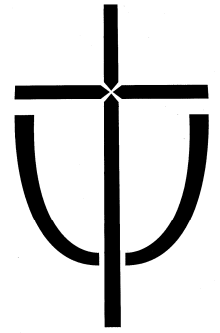


# Still Speaking



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

November 2019

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter  
will be published the week  
of **December 18, 2019.***

*The deadline for that newsletter  
is Friday, **December 13, 2019.***

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There's often a nostalgia that goes along with the holidays. Has there ever been a more iconic image of Thanksgiving than Norman Rockwell's "Freedom from Want"? Every year while I was growing up, my mother would painstakingly hang tinsel, one string at a time, on a scraggly looking live tree, despite the fact that both the tinsel and the tree made more of a mess than she could possibly handle, because it reminded her of her father and the trees he would decorate. I even know a few self-proclaimed foodies who are willing to eat sweet potatoes with marshmallows once a year, simply because it wouldn't be Thanksgiving without them.

There's a curious aspect of our nature that wants to go back — to a different place and time, to something we knew and understood, to a place where everybody knows your name (sorry, that last phrase just flowed out of my fingers, unbidden).

Floating just below the surface of many holiday traditions is a longing to go back.

This notion captured my spirit a few weeks ago when I was on my annual Advent Planning Retreat. (You may not have thought about this before, but my spiritual preparation is usually roughly one season ahead of the church. Think of pastors and retailers in the same boat; our preparations need to be ahead of the crowd.) My colleagues and I were pondering some readings by some of the ancient Mothers of the church, in which this idea of Advent as a cosmic coming home was the common thread. Returning to the ever-loving arms of God. Returning to wholesomeness. Returning to our original, grace-filled existence. Returning to right priorities and good values. Even the earth agrees, and will soon be returning to a pattern of increasing rather than decreasing light.

In Advent, we make preparations for everything to get back to the way it should be, the way it once belonged. We make preparations to be able to get back to recognizing God in the vulnerability and fragility of a newborn.

Perhaps that was why I was so startled when I got home from my retreat, turned on the news, and saw the latest band of protesters screaming, "go home" and "go back to where you came from" to asylum seekers.

*(continued on page 2)*

**Lectionary Readings****November 24****Reign of Christ**

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79 or  
Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 46  
Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

**November 28****Thanksgiving Day**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 100  
Philippians 4:4-9; John 6:25-35

**December 1****1st Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122  
Romans 13:11-14  
Matthew 24:36-44

**December 8****2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

**December 15****3rd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or  
Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

**December 22****4th Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

**Attendance**

<b>October</b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
1st Sunday	132	134
2nd Sunday	120	125
3rd Sunday	120	134
4th Sunday	129	123
5th Sunday	--	--
<b>Totals</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>516</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>125.3</b>	<b>129.0</b>

**Our Church Family**

*(continued from page 1)*

It felt so violent that this beautiful, spiritual yearning that many orient their whole year toward was at the same time being weaponized to tell one group of God's beloveds that they are unwelcome, less, unworthy.

We are all seeking, yearning, to get home, some literally, all theologically. It felt so incongruous to find such spiritual beauty and and such brokenness tied together in one phrase.

Friends, some of the earliest Biblical writings tell us that all people of God make up the one Body of Christ. They tell us that there is no Jew nor Greek (translate U.S. citizen or Mexican/Guatemalan/Salvadoran), that we are all one in Christ Jesus. They tell us that we need to be careful how we treat strangers, lest we realize those strangers are actually God's messengers.

With this in mind, I've decided that my Advent project this year will be to seek out strangers and outcasts and those who are far from home, whatever that home may be, and try to make here and now a little more like home for them. I don't know exactly how this will play out, but it is one small way that I hope to prepare the manger.

In Joyful Hope of the Coming of the Savior,  
Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

### Seeking Nativity Sets

Do you have a nativity set that you're no longer displaying? Would you be willing to donate it for a Christmas project here at church? No heirlooms, or valuable sets, please, as we won't be returning them to you. Partial sets welcome. We need 150 figures, so even reasonably priced thrift store finds would be welcome! Thanks!

### Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

Starting Friday, November 29, Union Church will be selling Christmas trees (Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir and Spruce) and door-sized and 36-inch wreaths in the church's north parking lot. A total of 90 trees and 85 wreaths will be available for sale. The tree lot will be open for business on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (starting the Friday after Thanksgiving) until sold out. Here are the hours:

- Fridays..... 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Saturdays..... 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sundays ..... 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

If you are able to help us sell the trees and wreaths, please sign up at Union Central for a 2-hour shift. Thank you!

### Christmas Caroling with Union's Chancel Choir

Come Christmas caroling with members of Union's Chancel Choir on December 7 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the West Side YMCA, 601 Cardinal Lane. The YMCA will be holding a holiday-themed event geared toward children (cookie decorating, Santa in the house). Union's carolers will bring some additional Christmas spirit to the event.

## Advent and Christmas at a Glance



- Sunday, Dec. 1      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. 2      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. 4      Hanging of the Greens**  
Blessing the greens at 6:15 p.m. — Decorating at 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 8      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. 15      Third Sunday of Advent**  
On this Sunday, we celebrate Mary and her amazing part in the gift of God's love.
- Monday, Dec. 16      Christmas Jazz Service at 7:00 p.m.**
- Saturday, Dec. 21      Christmas Pageant Rehearsal at 9:00 a.m.**
- Sunday, Dec. 22      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.
- Tuesday, 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  
8:40 p.m.      The music of Christmas  
9:00 p.m.      Christmas Eve candlelight worship



## Priscilla Circle Meets November 26

Members of Priscilla Circle will gather at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 26 in the English Room. Sandy Polarek will talk about NEWCAP, Inc. — the work the organization does and her involvement in it.

## George's Secret Elves Shopping List


George's Secret Elves are collecting food to send home with children over the winter break from school.

- Mac and cheese (lots)
- Snack boxes raisins or cranberries
- Snack/lunch fruit cups
- Snack/lunch pudding cups
- Cans of SpaghettiOs and the like
- Cans of ready to eat soup (lots)
- Nutri-grain bars
- Ramen noodle packages
- Snack packages of crackers, pretzels, Teddy Grahams, instant oatmeal packs (all flavors), hot chocolate, apple cider or flavored water packets

Please deposit food gifts in the boxes in the coat room or the box near the nursery on the lower level before November 30. Large quantities, such as a flat, are best left on the lower level.

If you'd rather donate cash, note it is for George's Elves and send it to the church office or put it in the offering plate. Our goal is to feed 600 children. Contact Kathleen Johnson ([kitkat.75@hotmail.com](mailto:kitkat.75@hotmail.com)) with questions. Thank you!

—Outreach Ministry



*Greater Green Bay Area  
Annual Thanksgiving  
Interfaith Prayer Gathering*

**Tuesday, November 26, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.  
at St. Anne Episcopal Church  
corner of South Libal & Chicago Street in East De Pere  
(map it at 347 South Libal St. De Pere 54115)**

**Hosted by G.I.F.T. 2019**  
(Gathered In Faith Together)

Special Message shared by:  
**WaYa Thao**  
Friends of the Brown County  
Community Gardens

A light social will follow.

For more information, call  
Pastor Larry Lange @ Grace Lutheran Church  
(920) 432-0308

**All are welcome to the greater Green Bay area annual  
Thanksgiving Interfaith Prayer Gathering  
co-sponsored by a variety of congregations known as  
G.I.F.T. (Gathered In Faith Together)**  
The prayer service will be led by various religious leaders  
representing the co-sponsoring congregations.

This gathering will be interpreted for  
the Deaf Community, Family and Friends  
and will include the "Sign the Good News Deaf Choir."

## A Jazz Christmas at Union Monday, December 16 at 7 p.m.

Come join us and sing along with Christmas classics set to jazz changes and to hear some great arrangements of Christmas favorites such as:

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful!"  
"Do You Hear What I Hear"  
"Angel Eyes"

"Let it Snow!"  
"Mary Had a Baby"  
"Jingle Bells"

And more!

This 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, Sam Stranz on sax, Adam Gaines on trumpet, Andrew Bader on bass, Dr. Jon Pahl on saxes, and David Hassel on piano. Special appearance by Pegasis, the Peguero Sisters, and others.

A free will offering will benefit the general worship budget of Union Church.

Union Church's  
Annual  
Christmas  
Pageant

is  
Sunday,  
December 22  
10 a.m.



Sign up at  
Union Central  
to be a part of  
this special  
tradition!





## Heifer Sunday was November 17

Photos by Cathy Putman



## Second Sunday Series

At 9 a.m. on Sunday, December 8, Jeff Gibson will share highlights of his visit this fall to Scotland and York. Using public transportation, Jeff, his wife, Nancy, and Nancy's sister, Mary Lou, spent 21 days exploring Glasgow, the Western Islands, Edinburgh and York. They experienced an abundance of beautiful scenery, history and culture. Learn more on December 8!



## Women's Advent Reflection

### "Nature Celebrates Christmas"

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



**Monday, December 2, 2019**  
**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 27 at Union Central or by calling the church office at 437-9266.  
Please help by hosting or providing a dessert for one of our tables. Thank you!

## Giving Envelopes

If you would like to receive numbered weekly giving envelopes for 2020 and haven't received them in the past, please notify the church office by December 8. You may pick up envelopes as of December 22 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 and you would like your gift to be credited to your account this calendar year, please initiate this transaction no later than December 16. Also, 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, please contact Winnie Hutjens at [finance@unionucc.com](mailto:finance@unionucc.com).

## Mayflower Art Show

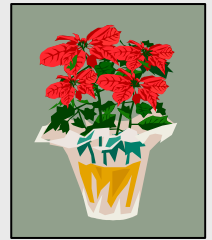
Mayflower Nursery School's annual Art Show is December 5 at 6:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall. The students' artwork will be displayed and there will be multiple raffle baskets and a silent auction. This is one of Mayflower's biggest fundraising nights, so please come join the fun!

—Morgan Stuedemann  
Mayflower Nursery School Director



## Christmas Altar

Please join us in preparing our altar for the Christmas season. We will be purchasing poinsettias by **December 16**. 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 15

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 15 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 24, 2019—December 29, 2019

### November 24 Sunday

MEMORIAL SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: The Problem of Evil (Part Two)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

### November 26 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
- 7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. Thanksgiving Prayer Gathering at St. Anne's Episcopal Church

### November 27 Wednesday

NO YOUTH GROUPS  
NO SEMINARY SECRETS

### November 28 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!  
CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

### November 29 Friday

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

- 1:00 p.m. Visitation for Robert Bush at Carol's Court at UWGB
- 4:00 p.m. Union's Tree Lot Opens *(The lot will be open for business on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until sold out.)*

\* contact Ben VerGiesen if you'd like to help decorate the church this day.

### November 30 Saturday

- 1:00 p.m. Funeral for Robert Bush at Union Church

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### December 1 1st Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Climate Change
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary with Holy Communion

### December 2 Monday

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

### December 3 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
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

### December 4 Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group at Perkins on Oneida
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
- 6:15 p.m. Hanging of the Greens

### December 7 Saturday

- 3:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling with Union's Chancel Choir at the West Side YMCA

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### December 8 2nd Sunday of Advent

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. 2nd Sunday Series: The Gibson's trip to Scotland and York
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

### December 10 Tuesday

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

### December 11 Wednesday

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

### December 12 Thursday

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

### December 15 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 16 Monday

- 7:00 p.m. A Jazz Christmas Worship at Union Church

### December 17 Tuesday

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

### December 18 Wednesday

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

### December 21 Saturday

- 9:00 a.m. Pageant Costume Distribution and Readers
- 9:45 a.m. Pageant Walk-Through

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### December 22 4th Sunday of Advent

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

- 8:30 a.m. Costumes & Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant in the sanctuary

### December 24 Christmas Eve

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSSES at NOON

- 3:00 p.m. Family Worship
- 8:40 p.m. The Music of Christmas
- 9:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship

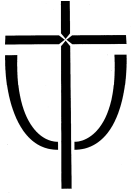
### December 25 Christmas

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

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### December 29 Sunday

- NO FAITH FORMATION
- NO ADULT EDUCATION
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary



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

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PERMIT NO. 53  
GREEN BAY, WI

3:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Worship  
for all ages with a special  
message to our children

8:40 p.m.  
The Music of Christmas

9:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Worship

# Christmas Eve

at  
Union Church

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](mailto: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>