditional village, the picture book depicts a way of life and explores many of the reasons Mauritanian women wear the veil – beauty, mystery, tradition, belonging and, most importantly, to express their faith. Until Laila discovers all these reasons, she is deemed not old enough to wear the malafa. In the experience of the women attending the Somali conversation, this story seemed fictional. It made no sense that a family would deny a girl a headscarf once she had made a decision to wear one. Somali women have a choice regarding the hijab, and for some, one of the pleasures of wearing the hijab is related to expressing their fashion sense as well as their faith.

Whether the differences are cultural – after all Mauritania is 4,000 miles away from Somalia on the other side of Africa – or the Somali women express a more modern view of dress, it's clearly important not to generalize from one Islamic country to another.

Another topic that Mahamed raised was the Biblical story of Abraham and the sacrifice of his son. The Jewish Bible identifies this son as Isaac. In the church library we have a beautifully rendered children's version of the story called The White Ram taken from Jewish legend, or midrash. In Islam, the story of the sacrifice of Ishmael (Ismail) is similarly important and follows along the same lines based on a reading of Qur'an. Jews remember the ram who was sacrificed by the blowing of the shofar or ram's horn on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Muslims remember the sacrifice at an important holiday, Eid al adha, a time of sharing gifts of meat with family and those in need. Again the conversation highlighted the ways that Islam shares a history with Christianity and Judaism, while remaining a distinct faith.

To continue this conversation of discovery, consider these books in the church library:

Growing Up Muslim, 297 in childrens

Islam, 297 in childrens and adult nonfiction

Under the Ramadan Moon, Other Religions in childrens

Magid Fasts for Ramadan, Other Religions in the childrens

Acts of Faith by Eboo Patel, 305.6 in adult nonfiction

The Faith Club and other interfaith books, 201.5 in adult nonfiction

ReUnion Sunday



Sept. 10, 2017

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 hopes to send a carload of participants so please consider joining us. Contact Pastor Bridget or Helen Krueger if interested in learning more. You will be rewarded by a meaningful, satisfying experience of helping others.

Souper Cooks Return September 28

It's time to put on our aprons for another season of preparing delicious mac 'n' cheese for NEW Community Shelter. Our next session is Thursday, September 28 at 9 a.m. at the shelter, 301 Mather Street in Green Bay.

We need about six or seven people to help us create the meal. No need to serve this time, but we will serve the meal in October and December.

Never done this before? It's pretty simple. Ingredients are purchased beforehand; we just show up and follow directions for creating the entrée, salads and cakes.

If you can help out, please contact Lou Norsetter at 497-4410 or lnorset@sbcglobal.net. We generally have a good time doing this. If you can't make it this time, consider the following dates:

October 26 (prep and serve); **December 28** (prep and serve); **January 25** (prep only).

If your schedule does not allow for morning volunteering, you can help in another way. Each meal we prepare for NEW Community Shelter costs \$200 in groceries. We rely on donations to support the meals. Perhaps your family would like to sponsor a meal or a portion of one. If so, please contact Lou (see info above) or Pastor Bridget (437-9266).

Altar Flowers

Please consider providing flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event. These dates are available for you to provide flowers:



September 24
All of October

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.

"Walk With Me"

Sixty people are needed to bring "Walk With Me" to the Marcus East Theater on Monday evening, November 6. The time is to be determined and will be updated once we reach our goal by October 27. Consider reserving your spot today, and help us spread the word.

Thich Nhat Hanh, the Vietnamese monk Martin Luther King Jr. nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, is one of the most popular Zen Buddhist teachers of all time, and is widely credited for introducing mindfulness to the western world. Honest and heart warming, "Walk With Me" touches on the themes of belonging, love, loss, hope and death relevant for not just Thich Nhat Hanh's monks and nuns, but for us all.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/OpenHeartMindfulnessCommunityOfGreenBay/> for more information.



Union Church Calendar

September 23, 2017—October 31, 2017

September 23 Saturday

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

September 24 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. JOSHUA 1-on-1 training
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

September 28 Thursday

9:00 a.m. Souper Cooks
4:30 p.m. CASA Parent Cafe
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

October 1 Sunday

Neighbors in Need Offering
8:30 a.m. Youth Choir
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

October 3 Tuesday

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

October 4 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA

October 5 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

October 6 Friday

Still Speaking Deadline

October 8 Sunday

8:30 a.m. Youth Choir
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series:
Stacie Christian
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
Pledge Campaign Kickoff

October 10 Tuesday

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

October 11 Wednesday

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

October 12 Thursday

5:30 p.m. Handbells
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
7:00 p.m. New Member meeting

October 15 Sunday

8:30 a.m. Youth Choir
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Education
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Heifer Living Gift Market

October 18 Wednesday

5:30 p.m. New Member meeting
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

October 19 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

October 21 Saturday

Wedding at 2:30 p.m.
Amber O'Connell & Jessica Lundgren

October 22 Sunday

8:30 a.m. Youth Choir
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Education
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

October 24 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

October 25 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. PF & YCA Family Bonfire
at Pastor Bridget's
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

October 26 Thursday

9:00 a.m. Souper Cooks
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

October 29 Sunday

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

October 31 Tuesday

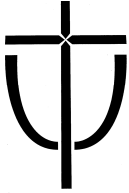
3:00 p.m. Trick or Treating at
Union Church

Youth Choir

Youth Choir will resume on October 1 with rehearsals from 8:30 to 8:55 Sunday mornings in Harmony Hall. All second graders on up are welcome to join in this exciting opportunity. If you have questions, please contact our new youth choir director, Melissa Heffernan at:

Phone: 920-265-1918

Email: melheffernan@gmail.com



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

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How the Bible Came to Be

Sunday Adult Classes: October 15 and October 22

Scholarship has shown that 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 composed the texts? Who decided which of the many religious writings of biblical times “made the cut” and got into our Bible? What’s involved in translating the ancient Hebrew and Greek manuscripts into English? By the way, the available manuscripts have many discrepancies; how do translators decide which to choose?

The fascinating answers to these questions will be explored at two upcoming Sunday Adult classes (note: this will be a condensed version of the recent Seminary Secrets miniseries):

WHEN: Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

October 15: The Christian canon: how it came to be

October 22: Translations: What are the tasks and problems translators face? Which translation is “best”?

WHERE: Chapel Classroom **LEADER:** Julie Harder

October Seminary Secrets Sessions

New Seminary Secrets sessions are planned for October 11, 18, and 25. The topics are yet to be determined, so watch for further details in Friday emails! Questions? Contact Julie Harder at jblackharder@gmail.com.

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>