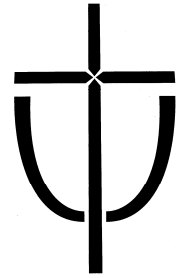


Still Speaking



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

May 2019

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published
the week of **June 12, 2019.***

*The deadline for that newsletter is
Friday, **June 7, 2019.***

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Dear Union Friends,

Many people imagine that being a pastor means being a wet blanket most of the time. The thinking goes that if something is fun, it probably breaks a commandment.

While I'd like to think that my life turns that conventional thinking on its ear, there is one line of thought on which I am a confirmed stick in the mud: gifts commemorating religious celebrations must be religious. Sorry, no cute outfit or teddy bear for Baptism from me, no iPad for Confirmation. I don't judge others' gifts. I simply feel that, for me, giving secular gifts takes the focus of the day away from the ritual and spiritual, and instead plants us right back in the consumerism that our faith so often critiques.

Over the years, this has meant that I've given Bibles and religious jewelry, plaques with scripture quotes and other objects of religious art.

Still, when my godson's Confirmation rolled around this spring, I didn't have any ideas, and neither did his parents. I Googled and scrolled through Pinterest to no avail. Nothing jumped off the screen as the right religious gift for a fourteen-year-old boy.

Then I read in his faith statement that he believes in the importance and the power of service, and I got an idea: I would send him a check with a note attached which told him that half of the check is his to do with as he wishes, but he was to use the other half to do good for someone else. It would be up to him to decide. He could donate to his charity of choice, he could buy something nice for his mom, he could take part in a service project at church or in the community and use his gift to support that—anything he wanted to do, so long as the second half of the check was spent to do something for someone else.

I think I've finally, after decades of searching, found the perfect Confirmation gift. It is interactive, it helps a young person to continue

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings**May 12****4th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:22-30

May 19**5th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

May 26**6th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

June 2**7th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

June 9**Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21

John 14:8-17, (25-27)

June 16**Trinity Sunday**

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

(continued from page 1)

putting their faith into practice, and it also helps to start the roots of the practice of generosity, something that we all could do more of.

So I'm not feeling all that badly about being a curmudgeon on this issue and sticking to the principle of religious gifts for religious events. Although, I did also ask that he write back to me to let me know how he put his gift into service...asking for a note in response to a gift, now THAT may put me right back in to wet blanket territory!

Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

Our Church Family**Attendance for April and Holy Week**

April	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
1st Sunday (Easter Sunday in 2018)	145	260
2nd Sunday	144	136
3rd Sunday (Easter Sunday in 2019)	277	blizzard
4th Sunday	121	99
5th Sunday	--	155
Totals	687	650
Average	171.8	162.5

Holy Week	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Palm Sunday	144	165
Maundy Thursday	35	65
Good Friday	124	48
Easter 8 a.m.	44	22
Easter 10 a.m.	233	238
Totals	580	538

Union Church Receives Grant

Union Church is a recipient of a 2019 Vital Worship grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in the amount of \$17,950. The grant will fund many great guest musicians at Union for the upcoming year, and it will allow Union to study “best practices” in several churches that have had successful jazz ministries. This study will assist Union’s own development of innovative musical ministries, and it will also provide data and information to be made available to other churches who might be considering a similar initiative.

Dr. Jon Pahl, Union’s Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement and an amateur saxophone player, will be joined in administering the grant by Union’s Music Director Seong-Kyung Graham, Union members David Hassel and Julie Macier, singer-songwriter-pianist Rissel Peguero, and Dr. Adam Gaines (Director of Jazz Studies at UW-Green Bay).

For more information about Union’s initiative, contact Dr. Jon Pahl, jon@unionucc.com or 610-909-7107.

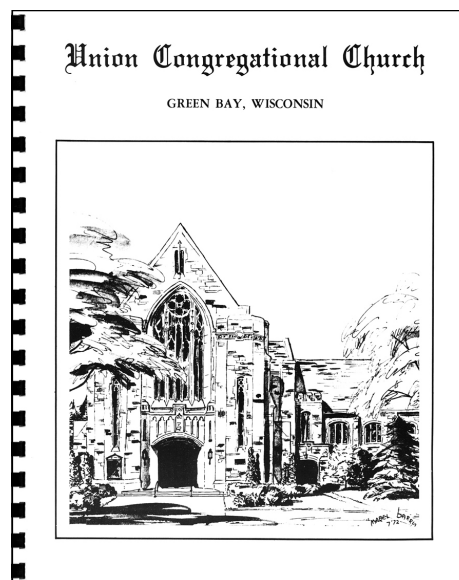
Second Sunday Series May 12

On Sunday, May 12 at 9:00 a.m., come hear Allison and Ryan Hellenbrand speak about The Farmory, a local start-up which has received a multi-year grant from our Gifts and Memorials Ministry. The Farmory is run by a group of food-minded people to bring healthy food to the local level. They’re converting the old armory building at 815 Chicago Street into a sustainable, indoor agriculture center. Learn more on May 12 in the Bagby Chapel!

Housing Offering is May 12

Having a safe place for her family to live and play is important to every mom. Knowing this, as is our tradition, Union Church will once again take up our housing collection on Sunday, May 12, Mother’s Day, during worship. Offerings will benefit Jubilee House and the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing, and will gladly be accepted throughout the month of May. As an added bonus this year, a \$5 coupon for family photos, purchased as part of the church photo directory Lifetouch sessions, will be given to anyone who makes a contribution to this year's housing fund collection. Saving money is sure to please mom, too!

Church Pictorial Directory



1977 church directory

We are creating a new photo directory for the church. We hope that it will help you to enhance connections and nurture hospitality and community among the members of our congregational family.

We will again be using Lifetouch to take pictures of every household in the congregation and then publish them in a bound directory. Households will receive a free 8 x 10 photo and directory, and will also be able to include pets in additional photos (not in the directory), be able to add pages annually with new members, and be able to secure an app which will allow church members to access the directory on their phones or tablets.

Please sign up to have your photo taken by May 27. Photos will be taken May 30-31, June 1, and June 6-8. See the church website or contact the church office for the link to sign up.

Union Work Day is Saturday, May 18

Join us between 9 a.m. and noon as we clean out closets, do spring cleaning, deep clean the kitchen and more!

Extreme Makeover Work Camp

Extreme Makeover Work Camp at Moon Beach will be the week of May 20-24. Union Church has a group of dedicated workers who attend every year. Work involves general clean-up and set-up for the coming season and other construction projects. Workers with all levels of skill are needed. Please talk to Chuck or Helen Krueger to find out more.

To sign up for the work camp, visit www.ucci.org. Click on: Moon Beach, Event Calendar, 6211–Extreme Makeover Camp–MB.

Immigration Teach-In was May 4



Attorney Gabriela Parra and the Rev. Noel Anderson were the keynote speakers at the Immigration Advocacy Teach-In that was held at Union Church on Saturday, May 4. Six workshop/break-out sessions were held, and the event concluded with a Latin jazz service of readings and prayers.

Two Chances to Share in the UCC Big Read

The United Church of Christ is encouraging all of its congregations to read “Evicted,” by Harvard sociologist Matthew Desmond. Desmond’s book explores the stories of tenants and landlords in the poorest areas of Milwaukee during 2008 and 2009. The book reads like a novel, and will forever change how you understand poverty and wealth. It’s an empathetic and critical window into how poverty hurts all.

A first chance to discuss the book is hosted by the UCC Racial Justice Ministry, who will hold a live webinar book discussion of “Evicted” on Thursday, May 16, 2019, 12 noon to 1 p.m. EST (11 a.m. to noon CST). To register, go to:

http://www.ucc.org/evicted_book_discussion_2019

If you can’t make that, or if you want to talk more about this incredible book, join us at 9 a.m. on Sunday, June 16, during adult education when Dr. Jon Pahl will lead the discussion in Bagby Chapel.

Countering Islamophobia

We will continue our discussion of the origins and contours of Islamophobia—the irrational fear of Muslims—and how Christians ought to counter Islamophobia. Drawing in part from his recent biography of Muslim scholar Fethullah Gülen and on data from around the world, Dr. Jon Pahl (and others) will lead a series on a central challenge in contemporary history of religions. These sessions take place during adult education at 9 a.m. in the Bagby Chapel. Join us!

May 19 — United Re-Sisters;

Readings by Somali teens from their new book: “The First Winter”

Local Somali young women will read from their powerful collection of stories, essays, and poems. Through eyes which have seen too much, the United Re-Sisters invite us in to their world, a world populated by the universal teen longing for the ways things used to be, the heart-wrenching trauma of having lived the geo-political turmoil of our time, and the triumphing of the ultimate human instinct to not just survive, but thrive.

The United Re-Sisters is a group of young Somali women who have a passion for creating a more tight-knit Green Bay community and a more peaceful world. This group was established in 2017 as an attempt to create a space for these young refugee women to shine a light on the growing presence of Somali youth, create an atmosphere of social responsibility to the common good, and be a source of inspiration and support to younger generations of Somali girls.

June 23 — History of Islamophobia

June 30 — Ending Islamophobia

Dear Union Members and Friends,

Christianity is a system of community with a language of shared values, traditions, practices, memories and hopes. "Community" requires "communication".

With this in mind, this spring we are creating a new photo directory for the church. It is not merely a listing of names and numbers. We hope that it will help you to enhance connections and nurture hospitality and community among the members of our congregational family.

While we come together on Madison Street for prayer, study and celebration, the boundaries of our congregation extend also to our homes, our neighborhoods and beyond, where we are called upon to live the Bond of Union, making the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives, and in all human relations.

We will once again be using Lifetouch to take pictures of every household in the congregation and then publish them in a bound directory. Households will receive a free 8x10 and directory, and will also be able to buy photos but will not be required to do so. New features that Lifetouch offers include being able to include pets in additional photos (not in the directory), being able to add pages annually with new members, and a secure app which will allow church members to access the directory on their phones.

Please sign up to have your photo taken by May 27. See the church website or contact the church office for the link to sign up.

Gratefully, Pastor Bridget

Dates and Times of Photo Sessions

May 30—2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

May 31—2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

June 1—9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

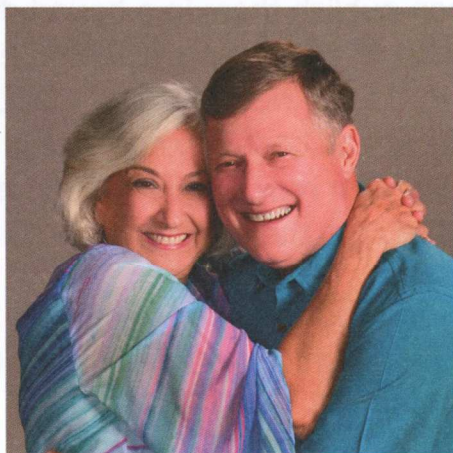
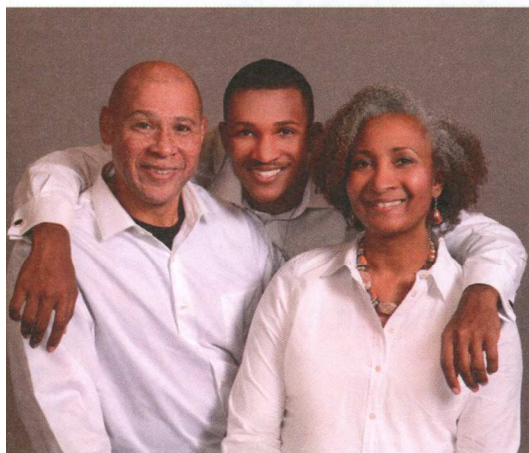
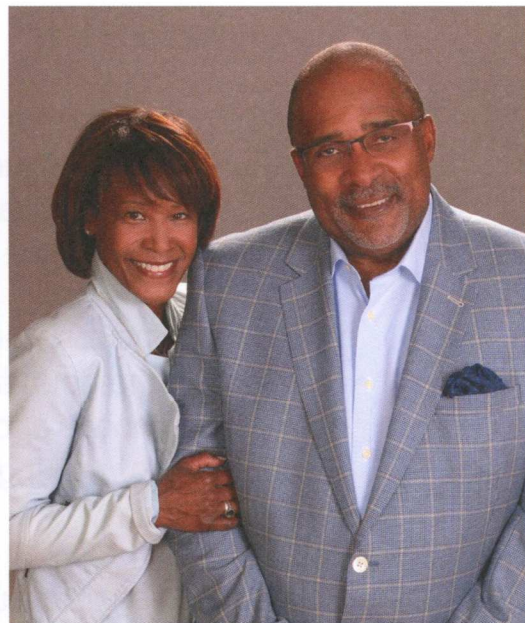
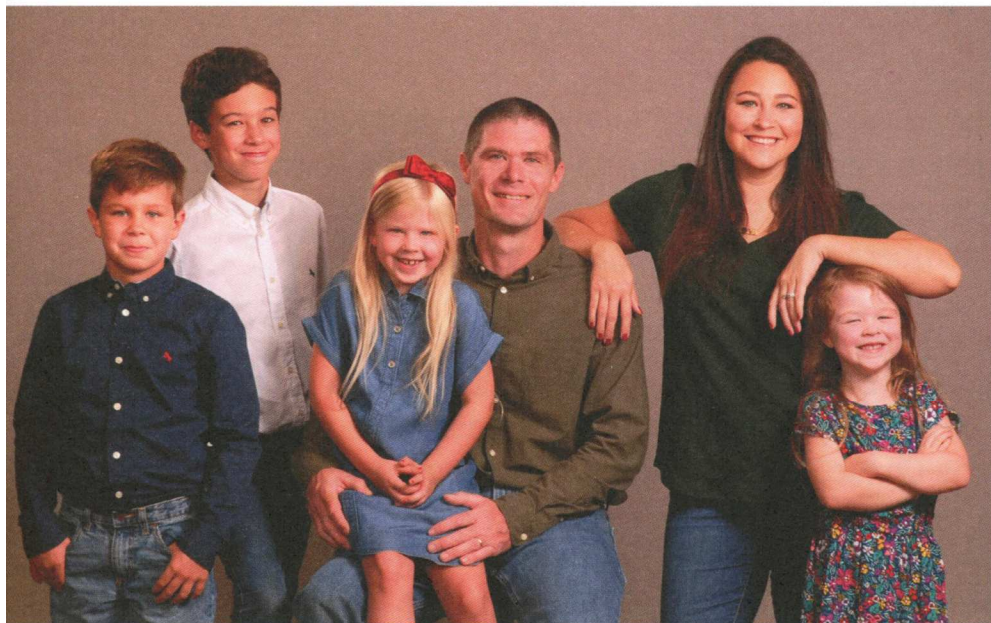
June 6—2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

June 7—2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

June 8—9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Be included in our directory

Lifetouch will be photographing all of our families for a new church directory.



What to expect

- A professional photography session, no session fees.
- View your images after your session and make your selections.

You will receive

- One FREE 8x10 standard print and church directory.
- PLUS free gift with purchase.

Schedule your session and be included in our new directory.

Photography dates and more information will be shared with you soon.

Lifetouch.

churchdirectories.lifetouch.com



Your Church Library

by Cathy Putman

Understanding Islam and Its Wisdom

In the days following 9/11 hate crimes against Muslims and Arab-looking persons flourished, stoked by conservative religious leaders such as Franklin Graham. Anti-Muslim rhetoric and distrust of our Muslim neighbors persists.

Yet since 9/11 a few positive books have caught the public's imagination. In 2007, The Faith Club, a friendly conversation among Jewish, Christian and Muslim women, spawned book clubs nationwide including one for Green Bay and the Fox Cities. Eboo Patel's book, Acts of Faith, was a similar interfaith dialogue which engaged adolescents and young adults in an effort to address religious intolerance and advocate for empathy in civic dialogue. Around that time, you may have read Khaled Hosseini's bestselling novel, A Thousand Splendid Suns, for insight into the lives of veiled Afghani women.

Publishers brought out books which told the stories of Muslim kids. One to read in this month of Ramadan is the lyrical preschool picture book, Under the Ramadan Moon. Additional titles in the church library are cultural stories, kids' experiences in refugee camps, Muslim kids adjusting to American schools. We have a guidebook to Islam for adolescents and young adults called Growing Up Muslim. The author talks about Islam's beliefs and practices, the origins of the religion, and the variety of Muslim groups in a way that is relatable and personable.

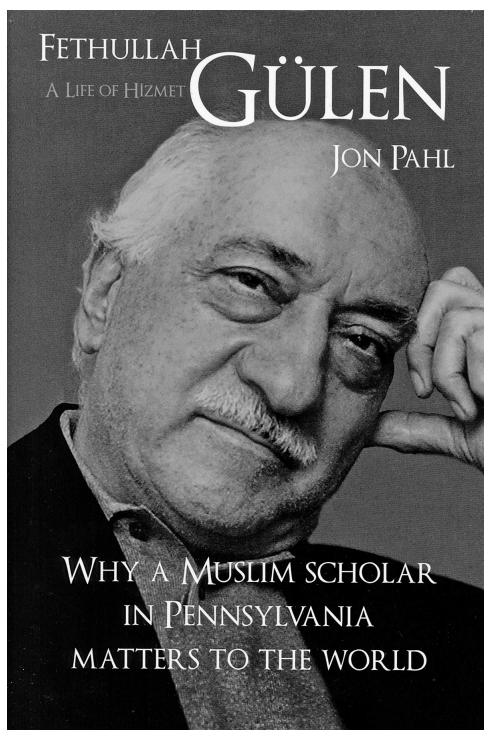
Beyond these introductory books, there are two that help us understand Islam as a lived theology. The first, The Earth Shook: a Persian Tale, is an unusual and beautiful picture book taken from the poetry of the Sufi mystic Rumi. A young girl is the sole human survivor of a tragic earthquake in her community. The animals who also survive reject her for various reasons—her eyes, her legs, her hands which remind the animals of predatory ways. First she compensates by masking her body, but decisively changes course to act in ways that she believes are distinctly human—watering flowers, dancing, and making meals to share. Her humanity draws the animals into her gracious world.

The second is the newly released biography, Fethullah Gülen: Why a Muslim Scholar in Pennsylvania Matters to the World, by our own Jon Pahl. Yes, it's finally out. Congratulate him!

An accessibly written biography, Gülen's story is the pursuit of a principled life – a life of service—accomplished through practical initiatives and a lifelong devotion to Islam. Pahl traces Gülen's public influence through the global Islamic movement named Hizmet, which means "service" in Turkish. He also narrates the complex political dance of Islam and modernity in Turkey in which Gülen and his followers have been repeatedly scapegoated.

Over the course of the book, Pahl paints working pictures of five principles which he believes constitute the peace building movement of Gülen and Hizmet. The murals show the practice of charity combined with engaged empathy that distinctively colors entrepreneurial enterprises. Hizmet finds direction for its efforts through a practice of consultation, which builds a deep trust and sincere accountability in the groups who come together to build schools and businesses. Beyond economic and social justice, this is a movement of "deep peace," in Pahl's words, and a tapestry in which the hidden warp threads are God-given and gracious.

All the books mentioned here are in the church library in the basket under the window. Take a quiet moment to look and think about our role as Christians to respect and learn from our Muslim neighbors.



Church Rummage Sale is May 17 and 18

Donations and volunteers are being sought for Outreach's rummage sale at Union Church! The sale is Friday, May 17 (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.) and Saturday, May 18 (8 a.m. to noon). One volunteer is needed each morning and afternoon to assist customers, and at least six are needed to pack up leftover items on the 18th and take them to a thrift shop or non-profit of your choice. Volunteers, please sign up on the rummage sale volunteer sheet in Pilgrim Hall. Your donations of clean/gently used kitchen items, home decor, purses, sporting goods, DVDs/CDs, yard stuff, small furniture and vintage and antiques can be brought to the chapel classroom. Please — NO clothing, televisions, printers, or computer items. Questions, contact Christie Reese or Stacie Christian. Thank you for your support!

Priscilla Circle Meets May 28

Members of Priscilla Circle will meet at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28 in the Community Room of the Bellevue Retirement Community (1660 Hoffman Road). This will be the group's last meeting until September.

Altar Flowers

Why not consider bringing in some fresh cut flowers from your garden to place on our altar? The flowers can be placed there in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event or just to brighten up the sanctuary. These dates are available for you to provide flowers:

May 26
All of June; All of July

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.

**Remember to
wear your
name tag!**

Jazz Ministry at Union Church

The Jazz Ministry Team is pleased to announce a number of exciting initiatives that will incorporate jazz into our community life. Please join us!

- **Sunday, May 19 (10 a.m.) — Latin Jazz Sunday**
- **Sunday, June 30 (10 a.m.) — Duke Ellington 4th of July Celebration**

JOSHUA 15th Anniversary Block Party

Did you know JOSHUA's 15th Anniversary Block Party will be just outside our front door? On Saturday, June 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., JOSHUA will have food trucks, music, a kid zone, and information tables about JOSHUA's work IN OUR PARKING LOT! Plan to join in the festivities and show Union's support for this wonderful ministry.

If you're interested in volunteering for the event, they're in need of people to help with the food area, kid zone, and things like greeting, picking up as needed, assisting guests, etc. Volunteers can sign up for set up (8 to 10 a.m.), a "full shift" (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.), or any time in between that works for them. Click here to sign up to volunteer, or contact Jeff Gibson or Pastor Bridget.

Who's Graduating?

We would like to recognize our 2019 graduates in our June newsletter. Please let the church office know (437-9266 or office@unionucc.com) if you will be a 2019 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!

Union Day at Happy Joe's

Mark your calendars and plan to eat at Happy Joe's, 1675 E. Mason Street, on Wednesday, May 29! For every person who mentions Union that day, Happy Joe's will donate a portion of your bill. Encourage your friends and neighbors to go, and remind them to mention Union!

Union Church Calendar

May 12—June 15, 2019

May 12 Good Shepherd Sunday
Mother's Day

HOUSING OFFERING

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series:
The Farmory
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

Used Book Sale
before and after worship

May 14 Tuesday

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

NO CHANCEL CHOIR

May 15 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. YCA (NO PF)
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

May 17 Friday

8:00 a.m. Church Rummage Sale
(until 2 p.m.)

May 18 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Church Rummage Sale
(until noon)
9:00 a.m. Union Work Day
1:00 p.m. Proud Theater

May 19 Sunday

Latin Jazz Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Education
United Re-Sisters
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation (last)
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

May 21 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir

NO CHANCEL CHOIR

May 22 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets
7:00 p.m. Inquirers Class

May 26 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

NO ADULT EDUCATION

May 27 Monday

Memorial Day
Church Office Closed

May 28 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle @ Bellevue
Retirement Community
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

May 29 Wednesday

Union Day at Happy Joe's

May 30 Thursday

2:00 p.m. Lifetouch (directory
photos taken 2 to 9)

May 31 Friday

2:00 p.m. Lifetouch (directory
photos taken 2 to 9)

June 1 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Saturday Snippers
9:00 a.m. Lifetouch (directory
photos taken 9 to 4)
1:00 p.m. Proud Theater

June 2 Sunday

New Member Sunday
Church Picnic

10:00 a.m. Worship in the park
11:15 a.m. Church Picnic

June 4 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
(our last until Sept. 10)

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry
6:30 p.m. Education Ministry

June 5 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group
8:00 a.m. Wednesday Weeders

June 6 Thursday

2:00 p.m. Lifetouch (directory
photos taken 2 to 9)

June 7 Friday

2:00 p.m. Lifetouch (directory
photos taken 2 to 9)

June 8 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Saturday Snippers
9:00 a.m. Lifetouch (directory
photos taken 9 to 4)
1:00 p.m. Proud Theater

June 9 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series:
Supervisor Alex Tran
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

June 11 Tuesday

5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry

June 12 Wednesday

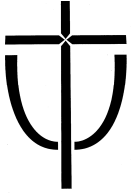
8:00 a.m. Wednesday Weeders

June 13 Thursday

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

June 15 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Saturday Snippers
11:00 a.m. JOSHUA Block Party



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

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PERMIT NO. 53
GREEN BAY, WI

Worship in the Park on June 2 (10 a.m.) followed by our



- Potluck-style meal with entrees off the grill
- Games for all ages
- Please bring a dish to pass
- No sign-up needed

**Union Congregational
United Church of Christ**
716 S. Madison Street
Green Bay, WI 54301
e-mail: office@unionucc.com
(920) 437-9266

Rev. 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>