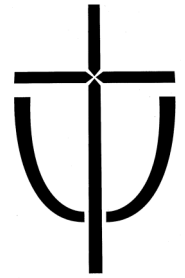


# Still Speaking



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

August 2021

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **Sept. 22**. The deadline for that newsletter is **Friday, Sept. 17**.*

ReUnion Sunday -----	2
Faith Formation -----	3
Love Life Shower -----	4
Our Church Family -----	4
Union Central's New Look -----	5
Stock the Box News -----	5
Rummage Sale -----	5
Bell Choir -----	5
Safe Church Training -----	6
Brain Center of Green Bay -----	6
Church Calendar -----	7

**Learn More about Union Church on back page**

## What Do We Do With Our Ordinary Time?

When I was growing up, my church called the time between Pentecost and Advent (basically the summer and fall) "Ordinary Time." The word "ordinary" was supposed to convey that these weeks were ordered or numbered, but because of the way the English language works, most people think of "ordinary" to mean "plain" or "boring."

After a whirlwind year and a half of COVID protocols, of working to juggle people's physical and psycho-spiritual wellness at both individual and corporate levels, amidst competing values, I, for one, long for ordinary time. I suspect I'm not alone when I say that I long for less drama, less chaos, fewer competing goods.

But, life on this plane is complex, and a life following Jesus doesn't promise to lift us out of the chaos, but rather to help us to find a framework for making meaning amidst all that life brings.

In worship on August 15, we focused on Ephesians 4:25-5:2, and I conjectured that if more people really LIVED that passage, our world would be a very different place.

The passage starts out telling us to speak truth to our neighbors because we belong to one another. Think about it; we know that speaking falsehoods to ourselves will do no good in the long run, and so it goes to reason that speaking falsehoods to our neighbors is a fool's game, too.

Then, it tells us to be angry but not to sin. What's the connection? When we're angry, it's tempting to lie, to exaggerate, to make false equivalencies, to slander. Righteous anger is good and holy and can fuel Godly change, but only if it's righteous. We need to be very careful to keep our anger honest, not to let it tempt us into unscrupulous behaviors.

Next, the passage tells thieves to give up stealing. Most of us don't consider ourselves to be thieves, but the next line should resonate with us all, telling us to labor and work honestly so as to have something to share with the needy. Work honestly. Care for those in need. Again, something that the whole world would benefit from more people doing.

The rest of the passage continues to play out these themes.

*(continued on page 2)*

**Lectionary Readings****August 22****13th Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43  
and Psalm 84  
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18  
and Psalm 34:15-22  
Ephesians 6:10-20  
John 6:56-69

**August 29****14th Sunday after Pentecost**

Song of Solomon 2:8-13  
and Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9  
Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 and Psalm 15  
James 1:17-27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**September 5****15th Sunday after Pentecost**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23  
and Psalm 125  
Isaiah 35:4-7a and Psalm 146  
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

**September 12****16th Sunday after Pentecost**

Proverbs 1:20-33 and Psalm 19  
Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 116:1-9 or  
Wisdom of Solomon 7:26-8:1  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38

**September 19****17th Sunday after Pentecost**

Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1  
Wisdom of Solomon 1:16-2:1, 12-22  
or Jeremiah 11:18-20 and Psalm 54  
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37

**September 26****18th Sunday after Pentecost**

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22  
and Psalm 124  
Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
and Psalm 19:7-14  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50

*(continued from page 1)*

As I reflect on how many of us are yearning for ordinary time, I double down on my encouragement from the sermon of August 15, and we've printed the text below. Let's commit to living this passage more deeply. Let's dive in to putting away falsehood, to being angry but not sinning, to speaking only what is useful for building up. What if we were to immerse ourselves in being kind and tenderhearted and forgiving?

Friends, the chaos of the world isn't going away any time soon. But the world will be better in the here and now, and in the future, if we allow these behaviors of the faith to ripple through us and into the world.

May it be so!

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

**Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil that kind of room in your life. Thieves, give up stealing; rather, labor and work honestly with your own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## **ReUnion Sunday**

### **Sunday Morning, September 19, 2021**

**9:00 Faith Formation Open House**

A message will be sent to all Faith Formation families on our roster with our fall plans.

**10:00 Worship in the Sanctuary**  
with **Holy Communion****BYO Potluck Picnic in the Park**

(weather permitting)

Bring your own lunch and a blanket or chair to St. James Park across the street from the church for a COVID-safe picnic following worship.

## Union Church Faith Formation 2021-22

We're excited to resume our Sunday morning Faith Formation next month, though exactly what it will look like is still a bit up in the air. Our plan is to have three classrooms again, broken down roughly into K4-1st grades, 2nd-4th grades, and 5th and up. We say "roughly" because we always try to work with families and teachers to discern which group fits their child best.

We will once again be using the Shine curriculum from Brethren Press. This is a dynamic Faith Formation curriculum that engages Christian communities and families in their life together through Bible stories, spiritual practices, peacemaking, service, and more.

Because the children served by Faith Formation are not able to be vaccinated against COVID-19 right now, what we're not sure about is whether Faith Formation will be offered online, much like we did last year, or whether we will be able to meet in person, with social distancing and everyone wearing masks. Our Education Ministry, Common Ministry, and Resuming In-Person Gatherings Task Force is working to establish a date and time to Zoom with Faith Formation families, to learn more about what will work best for your families before we make the determination regarding being in-person or not. Watch your mail and email for details about this Zoom meeting.

### **Faith Formation Family Meeting Zoom**

Date and Time TBD - Watch for church communications

### **Youth Group Family Meeting Zoom**

September 15 - PF Families at 6 p.m. / YCA Families at 7 p.m.

Our Wednesday night programs are in a similar boat, though we do have the date established for those Zoom conversations. We are asking families of 6th-8th graders to Zoom with Pastor Bridget and the Pilgrim Fellowship Advisors at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 15, and families of 9th-12th graders to Zoom with Pastor Bridget and the Young Christians in Action Advisors at 7 p.m. that night. We'll email the Zoom link to you, or you can contact the church office for it. Along with determining whether meeting in person or online will be best for each age group, we will also discuss whether offering dinner (during which people would be unmasked) is a healthy activity at this time.

Regardless of the format, the intent of our youth groups is to provide a means for you to engage in mission projects, learning, relationship building, and "purposeful play."

Even with all of these contingencies, we have a tremendous slate of teachers, aides, leaders, cooks, and bottle washers lined up again this year, and we can always use more. As with everything in church, our child and youth Faith Formation ministries don't work without the ongoing efforts of our members and friends.

All parents of participating children and youth are requested to be a part of these Zoom conversations. Again, the time is TBD for Faith Formation and Wednesday, September 15 at 6 p.m. for PF and 7 p.m. for YCA. At these, we will discuss whether to start the year in-person or online, as well as what you can expect for the year and what is expected of participating families. It is very important that all families find a niche to help with these programs. These ministries simply cannot exist without you.

Registration materials will be mailed home, can be accessed via the link in the September 3 all-church email, or by contacting the church office.

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## Love Life Shower

The shower of layette items for Love Life that took place in conjunction with Josie Flad Daniels' baptism was a great success. Thanks to all who donated. We collected:

- 3,600 baby wipes and 800 diapers
- 70 onesies and baby outfits
- receiving blankets, fleece blankets, bath towels, fleece sleepers and 3 crocheted afghans
- a booster seat, pack and play and an infant seat
- bottles, books and infant toys
- baby lotion, baby wash, diaper cream
- 2 tote bins and a bag of gently used baby clothing and supplies.

Thanks from Love Life and the moms who received a "shower in a box" for their new babies.

If you missed the shower but want to contribute, bring your items to the coat room at church and call Jean Smithback at 920-977-4726.

We do some pretty awesome things here at Union Church!

## Our Church Family

- 

## Congratulations, Nicholas Sheier!

**Nicholas Sheier**, son of **Kevin and Carol Sheier**, graduated from Green Bay East High School in June and will attend UW-Green Bay in the fall.



Achim and Kathy Seifert

### Union Central's New Look

Union Central recently got a makeover. Kathy Seifert designed the look and Achim Seifert made the removable panels. David Thie, Gail Hohenstein, Jeff Carels, Ed Tucker and Bill Johnson painted. Jeff Carels helped put the panels up. Thanks to all who helped.

## Rummage Sale

The Outreach Ministry has "penciled in" the dates of Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16 as our rummage sale dates. While you are welcome to bring items to church anytime before then (starting in October), we will have special intake times where volunteers will help you unload at the north Madison Street entrance. Intake dates are Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9.

Details will be forthcoming on exact times and items we don't intend to sell. We will also need volunteers to help set up, intake, sort, price, sell and take down.

Over the last 10 years (other than 2020!) we have collected between \$500 and \$800. This year, with your help, our goal is to top \$1,000. All proceeds have gone and will continue to go to fund homeless and food ministries of the church.

We said "penciled in" because the rummage sale will be dependent on the status of COVID-19, but as of today we are a go.

## Priscilla Circle

Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 restrictions, Priscilla Circle will not meet in September. We hope to meet on October 26. More will be shared as we approach that date.

## Bell Choir

Are you interested in joining Union's Bell Choir? If so, email Linda Cook at linda.cook@snc.edu. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings and a full schedule will be released soon. Our first rehearsal is September 7 at 5:30 p.m.



Pictured L-R:  
 Mary Hemminger  
 Lou Ann Norsetter  
 Jean Van Erem  
 Photo by Achim Seifert

### Stock the Box News

Stock the Box Drives will now take place on the second Saturday of every month. Our next drive is September 11 (9 a.m. to noon). Of course, you can donate items any time (M-F, 8 to 4) by leaving them on the cart in the coat room across from the church office.

## Attendance

June	2021	2019
1st Sunday	*	111
2nd Sunday	73	102
3rd Sunday	59	75
4th Sunday	51	90
5th Sunday	--	130
<b>Totals</b>	<b>**183</b>	<b>508</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>101.6</b>

July	2021	2019
1st Sunday	55	82
2nd Sunday	52	92
3rd Sunday	64	89
4th Sunday	52	93
5th Sunday	--	--
<b>Totals</b>	<b>**223</b>	<b>356</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>89.0</b>

\* In-person worship resumed on June 13, the second Sunday in June 2021.

\*\*Attendance figures for 2021 do not include numbers for those who streamed our worship services online.



## Ecumenical Worship in the Park

Pastor Bridget led a water blessing ritual during a July 18 ecumenical PRIDE worship service and picnic at Wilder Park where Dr. Craig Ford preached the service. Over 70 people participated.

## Safe Church Training for Teachers, Aides, Youth Group Leaders, Cooks, and More

All volunteers who work with youth and other vulnerable populations are required to participate in yearly training regarding safe conduct and abuse prevention.

Volunteers may choose either:

**Sunday, August 22 at 11:15 a.m. in the Chapel Classroom**

or

**Wednesday, September 1 at 6 p.m. online**

*The link to the online session will become available in This Week at Union or from the church office as the date gets closer.*

RSVP to the church office. If you are unable to attend either scheduled date, contact Pastor Bridget to schedule an alternative.



## Brain Center of Green Bay Program and Services

**Personalized Coaching** — The Brain Center works with individuals, care partners, family members, and groups through its personalized coaching program. Research shows the incorporation of good brain health practices directly translates to better overall health. More and more science is indicating the way we live our lives - our good and bad habits - has a significant impact on the development of neurodegenerative disease.

Coaching focuses on nutrition and lifestyle-dependent factors such as physical exercise, cognitive stimulation, restorative sleep, stress management, social interaction, and avoidance of injury. Our volunteer coaching crew consists of both practicing and retired members of the medical community.

**Community Education** — The Brain Center is an educational resource for schools, employers, and groups seeking to learn more about optimizing brain health. We do this in collaboration with many wonderful local non-profit agencies as well as local healthcare providers. The Brain Center offers a variety of educational programs and presentations on topics for all ages. Presentations can be personalized for specific audiences and needs.

# Union Church Calendar

## August 22, 2021—October 6, 2021

### August 22 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
 11:15 a.m. Safe Church Training in  
 the Chapel Classroom

### August 25 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Wednesday Weeders

### August 28 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Saturday Snippers

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### August 29 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

### September 1 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group  
 at Denny's on Oneida  
 8:00 a.m. Wednesday Weeders  
 6:00 p.m. Safe Church Training  
 (online)

### September 4 Saturday

8:00 a.m. Saturday Snippers

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### September 5 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship with  
 Holy Communion  
 in the sanctuary

### September 6 Monday

Labor Day  
 The Church Office is Closed

### September 7 Tuesday

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry  
 (Zoom)  
 5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry (Zoom)  
 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir  
 6:30 p.m. Education Ministry  
 (Zoom)

### September 9 Thursday

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

### September 10-12 Friday-Sunday

Dick Lathrop Memorial  
 All-Church Retreat  
 at Moon Beach

### September 11 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Stock the Box Drive

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### September 12 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

### September 14 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry  
 (Zoom)  
 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir

### September 15 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Dinner (tentative)  
 6:00 p.m. PF Families Zoom  
 7:00 p.m. YCA Families Zoom

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## ReUnion Sunday September 19

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
 with Holy Communion

### BYO Potluck Picnic in the Park

(weather permitting)  
 Bring your own lunch and  
 a blanket or chair to St. James Park  
 across the street from the church  
 for a COVID-safe picnic  
 following worship.

### September 21 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study

### September 22 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Dinner (tentative)  
 6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

### September 23 Thursday

0:00 a.m. Souper Cooks

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### September 26 Sunday

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

### September 28 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study

### September 29 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Dinner (tentative)  
 6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

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### October 3 Sunday

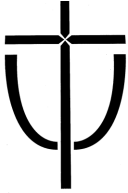
10:00 a.m. Worship with  
 Holy Communion  
 in the sanctuary

### October 5 Tuesday

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

### October 6 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group  
 at Denny's on Oneida  
 5:45 p.m. Dinner (tentative)  
 6:15 p.m. Youth Groups



Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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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 7 at 6 p.m. and on Wednesday, October 13 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 24.

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](mailto: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.

### **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

**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>