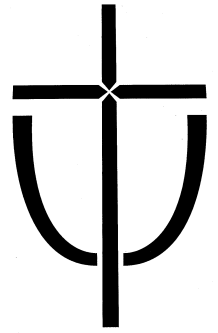


Still Speaking



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

October 2021



Daylight Saving Time
ends November 7

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published
the week of **November 12, 2021.**
The deadline for that newsletter is
Friday, **November 17, 2021.***

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This fall, we've been focusing on the slogan "Love Your Neighbors. No Exceptions."

It invites us into boldly living Jesus' greatest commandment, to love God with our whole mind, body, and soul, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Like the story of the Good Samaritan, "Love Your Neighbors. No Exceptions" draws us out of our comfortable boxes, draws us into seeing strangers and those we may not understand or even appreciate as God's beloved.

"Love Your Neighbors. No Exceptions" could really be Union's "elevator speech." In five words, we sum up what this church is all about.

As your pastor, I couldn't be more proud. We have a church that strives to profoundly live love of neighbor. Thanks be to God!

And, with all of this emphasis on loving strangers and treating everyone as if they are our neighbors, I also remind you of the proverb that "charity begins at home."

Just as Jesus tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves before reminding us that we're all neighbors, "charity begins at home" reminds us that the way we treat those closest to us shapes how we engage the rest of the world.

I was reminded of this recently when talking with a friend who I hadn't connected with in months. Their spouse had died in the last year, and they got teary when they told me that, "after the first month or so, the phone stopped ringing." UGH!

Sometimes, as we work to live God's love and treat the stranger as our neighbor, we forget to treat our neighbors, the people we love and care about, even the people we're closest to, with love and tenderness and compassion and kindness.

And so, amidst our fall pledge campaign, as we ask our members and friends to prayerfully consider how they will commit themselves to sustaining Union financially, I invite you into a "Love Your Neighbor"

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

October 24

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Job 42:1-6, 10-17
and Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)
Jeremiah 31:7-9 and Psalm 126
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52

October 31

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 1:1-18 and Psalm 146
Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and
Psalm 119:1-8
Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34

November 1

All Saints Day

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 or
Isaiah 25:6-9 and Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

November 7

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 and Psalm 127
1 Kings 17:8-16 and Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44

November 14

25th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 1:4-20 and 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Daniel 12:1-3 and Psalm 16
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

November 21

Reign of Christ

2 Samuel 23:1-7 and
Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 and Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

November 25

Thanksgiving Day

Joel 2:21-27 and Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33

(continued from page 1)

pledge, too. Along with making a financial commitment to sustain the church’s outreach, worship, education, and fellowship, what if we were to make a kindness pledge?

As you think and pray about how you can help Union to do the meaningful work we do, work of inclusion and graciousness and healing, would you join me in also committing to doing acts of love and kindness and justice, both toward those we encounter as strangers and those in our circles of friends?

Let’s commit to picking up the phone to call people who are grieving not only six weeks after their loss, but for six months and even six years.

Let’s commit to learning about what it will take to welcome Afghani people who are being resettled in Green Bay, and once we’ve learned what it will take, let’s commit to providing the extravagant welcome that is one of Union’s core values.

Let’s commit to embodying Jesus’ mercy and compassion and justice, both as individuals and as a church.

In doing so, your financial commitments to our “Love Your Neighbors. No Exceptions” campaign will provide the infrastructure as we seek to live lives of faith following Jesus.

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

Christmas Pageant

Union’s Christmas Pageant is a highlight of the church year, and it’s coming sooner than you may realize.

In order to incorporate the most people in the pageant in healthy ways, Union’s Worship and Education Ministries have decided that this year’s pageant will be a recorded service, much like last year, and will take the place of Sunday worship on December 19.

Households and individuals who would like to be a part of the pageant can contact Christie Reese at christie.reese@gmail.com or Kevin Sheier at kevindsheier@gmail.com to volunteer. We’ll again have roles for a modern day family, shepherds, magi, angels, Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth, Herod, and more.

Our Attendance

September	*2021	2019
1st Sunday	46	92
2nd Sunday	71#	143
3rd Sunday	89	117#
4th Sunday	47	115
5th Sunday	—	159
Totals	253	626
Average	63.3	125.2

* Attendance figures for 2021 do not include numbers for those who streamed our worship services online.
Totals include 41 worshippers at Moon Beach in 2021 and 59 in 2019.

Financial Picture Zoom

On Sunday, October 31 at 11:30 a.m., we will hold a Zoom meeting to share Union's financial picture as well as look forward to the coming year. Our Treasurer, Jeff Gibson, will talk about Union's finances and will entertain questions.

Check your Friday email or call the church office to get the link to join the meeting

Or dial 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 875 2341 8600 Passcode: 196041

Pandemic Canvas Project

Thanks to all who created a canvas to express their experience of the pandemic. We've received 26 so far. If you are still working on one, please get it to Anne Rakow-Weist or the church office ASAP. Also, if you didn't put your name on your canvas, please contact Anne, so that she knows how to hang it, which way is up, etc.

We'll be having a Zoom Adult Education Session on Sunday, November 21 from 8:45 to 9:35 a.m. in which we will share pictures of the combined installation of the canvases, as well as photos of individual canvases. Folks will have a chance to talk about their creations, explore one another's canvases, and process our individual and collective experiences.

Check your Friday email or call the church office to get the link to join the meeting

or dial 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 894 8017 7917 Passcode: 135022

Memorial Sunday

Our Memorial Sunday, the day that we lend a special focus in worship to our church members and friends who have died in the past year, will be November 21. Watch your Friday e-newsletter to learn of some special ways we'll be commemorating our loved ones this year.

Seminary Secrets — Upcoming Topics:

Concepts of the Sacred

AND

Progressive Faith and Practice

Julie Harder, leader

What's your concept of God? How did you come to that conclusion? The most prevalent concept of God among Christians has been an all-powerful, all-loving God "up there" who is "in control" of what happens on earth. This is so pervasive that when people reject "God," often they reject this one concept of God. There are others, however, even others that are compatible with Christianity. **The Seminary Secrets class of October 27 will explore four concepts of the Sacred** and consider which are most persuasive.

This will set the stage for **the subsequent topic, reading and discussing the book Progressive Faith and Practice: Thou Shalt Not Stand Idly By**, by Roger L. Ray. Ray is pastor of the Community Christian Church in Springfield, Missouri, where he also teaches college courses in philosophy and world religions. His book sets out his understanding of what it means to be a Progressive Christian, in spiritual, intellectual, and practical terms. This book is provocative! Rev. Ray pulls no punches as he challenges aspects of traditional Christianity and makes his case for a progressive alternative.

To make reading the book manageable, we will take our time, allotting five to six sessions for this series.

Can't attend all the sessions? We can make recordings available to you so you can catch up on any missed classes.

++ DETAILS for CONCEPTS OF THE SACRED ++

VENUE: Zoom.

DATE & TIME: 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 27.

TO SIGN UP: Contact Julie Harder at jblackharder@gmail.com. She will send you the readings and a link to the Zoom session.

++ DETAILS for PROGRESSIVE FAITH AND PRACTICE ++

VENUE: Zoom, at least until the COVID case rate drops.

DATES & TIME: 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. on

Wednesdays, November 3, 10, 17; December 1, 8, and possibly 15.

TO ORDER A BOOK: Available on Amazon and from other booksellers. Please order in time to read the November 3 assignment.

TO SIGN UP: Contact Julie Harder at jblackharder@gmail.com. She will send you the reading schedule and a link to the Zoom sessions.

Halloween Trick or Treat at Union Church

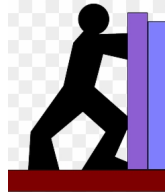
We're seeking donations of candy to be handed out on Halloween (4 to 7 p.m.). This is a simple, sweet way that we connect with our neighborhood.

If you'd like to pitch in, drop candy off at the church office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. (M-F) by October 28 (so that Pastor Bridget knows how much she needs to supplement the supply!). An adult volunteer or two is always welcome, to help with this fun offering.



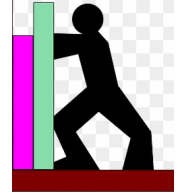
Thank you for
**“Loving Your Neighbor.
 No Exceptions.”**

Please return your pledge card by **November 14** to help us plan and budget. Additional cards are available at the church doors or you can pledge online at www.unionucc.com/giving or simply email your intentions to finance@unionucc.com.



Readings for Social Justice Your Church Library

by Cathy Putman



Our Pilgrim Fellowship youth group is using picture book narratives to think about social justice. They'll learn about the Danish resistance movement in World War II with “The Whispering Town”; about Indian Residential Schools in “When We Were Alone”; about 1960 college student-led lunch counter sit-ins in “Freedom on the Menu”; and about Somali refugees in “The Color of Home.” You don't have to be in PF to do some social justice reading.

For the cerebral, there's Michael Sandel's “Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?” Adapted from his popular undergraduate course at Harvard, this is a clear discussion of the basic underpinnings of how we decide what is the right thing to do. Sandel writes, “Ancient theories of justice start with virtue, while modern theories start with freedom...But this contrast can mislead...It's true that most of our arguments are about promoting prosperity and respecting individual freedom, at least on the surface. But underlying these arguments, and sometimes contending with them, we can often glimpse another set of convictions – about what virtues are worthy of honor and reward, and what way of life a good society should promote.”

For the practical, there's “The Moral Underground: How Ordinary Americans Subvert an Unfair Economy.” The pandemic raised in many minimum wage workers a refusal to accept work that was dangerous to their health and family life. Long before this, in the early 2000s, author Lisa Dodson conducted hundreds of interviews to understand what was really going on with poor families and the middle class managers who worked with them. Dodson reflects, “I found that an economy that impoverishes too many people even as they do the jobs of the nation, the economic fault line becomes a moral line too....But I was most startled by people like Andrew [a manager in a large food business in the Midwest], who concluded that he had to do more than sympathize; he had to act.”

For the historical, there's Charles Marsh's “The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice, from the Civil Rights Movement to Today.” Marsh tells the story of Martin Luther King's vision of a “beloved community” as it was worked out by a variety of groups and church leaders for the last half century. His calling as a theologian makes this history unique, for it is simultaneously a story of how individual Christians are called to act, not simply to acknowledge the rightness of the dream of a beloved community.

For the Christian actor, try this recent work by UCC theologian Walter Brueggemann, “Materiality as Resistance: Five Elements for Moral Action in the Real World.” In passages and discussion questions, Brueggemann briefly addresses aspects of our shared bodily existence: money, food, the body, time and place. We all have opinions about these topics. Brueggemann urges us to put those opinions into the context of the common good.

These books can be found in the basket under the window in the church library. Happy reading!

Our Church Family

GIFT Giving Thanks Service

Gathered In Faith Together (also known as GIFT) is again holding an Interfaith prayer service the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, November 23, at 7 p.m. This year's Giving Thanks Service will be held at Old St. Joe's Church on the campus of St. Norbert College, and will also be streamed on the GIFT Facebook page.

Mindful of the Afghans being resettled here and across the country, our focus this year is gratitude for the strangers in our midst.



Mary Hemminger (dulcimer), Ray Thompson (piano) and Jean Van Erem (flute) played during worship on October 10. (photo courtesy of Phil Hauck)

Let's Build an Ark on November 7!

For decades, folks at Union Church have supported Heifer International with generosity. This year will be no different!

Heifer Sunday is November 7, and on that beautiful fall day our courtyard will be visited by several animals. A large tent will shield us from the crisp fall air and any precipitation, while we can maintain healthy distances outside and enjoy the animals and their delicious by-products.

As we near November 7, we will learn about how Heifer animals help empower people in developing communities around the globe. From improving access to fresh water to raising bees for honey and pollination to ending hunger, Heifer and their partners work within communities to tackle complex topics through animal husbandry and animal products.

How you can help: Everyone at Union is invited to assist in our efforts to again build an ark. An "ark" is \$5,000 in donations collected through Union to benefit Heifer's work. Heifer Sunday co-chairs Heather Collins and Sherry Warren will be sharing more ways in which Heifer can be supported. Mark your calendars so that on the 7th you can meet some furry friends and share our bounty with others. In our live market, you will learn about the ways Heifer works with people internationally, and you can give with cash, check, or credit/debit card (no AMEX). If you can assist with programming, Sunday morning Children's Moments dedicated to Heifer, or by sharing information provided by Heifer at a table in our courtyard barnyard on the 7th, please contact:

Heather

(hblue621@gmail.com; 920-639-8821)

Sherry

(dr.sherrywarren.phd@gmail.com; 785-979-4784)

We Need Readers for Sunday Worship

Changing life circumstances for a number of Union's folks have reduced the number of folks on the "lay reader" list.

Reading in church is a pretty easy way to help out with services. Those on the list are contacted (usually via email) on a "last date read" basis. You sign up to read on a Sunday (or holiday) that fits your schedule. The church office will send you the text for your reading during the week prior to your Sunday so you have time to familiarize yourself with the material. No introductory comments are necessary, you just read the text.

Please volunteer for this easy, yet important, role. Contact Gail Hohenstein at ghohen@aol.com or 920-619-3070 to ask questions and/or get on the list. Thanks!



How You Can Help The Brain Center of Green Bay

Volunteer

Become a volunteer coach or assist with Brain Center activities.

Donate

Due to the continued generosity of the community, we are able to offer our programs free of charge to all.

Connect with us

Like, share, and follow the Brain Center on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and LinkedIn.

Advocate

Share our information with others that might benefit from our programs and services.

For Those Who Served

On Sunday, November 14, we will recognize and honor those who have served our country in the Armed Forces. Our list of veterans includes:



Joe Bethel, James Bowley, Steve Davis,
Phil Enscoe, Bob Fahres, Don Fenlon,
Richard Garber, Cathy Ghoca, Daniel Ghoca,
Bob Haglund, Lon Johnson, Bill Johnson,
Jerry Kalkofen, John Krueger, Vern Lanoue,
Ted Ludolph, Rolf Luloff, Tom Martin,
Tom Peterson, Bob Rose, Bruce Shafer,
John Shier, Mark Smith, Julie Tetzlaff,
Ray Thompson, Ed Tucker, Glen Verstegen,
Jack Whittemore and Jim Wise.

If you are a veteran and are not on this list, please contact the church office (437-9266) with your information including branch of service, rank and years of service. Please plan to be with us in worship as we give thanks for those who have served our country.

George's Secret Elves

This year, we are collecting monetary donations for George's Secret Elves. Your donations will go to help provide lunches for children at home from school during the winter holiday break. It may also help with other projects of George's Secret Elves, such as care baskets for local teens and veterans.

You can send a check to the church office (made out to Union Congregational UCC; George's Secret Elves in the memo) or select George's Secret Elves in the drop-down in the on-line giving area of the church website. We will collect donations from October 17 through November 20.

Union Church Calendar

October 24, 2021—November 30, 2021

October 24 Sunday

New Member Sunday

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

October 26 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir

October 27 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Bonfire & Dinner at
Pastor Bridget's
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets (Zoom)

October 31 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
11:15 a.m. Union Church Financial
Picture (Zoom)

November 2 Tuesday

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

November 3 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets (Zoom)

November 7 Sunday

Heifer Living Gift Market

Fall Back—Daylight Saving Time Ends
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship
in the sanctuary

Dick Lathrop Memorial Celebration

3:30 to 6:00 p.m.
Ashwaubenon Community Center

November 9 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
6:30 p.m. Adult Gay-Straight
Alliance

November 10 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets (Zoom)

November 11 Thursday

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

November 13 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Stock the Box Drive
9:00 a.m. Wreath Decorating

November 14 Sunday

Recognizing Our Veterans

Pledge Sunday

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

November 16 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)
3:30 p.m. Education Ministry (Zoom)
5:00 p.m. Bell Choir

November 17 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. PF & YCA
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets (Zoom)

November 21 Sunday

Memorial Sunday

8:45 a.m. Adult Ed: Pandemic
Canvas Project (Zoom)

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

November 23 Tuesday

5:00 p.m. Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. GIFT Giving Thanks Service
at Old St. Joe's Church at
St. Norbert College

November 24 Wednesday

NO YOUTH GROUPS

November 25 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

November 26 Friday

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

November 28 Sunday

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

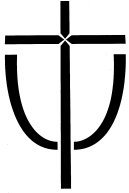
November 30 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)

Dick Lathrop Memorial Celebration Sunday, November 7

3:30 to 6:00 p.m.
Service at 4:00 p.m.
Light Buffet to follow

Ashwaubenon Community Center
900 Anderson Drive,
Ashwaubenon
Please wear a mask.



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

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Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale



We are in the planning stage of our annual Christmas Tree and Wreath sale. Our tree lot will be open for business on Friday, November 19 and will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from then until December 19 or when all trees and wreaths are sold.

We are asking for your help in supporting this fund raiser by purchasing a tree and/or wreath and by volunteering to staff the lot for a 2-hour shift. Lot hours will be the same as last year: Friday (4 to 6 p.m.), Saturday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Sunday (11:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.). See your Friday email from Union for the link to sign up for shifts, or contact the church office.

We will also be asking for volunteers to help decorate the wreaths starting on Saturday, November 13 at 9 a.m. Other than that Saturday, there will not be scheduled times to do the decorating, so we ask you to come at times that are convenient for you during normal office hours. If you have extra ribbons or other items that can be used to decorate the wreaths, please drop them off at the church office during office hours.

We thank you for your past support of this fundraiser and look forward to another successful season selling trees and wreaths.

—Christmas Tree and Wreath Committee

Union Congregational United Church of Christ

716 S. Madison Street
Green Bay, WI 54301
e-mail: office@unionucc.com
(920) 437-9266

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>