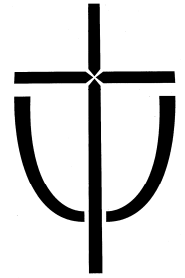


# Still Speaking



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

April 2018

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published  
the week of **May 9, 2018.**  
The deadline for that newsletter is  
**Friday, May 4, 2018.***

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## Easter's New Life: Embracing the Unexpected

Dr. Jon Pahl

One of my colleagues at the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia, the Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Wengert, has made a very nice career out of telling people that believing in Jesus means believing that God shows up in the places and people we least expect. I'm beginning to see how true this is, as I begin my ministry here among you.

I wasn't seeking a call. I was happily immersed in a book project, the first English language biography of the Turkish imam Fethullah Gülen, for which I had a research fellowship. More about that in a minute. And I was enjoying my teaching at the United Lutheran Seminary—which I do online and during one-week intensives back in Philly. And I was thrilled about living in Clintonville, where I was enjoying gardening, lots of home improvement projects, time with my extended family, attending Christ Congregational Church where I sang in the choir, and coaching 5th grade girls' basketball. But when I saw your position posting on the Wisconsin Council of Churches website, I thought about it, prayed about it, and then sent an email of inquiry off to Ben VerGiesen. I showed up for my interview with the search committee wearing a Hawaiian shirt. I wasn't seeking a call.

Ben's first question, as I remember, was "why us?" My immediate thought, although I didn't utter it, was: "why me?" I'm not ordained. I preach too long. I don't have a lot of administrative experience. But as the conversations between us deepened over the months, it became apparent to me that serving at Union was one of those unexpected graces that I had to embrace.

So, here I am. Here we are. Together, I look forward to discovering how we can form faith and engage our community to love God and to love our neighbors, more deeply, truly, and courageously.

I'm still wrapping up that biography of Fethullah Gülen. It's been fascinating research, and it will be a big book when it's published (God-

*(continued on page 2)*

**Lectionary Readings****April 15 — 3rd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

**April 22 — 4th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

**April 29 — 5th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

**May 6 — 6th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

*(continued from page 1)*

willing, by June). There's probably a book tour or two on the horizon this summer or fall. And I'm still teaching in Philadelphia—one class per semester.

But I'm full-time with you after April 12, and I've already begun planning for the next five years of community engagement, through a grant proposal idea I've submitted to the Lilly Endowment. I can't wait to meet you for conversations in coming weeks. Expect a call—I'll be on the phone to our members for a chat. Drop me a line ([jon@unionucc.com](mailto:jon@unionucc.com)), or drop in, if you'd like! I'll have office hours ordinarily every Tuesday and Wednesday, from early a.m. to late evening. I'll be working at home other days, and on call in consultation with Bridget, with Mondays and Saturdays my days off.

So—my Easter (and introductory!) message to you, courtesy of my esteemed colleague (who is also a very fine Reformation historian, by the way): embrace the unexpected, where God shows up with the promise of new life.

**Our Attendance**

<b>March</b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
1st Sunday	113	122
2nd Sunday	112	166
3rd Sunday	153	137
4th Sunday (Palm Sunday in 2018)	165	139
<b>Totals</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>564</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>135.8</b>	<b>141.0</b>

<b>Holy Week</b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>
Palm Sunday	165	183
Maundy Thursday	65	57
Good Friday	48	80
Easter 8 a.m.	22	40
Easter 10 a.m.	238	251
<b>Totals</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>611</b>

**Our Church Family**

## Quarterly Meeting May 6 after Worship

Plan to stay after worship on Sunday, May 6 for our first quarterly meeting. In these meetings we will help congregants stay current on the church's finances and share the status of fundraising projects to close our budget deficit. Additionally, each ministry will take a turn once throughout the year to share some highlights of their work.

## Union Church to Host Annual Meeting All Hands On Deck!

Join us on Saturday, April 28, as Union hosts the NE Association Annual Meeting. We need greeters to help our guests find their way around our building from 8 to 9 a.m. We also need ushers, communion servers as well as folks to help set up for, serve, and clean up after lunch.

**Please sign up at Union Central if you can help.**

All church members and friends are invited to attend the meeting too, which will focus on how our northeast Wisconsin churches can help one another be the church.

You are cordially invited to attend the 56th Annual Meeting of the Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ

## Being the Church

Saturday, April 28,  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
at Union Church

## Welcome, Dr. Jon Pahl!



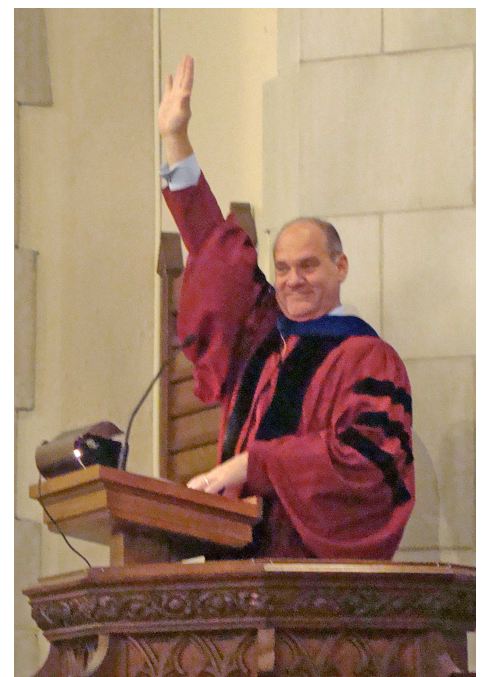
Jon Pahl offered an Irish blessing during the benediction. (top photo)  
He introduced himself to the congregation and delivered the sermon, "Lent, Our Annual Vision Quest." (bottom photo)

It's official. Dr. Jon Pahl is Union Church's Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement.

Dr. Pahl helped lead worship on Sunday, March 18. He delivered the sermon, offered the benediction, and played the alto sax during the closing hymn, "On Eagles Wings."

A special congregational meeting followed. The vote was affirmative. Dr. Pahl will fill this important role.

"I'm very pleased to join the Union community, and look forward to learning how I can best contribute," said Dr. Pahl in an email. He began his ministry at Union Church on April 12.



## Tuesday Afternoon Lectionary Bible Study Resumes April 17

Beginning April 17, we will gather from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel Classroom to pray and study the scriptures we will use in worship the coming Sunday.

We will meet through the end of the school year and re-evaluate our date/time come June.

All are welcome.

## Priscilla Circle Meets April 24

Members of Priscilla Circle will meet at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24 in the English Room. Deb Rose will host. Joan Johnson, director of the Women's Employment Center at the YWCA, and Claudia Roshong, who volunteers there, will talk about the Women's Closet and other programs at the YWCA.

## Who's Graduating?



We would like to recognize our 2018 graduates in our June newsletter. Please let the church office know (437-9266 or [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com)) if you will be a 2018 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!

## Immigrant Welcoming Advocacy Team

### We Heard You . . .

*The Immigrant Welcoming Advocacy Team has been in conversation with Union members, asking for their feedback on our project. Many of you asked for more information about specific issues. We heard you . . . and will share monthly updates in this newsletter.*

**Who are the Dreamers?** Almost 800,000 undocumented youth who are already part of the fabric of our society have had the opportunity to work, pursue their dreams, and contribute to their communities without fear of deportation since the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program began in 2012. DACA recipients, also known as Dreamers, have gained employment, pursued higher education, and started families. The future of Dreamers is uncertain, as Congress failed to provide a bipartisan solution by March 5 to the current administration's decision to terminate DACA.

### Dreamer Fast Facts

**80%:** The number of DACA recipients who were 10 years old or younger when they arrived in the U.S.

**\$2 Billion:** Amount of state and local tax dollars paid by DACA-eligible immigrants.

**787,580:** Number of young undocumented individuals who have received DACA, which provided temporary relief from deportation and employment opportunities.

**A local response:** Excerpt from the UW-Green Bay April 4, 2018 Statement of Support for DACA:

"Anxiety is high right now around the DACA program in our nation and on our campus. We have strongly supported DACA and will continue to do so. We have joined over 700 other colleges and universities who have signed a pledge calling for the United States to uphold and continue the DACA program."

Thirty-first General Synod of the United Church of Christ 2017 Resolution of Witness: SUMMARY

### ON BECOMING AN IMMIGRANT WELCOMING CHURCH

This resolution calls on the United Church of Christ and its congregations to become Immigrant Welcoming as it recognizes the ongoing struggles of refugees and migrants who come to the United States seeking safety, security, freedom and opportunity but instead experience suffering as they fear raids, deportation, and witness their families being torn apart. It further encourages the development of policies to facilitate this.

### Members of Union's Immigrant Welcoming Advocacy Team

Heather Collins, Sylvia Garrido, Tim Harder, Judy Larmouth, Lou Norsetter, Barbara McClure-Lukens, Lloyd Schaefer and Bryan Lipke (convener)

## K. C. Williams Shared His Message



World-renowned singer and songwriter K. C. Williams shared his message during worship on April 8. His faith witness was titled “The Power of the Spirituals.” Williams was born in Milwaukee, the 11th child in a family of 14. “Love and hate have no color. You’re either going to love or you’re going to hate. I don’t know anything luke warm that cooks food. You either freeze it or you cook it for it to get well done,” he said to the congregation.

## Phone Directories available April 29

Updated Union Church phone directories will be available to members of the congregation on Sunday, April 29. 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](mailto: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 accuracy, but we depend on your updates. Thank you!

**Invite  
a Friend  
to Church!**

## Youth Sunday is May 6

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 6.

## Church Rummage Sale is May 18 and May 19

Outreach Ministry will host the annual rummage sale at Union Church on Friday, May 18, (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.), and Saturday, May 19 (8 a.m. to noon). Your donations of clean and gently used items such as kitchen, household décor, vintage and antiques, small furniture, books, CDs, music, toys, sporting goods and linens will go far in providing financial support for Outreach projects. Purses and jewelry are welcome, but we will not be selling clothing or shoes this year.

Please bring your items to the Chapel Classroom from Sunday, May 13, through Thursday May 17. Please check out the sign-in sheet upstairs if you wish to volunteer as a church tour guide, to help with the sale, or to deliver leftover items to a local non-profit of your choice Saturday. If you have questions about donations or volunteering, please check with Stacie Christian. Thank you for your support!

### Used Book Sale

The Used Book Sale takes place in Pilgrim Hall on May 6 and May 13, before and after church. This event is only a success with your donations of adult and children’s books, fiction and nonfiction. Donations can be placed in the church library. If you have a lot of books, storage is available in the hallway across from the restrooms on the second floor. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Most books are \$1. Mass market fiction and children’s are 50 cents each. Consider this an opportunity to refresh your shelves for summer or find something weird and wonderful!

—Cathy Putman

### St. John’s Homeless Shelter COTS 2.018



Currently, St. John’s Homeless Shelter is allowed to be open 180 days a year by the City of Green Bay. After public outcry last spring when a homeless man was killed after taking shelter in a dumpster that was emptied while he was still in it, the community has been searching for a way to provide emergency housing throughout the year.

This month, St. John’s is rolling out a summer model that asks churches across the metro area to provide overnight care for one week two times during St. John’s off season (Sunday evening through Sunday morning). They will provide the staff, transportation of the mats, insurance, and transportation for guests when necessary. Summer meals will continue to be provided at the NEW Community Shelter and the MICAH Center.

After robust discussion, our Common Ministry has voted unanimously to partner with St. John’s to be a part of COTS 2.018 (Conditional Occupancy Temporary Shelter). Two times between May and October, we will house shelter guests for the week. Estimates now are that there will be twelve to twenty guests. We are in the process now of making detailed arrangements with the shelter, so that we are able to provide a welcoming environment which also addresses the church’s security needs.

Please plan to gather to hear more about this ministry and to ask your questions at one of the following informational gatherings:

**Sunday, April 22** in Bagby Chapel following worship

**Wednesday, April 25** in the sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, April 29** in Bagby Chapel at 9:00 a.m.

For more information, please contact Moderator Sandy Polarek (469-0368) or Outreach co-chairs Christie Reese (273-5349) or Lou Norsetter (217-1911).

**Remember  
Union Church  
in your estate  
planning**

### 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:



**April 15, 22, 29 & May 4, 13, 27**

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 Annual Celebration Dinner

Interested in learning more about EPH while engaging in dialogue with friends and sampling an array of delicious hors d’oeuvres? Please join us on Monday, May 7 as we share our challenges and accomplishments, hear from one of our families, and provide an update on progress toward our vision. The event will be held at the St. Norbert Bemis Center beginning at 5:30. Reservations, along with \$25 per person to cover our costs, may be mailed to EPH, PO Box 524, Green Bay, WI 54305. Just mark on your envelope or check, “Celebration Dinner,” and provide the names of the attendees.

# Union Church Calendar

## April 15—May 13, 2018

### April 15 Sunday

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

### April 17 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study

### April 18 Wednesday

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

### April 19 Thursday

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

### April 22 Sunday

8:30 a.m. Youth Choir  
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
11:15 a.m. COTS 2.018  
informational session

### April 23 Monday

5:00 p.m. Communications Team  
6:30 p.m. Saudade

### April 24 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study  
1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

### April 25 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Dinner  
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA  
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets  
6:30 p.m. COTS 2.018  
informational session

### April 26 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### April 28 Saturday

9:00 a.m. 56th Annual Meeting of  
NE Association of the  
United Church of Christ

### April 29 New Member Sunday

9:00 a.m. COTS 2.018  
informational session  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
11:15 a.m. Dessert Potluck  
with New Members

### May 1 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry  
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry  
6:30 p.m. Education Ministry

### May 2 Wednesday

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

### May 3 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### May 6 Youth Sunday

8:30 a.m. Youth Choir  
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
11:15 a.m. Quarterly Meeting  
Used Book Sale  
before and after worship

### May 7 Monday

5:30 p.m. EPH Celebration Dinner

### May 8 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Lectionary 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 9 Wednesday

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

### May 10 Thursday

4:00 p.m. Pastoral Relations  
5:30 p.m. Handbell Ensemble  
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

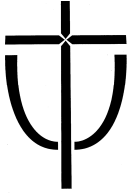
### May 13 Sunday

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

## Church Camp Scholarships Available!

Our wonderful church camps at Moon Beach and Pilgrim Center are 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.



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

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GREEN BAY, WI

Union Church  
New Member  
**Dessert Potluck**  
(Pilgrim Hall)



**April 29, 2018**

Immediately following New Member Reception  
in worship

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

Please sign up at Union Central

**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

**Dr. Jon Pahl**

Minister of Faith Formation  
and Community Engagement

**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>

You can still attend our Inquirers Class at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18.  
Please call the church office (437-9266) to sign up.