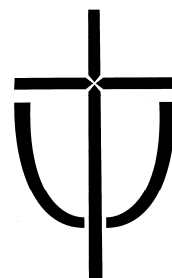


Still Speaking



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

Spring Forward!
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 8

February 2020

Greater Green Bay Habitat for Humanity Keeps Growing and Moves into New Digs!

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **March 11, 2020.***

*The deadline for that newsletter is **Friday, March 6, 2020.***

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Hanging on the wall of my office is a plaque from the year 1996. It's a "Public Service Award" given to Union Congregational Church from Northeast Wisconsin Habitat for Humanity. It acknowledges an "Outstanding Demonstration of Commitment, Leadership, and the Gracious Donation of Funds and Employee Volunteer Services."

As I've documented here before, what is now Greater Green Bay Habitat for Humanity BEGAN at Union Congregational UCC in 1987. Habitat is part of the history of Union as a "start-up church." The legacy continues with On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic (founded 2018) and the Brain Center of Green Bay that just opened in the new incubator space in our lower level.

But Habitat continues to grow in Green Bay—as you no doubt have noticed if you've visited or driven past the new headquarters and ReStore building at 1967 Allouez Avenue (across the street from Target).

Did you know that you can volunteer to work at the ReStore in addition to working on a build site?

The new store is huge, and they need volunteers to help stock, and to staff the facility which is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Do you need a doorknob? You can find one, cheaply, at the ReStore. Do you need a door? Guess where you can find one—cheaply? How about a floor? A light fixture? I'm sure you're beginning to see the light (sorry).

And did I mention that products at the ReStore are CHEAP (while also being of good or excellent quality)? For instance, I furnished a 10 x 8 bathroom in our basement with all fixtures and a beautiful and durable ceramic tile for under \$100. If you like hunting for DIY bargains, this store is the place to go. They have tools, too!

And did you know that, since many of the commodities for sale are donated, the ReStore helps Green Bay get greener? Over six million pounds of materials that otherwise might have wound up in our local landfills

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

February 16

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or
 Sirach 15:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 Matthew 5:21-27

February 23

Transfiguration

Exodus 24:12-18
 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
 2 Peter 1:16-21
 Matthew 17:1-9

February 26

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 1

First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
 Psalm 32
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-11

March 8

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
 Psalm 121
 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
 John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

March 15

Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7
 Psalm 95
 Romans 5:1-11
 John 4:5-42

(continued from page 1)

instead went back into service in apartments and homes in NE Wisconsin. If you're remodeling, guess where you can donate your old fixtures?

All proceeds from the ReStore get funneled back into Habitat building projects—so the more you spend, the more homes Habitat can build with families in need. As Habitat's founders Millard and Linda Fuller put it, that is to follow the "economics of Jesus"—when we give, God grows the gift.

So, if you haven't visited the new site on Allouez Avenue, I strongly encourage you to check it out.

There are other ways to help Habitat as well. I know many Union members like working at the build sites—and we'll be scheduling those for spring and summer very soon. Union members have also generously supported Habitat with financial contributions including over \$1,200 last summer/fall during our special drive. That legacy begun in 1996 is still alive and well.

And this year, Habitat will be part of the Give Big Green Bay event, scheduled for February 18 and 19. There are many worthy recipients of your dollars in this fundraising event, and I encourage you to support one (or several!) of your choosing.

You can designate specific funds to specific causes including Habitat for Humanity of Greater Green Bay. AND every dollar you donate is matched by the Green Bay Packers Foundation, doubling any contribution you make.

All of our work with Habitat for Humanity is coordinated through our Outreach Ministry, co-chaired by Christie Reese and Achim Seifert. Participating with Habitat for Humanity is a wonderful way to give back to this great city, and to continue the legacy of this "start-up church."

Jon Pahl

Jazz at Union
 will lead worship
 Sunday, March 8
 as we explore themes
 of addiction and recovery.
 Plan to join us
 for this service
 of inspiration and healing.



Our Attendance

January	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
1st Sunday	159	120
2nd Sunday	135	119
3rd Sunday	161	125
4th Sunday	150	116
Totals	605	480
Average	151.3	120.0

Cultural Community Meal is February 22

The Cultural Community Meal provides an opportunity for our community to come together in celebration of our diverse cultural heritages. This event, which takes place February 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Pilgrim Hall, will bring people from different cultures together to share a meal. We ask people to bring a dish to share “from their community, with new friends in their community.”

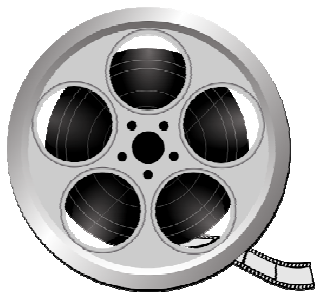
This meal is free, and all are welcome. For more info, email MigrationAdvocacyBCWI@gmail.com.

Black History Exhibit Returns February 22

Sharon Harper of the African American Community Parent Network and Divine Temple Church of God in Christ will display the 10th Annual Black History Exhibit in Bagby Chapel in conjunction with the Cultural Community Meal (see above). The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Priscilla Circle Meets February 25

Members of Priscilla Circle will gather at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25 in the English Room. The Immigration Advocacy team that traveled to Arizona recently will talk about its experience there. The team learned more about the border situation, and team members will share their new perspective. Join us. We welcome new members.



Lenten Cluster Goes to the Movies

This year our Lenten Cluster will once again go to the movies! Gather with your fellow Unionites, Pastor Bridget, and Jon Pahl as we screen and discuss the faith implications of one film every Sunday night of Lent. With themes of redemption, justice, race, and pilgrimage, discussions promise to be lively.

We'll ask one or two participants to sign up to bring a big pot of soup every week, and Bridget will bring the popcorn. Plan on 5 p.m. until 7:30 or 8 p.m., depending on the length of the movie. We have listed their ratings to help you determine their age appropriateness.

There is a sign-up sheet at Union Central to participate and a separate one for those who would be willing to provide a large pot of soup, or you can contact the church office to indicate interest.

March 1: The Mission (1986) – Robert DeNiro and Jeremy Irons star in this film about 18th century Spanish missionaries trying to protect a remote South American tribe in danger of falling under the rule of pro-slavery Portugal. Themes of colonialism and conversion make this a particularly poignant movie for Lent. (PG – violence, mature subject matter)

March 8: 13th (2016) – Beginning with the passage of the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery, director Ava DuVernay explores the current U.S. prison system through the use of both historical footage and interviews. Themes of inequality and systemic injustice make this a powerful movie for Lent. (TV-MA)

March 15: Selma (2014) – The parenthetical title of this film is “One Dream Can Change the World.” David Oyelowo brings Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s revolutionary work to life in this epic film highlighting the historic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965 in which justice seekers worked to secure equal voting rights for African Americans and other people of color. (PG-13)

March 22: Romero (1989) – In 1970s El Salvador, the new bishop speaks out against the government amidst that country’s decade long civil war. Based on a true story, Raul Julia stars in this powerful film which will help us to engage questions of the role of the church in civil affairs and if/when violence is justified. (PG-13)

March 29: Coco (2017) – This animated film about the Mexican celebration of Dia de los Muertos features an aspiring young guitar player trying to find answers about his family. His quest leads him to the entrance of Tierra De Muertos, where all dead people live if they are remembered well. This film with themes of love, hate, death, music, betrayal, and most of all relationship, rounds out this year’s Lent movies. (PG)

Ash Wednesday is February 26

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. 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. Join us!

Care of the Altar

As we gather for worship in the sanctuary, the altar, enhanced by the beauty of the stained glass window, flowers, candles, and the cross, is often our focal point. We need support, however, in ensuring its beauty adds to the sanctity of the worship service.

If you'd like to help care for the altar, contact Betty Bienash (497-0504; betty.bienash@gmail.com) or Pastor Bridget through the church office (437-9266).

2nd Sunday Series

March 8 at 9 a.m. in Bagby Chapel

We welcome Alex Tran, a Vietnam war refugee, who came to the United States with her father in 1983. Alex has a BS in medical microbiology and immunology from UW-Madison and an MBA from Concordia University. She currently works for Duke Marine Engineering Consultants, a Dept. of Defense subcontractor. In 2018, she was elected to the Brown County Board of Supervisors. Through her personal story, Alex will share with us the refugee experience and how immigrants can make a positive impact on our society.

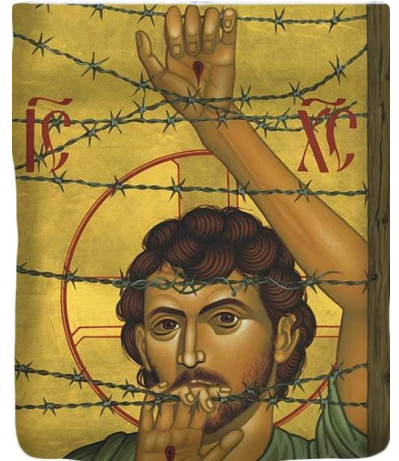
The Spirit Awaits All Open Hearts: Artistic Witness in the Church Library

Immigration Advocacy group members Lou Norsetter, Barbara McClure-Lukens, and Judy Larmouth gave a moving witness to the heart-breaking events occurring in the desert and in the courts at our southern border. I urge the congregation to look for upcoming opportunities to hear their stories.

Meanwhile we have resources of various kinds in the library addressing the fraught journeys and memories of immigrants and refugees to our country. They are listed below and available in the basket under the window.

Two artistic witnesses to the other and the outcast

1. Brother Robert Lentz paints icons, some of which are collected in a book called Christ in the Margins with reflections by Edwina Gately. Gately writes in the first chapter: "But the work of the Spirit is not limited to founders only...The Holy Spirit is not selective or exclusive—she awaits all open hearts...We must not be afraid to be founders, enfleshers of new things." Responding to the icon here, Gately says, "The icon does not make clear which side of the fence Christ is on. Is he imprisoned or are we?"
2. The other witness that came to mind after the Immigrant Advocacy presentation was from a book called Hagar Poems by Mohja Kahf. The foreword invites us to read from the perspectives of Sarahs and Hagar, both ancient and modern.



From "The First Thing"
I am Hagar the immigrant.

...
I walked across a razor-sharp horizon,
slates of earth, sediment
of ancient seas.

...
where the only water is buried deep
under hard ground and I must find it
or my child will die, my people
remain unborn.

The first thing
the founder does
is look for water.

...
Each rock cuts into the heel like God
Each step is blood, is risk:
is prayer.

Stories from the Archives: Green Bay's Underground Railroad History

The UW-Green Bay Archives and Area Research Center is launching a new series: "Stories from the Archives." In conjunction with Black History Month, the first installment in is Green Bay's Underground Railroad History. This free program, open to the public, will take place Wednesday, February 19 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in University Archives, located on the seventh floor of the Cofrin Library on the Green Bay campus. St. Norbert College professor Victoria Tashjian will share her research discoveries about Green Bay's First Presbyterian Church (today's Union Congregational United Church of Christ) which led to its designation as a site on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Those interested are asked to RSVP through Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/326862398471573/>.

Protest Jazz:

Honoring Black History Month

Sunday, February 23, 3 p.m. (note time/date change)

The history of jazz is rich with protest music, given that jazz has roots in the spirituals and blues. This service will include protest hymns such as "Wade in the Water" and "We are Marching (Siyahamba)," along with some of the most powerful works in the protest jazz corpus including John Coltrane, "Alabama"; Charles Mingus, "Fables of Faubus"; Charlie Parker, "Now's the Time"; and Nina Simone, "Backlash Blues." Readings will include reflections by the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.; bell hooks; Toni Morrison; and Cornel West. Join us for this celebration of music as protest: We Shall Overcome! Led by Rissel Peguero and the Union Jazz Collective.

World Day of Prayer 2020

All are welcome to join in the ecumenical World Day of Prayer 2020. This year's observance in Green Bay will be held here at Union Church at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4 in Bagby Chapel. The lead country this year is Zimbabwe.

We will lift up these World Day of Prayer guiding principles: stretching beyond what is familiar, acknowledging all people and cultures have both things to give and receive, becoming inclusive, developing global and ecumenical sisterhood and trust, and being a good Christian neighbor in a multi-religious world as we strive for wisdom. A light reception will follow.

Contact Deb Rose or Christie Reese to learn more.



The Annual Meeting and the dedication of the Brain Center (below) both took place on Sunday, January 26. (Cathy Putman top photo; Sue Tucker bottom photo)



Women's Advent Event Was a Success

Over 80 women gathered for reflection and community in Pilgrim Hall on Monday, December 2. The designated organization for table donations was On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic, and \$525 was collected.

Our thanks to our readers, Toni Champeau, Nicole Polarek, Barbara McClure-Lukens, Kathy Baldwin, and Cheryl Myers, and to our singers, Annika Osell and Nick Myers Olson, accompanied by Seong-Kyung Graham. Thanks to Pat Shafer for her overview of the goals and successes of On the Mark, and to Pastor Bridget for the opening and closing prayers. Thank you to Joyce Anderson for managing the name tags. Thanks to the gentlemen who provided behind the scenes support, including Ed Tucker, Jeff Gibson, David Thie, Richard Miller and Tom Peterson. Thank you to everyone who hosted a table or attended—you made the event such a success.

If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me—it was a whirlwind of activity!

—Denise Olson

Our Church Family

Thanks to You . . .

Union Church recently received three thank you notes recently for our Outreach donations. The Greater Green Bay Community Foundation noted that our contribution to the Pride Center of Northeastern Wisconsin Fund “will have a positive impact on our community for years to come.” Also in our community, the Student Services Team at Minoka Hill School* reminds us that because of our Christmas hygiene drive, “students do not have to worry about basic hygiene supplies for a while and instead can hopefully focus on meeting their education and attendance goals.” From our world community, Heifer International is “grateful for your generosity and kindness every single day of the year.” This recent donation is “just one example of your incredible compassion for those in need and your commitment to lifting families around the world out of hunger and poverty.”

—Julie Macier

* Minoka Hill School is one of the Green Bay Area Public Schools benefiting from our Christmas donations.

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 28, 2020
12PM - 1:30PM

Sponsored By:



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

Union Church Calendar

February 16, 2020—March 29, 2020

February 16 Sunday

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

February 18 Tuesday

SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION

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

February 19 Wednesday

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

February 22 Saturday

11:30 a.m. Cultural Community Meal
and Black History Exhibit

February 23 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
3:00 p.m. Protest Jazz: Honoring
Black History Month

February 25 Tuesday

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

February 26 Ash Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday worship
in the sanctuary

March 1 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
with Holy Communion
11:30 a.m. Lunch and Learn
5:00 p.m. Movie: "The Mission"

March 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. Chancel Choir
6:30 p.m. Education Ministry

March 4 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
6:30 p.m. World Day of Prayer

March 8 Sunday

Addiction and Recovery Jazz
Daylight Saving Time Begins

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Second Sunday Series:
Alex Tran, War Refugee
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Lunch and Learn
5:00 p.m. Movie: "13th"

March 10 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
2:30 p.m. Visitation Ministry
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
6:30 p.m. Adult Gay-Straight
Alliance

March 11 Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Brown County Homeless
and Housing Coalition
5:30 p.m. Inquirers Class
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA

March 12 Thursday

5:00 p.m. Inreach/Membership
Ministry
6:00 p.m. Common Ministry

March 15 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Lunch and Learn
5:00 p.m. Movie: "Selma"

March 17 Tuesday

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

March 18 Wednesday

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

March 19 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Inquirers Class

March 22 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Movie: "Romero"

March 24 Tuesday

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

March 25 Wednesday

NO YOUTH GROUPS

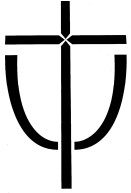
March 28 Saturday

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

March 29 Sunday

New Member Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Movie: "Coco"



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

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Are You Interested in Learning More About Union Church?



On Wednesday, March 11 and Thursday, March 19, our Inreach/ Membership Ministry will host Inquirers Classes for those who are interested in knowing more about Union Church and membership. On March 11, we will meet in the English Room at 5:30 p.m., we will share dinner with the Union Church youth groups, and we will return to the English Room for the balance of our time together concluding by 7:30 p.m. On March 19, we will meet in the English Room at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided, and we will conclude by 8:30 p.m.

These classes are a way to introduce those interested in Union Church to who we are and what we believe – as Christians, as the United Church of Christ, and as a part of Union Church. If you need child care, please call the church office (437-9266). On Sunday, March 29, we will receive those who choose to covenant with our congregation into membership.

For further information or to sign up, please call the church office.

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>