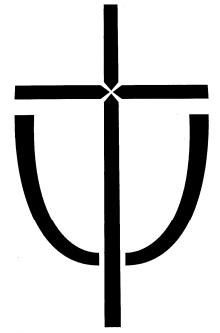


Still Speaking



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

September 2018

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published
the week of **October 17, 2018.***

*The deadline for that newsletter is
Friday, **October 12, 2018.***

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Living with an Attitude of Gratitude, Giving with a Loving Spirit

By Jon Pahl, Ph.D.

Starting September 30 in conjunction with our annual pledge campaign, I'll be offering a four-week series on "Philanthropy" during our 9 a.m. Adult Education period. It's a topic I care deeply about, and a practice I find fascinating.

Like anything else, the practice of philanthropy improves with exercise. The more we do it, the better we get.

At its core, the practice of philanthropy is love of humanity. The root word, *philia*—is a Greek word for brotherly and sisterly love. It's also at the root of the name of my former home, Philadelphia.

As founded by William Penn, Philadelphia was to be a haven for people who were outcasts in Puritan Boston and Anglican Virginia, notably the Quakers. Penn had gone to jail in England for his Quaker beliefs. He was determined to establish a city built on the principle of religious freedom.

So, he literally gave a city to his people (after "negotiating" with the Lenape). But note well: there's an element of self-interest in this gift. Philadelphia was a haven for Penn, too.

I believe our philanthropy—and our stewardship campaign that will also get underway September 30—is similar to Penn's experiment. That is, when we give with a loving spirit, we experience in a positive feedback loop the return of the love that we offer.

I call it living with an attitude of gratitude. It's easier said than done, of course. But when we're mindful of how EVERYTHING we have is a gift to us, on loan for our brief time here on Earth, we can realize that living with an attitude of gratitude is about the most basic decision we can make.

And it IS a decision. There are plenty of forces that push us to live differently. Corporations push control. Empires push force. Markets push greed. And all those systems can make us miserable, lacing our life with worry.

But Jesus—well, he said "consider the lilies." Stop and smell the roses. Realize that life is short, and sweet. And remember that such sweetness is a gift—from a God who wants us happy, not worried.

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

September 23

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Prov 31:10-31 • Ps 1 or
 Wis of Sol 1:16-2:1, 12-22 or
 Jer 11:18-20 • Ps 54
 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
 Mark 9:30-37

September 30

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Est 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 • Ps 124
 or Num 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
 • Ps 19:7-14
 James 5:13-20
 Mark 9:38-50

October 7

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 1:1; 2:1-10 • Ps 26 or
 Gen 2:18-24 • Ps 8
 Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12
 Mark 10:2-16

October 14

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 • Ps 22:1-15 or
 Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 • Ps 90:12-17
 Heb 4:12-16
 Mark 10:17-31

October 21

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)
 • Ps 104:1-9, 24, 35c or
 Isa 53:4-12 • Ps 91:9-16
 Heb 5:1-10
 Mark 10:35-45

October 28

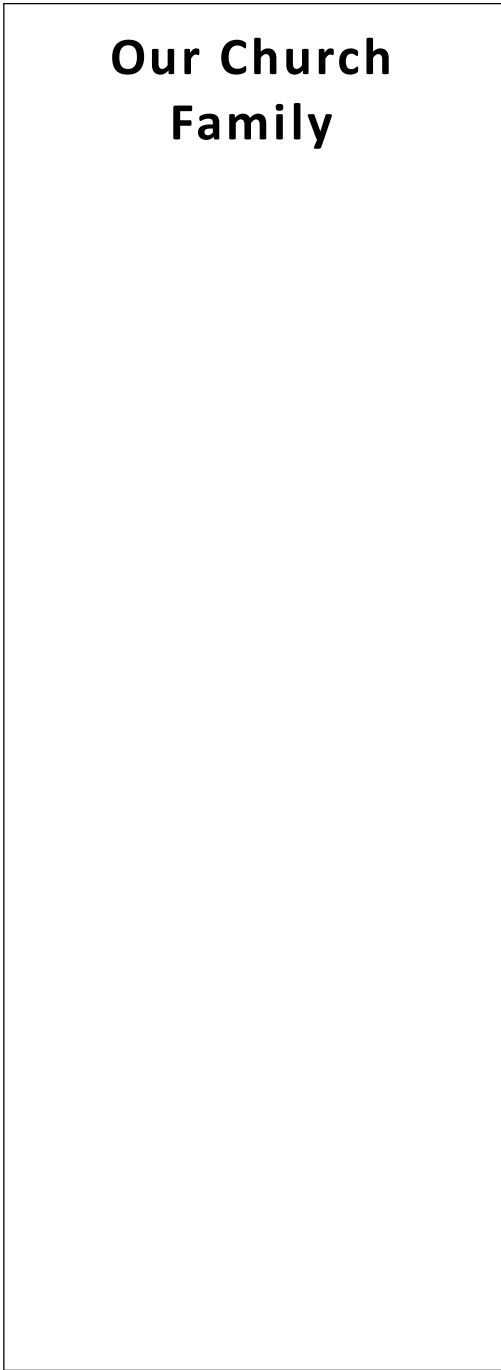
23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Job 42:1-6, 10-17
 • Ps 34:1-8, (19-22) or
 Jer 31:7-9 • Ps 126
 Heb 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

(continued from page 1)

So, as we roll out our stewardship campaign this fall, consider how you can practice philanthropy: love of humanity. There are many, many ways to give. But we hope that you find here at Union Congregational UCC a place that welcomes all people. We hope that you find here leaders who live with an attitude of gratitude. We hope that you find here a church that inspires giving with a loving spirit.

For Jesus also said: “where your treasure is, there will your heart be, also.” I thank you in advance for giving from the heart to the church of your heart.



**Our Church
 Family**

**Our
 Annual
 Pledge Drive**

***“Giving with Heart,
 to the Church
 of My Heart”***

kicks off during worship
Sunday, September 30

**Invite a Friend
 to Church!**

Attendance

August	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
1st Sunday	77	109
2nd Sunday	83	102
3rd Sunday	99	97
4th Sunday	90	124
Totals	349	432
Average	87.3	108.0

Priscilla Circle to Meet September 25

Priscilla Circle will meet Tuesday, September 25, at 1 p.m. in the English Room. Dr. Jon Pahl will talk about his career path and how he "found" Union Church. Guests and newer members are welcome.

Neighbors in Need, October 7

The United Church of Christ offers grants to organizations nationwide engaged in justice work. Our church will support this effort with a special offering on Sunday, October 7. Any gift, no matter the amount, shows we share a hope for a world free of poverty and prejudice.

Second Sunday Series Returns October 14

Dennis Rader, local retired attorney and volunteer for the Hispanic community, will address immigration issues present in northeast Wisconsin. He will answer questions we have about immigration and some we may have not considered.

- What are the 3 main arguments for immigration reform?
- What is the driver's card for undocumented persons?
- How does the federal government "wink and nod" at the Fair Labor Standards Act violations by employers treating undocumented employers as subcontractors?

Dennis will speak at 9 a.m. in the Bagby Chapel. Everyone is welcome to attend.

9-9-2018

ReUnion Sunday



Memorial Service Celebrating the Life of Rev. John J. Staton

Sunday, October 21

11:30 a.m.

Union Memorial Garden

News from the Church Library

The book selected for our Big Read, The Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism, is available in the church library along with several other works that corroborate and specify the points that author Drew Hart is making.

In the eight years since Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow was published, it has become an impetus for changing criminal penalties and popularizing alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenses. In Wisconsin, the preponderance of African American prisoners has spurred a state-wide prison reform movement under the auspices of WISDOM and its regional chapters including JOSHUA.

Pastor/activist William J Barber II has written about his fusion politics and Moral Monday protests in The Third Reconstruction. Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates, a National Book Award winner, is a similarly unyielding story of the formation of a young black man in the dangerous space of being "other" in the white culture of America.

Both Coates and Hart experienced segregated neighborhoods growing up. The Color of Law is a study of the de jure segregation that the federal government practiced after World War II until the passage of the Fair Housing Act in 1968. If we bristle at Hart's insistence that today's white America is complicit in the sins of racism, we need look no further than this systematic injustice which operated to financially benefit our white parents and grandparents. Recognizing the seminal influence of housing in the life of a family, Union's former pastor, Dr. Charles Bagby, was a public advocate for fair housing ordinances in Green Bay and De Pere in 1967.

Hart's liberation theology is the topic of two volumes: Miguel de la Torre's Reading the Bible from the Margins and Christ in the Margins, a depiction of inspirational lives with modern icons by artist Robert Lentz and text by Edwina Gately.

Additional books that might be of interest: Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson; Howard Thurman's Jesus and the Disinherited; James Cone's A Theory of Black Liberation; Gustavo Gutierrez's We Drink from our own Wells.

All books mentioned here can be found in the basket in the church library.

Learn More about Joining Union Church

On Thursday, September 27 and Wednesday, October 3, our New Member Ministry will host Inquirers Classes for those interested in knowing more about Union Church and membership. On the 27th, we will meet in the English Room at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. On the 3rd, 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 needed. On Sunday, October 14, 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.

Sunday Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

September 30 — Philanthropy: The Spirituality of Business and The Business of Spirituality

How can we end mistrust between business and religion, and revive philanthropy (love of neighbor)? Is philanthropy enough? How do we combine philanthropy with systemic change toward justice? This 4-week course (Sept. 30, Oct. 21, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4) covers the history of Christian efforts to shape just economies, with an eye on how we can participate in what the founder of Habitat for Humanity Millard Fuller called "the economics of Jesus."

October 7 — Discovering the Harm in the "Doctrine of Discovery"

This interactive forum will explore how Union Church can join the WI Conference UCC in repudiating the "doctrine of discovery" and supporting our Native American sisters and brothers. For more on this church-wide initiative, see: <http://www.ucc.org/justice-racism-doctrine-of-discovery>.

October 14 — 2nd Sunday Series with immigration lawyer, Dennis Rader

Coming in December — What in the World is a 'Sacred Space?'

All sessions run from 9:00 to 9:50 a.m. in the Chapel or Chapel Classroom

For more information, email Jon Pahl, Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement, at jon@unionucc.com.

Silent Auction to Make Joyful Noise!

A silent auction to raise funds for Union is occurring on Friday, October 19, (7 to 10 p.m.) The auction will feature gift cards/certificates for local services and restaurants, quality contemporary, vintage and antique decorations, household and kitchen items, new items such as purses, jewelry, books, music, sporting goods and children's items and services like gourmet dinners and boat rides. This event is open to the public and will have a cover charge to gain entrance. Tickets will be sold before and during the event, and the purchaser will receive a ticket for one drink and a ticket for one dessert. Additional tickets can be purchased at the event. Please invite friends and family!

Volunteers are needed to make desserts, bring soda or other beverages, to assist with serving, and for set up and clean up. Volunteers are also needed to perform for six 30-minute segments of background music.

Along with all of that help, the TWO BIGGEST NEEDS we have are for auction items and attendees! Perhaps you have an antique that you'd like to pass on to a good home. Perhaps you love to bake—how about auctioning off one decadent dessert a month for a year, or some other "service" you could offer? Additionally, we've included a letter in this newsletter for you to bring to businesses that you frequent, inviting them to donate items.

If our entire Union family pitches in, this auction will be a resounding success...that is, if we also bring our friends and family! Please solicit donations and if you can assist in other ways, sign up at Union Central or contact Stacie Christian at canoechix@hotmail.com, or Ben VerGiesen at bengiese77@gmail.com. Thank you!

Immigrant Advocacy Committee Book Discussion

Sunday, October 28, 11:30 a.m.

Let's discuss: [The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border](#), by Francisco Cantú. The son of a park ranger, Francisco Cantú grew up in the southwest. When he joined the Border Patrol, he became a witness to the stark realities of the desert, where the obligations of his job weighed heavily against his sense of humanity. "*Cantú is a good no-nonsense writer, and his direct, stoic prose... provides a weighty and timely document on one of our most divisive arguments*" -- Amazon Book Review. Migration Advocacy members Judy Larmouth and Barbara McClure-Lukens will lead the conversation.

A reminder: Union is now a registered Amazon Smile recipient! Purchase [The Line Becomes a River](#) and other books **and** raise funds for Union. Go to smile.amazon.com, choose Union Congregational United Church of Christ (Green Bay, WI). Every time you would usually log in to Amazon.com, instead log in to Smile.Amazon.com. It's that easy!

Our next Advocacy meeting is Thursday, October 4 (3 to 4 p.m.), in the English Room. All are welcome.

EPH to Begin Executive Director Search

Our Executive Director for EPH is retiring in spring. EPH is beginning the search for qualified candidates with our own partnership churches before starting a community-wide search.

Do you know someone with leadership skills who would be a good fit for the families we serve? If so, please contact the EPH office to obtain a job description and additional info.

Diapers Needed

Area churches are again 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. Thanks.

—Jean Smithback

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:

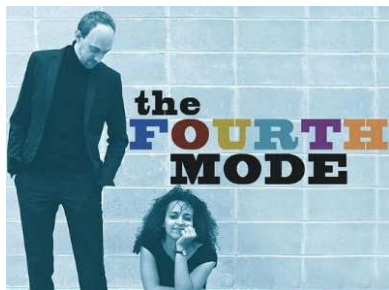


**October 7
November 4 and 11**

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.

Jazz and Jesus

A new series
at Union Church



Save these Dates →

Sat., Dec. 1, 2 p.m. — “A Celebration of LGBTQ Jazz--the Music of Cole Porter and Billy Strayhorn”
Mon., Dec. 17, 7 p.m. — “A Jazz Christmas at Union”

The Four Seasons in Jazz

Thursday, October 4, 6 p.m.

Union Congregational United Church of Christ

Join us for an evening of jazz, brief prayers and readings to celebrate the Four Seasons. From *Autumn Leaves* to *Moonlight in Vermont* to *April in Paris* and, of course, to *Summertime*, we'll worshipfully mark the changing of the seasons with the beautiful changes of jazz standards and improvisations. The one-hour service will feature the MAR Jazz Duo—recording artists and recent UWGB grads Matt Hillman on guitar and Rissel Peguero on piano and vocals, accompanied by Dr. Bill Sallak on drums and Dr. Jon Pahl on saxes. A free will offering will benefit the musicians and the music budget of Union Church.

When Scriptures Conflict—What does God want from us?

Seminary Secrets miniseries starting October 10

Scripture is often regarded as a guidebook to God's desires and expectations for humanity. So when we recite our Bond of Union, saying that we “declare it our purpose to strive to do the will of God,” naturally we regard the Bible as a resource for what that “will” is.

Unfortunately, within our Bibles, different voices make different claims. Does God demand we perform certain rituals to keep ourselves pure and to separate ourselves (sometimes by stoning them) from those who don't? (Leviticus); or does God demand we care for both our own in-group *and* the alien, as Deuteronomy repeatedly commands? Does God prioritize our worship and beautiful music (Lev 23; Psalm 151) or our work for justice (Amos 5.21-24)? Does God reward those who accept Jesus as Lord, sent from the Father, and condemn those who don't (John 3.16, 18); or does God reward those who care for the “least” and condemn those who don't, even if they do call Jesus “Lord” (Matthew 25.31-46)?

These conflicts and many others are a reality in the Bible, which is Christianity's foundational identity document. How to deal with them? One option (which, I suspect, is how most people deal) is to just pick out the parts you like and ignore the others! Problem solved! Another option is to study the backstory of each passage, to understand why that particular author wrote it, then to thoughtfully consider how to discern which passages are most truthful.

Join the discussion!

DATES: Wednesdays, October 10, 17, 24, 31 and possibly November 7

WHEN AND WHERE: 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. (coincides with youth groups) in the Chapel Classroom

LEADER? Julie Harder. Julie holds a master's degree in theology/biblical studies and has taught religious studies at St. Norbert College.

HOW TO SIGN UP & GET THE READING ASSIGNMENTS: Contact Julie at jblackharder@gmail.com or 920-465-0752. Or sign up at Union Central.

WHAT IF I CAN'T COME TO ALL SESSIONS? You can still glean a lot from the sessions you do attend! Also, an audio recording of missed sessions is available upon request.

DO I NEED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE BIBLE? No! I always try to “fill in the blanks,” depending on people's prior knowledge or lack thereof.

QUESTIONS? Contact Julie!

Union Church Calendar

September 22, 2018—October 24, 2018

September 22 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Fall Work Day
 10:00 a.m. Tom Hart Visitation
 11:00 a.m. Hart Memorial Service
 1:00 p.m. Proud Theater Workshop

September 23 Sunday

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

September 24 Monday

6:30 p.m. Saudade

September 25 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

September 26 Wednesday

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

September 27 Thursday

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:00 p.m. Inquirers Class

September 30 Sunday

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

October 2 Tuesday

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

October 3 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group
 5:30 p.m. Inquirers Class
 5:45 p.m. Dinner
 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA

October 4 Thursday

3:00 p.m. Advocacy Team
 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 6:00 p.m. Evening of Jazz
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

October 7 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed:
 "Doctrine of Discovery"
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
 Neighbors in Need Offering
 World Communion Sunday

October 9 Tuesday

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

October 10 Wednesday

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

October 11 Thursday

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

October 12 Friday

Still Speaking Deadline

October 14 Sunday

New Member Sunday
 9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series:
 Immigration Issues
 Dennis Rader
 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
 Potluck to follow

October 16 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study

October 17 Wednesday

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

October 18 Thursday

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

October 19 Friday

7:00 p.m. Union's Silent Auction

October 21 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Philanthropy
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
 11:30 a.m. Rev. John Staton
 Memorial Service

October 23 Tuesday

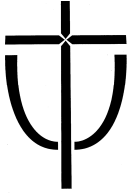
12:00 p.m. Bible Study
 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

October 24 Wednesday

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

Saudade Returns

All are invited to gather for our grief support group, Saudade, which meets on the fourth Monday of the month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the English Room. Gather to listen, pray, and support one another. Our next meeting is September 24.



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

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GREEN BAY, WI

Christmas Trees for Sale

One of our fundraisers this year is selling Christmas trees and wreaths. A committee has been working on the details of this fundraiser for the past several weeks and can report that we plan to:

- Sell 65 Christmas trees [30 spruce donated by Larry Krueger and 35 trees purchased from Whispering Pines Tree Farm (mix of Balsam and Fraser fir)].
- Purchase 50 wreaths from Whispering Pines
- The trees and wreaths will be sold from the north parking lot. The stand for the trees will be built in early November so we can pick up and deliver the trees and wreaths to church in the weeks before Thanksgiving. The lot will be open for business the weekend after Thanksgiving.
- We are working on developing ways we will publicize the event including making a banner and flyers to post in the neighborhood.

The success of this event is dependent on your help. We will need help in picking up the trees and wreaths, decorating the wreaths and staffing the tree lot. Most of all, we need your help in telling others about this event and encouraging them to participate by buying a tree and/or wreath. More details to come.

Any questions, please contact a committee: Achim Seifert, Larry Krueger, Julie Tetzlaff, Dan Baierl, Bill Johnson, Glen Verstegen, Jeff Carels.

Union Congregational United Church of Christ

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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>