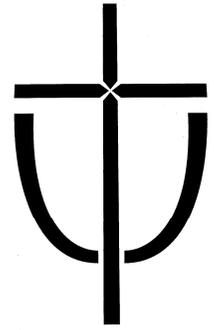




Still Speaking



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

November 2018

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **December 12, 2018.***

*The deadline for that newsletter is Friday, **December 7, 2018.***

Advent and Christmas at a Glance	--- 3
Priscilla Circle	----- 3
Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale	----- 3
Thanksgiving Interfaith Worship	----- 3
Ushers Needed	----- 4
Coffee Hour Help Needed	----- 4
Women's Advent Reflection	----- 4
Jazz Celebration	----- 4
Longest Night Service	----- 4
Seminary Secrets Miniseries	----- 5
Christmas Eve at Union	----- back page

Make a Joyful Noise!

Thank you to all who responded to our mini-capital campaign to raise funds to restore our organ. Thanks to an initial grant of \$19,000 through our Gifts and Memorials Ministry from the estates of Katie Small, Rev. John Staton, and Dr. Loren Hart, and additional pledges of \$23,000 from church members and friends, our campaign is a resounding success!

Messages came in from near and far. Members noted how important our music ministry is to their experience of worship. Legacy members wrote about fond memories of the organ at their weddings and other special events. We heard you, loud and clear, and are thrilled to be able to keep the organ in good running order by virtue of your generosity.

Now, to get to work.

First, we need to work to prevent further water damage. While the roof was still frozen, one of the roofing companies we use caulked the copper roof above the organ chamber. After everything thawed, we had them back to do a water test to determine how water was getting in. In preparing for the water test, they removed their most recent caulk and then some, which revealed a crack in the seam of the copper, which they promptly soldered closed. No additional holes were found. Since then, members of Stewardship Ministry have been monitoring the organ chamber after heavy precipitation, and have not noticed any breaches. Stewardship Ministry plans to have the area inspected by a roofer each spring and fall in an abundance of caution, to make sure we have no further surprises.

The components of the organ which were damaged were two of the largest, deepest chests, the Contrebasse and the Bombarde. With the assurance of your pledges, we have been able to contract with the organ's original creator, Casavant Frères of Quebec, to custom build replacement chests. Founded in 1879, Casavant Frères is one of the best known and

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

November 18

26th Sunday after Pentecost
 1 Sam 1:4-20 • 1 Sam 2:1-10 or
 Daniel 12:1-3 • Ps 16
 Heb 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
 Mark 13:1-8

November 25

Reign of Christ
 2 Sam 23:1-7 • Ps 132:1-12, (13-18)
 or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 • Ps 93
 Rev 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

December 2

1st Sunday of Advent
 Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:1-10
 1 Thess 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

December 9

2nd Sunday of Advent
 Bar 5:1-9 or Mal 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79;
 Phil 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

December 16

3rd Sunday of Advent
 Zeph 3:14-20; Isa 12:2-6
 Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 23

4th Sunday of Advent
 Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:46b-55 or Ps 80:1-7
 Heb 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Attendance

October	2018	2017
1st Sunday	134	122
2nd Sunday	125	145
3rd Sunday	134	126
4th Sunday	123	115
5th Sunday	--	146
Totals	516	654
Average	129.0	130.8

Our Church Family

After the tragic synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, our congregation was on the front lines of creating a vigil of solidarity with our Jewish siblings. We gathered in candlelight as Congregation Cnesses Israel gathered for Friday Shabbat prayers to put flesh on our belief that love is stronger than hate, that diversity is our strength, and that showing up for one another matters. Rabbi Moishe Steigmann asks that we convey the sincerest gratitude from him and his congregation. As one congregant told me, "This restored my faith in humanity." Thank you to all who attended, who spread the word, and who are committed to a world in which love wins.

Our church family offers prayers of joy and gratitude for the successful Youth Faith Formation Retreat at Pilgrim Center attended by **Seth Logerquist, Cady Kinjerski, Nicole Kinjerski, Josh Filppula, Karen Filppula, and Tim Harder.**

We lift up in prayer **Bob Koller, Cael Richards, Joann Broskey, Susie Klaus, Amy Klimek,** and all who are in need of healing and grace.

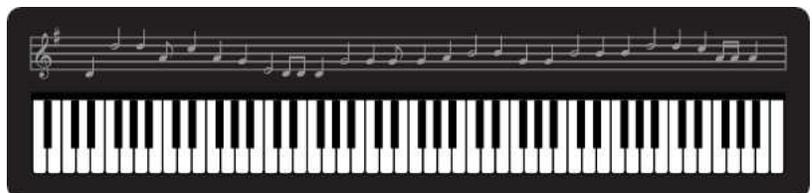
(continued from page 1)

most respected pipe organ builders in the world, having created over 4,000 pipe organs, including the organ at the Weidner Center.

Casavant Frères plans to ship the chests in early January, at which time Kelly Monette of Monette Organ Services will install the new creations and tune the instrument. In the midst of Kelly's work, Stewardship Ministry will work to rehab the organ chamber which is exhibiting signs of historical water damage. By priming and painting, Stewardship Ministry believes we will have the best chance of catching any unforeseen future water early, before it damages the organ irreparably again.

If all goes according to schedule, the organ should be out of commission for a week, at most two. After that, be assured that we will celebrate, both within worship and with a thank you concert later in the year. This congregation has demonstrated its commitment to sacred organ music through this campaign; on behalf of our leadership, I offer my gratitude, and look forward to hearing Ray once again have the full instrument available at his disposal as he makes a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels



**Priscilla Circle
Meets November 27**

Priscilla Circle will meet at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, November 27 in the English Room. John Fritz, from the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Brown County, will provide the program.

**Christmas Tree and
Wreath Sale**

Starting Saturday, November 24, Union Church will be selling Christmas trees (Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir and Spruce) and door-sized wreaths in the church's north parking lot. A total of 65 trees and 50 wreaths will be available for sale. The tree lot will be open for business on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (starting the Saturday after Thanksgiving) until sold out. Here are the hours:

- Fridays4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Saturdays10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sundays.....Noon to 6 p.m.

**Green Bay Area Annual
Thanksgiving Interfaith
Worship**

Tuesday, November 20, 2018
7:00 p.m. at

St. Matthew Catholic Church*
Hosted by G.I.F.T. (Gathered In Faith Together)

The service will feature a message from Elizabeth Kostichka from Casa Alba Melanie, a resource center in downtown Green Bay serving Hispanic/Latinx Community members in the provision of information, services, support, and educational programming. A free will offering will be collected in support of the services and outreach as sponsored by Casa Alba Melanie. A light social will follow.

*St. Matthew Catholic Church is located at the corner of South Webster Avenue and Saint Matthew Street in Allouez

**Advent and Christmas
at a Glance**



Sunday, Dec. 2 First Sunday of Advent

We will begin our preparation for the birth of our Lord. We will gather at our Lord's table in Communion and light our first Advent candle.

Monday, Dec. 3 Women's Advent Reflection in Pilgrim Hall

Prepare your spirit for the celebration of our Savior's birth. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. — Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 5 Hanging of the Greens

Blessing the greens at 6:15 p.m. — Decorating at 6:30 p.m. Music provided by the Joyful Noise Band.

Sunday, Dec. 9 Second Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist and his message of repentance and renewal are the focus on this Second Sunday of Advent.

Sunday, Dec. 16 Third Sunday of Advent

On this Sunday, we celebrate Mary and her amazing part in the gift of God's love.

Monday, Dec. 17 Christmas Jazz Service at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 20 Longest Night Service at 7:00 p.m.

For people struggling with loss or feeling a disconnect from the holiday spirit.

Saturday, Dec. 22 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 23 Fourth Sunday in Advent—Christmas Pageant

We tell the story of Jesus' birth in the drama of the Christmas Pageant. **NO FAITH FORMATION** this Sunday.

Monday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Our early service is more informal with special thought given to children's attention spans. The late service of scripture, carols, and candlelight is preceded by wonderful Christmas music. Join us!

- 3:00 p.m. Worship with a special welcome to our children
- 8:45 p.m. The Music of Christmas
- 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight worship

Ushers Needed!

Ushering is an easy way to help out at church. Ushers help greet folks, distribute bulletins, help guide visitors, and take up the collection. Training is available. If interested, please contact Susan Forsythe at mysuzygirl1900@yahoo.com.

Coffee Hour Help Needed

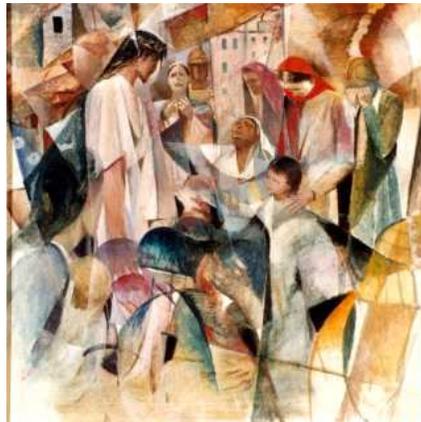
New Member Ministry needs help during coffee hour on the first and fourth Sundays of the month. If you are willing to help serve or provide desserts on those days, contact Nicole Kinjerski (kinjerski@gmail.com).



On Sunday, November 4, the congregation of Union Church ritually blessed the ministry of Dr. Jon Pahl, our Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement. Joining us in worship was our Associate Conference Minister, the Rev. Jane Anderson (in front at right).

Women's Advent Reflection:

“Love Came Down at Christmas”



Come and prepare your spirit for the celebration of our Savior's birth

**Monday, December 3, 2018
Pilgrim Hall**

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
for holiday music, punch, and table viewing.

Program starts at 6:30 p.m.
with dessert and fellowship to follow.

RSVP by Wednesday, November 28 at Union Central
or by calling the church office at 437-9266.
Please help by hosting or providing a dessert for a table.

World AIDS Day Jazz Celebration of LGBTQ Composers and Artists

**Saturday, December 1
2:00 p.m. in the
Union Church Sanctuary**

Longest Night Service

**Thursday, December 20
7 p.m. in the
Union Church Sanctuary**

For people struggling with loss
or feeling a disconnect
from the holiday spirit.

Inclusion and Exclusion in Church Library Children's Collection

When my children were very young, I thought one of the best ways to instill acceptance was through gardening. If children could move from uncertainty to curiosity to acceptance when discovering creepy crawlies in the soil, while tending a diversity of flowers and vegetables, then they would look out on diverse humanity with accepting eyes. Teaching from the book of nature, if you will. And quite frankly, the lesson seemed to take. See *Summer Birds: The Butterflies of Marie Merian* or Gregor Mendel: *The Friar who Grew Peas*.

In the mid-1990s, when my children were in church school, I felt there was a gap in the curriculum regarding Civil Rights and pushed for an organized response to the Martin Luther King holiday. While basic Civil Rights history is taught in elementary school, I thought it was important to teach from the book of history as it intertwined positively and negatively with the institutional church. See *A Dream of Freedom* or *I, too, am America*.

But it was in 2004, after an anguished viewing of the film *Crash*, which depicts several incidents of casual prejudice, that I turned activist. As the church librarian, I began to purposefully collect stories with Muslim families, lesser known parts of the Civil Rights struggle, stories about children who coped with poverty, with war, with deceit and with bullying. This was in part because these stories better expressed Gospel and Old Testament stories in contemporary terms, in part because a book itself is a way to understand differently. See *Each Kindness* or *The Sandwich Swap*.

While it wasn't until my kids were young adults that I turned to books to teach how to stand up for inclusion and act against exclusion, somehow they absorbed that lesson, too. As we exchange books, we struggle together to see more clearly and with softer eyes.

If you believe you have a parental responsibility to help your children to move beyond the simple, healthy acceptance of others that you model for them, please visit the church library. The children's collection is small and it is easy to open a book into a world of others who dress, live, believe and act differently and together begin to understand their experiences. The books mentioned here will be in the basket under the window in the library, and there are many more selections that address inclusion.

—Cathy Putman

Seminary Secrets Miniseries: When Gospels Conflict & Using the Tools of Historical Jesus Scholarship

This fall, the Wednesday evening Seminary Secrets classes have been exploring various Old Testament passages that conflict with each other. In addition, we've considered how to "pick and choose" among them, along with the issue of biblical inspiration.

Next, we are turning our attention to Gospel passages that conflict. But first, we're having a session on the Historical Jesus (HJ). What is the HJ? As you may or may not know, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were more intent on proclaiming their faith about Jesus than in ascertaining historical facts about Jesus or preserving his exact words. But what if we could time travel back to ~30 CE and follow Jesus around with a video camera? What would Jesus actually say and do? How would he appear to think? If we could do this, we'd have a good picture of the HJ.

Our plan is to learn about the tools of HJ scholarship (November 28), then look at some gospel passages that conflict (December 5 & 12). If this interests you, see below for how to join in.

Join the discussion!

DATES: November 28; December 5 and 12

TIME: 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. (coincides with youth groups)

WHERE: Chapel Classroom (behind Bagby Chapel)

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

HOW TO SIGN UP & GET READING ASSIGNMENTS: Contact Julie at jblackharder@gmail.com or 465-0752.

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!

Giving Envelopes

If you would like to receive weekly giving envelopes for 2019 and haven't received them in the past, please notify the church office by December 9. Conversely, if you no longer want to receive giving envelopes in 2019, please notify the church office by December 9. You may pick up envelopes as of December 16 outside the church office.

Thank you.

—Winnie Hutjens

Stock Gifts

Members and friends of Union Church, if you choose to make a gift of stock to the church, please initiate this transaction no later than December 14 if you would like your gift to be credited to your account this calendar year. Also, please let us know of your intention to make a stock gift so we are aware it is your gift when we see the stock sale come to us.

If you need information on how to make a gift of stock, contact Winnie Hutjens at finance@unionucc.com.

Christmas Altar

Please join us in preparing our altar for the Christmas season. We will be purchasing poinsettias by **December 14**. The average cost of each will be \$20.00 (two for \$35). If you wish to contribute, please fill out this order form and return it to the church office, indicating any necessary information for the bulletin.



Poinsettia Contribution

I/we would like to contribute for poinsettias

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Dedication for the Bulletin

Christmas Fund Offering is December 16

The Christmas Fund Offering provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks.

Please consider giving to our UCC church family. There will be special envelopes in the December 16 bulletin or mark a regular envelope with Christmas Fund. If contributing by check, simply make out your check to Union Church and mark Christmas Fund in the memo line. Your gift will be included on your annual giving statement. Thank you, Union family!

Union Church Calendar

November 18, 2018—December 24, 2018

November 18 Sunday

HEIFER LIVING GIFT MARKET
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Heifer Living Gift Market

November 19 Monday

5:00 p.m. Inreach/New Member Ministry

November 20 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. Thanksgiving Interfaith Worship at St. Matthew Church

November 21 Wednesday

NO YOUTH GROUPS
NO SEMINARY SECRETS

November 22 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

November 23 Friday

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

November 24 Saturday

10:00 a.m. Union's Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale (until 6 p.m.)
1:00 p.m. Proud Theater

November 25 Sunday

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

November 27 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Saudade
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

November 28 Wednesday

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

December 1 Saturday

World AIDS Day
Celebration of LGBTQ Composers and Artists at 2 p.m.

December 2 1st Sunday of Advent

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

December 3 Monday

6:30 p.m. Women's Advent Event (doors open at 6 p.m.)

December 4 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Education Ministry
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

December 5 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
6:15 p.m. Hanging of the Greens
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

December 8 Saturday

1:00 p.m. Proud Theater

December 9 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

December 10 Monday

6:00 p.m. EPH Christmas In Pilgrim Hall

December 11 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
6:30 p.m. Adult GSA
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

December 12 Wednesday

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

December 13 Thursday

5:00 p.m. New Members/Inreach
6:00 p.m. Common Ministry

December 15 Saturday

1:00 p.m. Proud Theater

December 16 3rd Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Education: TBA
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

December 17 Monday

7:00 p.m. Christmas Jazz at Union

December 18 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

December 19 Wednesday

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

December 20 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service

December 22 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Costume Distribution and Readers
9:45 a.m. Pageant Walk-Through
1:00 p.m. Proud Theater

December 23 4th Sunday of Advent

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

December 24 Christmas Eve

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED
3:00 p.m. Family Worship
8:45 p.m. The Music of Christmas
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship



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

Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

PERMIT NO. 53
GREEN BAY, WI

Christmas Eve



at
Union Church

- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve for all ages with a special message to our children
- 8:45 p.m. The Music of Christmas
- 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Join us...and invite your friends . . . as we celebrate the joy of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

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

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>