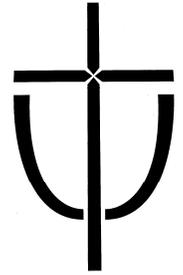




# Still Speaking



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

February 2018

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **March 7, 2018**.  
The deadline for that newsletter is Friday, **March 2, 2018**.*

<b>Our Church Family</b> -----	<b>2</b>
<b>On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic</b> -----	<b>3</b>
<b>Saudade</b> -----	<b>3</b>
<b>COMSA Testimonial</b> -----	<b>4</b>
<b>Ash Wednesday is February 14</b> -----	<b>4</b>
<b>Priscilla Circle Meets February 27</b> -----	<b>4</b>
<b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b> -----	<b>4</b>
<b>Proud Theater</b> -----	<b>5</b>
<b>Camp Scholarships</b> -----	<b>6</b>
<b>EPH News</b> -----	<b>6</b>
<b>Chili Cookoff</b> -----	<b>6</b>
<b>Seminary Secrets</b> -----	<b>back page</b>

## We Need to Talk

by Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

Congregational Annual Meetings are always an anxious time for me. Even when there are no special votes on the docket, I step in to the meeting with the feeling one gets when their partner says, "We need to talk."

That said, I've never had an annual meeting that warranted fear. Amidst the questions and even differing opinions, I am proud to foster a church culture of healthy dialogue, respect, and covenantal commitment to grace.

While some of my hesitancy may be the formality of the meeting, after closer examination, I think my dis-ease actually lies with the infrequency of these conversations. In the case of a Congregational Annual Meeting, a lot can bottle up over a year, so my anxiety is about what may have been looming in the dark that we could have been addressing constructively in the light. So much can be solved or resolved simply by taking the time to show up and engage it, and having a mechanism by which to do so.

If the infrequency of these meetings is indeed the root of this anxiety, the antidote is simple: hold congregational meetings more frequently!

Frequent, good communication is good at any time, but will be especially important this year. We passed a bold, faith-filled deficit budget this year, believing that we are called to do meaningful work within the congregation and the wider community. There was real excitement about the imminent call of our Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement, and during the potluck which followed the meeting tables were abuzz with fundraising ideas to cover the deficit.

To help with communication, Common Ministry has agreed to my proposal to hold congregational meetings quarterly throughout 2018. By

*(continued on page 2)*

(continued on from 1)

meeting roughly in early May, August, and November (exact dates TBD), we will be able to keep each other better informed about the ministries of the church and the status of our fundraising efforts. At each meeting, we will highlight one or two ministry areas, as well as update the congregation on the state of the church's finances.

We hope that in doing this, we will all feel well informed and empowered to do the work of the church.

As you read through the pages of this newsletter, you will see just some of the work of our dynamic, active, vibrant congregation. Thank you for that, and for rolling up your sleeves and pitching in as we undertake a year of growth and opportunity in the name of the God of peace, joy, justice, and love.

## Lectionary Readings

### February 11

#### Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

2 Kings 2:1-12; Ps 50:1-6

2 Cor 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

### February 14

#### Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isa 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:16-21

### February 18

#### First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

### February 25

#### Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

### March 4

#### Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

### March 11

#### Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

## Our Church Family

December	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
1st Sunday	136	156
2nd Sunday	161	128
3rd Sunday	187	229
4th Sunday (Christmas Day in 2016)	—	56
5th Sunday (Taizé worship in 2017)	91	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>569</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>143.8</b>	<b>142.3</b>
Dec. 24 early	146	118
Dec. 24 late	264	243

## Our Attendance

January	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
1st Sunday (New Year's Day in 2017)	161	102
2nd Sunday	127	154
3rd Sunday	129	186
4th Sunday	154	125
5th Sunday	—	179
<b>Totals</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>746</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>142.8</b>	<b>149.2</b>

## Saudade

*Saudade*, a Portuguese word, was once described as "the love that remains" after someone is gone. With that, we are naming our new support group for those who have lost a loved one to death *Saudade*. In *Saudade* we will come together to support one another as we navigate the waters of life that are very different than they had been.

We plan to gather on the fourth Monday of the month in the English Room from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. beginning February 26. Contact Pastor Bridget to learn more.

## Lakeland University Choir Concert and Hosting Students for an Evening

The Lakeland University Choir will be offering a concert at Union Church on Friday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. All members of the church are warmly invited to this free concert.

Overnight housing on the 13th is needed for the 18 members of the choir; if you would be willing to offer a room to two students for the night, it would be greatly appreciated. It would require taking the students home after the concert and returning them the following morning to the church to board the bus to their next performance. Additionally, we could also use help feeding the students dinner by bringing a dish and serving.

If interested in supporting the choir in either way, please contact the church office. Thank you.

## On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic

Dear Members and Friends,

I have had a vision of creating a dyslexia clinic at Union Church since a retreat at least three years ago at Moon Beach. It has seemed like a long journey to get to this point, but I am seeing this vision become a reality. I have completed certification as a dyslexia therapist and I see every day the need for trained tutors to meet with students with dyslexia in this area. Students will receive the tutoring free of charge and tutors will be paid an hourly stipend. I am grateful to the church for offering me space to move forward and to Gifts and Memorials for a grant for the start-up. I want all of you to know about the plans and to be able to participate in this exciting adventure.

We are making great progress with plans to open this summer. Articles of Incorporation have been filed and tax-exempt status has been applied for with the IRS. An intern from St. Norbert College is working with us from January to May to help with this start-up.

On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic, Inc. will open on June 18 (Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) for summer tutoring with tutors already trained in the Wilson Reading System. We were unable to hold a training this spring as the Wilson Language Corporation put a moratorium on trainings from January until June of this year due to the release of a new 4th edition.

The grand opening of the clinic will be in the fall of 2018. Clinic hours will be from 3 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday. There will be a need for trained tutors and my hope is that many of you will choose to become trained at the Wilson Reading System 3-day workshop this summer (July 31-August 2). The training will be held here at church and there will be no cost for those being trained with the intent to tutor a minimum of two students twice a week. There will also be a need to have substitute tutors available. Tutors should have a minimum of a bachelor's degree. A tutor application is available outside of the church office. There is a limit of 30 spaces for the training and our clinic tutors will have priority for those seats. We will allow the remaining seats to be filled by teachers from area schools.

There will also be a need for volunteers to assist tutors during the hours of the clinic both in the summer and the fall. There are many other tasks involved with the start-up such as technology assistance and fundraising. Please contact Pat Shafer ([pashafer@aol.com](mailto:pashafer@aol.com)) if you would like to be involved in the planning and start-up. An informational meeting for those interested in being a tutor or being involved with the clinic in any way will be held on Sunday, February 18 after worship in the Fellowship Room.

Most importantly I appreciate your support and prayers as we proceed.

In Christ,  
Pat Shafer

## **Second Sunday Series is February 11**

Cheryl Detrick, President and CEO of Newcap, will talk to us about Newcap's Permanent Supportive Housing Program which provides housing with supportive services for homeless persons and families with disabilities. Join us at 9:00 a.m. on February 11 in the Bagby Chapel.

## **Ash Wednesday is February 14**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. We will worship in the sanctuary at 7 p.m. The service offers us the possibility to renew our dedication to the ways of Jesus. We will receive ashes, representing old lives and oil, representing God's gracious promise of forgiveness and new life. Join us!

## **Priscilla Circle Meets February 27**

Members of Priscilla Circle will gather at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27 in the English Room. Helen Krueger will host and present an overview of her trip to Back Bay Mission in November. Invite a friend. New members are always welcome.

## **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is March 11**

Our OGHs offering will be collected Sunday, March 11. The needs are many: training, food, and relief supplies. By responding as best we are able, we make possible a better world.

Envelopes will be available in your bulletin on March 11. Indicate on your check or payment that your intent is for OGHs. Thank you.

## **COMSA Testimonial**

Happy New Year to the incredibly generous and gracious parishioners of Union Congregational United Church of Christ. It is with the happiest of hearts that I write to you on behalf of COMSA in the hopes of articulating the magnificence of your recent gestures towards the Somali community.

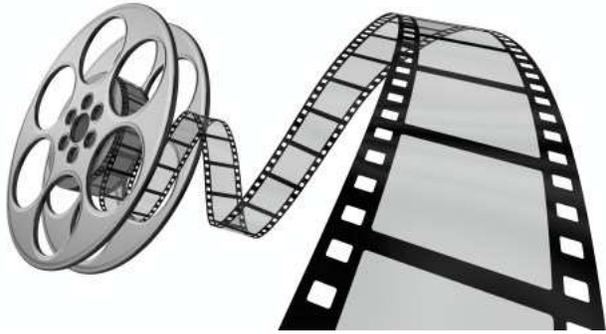
The grant that your Gifts and Memorials Ministry awarded to COMSA had a two-fold target in the hopes of creating exponential success rates.

- The first was to purchase laptops with the intent they would be utilized at the COMSA office by the community to increase computer skills, employment opportunities and job readiness. Your grant enabled COMSA to purchase three laptops for this purpose! They have been put to productive use since the date of their purchase, and it is all in thanks to Union.
- The second part of the grant was to assist COMSA's Women Empowerment branch with their female swimming initiative at the YWCA. Through your grant and our partners at the YWCA we are currently developing the next 8 female swimming sessions! The women at the Mosque and the empowerment group are beyond excited for this next round of opportunities in the pool, and your congregation made it possible. Once they become confident with their swimming abilities they dream that they will be able to one day take their children and neighbors to the other pools throughout the city. When this day comes I hope you feel a sense of profound peace in knowing that you played a part in this empowerment process and community inclusivity.

As for the two families you sponsored over the holidays, let me just say that you went above and beyond anything these families could have ever imagined. When COMSA originally approached them with the concept of you sponsoring them with gifts to help them set up their apartments, they had no idea to what we were referring. It had not occurred to them to ask for anything. These humble families were living without, and had no intentions of seeking even the basics which we so often take for granted. The women who received them were quite shocked at the sheer volume of what I was bringing in to their homes. One woman kept blessing you and thanking God. This morning, when I went to check on how one of the families was doing, the mother proudly showed me her son, warmly dressed in the flannel pajamas one of your congregants had gifted him. She thanked you, she asked God to bless you, and she asked God to bless your families.

This has been such an honor working with everyone from your church. May your kindness be shown back to you a million times over.

Kindest Regards,  
Katie Stockman and the Board Members of COMSA



# Lenten Cluster 2018 Goes to the Movies

This year our Lenten Cluster will once again 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, race, and pilgrimage, 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. We have intentionally chosen movies that may appeal to a wide age range, and have listed their ratings to help you determine their age appropriateness.

There is a sign-up sheet 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.

## **February 18 – “Stand By Me” (R – language)**

Written by Steven King and directed by Rob Reiner, “Stand By Me” at first glimpse appears to be a coming-of-age movie, but it quickly becomes a meditation on morality as four young boys wrestle with how their experience will shape their lives. As the boys search for a body, the audience becomes aware that fate may not be in death, but in life.

## **February 25 – “Chocolat” (PG-13 – sexuality, language)**

“Chocolat” poses the question, can the liberating virtues of pleasure -- here embodied by the warm, inviting power of chocolate -- triumph over well-meaning but closed-minded small-town zealots? Watch the magical realism unfold as Vivian and her daughter blow in to a provincial French town on the north wind with their exotic blends of sweets...during Lent. In Vivian’s hands, sensuality becomes more of a tool of transformation than asceticism.

## **March 4 – “The Way” (PG-13)**

Father and son team Martin Sheen (actor) and Emilio Estevez (writer, director) come together for this tale of pilgrimage as a father travels to the Camino de Santiago to recover his son’s body and decides to walk the pilgrimage himself. Not a spiritual movie in the classical sense, this film’s transformations are profound but subtle as Sheen meets up with fellow pilgrims who are all seeking change.

## **March 11 – “Up” (PG - action)**

In this animated Pixar film, Ed Asner is the voice of Carl, an elderly balloon salesman who makes up one half of an intergenerational odd couple. After Carl’s wife Ellie dies, he decides to make her life-long dream come true. A tale of the power of relationships and learning that you’re never too old for an adventure.

## **March 18 – “The Butler” (PG-13)**

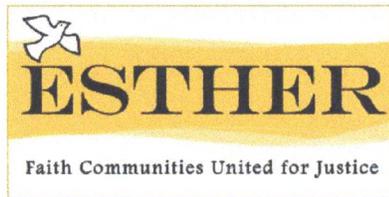
Loosely based on the real life of Eugene Allen who worked in the White House for decades, “The Butler” stars Forest Whitaker as Cecil Gaines, an African-American who is a witness of notable political and social events of the 20th century during his 34-year tenure serving as a White House butler. The film explores issues of race and class both from a political standpoint and among the White House staff itself.

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# Voices of Hope:

## A Readers' Theatre

Real Life Stories of Hispanic Immigrants in the Fox Valley



The script, written by Peter A. Geniesse, explores a sampling of the stories and reasons behind the often-traumatic stories that have brought people to the U.S. This is a moving story that will put faces on the many important immigration issues before us.

**Monday, February 19**

**Resurrection Catholic Church**

Gathering Area

Main Entrance

333 Hilltop Drive

Allouez

**Social time, light refreshments: 5:30 - 6:00**

**Program: 6:00 – 7:00**

Admission is free but **donations** are greatly appreciated and will **support** AAUW's **scholarship program for women** entering their last year of post high school education.



We bring people together for the common goal of breaking through educational and economic barriers for women and girls.

## Union Church's Christmas Pageant was December 17

(photos courtesy of Sue Tucker)



(L to R in top photos) Carter Reese, Zander Kinjerski, Eli Gregg and Henry Gregg; Gabe VerGiesen and Christian Reese

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## Theater Group to Make Union Church Proud

Recently, Union Church was invited to collaborate with and house the new chapter of Proud Theater which is organizing in Green Bay. Proud Theater is an LGBTQ+ Youth Theater Organization that helps young people express themselves through theater and the theater arts.

Proud Theater is volunteer powered and is looking for youth mentors in the Green Bay area. Adult mentors don't lead the troupe, they serve as facilitators, guiding and helping the youth to share their stories, create performances out of those stories, and to become leaders among their peers and in their communities. The work of Proud Theater builds upon the youths' innate resiliencies by providing them with community, peer support, and mentorship which in turn contributes to their positive

engagement with school and their communities, and their overall health, self-esteem, and stability.

Interested in getting involved or in becoming an Adult Mentor and working with Proud Theater's group of LGBTQ+ youth in our collaborative artistic process? Got a passion for, and experience in creative work with young people? Want to be part of building a platform for youths' voices and leadership? We're accepting applications NOW for mentors in our new Green Bay Chapter season. LGBTQ+ people of color and trans folks strongly encouraged to apply! For an application, detailed mentor job description, information about other volunteer opportunities, or other questions, contact Executive Director Brian Wild at [info@proudtheater.org](mailto:info@proudtheater.org).

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## Church Camp Scholarships Available!

Our wonderful church camps at Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center are now accepting registrations for summer programs. Visit [www.ucci.org](http://www.ucci.org) and click on "register" to see the wide variety of camps available for children, youth, and families.

Union's Gifts and Memorials Ministry has set aside a limited amount of funds to serve as need based scholarships, with the hope that all Union members who want to attend church camp are able to do so. Application forms are available at Union Central or by contacting the church office. Forms are due to the church office by May 15.

## Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH) News

What does "home" mean to you? We asked some of the families served by our partnership the same question. What follows are a few of the responses:

**Vera:** "A place of comfort. A place where I can be myself. A place where the future begins."

**Jacki:** "Safe, loving and stability. The feeling of comfort and happiness."

**Melanie:** "A place of our own. A place to belong that is ours!"

**Corrie:** "Home means having a place for your family and kids to find their roots. It's warmth, love, respect, and memories."

**April:** "Home to me is having family and loved ones around you. It's the place you can be your true self."

Your support provides the safety and stability of home, but when a family is added to the home it becomes so much more.

## EPH Bulletin Board

**Gently-used 40-inch Smart TV** — Needed for presentations in the EPH office.

**Seeking Volunteer for Office Cleaning** — Now that EPH has a larger, combined office space that includes room for home inventory, we are seeking a person to help with office cleaning. A volunteer is needed for about two hours each week.

**Drivers Needed** — Interested in providing rides for families with limited means of transportation? An informational session will be held Thurs., February 15 at 2 p.m. at the EPH office, 200 S. Monroe Ave.

Responses to bulletin board requests,  
please call 920-676-3779 or email [ephmanager1@gmail.com](mailto:ephmanager1@gmail.com)



Think your chili reigns supreme?  
Put it to the test at  
Positive VOICE's Chili Cook Off

**What:** Your Chili (or fav Crock-Pot meal)

**When:** March 3, 2018 – 12-1:30 p.m.  
Prizes awarded at 1:15 p.m.

**Where:** 716 S. Madison Street, Green Bay  
Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ

**Price:** \$10  
Positive VOICE members get \$5 discount  
Bring an entry to get in free

# Union Church Calendar

## February 11, 2018—March 22, 2018

**February 11 Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Youth Choir  
 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
 9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series:  
 Cheryl Detrick, Newcap  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

**February 13 Tuesday**

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

**February 14 Wednesday**

5:45 p.m. Dinner  
 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA  
 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship

**February 15 Thursday**

5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir  
 NO Chancel Choir

**February 18 Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Youth Choir  
 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
 9:00 a.m. Adult Education:  
 Getting to know  
 the Bible  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
 11:15 a.m. Informational Meeting for  
 Dyslexia Clinic  
 5:00 p.m. Lent Movie: "Stand by Me"

**February 20 Tuesday**

SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION

**February 21 Wednesday**

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

**February 22 Thursday**

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

**February 25 Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Youth Choir  
 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
 9:00 a.m. Adult Education:  
 Getting to know  
 the Bible  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
 5:00 p.m. Lent Movie: "Chocolat"

**February 26 Monday**

6:00 p.m. Saudade (support group)

**February 27 Tuesday**

1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

**February 28 Wednesday**

5:45 p.m. Dinner  
 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA  
 7:00 p.m. Seminary Secrets

**March 1 Thursday**

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

**March 3 Saturday**

12:00 p.m. Chili Cook-off

**March 4 Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Youth Choir  
 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
 5:00 p.m. Lent Movie: "The Way"

**March 6 Tuesday**

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry  
 6:30 p.m. Education Ministry

**March 7 Wednesday**

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

**March 11 Sunday**

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering  
 Daylight-Saving Time  
 8:30 a.m. Youth Choir  
 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
 9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series:  
 A Trip to Cuba  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
 5:00 p.m. Lent Movie: "Up"

**March 13 Tuesday**

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

**March 14 Wednesday**

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

**March 15 Thursday**

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

**March 18 Sunday**

8:30 a.m. Youth Choir  
 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
 5:00 p.m. Lent Movie: "The Butler"

**March 21 Wednesday**

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

**March 22 Thursday**

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

**Holy Week is  
 March 26-March 31**



Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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## Seminary Secrets Miniseries

### Jesus' Passion: Mark's version vs. Matthew's vs. Luke's

Most of us are familiar with the story of Jesus' passion (his arrest, trial, and crucifixion). But did you know that the author of the Gospel of Mark wrote the base story, and that Matthew and Luke each modified it to fit their own emphases and themes? Putting these three narratives side-by-side is a fascinating exercise in detecting the messages each author wished to convey. Join in this three session Seminary Secrets series and deepen your Lenten insights!

**WHAT:** Reading through the "Passion Parallels" and learning about each Gospel's particular emphasis and message

**WHEN:** 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays, February 7, 21, 28 (we will skip Ash Wednesday which is February 14)

**WHERE:** Chapel classroom (adjacent to Bagby Chapel)

**LEADER:** Julie Harder at [jblackharder@gmail.com](mailto:jblackharder@gmail.com) or 465-0752

**PREPARATION/HOMEWORK:** Email or call Julie so she can get a headcount, and so she can send participants a short preparatory reading.

**CAN'T MAKE ALL THE SESSIONS?** It's still possible to join in; contact Julie and we'll figure it out!

### Union Congregational United Church of Christ

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

#### **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>