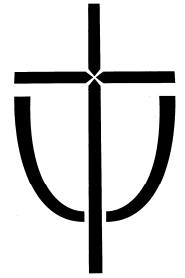


# Still Speaking



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

March 2020

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of April 8, 2020.  
The deadline for that newsletter is Friday, April 3, 2020.*

<b>Holy Week at Union Church</b> -----	<b>3</b>
<b>Astor Association Easter Egg Hunt</b> ----	<b>3</b>
<b>Easter Breakfast at Union Church</b> ----	<b>3</b>
<b>One Great Hour of Sharing</b> -----	<b>4</b>
<b>New Member Sunday Potluck</b> -----	<b>4</b>
<b>Adult Education in April</b> -----	<b>4</b>
<b>Priscilla Circle Meets March 24</b> -----	<b>4</b>
<b>Seminary Secrets</b> -----	<b>5</b>
<b>Two Lenten Movies Remain</b> -----	<b>5</b>
<b>Two Lunch and Learns Remain</b> -----	<b>5</b>
<b>Ukulele for Beginners</b> -----	<b>6</b>
<b>Jazz at Union</b> -----	<b>back page</b>

## Seek Redemption For One and For All

The season of Lent is often portrayed as a morose and dour time, epitomized by sacrifice and penance.

In a society that tells us to emphasize the positive, play to your strengths, and put your best face forward, what place does this season hold for us any longer? Moreover, as someone who usually embraces all of those attitudes and actions, how in the world can Lent be my favorite church season?

One word: redemption.

Lent is the church season in which we focus on redemption, that is on making an intentional and concerted effort to accept God's offer to bring us home. We roll up our sleeves as we take honest stock of how our lives and our society have wandered, have strayed from mirroring God's image and likeness, and then through prayer and fasting and almsgiving, we lean on God to try to right those wrongs.

As happens so often in human systems, over time our Lenten actions became divorced from their purpose. Over time, Lenten praying, fasting, and almsgiving became characterized by self-abasement in an effort to offer satisfaction for one's wrongs. Instead of sacrifice and penance for the purpose of reshaping one's ways to be more like God's, people fasted and sacrificed for the purpose of demonstrating self control. Now, self control may be a good and fine thing in many circumstances, but it is an illusion to believe that we are in control, and it is deeply harmful to a healthy relationship with God.

*(continued on page 2)*

**Lectionary Readings****March 15 — 3rd Sunday in Lent**

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

**March 22 — 4th Sunday in Lent**

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**March 29 — 5th Sunday in Lent**

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

**April 5 — Palm Sunday**

(Liturgy of the Palms)  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Matthew 21:1-11  
(Liturgy of the Passion)  
Isaiah 50:4-9a • Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 26:14-27:66 or  
Matthew 27:11-54

**April 9 — Maundy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**April 10 — Good Friday**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Psalm 22 • Hebrews 10:16-25 or  
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1-19:42

**April 11 — Holy Saturday**

Job 14:1-14 or  
Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24  
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8  
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

**April 12 — Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

(continued from page 1)

In typical fashion, in the 20th century the pendulum of Lenten practices swung away from fasting and toward action; pastors who were steeped in positivity encouraged people to *do something, rather than give something up*. While well intentioned, the discipline remained disconnected from its purpose: redemption, reorienting our lives to the ways and means of God.

Despite this overcorrection, I'd like to suggest that it is possible to maintain the link between redemption and Lenten practices.

For instance, earlier this month, our church screened Ava DuVernay's movie "13th," which traces the roots of our current system of mass incarceration back to the Thirteenth Amendment. It is a powerful indictment of the systems of race and class in our society, and leaves no political party unscathed. After watching it, our discussion kept coming back to asking what the role of the church is in the face of such systemic injustice. In the end, our answer was that it is the church's role to be advocating for redemption. That is, education, therapy, spiritual enrichment, humanization - in short, mechanisms to help facilitate a changed life. Redemption. I'd like to think that this screening and discussion was powerful, and that it maintained the connection between the purpose and action of doing something for Lent.

Friends, our Lenten theme this year encourages us to "Find Beauty Beyond Brokenness." It is my hope that you've left the gloomy, mournful style of Lent in the rearview mirror, but I also hope you can find the way to move beyond simplistic good works. By focusing on the redemptive nature of Lent, it is my hope that not only you, but an ever expanding circle of God's creatures, will truly live the glory of Easter.

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

### ReUnion Someday? The Church's Lost and Found

We have a lost and found at Union Church. Items unintentionally or intentionally left behind reside in a plastic tote located on a shelf in the cloak room.

We have eye glasses, gloves and insulated travel mugs (some stainless steel). We have a book—"A Secret Gift"—and a portfolio. If you have lost anything recently, you might want to visit our lost and found.

### Our Attendance

February	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
1st Sunday	144	95
2nd Sunday	93	111
3rd Sunday	106	107
4th Sunday	120	74
<b>Totals</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>387</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>115.8</b>	<b>96.8</b>

## Holy Week at Union Church



### Palm Sunday—April 5

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Procession;  
Worship in Sanctuary



### Maundy Thursday—April 9

- 5:45 p.m. Agape Meal: Holy Communion  
with Simple Soup Supper in Pilgrim Hall



### Good Friday—April 10

- 7:00 p.m. Choir Cantata and a Tenebrae  
“Service of Shadows” in the Sanctuary



### Easter Sunday—April 12

- 8:00 a.m. Easter Worship with  
Holy Communion in Bagby Chapel
- 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in Pilgrim Hall

No Faith Formation  
Nursery available for both Easter services

- 10:00 a.m. Festival Service of Worship in the Sanctuary

### Easter Egg Hunt, April 11

April 11—10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Union's Outreach Ministry will have a face-painting table at the Annual Astor Association Easter Egg Hunt, which will be held at St. James Park on Saturday, April 11. Visitors can arrive at 9:30 a.m. to sign in and visit with neighbors. The egg hunt will start at 10 a.m. and the event will end at 11.

### Easter Breakfast

April 12—8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Inreach Ministry invites those attending worship on Easter to enjoy a delicious breakfast in Pilgrim Hall. No reservations are necessary. Bring your friends and eat after early worship (8:00 a.m.) or before worship at 10:00 a.m. A free-will offering will be gratefully accepted.

## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is March 22

When you participate in One Great Hour of Sharing, you provide valuable support. Your offering will help people suffering from emergencies, chronic poverty, and violence.

Envelopes will be available in your bulletin on March 22, and offerings can be made through April by indicating on your check or payment that your intent is for OGHS. Thank you.

## New Member Sunday Potluck is March 29

On Sunday, March 29, we will welcome new members to the faith and fellowship of Union Church. As part of that celebration, we will be having a potluck after worship in Pilgrim Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Thank you!

## Spring Bulb Fundraiser

We are partnering with Three Rivers Wreath & Plant Company to offer a variety of bulbs, bare roots, and tubers to help our budget. Union earns 50% profit from every package of bulbs sold! Simply purchase items online through the link below during March and April, and your order will be shipped directly to you in early May—just in time for spring planting.

<https://ThreeRiversFundraising.com/fund/ucucc-spring2020>

## Church Used Book Sale

The sale will be held May 3 and May 10. Bring your donations of gently used fiction, nonfiction, and childrens books to the library or, if you have a large number of boxes, they can be put upstairs in the area under the coat rack across from the rest rooms.

Bring one, bring many, bring back the ones you bought last year. The more selection we have, the more fun it will be!

## Adult Education in April Sundays at 9 a.m. in Bagby Chapel

### April 19 — Faith Climate Action Week Begins!

Come learn with Jon Pahl about the events planned at Union and around Green Bay for Faith Climate Action Week and how you can participate on behalf of “climate justice.”

### April 26 — Faith Climate Action Week Reflection

Jon Pahl and members of Union’s “green team” discuss how the week went and what we might do in the future on behalf of “the green gospel.”

## Priscilla Circle Meets March 24

Members of Priscilla Circle will gather at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24 in the English Room. Check your Sunday bulletin or Friday email blast for more information as it becomes available.

## Our Church Family

## Seminary Secrets Miniseries: Why is Mark so Dark?

**Most Christians have a hard time keeping the four gospels straight.** That is, most have a “harmonized” story of Jesus in their heads, which they’ve learned over the years from children’s bibles, Sunday School, sermons, and the snippets of Scripture read in church. But each of the four biblical gospels was written at different times by different authors who lived in different communities. Hence, when each gospel is studied, unique characteristics become apparent.

### Here are some facts about the Gospel of Mark:

- Mark is our earliest gospel, written about 70 CE (AD).
- Mark is full of gloom and doom about Jesus’ fate as one who is destined to die humiliated and abandoned by everyone, even his Father.
- It was written just after the Jewish-Roman war, which involved a brutal three-year starvation siege of Jerusalem.
- Mark’s community was under persecution; the temptation to abandon loyalty to Jesus was acute.
- Mark was the basis for both Matthew and Luke. But Matthew and Luke had access to a list of Jesus’ sayings (which scholars call “Q”); Mark apparently did not. This fact, together with Mark’s dark outlook, uniquely shaped its theology and themes.
- Since Mark lacked access to Q, his gospel is the shortest and most concise.
- Compared to John, Mark’s story-line, picture of Jesus, and overall theology are dramatically different.

**Studying each gospel on its own terms is a fascinating, eye-opening experience!** Now YOU have the opportunity to do so! Join in the upcoming Seminary Secrets miniseries on the Gospel of Mark. No prior biblical knowledge necessary!

- **WHEN/WHERE:** Wednesdays, March 25, April 1 and possibly April 15 (6:15 to 7:30 p.m.) in the Chapel Classroom.
- **SIGN UP/GET READING ASSIGNMENTS:** Contact Julie Harder (instructor) at [jblackharder@gmail.com](mailto:jblackharder@gmail.com) or 465-0752.
- **OPTIONAL SUPPER:** You can take advantage of a meal and fellowship in Pilgrim Hall at 5:45 p.m.—free will offering appreciated but not necessary. NOTE: No supper on March 25, as youth groups do not meet that night.
- **QUESTIONS?** Contact Julie!

---

## Two Lenten Movies Remain

It is not too late to gather with your fellow Unionites (on Sundays at 5 p.m.) to screen and discuss the faith implications of the movies listed below. Sign up at Union Central.

**March 15: “Selma”** (2014) – David Oyelowo brings the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s revolutionary work to life, highlighting the historic march from Selma to Montgomery 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. 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:** – Canceled due to scheduling conflicts.

---

## Two Lunch and Learns Remain

### Sundays at 11:45 a.m. in the Chapel Classroom/Bagby Chapel

Lunch is available for \$5/person from Lox, Stock and Bagel.

Please sign up if possible, but join us in any event!

March 15

#### **Divesting from Fossil Fuels: Getting Started**

The science is indisputable: One of the crucial ways to end global warming is to end the use of fossil fuels. Come learn how you can. Led by Mark Smith.

April 5

#### **Union’s Green Team: What and Why?**

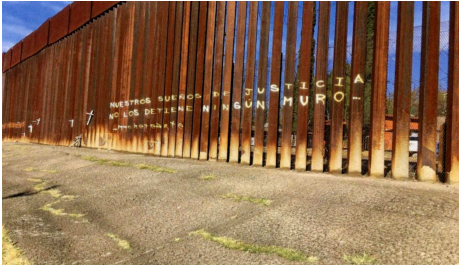
We’ve been studying “the Green Gospel” for a year. Why do we need a “green team?” Come learn with Jon Pahl about the why and what of Union’s emerging “green team.”

---

### What's Happening at the Border?

Eyewitness Reports

Tuesday, March 24 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Union Church



### How to Take Action Ways to Stay Involved

Hear from those who recently visited the border:

- Judy Larmouth
- Barbara McClure-Lukens
- Lou Norsetter
- Sister Pat VandenBergh

Invite a friend to church



### Intro to Ukulele for Beginners (ages 16+)

Thursday, April 16 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Choir Room (enter through the Mayflower Nursery School doors)

This will be an evening of learning for beginner ukulele players. We'll cover the basics and play a few tunes! Bring your ukulele, tuner and music stand (if you have one). We'll provide the music. (Experienced players, consider serving as ukulele coaches for the evening!)

### Let's Play Music!

Thursdays, April 23, April 30 and May 7 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (Choir Room)

Join us to play a selection of Gospel music favorites! Bring your ukulele, tuner and music stand (if you have one). We'll provide the music.

### How to Get Involved

Contact Jean Van Erem if you plan to attend. Email jeanve6128@gmail.com or text/phone 920-227-7213. (If you contact Jean by phone, please leave a message.)

### Frequently Asked Questions

I'd like to play ukulele, but don't own one. What should I purchase?

Jean can assist you in choosing a ukulele (contact information above).

I like to sing, but don't want to play the ukulele. Is this the group for me?

Though we sing while we play, this is not a choral group.

Is this a performance group?

Though we may occasionally share our music within the Union Church community, our group is primarily about musical fun and fellowship!

Is it OK to invite a friend who isn't a member of Union Church?

Absolutely! Please let Jean know your friend will be attending.

## 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!

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



March 28, 2020  
12PM - 1:30PM

Sponsored By:



POSITIVE VOICE

PVINC.ORG

# Union Church Calendar

March 15, 2020—April 22, 2020

## March 15 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
11:45 a.m. Lunch & Learn: Divesting  
from Fossil Fuels  
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  
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

## 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  
11:30 a.m. Flad Daniels Baby Shower  
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  
6:00 p.m. Encounters at the Border  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## March 25 Wednesday

NO YOUTH GROUPS

6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

## 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  
11:30 a.m. New Member Potluck  
5:00 p.m. Movie has been canceled

## March 30 Monday

5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry

## March 31 Tuesday

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

## April 1 Wednesday

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

## April 2 Thursday

6:00 p.m. Common Ministry

## April 4 Saturday

2:30 p.m. Wedding: Lydia Jerabek  
and Diapy Diawara  
**All are invited to attend!**

-----

## April 5 Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
11:30 a.m. Lunch & Learn: Union's  
Green Team

## April 7 Tuesday

SPRING GENERAL ELECTION

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

## April 8 Wednesday

NO YOUTH GROUPS

8:30 a.m. BC Homeless and Housing  
Coalition

## April 9 Maundy Thursday

5:45 p.m. Worship in Pilgrim Hall  
with Holy Communion  
and Dinner

## April 10 Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Choir Cantata/Tenebrae  
"Service of Shadows"

## April 11 Holy Saturday

10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt  
at St. James Park

-----

## April 12 Easter Sunday

NO FAITH FORMATION

8:00 a.m. Worship  
with Holy Communion  
in Bagby Chapel  
8:30 a.m. Breakfast in Pilgrim Hall  
10:00 a.m. Festival Worship in the  
sanctuary

## April 14 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry  
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  
6:30 p.m. Education Ministry  
6:30 p.m. Adult Gay-Straight  
Alliance

## April 15 Wednesday

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

## April 16 Thursday

6:30 p.m. Ukulele for Beginners

-----

## April 19 Sunday

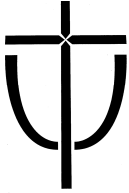
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Faith Climate  
Action Week Begins  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

## April 21 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
2:00 p.m. Visitation Ministry  
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## April 22 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Dinner  
6:15 p.m. PF & YCA  
7:00 p.m. Jazz Fundraiser



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



**Wednesday, April 22**  
**7 p.m.**

Pegasis/Jazz at Union Benefit Concert

On Wednesday, April 22, at 7 p.m., Union's sanctuary will be filled with the rich rhythms and harmonies of the vocal trio Pegasis (Rissel, Marvelis, and Yaina Peguero) along with a killer band, in a concert to benefit them, Jazz at Union, and our Outreach Ministry. The Pegueros have become good friends of Union, frequently playing, singing, and helping plan our jazz ministry. They have a batch of new music that they'd like to record, including a wonderful song called "Equation" whose chorus invites us all to "Spread the Love!"

So, that's what we're doing! Outreach Ministry has agreed to partner with Pegasis to help them raise funds for studio time. Proceeds will be split 50/50 between Union and the sisters. Requested donation is \$10/person, with capacity to contribute more and be acknowledged in the program: as Friend (\$20-49), Partner (\$50-99), Advocate (\$100-999), and Sustainer (\$1,000+).

Stay tuned for more information, but we hope to fill the sanctuary for a joyous celebration of this new music: "Spread the Love!"

Donations to Union Congregational UCC. In memo line: Pegasis.

**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>