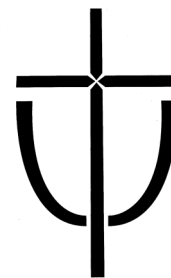


Still Speaking



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

September 2020

Adult Education Coming This Fall

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published
the week of October 7, 2020.*

*The deadline for that newsletter is
Friday, October 2, 2020.*

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Bible Study — Tuesdays at noon beginning September 15

Every Tuesday, Union members (and friends) are invited to join a one-hour Bible Study in which the pastors dig into the week's Scripture readings. Generally, we follow what's called the Revised Common Lectionary which includes readings linked to the church year and shared by Christians around the world. No preparation is necessary, other than having a Bible on hand, and an open mind. We read Scripture critically and faithfully (the two aren't opposed!).

Join us beginning at noon beginning September 15, at the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82585260519>

Sunday Morning Adult Education — 9 a.m. beginning September 20

As promised, our Adult Education for this fall will focus on anti-racism. For five weeks (beginning September 20) we will concentrate on learning about and overcoming "White Privilege." We are fortunate to have an excellent curriculum on this topic available from the United Church of Christ. Each session will take place via ZOOM (for 45 minutes) beginning at 9 a.m.

The ZOOM LINK, which will be the same for each session, is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84453220265>

The BIG READ — beginning October 25

Then, beginning Sunday, October 25, and continuing through November 15, we will sponsor a "BIG READ" of a book by Jon Pahl's former student, the Rev. Lenny Duncan. Lenny is now a pastor in Vancouver, Washington and has been on the front lines in the protests in Portland this summer. Lenny's book, "Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.," is described in the promotional materials for the book as follows:

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

September 13

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114 or
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Genesis 50:15-21 and
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

September 20

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15 and
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
John 3:10-4:11 and Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

September 27

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7 and Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 and
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

October 4

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Psalm 19
Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:1-14 and Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Isaiah 25:1-9 and Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 21:1-14

October 18

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99
Isaiah 45:1-7 and Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 25

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

(continued from page 1)

Lenny Duncan is the unlikeliest of pastors. Formerly incarcerated, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make all the headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work—drawing a direct line between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. The problems the ELCA faces are theological, not sociological. But so are the answers.

Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, "Dear Church" offers a bold new vision for the future of Duncan's denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. "Dear Church" rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone—leaders and laity alike—to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice.

It is time for the church to rise up, dust itself off, and take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, homophobia, and economic injustice. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus.

The "BIG READ" will culminate with a live ZOOM meeting with Lenny on Friday evening, November 13 at 7 p.m., and with the opportunity to hear Rev. Duncan preach the Gospel in our worship service on November 15.

We hope you'll join us on this important and even vital work for our time.

Dr. Jon Pahl

Minister of Faith Formation and Community Engagement

Heifer Sunday 2020

The time is here to begin planning Heifer Sunday 2020. This year's Heifer Sunday will need to take a different look than past years, which means new and innovative ideas, as well as strong social digital and social media skills, to continue our proud tradition of celebrating Heifer International and continue the generous contributions we have made for many years.

If you would be interested in co-chairing or joining the team this year, please contact Heather Collins or Pastor Bridget.



Virtual Faith Formation Gets Under Way on ReUnion Sunday!

Faith Formation begins September 13 for those up to 6th grade, as part of ReUnion Sunday. You can expect an email, phone call, USPS packet, and/or personal contact from a teacher! PLEASE remember to return your Registration Form, sent by Education chair Nancy Gibson, if your child intends to participate. If you're newer to the church or did not receive materials, contact Nancy at njgib@aol.com.



On August 30, Chancel Choir members gathered in the courtyard to record music that will be included as part of Union Church's Reunion Sunday online worship service. (photos by Eric Goska)

September's Love Life Diaper Collection

During all the changes this year, one thing hasn't changed: the need to change dirty diapers! September has been the month of our recent diaper collections for Love Life. This September, due to the pandemic, we would encourage you to donate money instead of diapers and a Love Life volunteer will purchase the sizes most needed.

Love Life is an ecumenical organization distributing diapers, formula and layettes to low income families who are already enrolled in the WIC program. Assistance is given for children ages 0-3. Last year we served 616 families with 782 children in the 0-3 age range. All racial and ethnic groups are served.

Before Covid-19, we operated from the lower level of Central Church on Schoen Street. Love Life is open on Thursday afternoons and families could come twice monthly. Now we work under the church's portico. Families come once a month and don't leave their cars. Their ID is checked and they are given diapers, formula if needed, and a layette for any newborn.

Please pitch in, if you can, to facilitate ongoing diaper changes. Make checks payable to Union Church and write "diapers" or "Love Life" on the memo line. We can help make a "change for the better." Thank you!

—Outreach Ministry

Union's Covid-19 Response

Who would have imagined when we held our Annual Meeting in January how this year would unfold? In fact, who would have imagined when Common Ministry decided to move worship online at their March 12 meeting that we would be continuing that practice for as long as we have been? These are strange times, indeed.

As the depth and breadth of the pandemic became more apparent, Common Ministry convened an ad hoc task force to make plans and recommendations for when and how we will resume worshipping in the sanctuary. We all miss worshipping together so much, and yet we are a community that believes in science and the value of seeking the common good. Keeping all of these values in mind, the Resuming In-Person Worship Task Force has been meeting weekly to determine the best ways for us to worship together and discerning when it will be healthy to do so.

To that end, in August Common Ministry approved the Task Force's recommendation to resume in-person worship in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. on Sundays when Brown County reaches Phase II of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) gating criteria. We will email the congregation when that time comes.

Additionally, the services will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

In accordance with WI DHS recommendations, we will accommodate up to 50 people when we are in Phase II. Our goal is to do everything in our power to keep people healthy as possible.

At right are some broad brush strokes of what our plans are—what we are calling Union's 10 Commandments of In-Person Worship—to help you get an idea of what worship will be like during Phase II.

Union's 10 Commandments of In-Person Worship

- I. Attendance will be by reservation. We will send a link to make a reservation to our email distribution list. You may also make a reservation by calling the church office.
- II. Entry will be at the West Covered Entrance or the East Mayflower Doors only, to aid traffic flow and social distancing.
- III. All participants will undergo a health check, including having your temperature taken when you arrive. Your temperature must be 100 degrees Fahrenheit or less to enter the building.
- IV. Everyone 5 years old and older must wear a mask covering their mouth and nose at all times in the building.
- V. The elevator will be available for one passenger or one household at a time.
- VI. Pews will be blocked for safe social distancing between households.
- VII. Each household will be taken to an assigned pew; exiting will be guided as well.
- VIII. The congregation will not be singing in worship; a cantor and instrumentalists will lead us in our musical worship.
- IX. There will be no fellowship gatherings in the building before or after worship.
- X. The sanctuary will be disinfected after services.

Stream On!

Thank you! A generous donor has offered to fund the technology that will be needed to live-stream our services from the sanctuary when we resume worshipping there. The components are on order. This will help us to continue offering services online even after we resume worshipping in person. Thanks to Shaun Shoulddeen, Eric Harkoff, Clay Reese, and Jeff Gibson for their work on this technology project, and a BIG thank you to the generous donor.



Volunteers Needed to Resume Worship In Person

Volunteers will be needed each Sunday when we return to in-person worship to provide a healthy and efficient environment. At this time we are simply putting together a list of those who are interested in volunteering for one of the roles. Volunteers will have the opportunity to sign-up for specific dates once we know when we will be returning to worship in our sanctuary.

We are also looking for someone interested in doing the overall coordination each week of these volunteers. The coordinator does not need to be at church each week; rather, they would be responsible to ensure that there were volunteers in place for all roles and communicating with the volunteers.

If you are interested in being added to a list of volunteers for any for the roles listed at right, please contact Betty Bienash (660-3301), Steve Hartman (246-7539), or the church office (437-9266). Again volunteers will have the opportunity to sign up for specific dates once we know when we will be returning to worship in our sanctuary.

Volunteer Opportunities include

Health Check—Take temperature, ask appropriate questions and provide bulletin after health check is completed. (4 needed each week)

Usher—Seat congregants and assist with smooth exiting after service. (2 needed each week)

Check-In Table—Check in people who have registered and assign seat location to which ushers will escort worshippers. (1 needed each week)

Outdoor/Parking Lot Attendants—Help direct people to the entrances being used to enter the building. (2 needed each week)

Weekly Volunteer Lead—Floats to provide support and assistance where needed. This includes helping with health issues (people entering ill or feeling ill during service), mask concerns, and addressing overall protocol adherence. (1 needed each week)

Restrooms and Elevator Support—Maintain the safe distancing and sanitation of these areas both before and after service. (2 needed each week)



Child and Youth Listening Sessions

As part of our planning, we asked Union families to share their thoughts regarding the needs of our younger community members when we return to the sanctuary. Five families shared their thoughts in a focus group or through email. Overwhelmingly, families asked that attention be given to making the nursery as safe as possible for youngsters and workers as soon as possible when worship resumes in person. It was suggested that Union watch the schools closely to see what happens, how the administrators respond, and to do what we can to learn from what we see.

Families were hungry for information and asked for communication about what decisions were being made. It was heartening to hear that families trust the leadership of the Union community to make the best choices for all of the people involved, knowing that safety is of utmost priority. One last sentiment that was expressed was to work toward making Union’s Sunday services more welcoming and accessible to people of all ages and abilities overall.

Our Team

Please offer hearty thanks to the folks who have been meeting weekly and doing a tremendous amount of research as part of the Resuming In-Person Worship Task Force:

- Betty Bienash (chair)
- Gail Carels
- Heather Collins
- Jeff Gibson
- Steve Hartman
- Sherry Warren
- Bridget Flad Daniels

Jammie VerGiesen and Mark Smith have also contributed on behalf of Stewardship Ministry.

Mayflower Nursery School Has Closed Its Doors

After 65 years, Mayflower Nursery School has closed its doors.

In 1955, Union Church built a new education wing and shortly thereafter founded Mayflower to “offer each child the opportunity to grow and develop physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually through play and interaction with others” according to an article in the Green Bay Press-Gazette on June 21, 1956 which highlighted the school’s first year. Mayflower was the first nursery school in Green Bay, one of the first in the state, and some of its early innovations were that each child was encouraged to progress at their own pace and that there were parent meetings with child psychologists, both revolutionary ideas in 1955.

While the church founded the nursery school, from its inception the school was self-supporting and open to the community, setting Union up for a long tradition of utilizing our building as a community asset, understanding that our resources are to be used for the greater good, not only for ourselves.

Looking back over Mayflower’s 65 years of serving the children of Green Bay, its most lasting legacy will be in the lives of its students and in the loving community that it built. Over the school’s six and a half decades, they had only seven directors—a testament to their dedication and the stability they brought to their work.

The founders of Green Bay’s first nursery school saw a need in the community and found an innovative way to fulfill that need. Let us lift up in gratitude those who dedicated their time to growing happy, healthy children in our community.

Mayflower Directors

Charlene Boyd 1955-1961

Gladys Cole 1961-1981

Marilyn Olson 1981-1990

Cari Milbourn 1990-2010

Martha Bonnie 2010-2015

Carol Beirl 2015-2019

Morgan Stuedemann 2019-2020

Blessing Box Drive

The shelves are almost empty! Please help us to stock up on items that we can use to keep the Blessing Box in business.

A Stock the Box Drive will take place this Saturday, September 12 from 9 a.m. to noon. Please bring nonperishable canned and packaged food items, personal care items, and paper products to church. (We do not need peanut butter or green beans at this time.)

If you are interested in sewing masks (both child and adult sizes) please bring them; they fly off the shelves. We are not able to accept homemade food items. We will be at the Mayflower entrance, practicing appropriate safety measures, to accept the items.

If you are unable to stop by, please consider making a donation to help fill with items we run low on. You can donate online on Union’s website or send your donation to the church; just put “Blessing Box” on the memo line of the check.

We look forward to seeing you. Thank you for helping support this ministry that is reaching many in our community!



Chancel Choir

Although there has been no singing as a choir for worship due to the Covid-19 virus risk, the Chancel Choir has regularly been meeting online on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. We share, support, and pray for each other, and it has been a good opportunity to connect with each other. If you would like to join us, please email me at graham.seong@gmail.com and I will send you the online invitation. Thank you.

—Seong-Kyung Graham, Choir Director

Scripture Readers for Worship

Interested in offering one of the scripture readings during worship? Worship Ministry is always in need of people who are willing to serve in this way. Contact Gail Hohenstein at ghohen@aol.com if you are willing to be added to our roster. The reading assignment and recording instructions are sent early each week by the church office to the scheduled reader.

Union Church Calendar

September 13—October 18, 2020

(all meetings online unless otherwise noted)

September 13 ReUnion Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship

September 15 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
2:00 p.m. Visitation Ministry
4:00 p.m. In-Person Worship TF
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

September 16 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

September 20 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Education
White Privilege: Let's Talk
10:00 a.m. Worship

September 22 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
4:00 p.m. In-Person Worship TF
3:30 p.m. Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

September 23 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

September 27 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 p.m. Adult Education
White Privilege: Let's Talk
10:00 a.m. Worship

September 29 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
4:00 p.m. In-Person Worship TF
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

September 30 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

October 1 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Inquirers Class

October 4 World Communion Sunday Neighbors in Need Offering

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Education
White Privilege: Let's Talk
10:00 a.m. Worship

October 6 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
4:00 p.m. In-Person Worship TF
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:30 P.M. Worship Ministry
6:30 p.m. Education Ministry
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

October 7 Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Inquirers Class
6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

October 8 Thursday

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

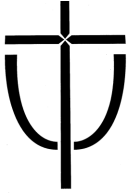
October 11 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 p.m. Adult Education
White Privilege: Let's Talk
10:00 a.m. Worship

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Interested in Learning More About Union Church?

Interested in learning more about Union Congregational UCC and discerning whether this is the right church home for you? Our Membership and Inreach Ministry will be hosting two sessions to help people get to know Union, our community, and each other on Thursday, October 1 at 7 p.m. and on Wednesday, October 7 at 5:30 p.m. It's helpful to participate in both sessions.

After those two sessions, people who would like to join the church will be received into membership during worship on Sunday, October 18.

Right now, we're trying to determine whether these sessions would be best in-person or virtually. Please contact the church office at office@unionucc.com or 920-437-9266, make sure we have your contact information, and let us know if you would participate if these sessions were held on Zoom, in-person, or if you do not have a preference.

If the church is still worshipping exclusively online in October, we will set up a way to join the church virtually, probably by recording a Zoom session with all interested New Members during the week leading up to Sunday, October 18.

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>