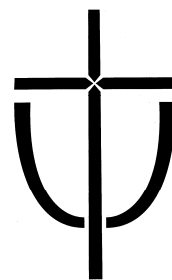




Still Speaking



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

February 2019

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published
the week of **March 6, 2019.***

*The deadline for that newsletter is
Friday, **March 1, 2019.***

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At our 183rd Annual Meeting, Moderator Sandy Polarek reflected gratefully on the breadth of activities and ministries our congregation is undertaking. We are truly a vibrant congregation, with meaningful outreach and inreach, worship and education, investment and creativity. What a blessing to be yoked together to live out the message of God's healing, transforming love!

In my reflection, I noted what I consider to be one of the greatest sins of 20th and 21st century Christianity—the underutilization of our buildings, which for most churches, is their largest temporal asset. I am grateful that, together with our Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement, Jon Pahl, one of my significant goals for 2019 is the more robust stewardship of our space. The WI Conference UCC has given us a Catalyst Grant which will help to transition the space that has most recently been the YCA room into shared workspace for small startup nonprofits. The idea is to leverage our underutilized space for good while bringing in both new people through our doors and new revenue through our books. With the creative design skills of Ben VerGiesen, a combination of volunteer and skilled labor, and a small additional investment by the congregation, this nonprofit incubator will both help Union's financial footing while also continuing our long tradition of being a springboard for local social service organizations.

This need for innovative, nontraditional revenue streams is going to continue to be important to Union as we navigate the financial waters of the coming years. Outgoing Treasurer Jeff Carels noted at the Annual Meeting that between donor designated gifts and fundraisers in 2018 not only did we raise over \$13,000 toward our \$19,000 budget deficit, members also donated \$9,800 more than they pledged. This allowed us to only utilize \$11,000 from our cash surplus which remained from years past, a surplus we've been

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings**February 10****5th Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 17**6th Sunday after Epiphany**

Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

February 24**7th Sunday after Epiphany**

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38

March 3**Transfiguration**

Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

March 6**Ash Wednesday**

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

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 10**First Sunday of Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

(continued from page 1)

carrying for a couple of years because of being understaffed. While we do have some surplus available again, those present at the Annual Meeting voted unanimously to pass a budget which includes a \$38,000 deficit this year. What that means is that we are going to continue to need to give extravagantly beyond our pledges, that both established fundraisers such as the Silent Auction and the Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale need our robust support, and that we will need to continue to develop additional creative ways to fund the financial needs of our ministries.

Of course, all of this is for the purpose of sharing the extravagant, inclusive, healing, transforming love of God in Jesus Christ that is Union. With Jon now firmly on the ground, our ministry of Community Engagement is poised for growth, both in influence and members, but he cannot shoulder this alone. By virtue of being a member of Union, I trust that you believe in God's work being done through us. If 2019 is going to be a year of growth, it will be because we have all embodied the Gospel passage I preached on just before the Annual Meeting, where Jesus reads from the Prophet Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

May growth in our ministry flourish in the coming year.

In Joyful Hope,
Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

December	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
1st Sunday	106	136
2nd Sunday	172	161
3rd Sunday	144	187
4th Sunday (Christmas Eve in 2017)	242	—
5th Sunday (Taizé worship in 2017)	124	91
Totals	788	575
Average	157.6	143.8
Dec. 24 early	130	146
Dec. 24 late	227	264

Our Attendance

January	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
1st Sunday	120	161
2nd Sunday	119	127
3rd Sunday	125	129
4th Sunday	116	154
Totals	480	571
Average	120.0	142.8

Funeral Ministry

Calling all bakers: would you be willing to be on a list to bake cookies or bars for funerals? Of course, sometimes notice is short, but a few sweet treats can truly warm up what is often such a cold experience as a funeral. If hospitality is your gift, we are also looking for funeral reception hosts to set up the coffee and cookies either before or after the service, depending on the family's wishes. If you are willing to bake or host, sign up at Union Central or contact Heather Collins at hblue621@gmail.com or 544-9442.

Card Ministry Help

Thank you for continuing to bring in greeting cards for our First Sunday Card Ministry. Particularly helpful are blank, get well, sympathy, and thinking of you cards. We could also use a helper to prepare the slips with recipients' names, addresses, and prayer concerns. This would take less than an hour, shortly before the 1st Sunday of the month. Contact Pastor Bridget.

Ash Wednesday is March 6

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6. 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 the ashes of repentance and the oil of healing. All are welcome!

Lent Adult Education Opportunity

Sunday Lunch and Learn Series begins March 17

Have you wanted to attend adult education, but couldn't work out the schedule? Starting Sunday, March 17, we'll spend four weeks studying "Christianity and Anti-Semitism: A Shameful History, a Hopeful Future." We'll meet in the Chapel classroom, start after coffee hour (so about 11:45), and run for an hour. Participants can sign up for lunch orders from Lox, Stock, and Bagel which will be picked up during coffee hour and available during the lectures/discussions. So come, have lunch, and learn!

March 17—Jon Pahl

"2,000 Years of Christian Anti-Semitism: The Lowest Points"

March 24—Michael Lukens

"Bonhoeffer and 'the Jewish Question'"

March 31—Elliot Ratzman

"Making Sense of Antisemitism and Israel:
A Roadmap to Justice and Peace"

April 7—Speaker and topic will be announced at a later date

Pride Leadership Camp

The UW-Green Bay Pride Leadership Camp offers youth from grades 6-12 opportunities to meet other LGBTQ+ and allies their age. Together they will learn how to enhance leadership skills. The five-day leadership training focuses on a new topic each day: personal integrity in leadership; enhancing family relationships; healthy friendships and relationships; community resources; and developing leadership skills and goals. Students will explore what interests and skills they may have for leadership, learn individual and team leadership skills, and begin to learn how individuals lead by being the primary leader, or by supporting a leader and team with positive community purpose. Classes are M-F, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with scheduled evening activities to encourage socialization and new experiences. Commuter and residential options available.

For details visit <https://www.uwgb.edu/camps/pride-camp/>

Second Sunday Series

Union member and one of the founders of the Brain Center of Green Bay, Dr. Rolf Lulloff, will walk us through the acronym CARE that is found in the Brain Center's mission statement. He'll talk with us about some practical things we can do to promote brain health, to prevent and mitigate brain disease, and to manage when we or a loved one have to live with a brain disorder. Join us at 9 a.m. on February 10 in the Bagby Chapel.

Mark your calendars for March 10 when our presenter will be Michael Rosewall on the state of liberal arts education.

Priscilla Circle

Members of Priscilla Circle will gather at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 26 in the English Room. Dr. Rolf Lulloff will talk about the Brain Center of Green Bay.

Calling ALL Women World Day of Prayer

"Come – Everything is Ready"
Interfaith service of informed
prayer and prayerful action.

Friday, March 1, 2019
Gather 9:30 a.m.
Service 10 to 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church
200 S. Ashland, Green Bay

Deb Rose: 347-4976
Nancy Siewert: 609-2051

Union Library: Towering Figures

Here are four stunning picture book biographies executed in a large format with arresting illustration as befits these towering figures.

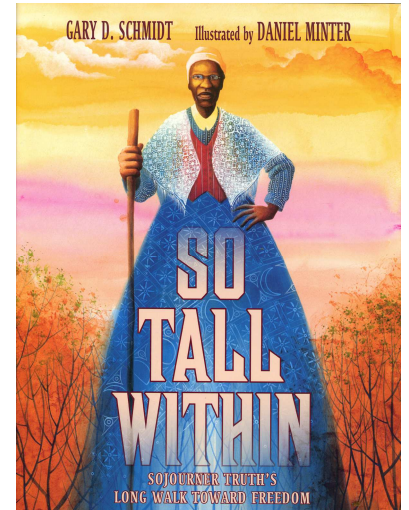
"Every great dream begins with a dreamer." *Moses: When Harriet Tubman led her people to freedom* by Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrated by Kadir Nelson. The author's voice carries us into Tubman's fears and prayers as she travels north out of slavery in her first of many such journeys. For children who would dare greatly, this story is a model

of courage and trust in God to be with them. Tubman's faith births a sense of justice that molds her into a dedicated and strategic way finder.

"It always seems impossible until it's done." *Nelson Mandela* written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson. No modern life better illustrates the cost and the value of keeping the faith. Mandela was educated with the support of the United Methodist Church, and drew strength from Thembu chiefs and his ancestors. The spare narrative moves swiftly through Mandela's life as a lawyer, activist, prisoner and president. The compelling pictures show his passion, character and generous spirit.

"Truth is powerful and it prevails." *So Tall Within: Sojourner Truth's Long Walk toward Freedom* by Gary D. Schmidt and illustrated by Daniel Winter. Sojourner Truth was born Isabella Baumfree, the daughter of slaves in upstate New York. She walked away from her masters and asked for shelter at a house inhabited by Quakers. Learning that her son had been taken illegally out of state, she confronted his owners feeling "so tall within, I felt like the power of a nation was with me." Though they shut the door in her face, she argued successfully in court and her son was returned to her. Truth was a tall, commanding presence, with a surprising confidence instilled by a righteous anger and her deep, early experiences of God and Jesus.

"In a gentle way you can shake the world" *Grandfather Gandhi* by Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus and illustrated by Evan Turk. The central event in this true experience is unusual for a picture book because it is about anger. Anger can be a lightning strike or channeled like electricity, Gandhi counsels his contrite grandson who fears he has not lived up to his family's principle of peace. The use of anger to make change is a powerful secret of successful social moments and it is presented clearly for a young audience in this book.



EPH Annual Christmas Party was Held at Union Church

Article condensed from EPH's December e-news



Joy and laughter filled Pilgrim Hall as close to 50 moms, dads and children attended our second annual Christmas party. Throughout, families shared stories of gratitude with our hosts and volunteers who joined them.

In this situation, the word “serve” has a double meaning; served in the sense that we served them a meal. But more important, served in that at its core, it is what EPH is. EPH is a ministry of serving homeless families in our community.

The refrain, “*Count your blessings, name them one by one,*” comes to mind. It’s a blessing to be of service to families with children. It’s a blessing to be part of the EPH family – a family through which we put faith into action.

GIVE BIG GREEN BAY

Howe Community Resource Center is included!

Howe Community Resource Center recently received the news that they are included in the Give Big Green Bay fundraiser—the 24-hour fundraising effort being held from noon to noon February 20-21. Howe joins many other agencies with connections to Union sharing in this honor (CASA, COMSA, EPH). Support an agency of your choice on this special day—and take a few minutes to learn about some others! To learn more, go to: <https://www.givebiggreenbay.org/>

Here’s how Howe is described on the website:

Howe Community Resource Center, in partnership with Howe Elementary Community School, seeks to build a strong and resilient community through education and support to children and their families. Our work begins prenatally and continues through the elementary years. Examples of support include but are not limited to; home visiting, financial assistance, parenting support, early childhood screenings, assistance with needs necessary for school success, mental health support, resource connections and enrichment activities. Our goal is to support children and their families through their children’s formative years.

Our Church Family

To My Church Family,

I am deeply indebted to you for the cards you have sent to Paul and me these past years and for your comforting expression of sympathy at Paul's passing.

With gratitude,
Jan Bilty and Family



Altar Flowers

Please consider providing flowers in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event.

**All of February & March
are available**

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.

CHILI/CROCKPOT COOK-OFF

Union Congregational United Church of Christ
716 S. MADISON STREET - GREEN BAY, WI

\$5 for all the chili you can eat.
FREE for those who enter a dish!

March 9, 2019
12PM - 1:30PM



Sponsored By:



POSITIVE VOICE

PVINC.ORG

Questions? Email Lloyd at: LSchaefer3@new.rr.com or call: 920.437.9266

Union Church Calendar

February 10, 2019—March 19, 2019

February 10 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series:
Rolf Luloff, the Brain
Center of Green Bay
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Making Marriage Work

February 12 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
- 6:30 p.m. Adult G-S Alliance
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

February 13 Wednesday

- 5:45 p.m. Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
- 6:15 p.m. PEO in the English Room
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

February 14 Thursday

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

February 16 Saturday

- 1:00 p.m. Proud Theater

February 17 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education:
Pilgrimage Stories
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Making Marriage Work

February 19 Tuesday

- SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION
- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

February 20 Wednesday

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

February 23 Saturday

- 1:00 p.m. Proud Theater

February 24 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education:
Pilgrimage Stories
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 1:00 p.m. Making Marriage Work

February 26 Tuesday

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

February 27 Wednesday

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

March 2 Saturday

- 1:00 p.m. Proud Theater

March 3 Sunday

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

March 5 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
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

March 6 Wednesday

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

March 9 Saturday

- 12:00 p.m. Chili/Crockpot Cook-Off

March 10 Sunday

- Daylight-Saving Time Begins
- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series:
Michael Rosewall
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. Lent Movie: TBD

March 12 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Gay-Straight
Alliance

March 13 Wednesday

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

March 14 Thursday

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

March 16 Saturday

- 1:00 p.m. Proud Theater

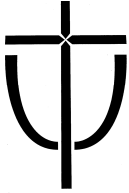
March 17 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch and Learn
- 5:00 p.m. Lent Movie: TBD

March 19 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Dinner, NO PF & YCA on 3-20 and 3-27



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

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PERMIT NO. 53
GREEN BAY, WI

Check Out Our New and Improved Playground!

Big thanks to the Rose Family Foundation for the new furniture and rug in the playground. This space at the front of the sanctuary helps children to gradually grow into worship by giving them a place to quietly play and draw while still hearing and participating in worship. Now our kids hear our wonderful music, are with us to pray the Lord's Prayer, and sometimes even help to usher! The playground helps wiggly bodies to have developmentally appropriate things to do, while at the same time exposing kids to the breadth of our prayer. If you would be interested in helping to keep the activity sheets current and supporting the playground in other ways, contact Deb Rose. Thanks, too, to Bill Johnson for re-installing the pew which will help adults to be able to companion our little ones.

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>