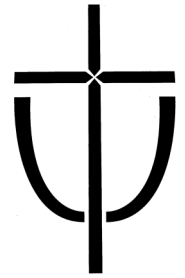


Still Speaking



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

Spring Forward!
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 14

February 2021

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **March 10, 2021.***

*The deadline for that newsletter is **Friday, March 5, 2021.***

Lent is Almost Upon Us! -----	3
Opening Our Hearts: A Lenten Series	3
One Great Hour of Sharing -----	3
PF's Oral History Project -----	3
Womanist Midrash -----	4
Hearty Thanks! -----	4
Welcome Katrina; Farewell Winnie -	5
"The Divine Dance" -----	5
Unmasking the Myths -----	6
Stock the Blessing Box Drive -----	6
Annual Meeting -----	back page

In his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. indicts the people he calls white Christian moderates:

"The white moderate who is more devoted to order than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says, "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically feels that he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by the myth of time; and who constantly advises the Negro to wait until a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will."

Fifty-eight years after Reverend King wrote this while imprisoned for protesting segregation, his words continue to serve as a call to action. As followers of Jesus and a community which professes to "strive to do the will of God and to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations," it is incumbent that we not settle for a negative peace. We must work for a positive peace.

Being agents of a positive peace will take on many forms, and is not a solo effort. In order to continually strive toward being a more perfect Union, our church leaders have decided to begin each of our Ministry meetings with a question. "How does the work of this Ministry further the congregation's racial and social justice commitments?" Each Ministry will be asking this question, because everything we are and do intersects with justice; it's not just an Outreach issue. Racial and social justice may come

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings**February 14****Transfiguration**

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 17**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

February 21**First Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

February 28**Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalm 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

March 7**Third Sunday in Lent**

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

March 14**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Numbers 21:4-9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

(continued from page 1)

into play in Stewardship when we talk about things like vendors and contractors, in Education when we talk about things like curriculum, in Membership when we talk about being welcoming, in Worship when we talk about things like music and preaching, and in so many ways we don't even realize yet.

Furthermore, by engaging this question with every Ministry, we acknowledge that this work is systemic and that it is everyone's responsibility, not just the task of a select few. Nor is this effort time limited. Striving for a positive peace is not a short-term goal. It will take years. However, I am confident that in working together, we can move from what Reverend King calls a place of shallow understanding toward greater and greater depth.

Friends, when we submitted our materials a couple of years ago to have Union included in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, one of the questions we were asked was how our organization is continuing to uphold the spirit of the Underground Railroad. It's an honor to be able to affirm that at Union, being agents of racial justice isn't just a thing of the past.

Gratefully,

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

Our Church Family

**Lent is
Almost Upon Us!
Ash Wednesday
is February 17**

Our Ash Wednesday service will be available online in our usual formats **starting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17**. Worship Ministry invites those of you who would like to participate in our traditional imposition of ashes and anointing to prepare ahead of time by gathering an unlit candle which has already been burned (we'll use the sooty wick to roll between our fingers to make "ashes" to make the sign of the cross on our own foreheads or those of others in our household), a mirror (this will be helpful to mark your own forehead and to look yourself in the eye as you're doing it), and a small amount of oil for anointing (any essential oil or even olive oil will do).

**One Great Hour
Of Sharing Offering
is March 14**

One Great Hour of Sharing is a churchwide offering to support the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. Through this special offering, we are investing in communities worldwide by providing education and vocational training to girls and boys, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all.

**Opening
Our Hearts:
A Lenten Series**



Looking for a spiritual practice to nourish your heart and soul this season?
Plan to join us on the **Wednesdays in Lent (7 p.m.)** as we
Open Our Hearts in a breadth of ways:

- February 24 — Opening Our Hearts To
The Women of the Hebrew Bible with Rev. Wil Gafney
- March 3 — Opening Our Hearts To
Neglected and Abused Children with Deb and Larry Rose
- March 10 — Opening Our Hearts To
The Healing Power of Music with Rissel Peguero
- March 17 — Opening Our Hearts To
The Old Testament's Merciful God with Julie Harder
- March 24 — Opening Our Hearts To
Racial Justice with David Hassel

The Zoom link for this series will appear in your This Week at Union email.

**Volunteers Wanted:
Pilgrim Fellowship's Oral History Project**

Over the next few months, Union's PF youth group will conduct a series of Zoom oral history interviews about Union's history. This will give an opportunity for the young people to interact with some of our "elders," and it will give Union a permanent record of these historical reflections, since we'll be recording the Zoom and posting the links to a document that will be housed in the church archives.

How can you help? If you have historical knowledge and stories to tell about Union's history, please volunteer! The more the merrier, and we invite especially those with a LONG and DEEP history of the church to participate.

Interviews are being held on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m., one-half hour only. The students have prepared six "standard" questions, so roughly 5 minutes per question. Brevity is appreciated! If your answers are shorter, we will add more follow-ups.

Please consider participating. Contact Jon Pahl (jon@unionucc.com) to volunteer. Thank you!

Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne

On February 14, as we continue our anti-racism work together in Adult Education, we will turn to a book by Rev. Wil Gafney, Ph.D. titled "Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne." Midrash is the term to describe how rabbis read Scripture.

But Wil's book isn't only based on her participation in a Jewish minyan (reading/worshiping group). Wil is also an Episcopal Priest, and an African American feminist (which is a simple way to describe what being a "womanist" is).

In her book, Dr. Gafney reads in startling and wonderful ways many well-known women of Hebrew Scripture, like Eve, Sarah, Hagar, Rachel, and Leah (from Genesis alone), and lesser-known women such as Shiphrah and Puah, A Pharaonic Princess, and Women Who Do Sex-Work (just from Exodus, alone). Dr. Gafney brings together African-American and rabbinic perspectives on these women, with aims of justice, mutuality, and respect.

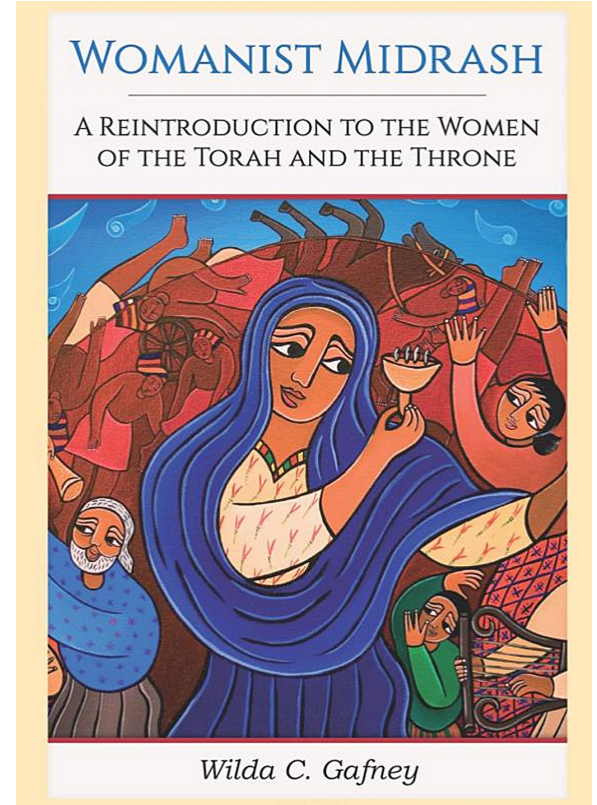
I anticipate that after we read and discuss her book, you will never read Scripture the same way, again. You'll read more like a rabbi, and that means you'll do midrash.

Here are two excerpts (teasers) from the book's introduction to anticipate some of the things we'll learn:

"Midrash also asks questions of [any] text; sometimes it provides answers, sometimes it leaves the reader to answer the questions."

"As a ... member of a minyan and occasional Torah teacher in Jewish congregations, I experienced midrash as God-wrestling."

Wil starts her book by inviting the reader to a "supper." This meal is one you won't forget, as we wrestle together with God, and come away blessed by the abundant delights in the text, as interpreted by Dr. Gafney, and via our discussion. Look for the Zoom link in your weekly Friday email blast.



Dr. Gafney will also be with us, via Zoom, on Wednesday evening, February 24 at 7 p.m. as part of our upcoming Lenten Wednesday series. She'll offer a brief presentation and conversation about her book. Join us.

The audiobook of "Womanist Midrash" is available in Hoopla, a media service provided by the Brown County Library. Go to: <https://hoopladigital.com/title/13376376>

Hearty Thanks!

Like Shamrock shakes, our retired sexton Mike Van Straten is back for a limited time only! Mike has agreed to get the building in tip-top shape for our new building maintenance technician who is scheduled to start March 1. Please join in offering hearty thanks to Mike. He's already proven himself to be an answer to prayers.

Welcome, Katrina Catteruccia



Please join in welcoming our new financial secretary, Katrina Catteruccia. Katrina is working with us through Advantage Bookkeeping, and comes to us with a breadth of nonprofit experience. We're grateful to have her on board. Her typical office hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.

Farewell, Winnie Hutjens

Winnie Hutjens retired from the role of financial secretary in January. The congregation expressed its thanks for Winnie and her work with cards, emails and gifts.

Dear Union Church friends,

Thank you for the cards and generous cash gift you gave in celebration of my retirement. It's hard to believe I've been a part of your church family for 21 years. It has been my honor to serve this congregation these many years. For those who don't know it, I was raised at Union Church being baptized, confirmed and married here. So in a way, I've come full circle.

Thank you again,
Winnie Hutjens



(L-R) Heather Collins, Sandy Polarek (moderator) and Pastor Bridget honored Winnie Hutjens (center) for her years of service in a piece recorded and included in Union's online worship service of January 17.

UCC Book Discussion Group: "The Divine Dance"

A book discussion group that has grown out of the discernment group that Lou Norsetter initiated this fall is inviting new participants. This month, the group will begin reading "The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation" by Richard Rohr.

"The Blessed Trinity is supposed to be central – even the paramount – foundational doctrine of our entire Christian belief system. And yet we're told, at least I was told as a young boy in Kansas, that we shouldn't try to understand it. 'Just believe it!'"

Rohr says the Trinity has become missing in action. He quotes the German Jesuit Karl Rahner:

"Christians are, in their practical life, almost mere 'monotheists.' We must be willing to admit that, should the doctrine of the Trinity have to be dropped as false, the major part of religious literature could well remain virtually unchanged."

If the Trinity is new or you've given up trying to explain the concept to your children or yourself, consider reading "The Divine Dance" with us. Rohr takes us on a journey of rediscovery, both intellectually and spiritually, into the mysteries of the Trinity.

We are a book discussion group consisting of members of the UCC churches of greater Green Bay. We meet virtually on Monday afternoons at 4 p.m. For this book, we plan to meet every other week for five Mondays: February 22, March 8, March 22, April 5, and April 19. We'll send you a link when you indicate you're interested in participating.

The book is available on Amazon Prime for as little as \$9, with Kindle, paperback and hardcover options. Local bookstores may have it or they can order it for you. The book is not available at the Brown County Library. Scholarships are available if needed; check with your pastor.

If you have questions about the group or want to join, please contact Lou Norsetter at 920-217-1911 or LNorset0629@gmail.com.

Unmasking the Myths about Immigrants and Refugees

Migration Advocacy of Brown County WI is conducting five presentations via Zoom on the following dates:

Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021 - 6:30 to 7:30pm

Conversation with Immigration Attorney

Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 - 6:30 to 7:30pm

Conversation with an Immigrant

Wednesday, March 17th, 2021 - 6:30 to 7:30pm

Conversation with a Refugee

Wednesday, March 24th, 2021 - 6:30 to 7:30pm

Conversation with a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipient

Wednesday, March 31th, 2021 - 6:30 to 7:30pm

Conversation with Immigration Attorney



Registration required, limited capacity.
<https://forms.gle/Ga8SC8ZTccYRTR9V9>

Supported



Stock the Box Drive is Saturday, March 6

Our next drive takes place March 6 (9 to noon). We will accept items at the northern entrance on Madison Street.

Glass and canned goods are a concern during cold winter weather. Our generous food drive contributors are asked to donate dry or plastic packaged food items. Thank you!

In particular, we are looking for:

- Boxed mac and cheese, rice, pasta and soup mixes
- Peanut butter
- Flat packaged tuna, salmon or chicken
- Healthy cereals, oatmeal packets
- Powdered milk, apple cider and hot chocolate packets
- Healthy snacks: granola bars, nuts, muffins, Rice Krispie bars, crackers
- Fruit in plastic: applesauce, etc.
- Toiletries: shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, soap, sanitizers, lotion, deodorant, razors, toothpaste and brushes and masks.
- Paper products: paper towels, Kleenex and toilet paper
- Winter hats, gloves and mittens, scarves in adult and children sizes

Union Church Calendar

February 14, 2021—March 24, 2021

February 14 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Wil Gafney
10:00 a.m. Worship

February 16 Tuesday

SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir (rehearsal)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Zoom)

February 17 Ash Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups
7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship

February 21 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Dr. Wil Gafney
10:00 a.m. Worship

February 22 Monday

4:00 p.m. "The Divine Dance"
Book Discussion

February 23 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
3:00 p.m. Bell Choir (record)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Zoom)

February 24 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups
7:00 p.m. Opening Our Hearts:
Dr. Wil Gafney

February 28 Sunday

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

March 2 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry
6:30 p.m. Education Ministry
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Zoom)

March 3 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups
6:30 p.m. Conversation with an
Immigration Attorney
7:00 p.m. Opening Our Hearts:
Deb and Larry Rose

March 6 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Stock the Box Drive

March 7 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy
Communion

March 8 Monday

4:00 p.m. "The Divine Dance"
Book Discussion

March 9 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Zoom)

March 10 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups
6:30 p.m. Conversation with an
Immigrant
7:00 p.m. Opening Our Hearts:
Rissel Peguero

March 11 Thursday

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

March 14 Sunday

Daylight Saving Time Begins
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship

March 16 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir (rehearsal)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Zoom)

March 17 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups
6:30 p.m. Conversation with a
Refugee
7:00 p.m. Opening Our Hearts:
Julie Harder

March 21 Sunday

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

March 22 Monday

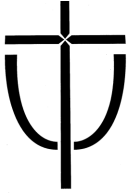
4:00 p.m. "The Divine Dance"
Book Discussion

March 23 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
3:00 p.m. Bell Choir (record)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (Zoom)

March 24 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups
6:30 p.m. Conversation with a
DACA Recipient
7:00 p.m. Opening Our Hearts:
David Hassel



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

Union Congregational
United Church of Christ

Annual Report
for 2020

185th Annual Meeting



Union Congregational United Church of Christ
716 South Madison Street
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301
920-437-9266
office@unionucc.com

Annual Meeting

The 185th Annual Meeting of the congregation was held virtually this year, with over 75 people participating. We voted on a budget for 2021, elected new officers and Ministry chairs, and renewed our commitment to our membership in JOSHUA (a Justice Organization Sharing Hope, United for Action).

Thank you to all who participated, and a special thanks to Sandy Polarek who finished her term as Moderator. Sandy, you led with grace and wisdom, and your generosity of time and spirit has been deeply appreciated.

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

Tim Harder, M.D.

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>