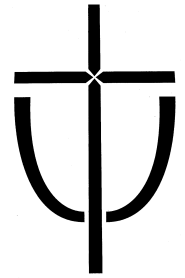


Still Speaking



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

May 2024

125 Years of the Bond of Union

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published
the week of **June 26, 2024.**
The deadline for that newsletter is
Friday, June 21, 2024.*

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In worship on Sunday, May 19, I noted that it was the 125th anniversary of Union Church adopting the Bond of Union. 125 years!

The Bond of Union

Giving our all as we have been given all, we accept the religion of love and service which Jesus lived and taught and declare it our purpose to strive to do the will of God and to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations.

Whenever we pray the Bond of Union together, I'm always impressed by how timeless, or even forward thinking, it seems. It was officially adopted by the congregation on May 9, 1899.

Think of all that has happened in our church, our neighborhood, and in our world since then. Many of you have read "The Maid and the Socialite," the historical true crime novel written by Lynda Drews, set in our church neighborhood in the 1890s and early 1900s. Along with immeasurable classism and misogyny, the novel paints a picture of the rawness of life on streets whose names we know. It's remarkable to think that into that, our forebearers in the faith birthed the Bond of Union.

We accept — this is not something foisted upon us. The Bond of Union doesn't compel us to a brand of religion based on fear. "We" tells us that living a Christ-like life as part of a church is a communal enterprise, and "accept" tells us that taking on Jesus' ways is a choice.

The religion of love and service which Jesus lived and taught — that our church brethren named the core of Christianity as love and service in 1899 is truly remarkable. A full 125 years later, our community still recognizes these as the most compelling aspects of Jesus' life and ministry.

Declare it our purpose — almost 100 years before Steven Covey and the boom of mission and purpose statements of the 1990s, Union was direct and bold in declaring why our church exists.

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

May 26—Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

June 2—2nd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) and
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 or
Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and Psalm 81:1-10
2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

June 9—3rd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20,
(11:14-15) and Psalm 138 or
Genesis 3:8-15 and Psalm 130
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

June 16—4th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13 and Psalm 20 or
Ezekiel 17:22-24 and Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mark 4:26-34

June 23—5th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 and
Psalm 9:9-20 or
1 Samuel 17:57-18:10-16 and Psalm 133
or Job 38:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

June 30—6th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 and Psalm 130 or
Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 or
Lamentations 3:22-23 and Psalm 30
2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

(continued from page 1)

To strive — if declaring our purpose is direct and bold, “to strive” is humble. We’ll work to live the Bond of Union, even while we know we’ll fall short.

To do the will of God — our church exists not to further our individual purposes, nor to build itself up, but with this nebulous, humble, reverential axis. Our true north is doing God’s will.

To make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations — here, we make a sacred promise to put the rest of the Bond of Union into action. In 1899 as today, so much of what is disordered in our world is rooted in the fact that we’re dominated by the wrong things—greed, anger, fear of those who are other. When we strive to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives, things shift. When we work to make that same grace the dominant way our society works, the kingdom comes.

The Homework: (I can give homework in articles, not only in sermons!) Pray with the Bond of Union over the next few weeks. What word or phrase stands out for you? What draws your interest? How might God be encouraging you through this covenant that our church makes together?

**Generosity Corner
Honoring The Bond of Union’s 125th**

The congregation’s giving has been strong this year with more than 52% of the amount pledged to last year’s capital campaign already in hand. However, those of you who were part of the church’s annual meeting in January know that we passed a budget with a deficit of \$57,659. This is largely due to some households who normally pledge to the annual budget pledging exclusively to the Capital Campaign instead.

And so it is with gratitude for what you are already giving that we ask you to prayerfully consider an additional gift to the annual budget—perhaps in an increment that acknowledges the Bond of Union’s anniversary—an additional \$12.50/week, \$125/month, or \$1,250/year, or whatever amount is right for you could go a long way toward filling that gap, while at the same time celebrating the ministry the Bond of Union inspires.

April Attendance

April	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
1st Sunday	83	150
2nd Sunday (Easter in 2023)	106	246
3rd Sunday	94	94
4th Sunday	113	120
5th Sunday	—	95
Totals	396	705
Average	99.0	141.0

Our Church Family

We live the Bond of Union each time we pray with and for our church family. This month, we call on the love, hope, and peace of Christ for these members of our community:

- With.
- For.
- For.

Priscilla Circle Meets May 28

Priscilla Circle will meet on May 28 at 1:00 p.m. in the English Room. Stacie Christian will discuss changes in higher education. Join us!

Gardening News

Greetings Union gardeners! Thanks to the youth groups for doing some planting on their last Wednesday night. We can always use help maintaining the courtyard gardens.

There will not be pre-scheduled workdays this year for the courtyard garden. Instead, please watch your bulletin or Friday email for projects and dates that you can help with.

If you would like to pick an area or project to work on this summer and fall, contact Kathy Seifert at 708-822-1197 or seif904@sbcglobal.net. Please contact Cathy Putnam if you are interested in helping with the new native garden being installed where the Biblical Garden was.

Thanks to all. Happy summer!



Capital Campaign Strength Continues to Build for Faith in Action

Thanks to all who have contributed your resources, time and prayers to our Building for Faith in Action Capital Campaign! Our progress chart outside of the elevator now shows that you have contributed 52% of the \$572,000 pledged. Praise be to God!

Your generosity has already accomplished so much, and has enabled us to sign contracts to replace the west church hall roof and carport roof in the coming month.

Coming soon: Updates about the Mayflower roof and solar project.

Capital Campaign One Year Celebration!

With last year's chicken dinner with all the fixin's still in our minds, let's gather to celebrate the success of the first year of our Capital Campaign - Building for Faith in Action - with yummy apple and cherry pies!

Sunday, June 9
Church Hall
 Immediately following worship.

Building for Faith in Action

Blessing Box Food Drive Sunday, June 2

Thank you for your continuing support of the Blessing Box ministry!

Current needs include:

- Canned Chili or Pasta Meals
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Canned Vegetables
- Paper Towel and Toilet Paper

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, June 2, or on the blue table inside the Mayflower entrance at any time.

Monetary donations are also welcome, and we'll do the shopping! To make a monetary donation, send a check with "Blessing Box" on the memo line, or donate via the church website at www.unionucc.com/giving.



Juneteenth Celebration is June 15

Outreach Ministry invites you to extend our partnership with We All Rise African American Resource Center by supporting the City of Green Bay Juneteenth Celebration. The event is being held Saturday, June 15 (noon to 9 p.m.) at Joannes Park. We All Rise has asked we partner in the following ways:

- Talk about and attend the event with friends and family.
- Help staff Union's table to share Glitter Blessings (like we do for PRIDE), and raise awareness that Union's doors are open to all.
- Sign up for a shift to pick up trash and clean up the park throughout the event.

We All Rise also asks that you pray for God's protection and peace at the event, as we celebrate the end of legalized slavery in the U.S.A.

We need your help! Please indicate on the sign up form in your This Week at Union email when you are available to assist. You can choose multiple shifts. Please sign up to volunteer for Union's table on the sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour.

If you have questions, contact Jammie VerGiesen at jlvergiesen@gmail.com or text/phone (920) 228-1446.



The Birds are With Us and the Wisconsin Conference Supports Us



Three cockspur hawthorns in the Courtyard garden are a bustling social center for many small birds, providing cover and nesting sites. The two hedges on either side of the parking lot arm that goes to Cass Street were a food source for local songbirds and migratory birds.

The birds are with us at Union. I thought they needed a Blessing Box of their own. To that end, Union was awarded a Wild Ones Green Bay grant to rework the west part of the parking lot area as a bird habitat. To ready that strip, the Reese family cleared the invasive hedge on both sides of the parking lot.

An application to the Creation Care group at the WI Conference of the UCC was funded for \$1,000 this May. So we will bring both areas along this summer.

The bird habitat on the west side will have shorter understory berry and nut bearing native shrubs. The 25-foot-wide strip on the east side has capacity for trees. Two to three white oaks and a shagbark hickory are planned for that area along with some understory shrubs. Plant selection is guided by the oak/hickory forest community that existed here in pre-settlement times.

To restore the fungal nature of the soil, we will spread it with arborist provided (free) wood chips and suppress the grass till next spring when planting will begin in earnest. These plans are a response to what can we do in light of climate change and habitat destruction: remove invasives, plant trees and native pollinators, and use the leaf and stick browns nature provides.

These are big projects and our success depends in part on help from the Union community: rock removal, digging, spreading wood chips, potting up some of our smaller purchased plants, native plant donations from your yard, sharing your knowledge and love of nature. I have found that being present outside the walls of the church can be a form of outreach in itself – getting to know the neighbors and the neighborhood.

More info? Cathy Putman at 920-435-1540 or cputman@new.rr.com.

Strengthen the Church Offering is June 9

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and church vitality.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Union Church will receive the STC offering on June 9.

Union Church Welcomed Six New Members on May 19



Kim Gilbert

Kim is a retired RN and recently moved from Sheboygan. She is widowed with two children (both married) and four granddaughters under the age of four. Sadly, only two live in Wisconsin. (Kim thinks she has flown more in the last three years than she did in her first 61 years).

Kim's background is UCC. She was a member of St. John's UCC in Sheboygan with a brief stint at a UCC church in La Crosse during college.

Widowed and with her children grown, Kim reinvented herself with some new hobbies: baking, reading, gardening, canning, knitting and harp lessons. Kim looks forward to meeting new people and finding her way to making a difference.

Carol Tilkens

Carol heard about Union Church from her dear friend, Judy Keneklis. Carol and Judy have been attending services together ever since.

Carol is a widow and a mother of three children; two daughters and a son who has passed. She is so lucky to have a wonderful nephew and three amazing grandsons that live near her home at Crystal Lake.



Rebecca and Paul Miller

Rebecca grew up in Sturgeon Bay and the United Methodist Church. When she and her husband, Paul, moved to Green Bay in 1989, they found another UMC for their family of four.

About a decade ago, they began a search for a new spiritual home. Their search brought them to Union Church. The congregation and leadership warmly welcomed and spiritually challenged them.

Paul and Rebecca have two grown children. Their five grandchildren are the delight of their lives.

Rebecca retired from teaching in 2019, a career she loved. Paul is retired from personal finance. The couple enjoy walking, biking, hiking and playing in and on the water.

Rebecca has enjoyed attending worship, Adult Education, New Member classes, Seminary Secrets and the Christmas Tea. The couple looks forward to continuing their faith journey and meeting more people at Union Church.

(continued on page 6)

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Judy Keneklis

Judy has two sons, one in the Green Bay area and one in Oak Park, Illinois. Judy’s two grandsons are an absolute joy!

Volunteer activities and classes keep Judy busy. She enjoys reading, yoga, mah jongg, concerts and travel.

In the few months that Judy has attended services at Union, she has appreciated the warm welcome from members and she looks forward to becoming involved in the church community.



Clare Ryan

Clare was raised on an Abrams dairy farm until leaving in 1972 for UW-Madison. She finally returned two years ago after her long-term marriage sadly ended.

Clare has been blessed with three amazing, far-flung kids (none married; no grands): Chicago, Richmond and Rio de Janeiro. Before retirement, she was a staff attorney in the state court of appeals and before that, was an RN for 10 years.

Born and raised Catholic, Clare grew restless in that faith. “Take it on faith” quit working for her. Union’s openness to exploring openness struck her deeply.

Clare loves cooking, reading (including roadside historical markers), taking Lifelong Learning classes, poking around yard/estate sales, and baking birthday cakes for Golden House residents. Her mantra: “Learn One New Thing a Day.”

Clare gives thanks for being so warmly welcomed to Union. She thanks those who kindly directed her path. She feels like she has come home.

Who’s Graduating?



We would like to recognize our 2024 graduates in our June newsletter. Please let the church office know (437-9266 or office@unionucc.com) if you will be a 2024 graduate (high school, college) and what type of degree (associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s, doctorate, etc.) you have earned. We would like to say congratulations and give others a chance to do the same!

Imago Dei Ecumenical PRIDE Worship and Meal

Mark your calendar for our 4th annual Imago Dei Picnic, an annual, ecumenical event with a mission to celebrate the dignity of LGBTQIA+ people. This event is open to all – those curious and learning, those who are allies, and those who are the LGBTQIA+ community.

Sunday, June 2 at Ashwaubenon Community Center
2:30 p.m. Worship
Community Meal following the Worship Service

Bring your friends and family! RSVP by emailing imagodeigb@gmail.com, or by using the paper form at Union Central. Union has again been tasked with bringing 6 to 8 side dishes for the event. Sign up at Union Central if you’d like to help in that way.

Union Church Calendar

May 28, 2024—July 15, 2024

May 26 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall

May 27 Monday — Memorial Day

Church Office is Closed

May 28 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

May 30 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Big Read Zoom Session (see your This Week at Union email for the link)

June 2 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall

2:30 p.m. Imago Dei Ecumenical PRIDE Worship and Meal at Ashwaubenon Community Center

June 4 Tuesday

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry

June 5 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group at Denny's on Oneida

June 6 Thursday

6:00 p.m. Sojourner Circle

June 9 Sunday

Strengthen the Church Offering

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online
11:15 a.m. Capital Campaign 1-Year Celebration

June 11 Tuesday

4:00 p.m. Education Ministry
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry

June 13 Thursday

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

June 15 Saturday

12:00 p.m. Juneteenth Celebration at Joannes Park

June 16 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall

June 17 Monday

11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch at the Village Grille

June 20 Thursday

6:00 p.m. Sojourner Circle
7:00 p.m. Big Read Zoom with Rev. Adam Taylor (see your This Week at Union email for the link)

June 23 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Park (no live stream this week)
11:15 a.m. Union's Church Picnic in St. James Park

June 30 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall

July 3 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group at Denny's on Oneida

July 4 Thursday—Independence Day

Church Office is Closed



July 5 Friday

Church Office is Closed

July 7 Sunday

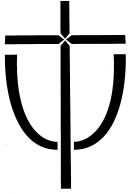
10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall

July 14 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall

July 15 Monday

11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch at the Village Grille



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

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GREEN BAY, WI



Bring a lawnchair or blanket and a dish to pass. Membership Ministry will provide some grilled meat and non-meat mains and bottled water. We will only have a couple of small tents for shade, so bringing a hat or parasol might be a good idea! We'll need LOTS of help for set up and clean up. Plan to arrive at 9 a.m. if you can.

**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>