

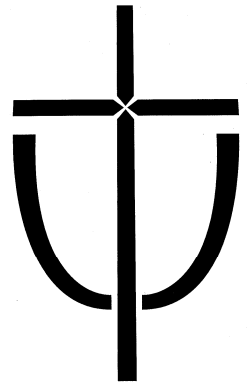
# STILL SPEAKING

*Indeed, the word of God is living and active...*

*-Hebrews 4:12*

*The Lord hath more truth yet to break forth out of His Holy Word.*

*-John Robinson*



**DECEMBER 2011**

## THE INSIDE SCOOP

### **Newsletter Deadline**

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of December 5. The deadline for that newsletter is Friday, December 2, 2011.*

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The events of the past few weeks have been filled with both possibility and surprise. The possibility in the visit of Tony Robinson on the last weekend of October has led us to work to better define and more intentionally put our purpose into practice. Clarity about who we are and what we do as the church of Jesus Christ is increasingly important in a world where, in the words of Tony Robinson, Christendom (the synthesis of church and society) is at an end. Moving from being members of the institutional church to becoming disciples of Jesus is one significant step Robinson offers to us as significant for our future.

The surprise comes in Peggy Feyen’s sudden and stunning resignation as our Associate Minister. Peggy’s resignation has stirred up many strong emotions and responses in the congregation. Some of those emotions and responses are sadness, confusion, hurt, disappointment, mistrust, suspicion, anger and blame. These are all natural responses and come from the heart. Some of the accusation and blame has been addressed to me, to our Moderator Barbara McClure-Lukens and to other church leaders. Last Sunday I asked those who came to an information session to please focus on what we know. Inaccurate information – especially in an emotion-charged situation – is dangerous, and it has already caused some difficulty and hurt in our congregation and for its members.

In this very difficult time I am simply amazed by the faithful dedication of the elected leaders of Union Church. They have all been working very, very hard on these issues and our response as a congregation to them. I also believe that Union Church is blessed with the best Moderator it could possibly have right now in Barbara McClure-Lukens. She has literally given her life over to the needs of Union Church in the days following Peggy’s resignation on November 8. I hope you will share your appreciation with her for all she is doing for us and for our ministry. Next steps with the help of our UCC Northeast Wisconsin Association Minister Art Wille will be shared very soon.

In order to keep our congregation's ministries moving forward, two people are giving us great help and leadership right now. Diane Tugel – a Union Church member and candidate for ordination to the Christian ministry – is helping to coordinate our education ministry and program life. She is spending most of the day on Wednesdays at church. And Pastor Jerry Kuehn – a retired Lutheran pastor and friend of Union Church – is helping with pastoral needs. You can contact Diane at church (437-9266) on Wednesday's. Jerry's phone number is 499-7075. I am grateful to both of them for their willing help in this time.

Friends, we are moving into a very busy season of the church year:

This Sunday we will give God thanks for all the blessings of this life and especially for the blessings of those precious people who have entered life triumphant in the past year as we read their names and light candles in their memory.

On Sunday, November 27, we will begin our preparation for the birth of our Savior with the First Sunday of *Advent*.

On Monday, November 28, the women of our church will gather in that same spirit of preparation for the wonderful annual *Watch for the Light* event in Pilgrim Hall at 6:00 p.m. Please sign up through the church office (437-9266 or [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com)). Join us!

On Wednesday, November 30, we will prepare our sanctuary and church building for Advent and Christmas by *Hanging the Greens*, beginning at 5:45 p.m. with dinner. Join us!

Sunday, December 4 is our annual *Heifer Living Gift Market* Sunday! We will share the Lord's Supper during worship, help the hungry feed themselves through the ministry of Heifer International, and feed ourselves at a **Finger Food Potluck** following our third experience of *Disciples Together!* Please bring a finger food dish (deviled eggs, little sandwiches, veggies, fruit pieces, etc.) to share as we share our abundance with those who have none through the blessing of God's creatures. Join us!

Sunday, December 11 is *Ingathering Sunday* for our financial pledges to support the ministry of Union

Church in 2012. The theme this year is *The Cost and Joy of Discipleship*. In the spirit of Jeff Gibson's sermon on November 13 – *Do You Wanna Go to Florida?* – our Generosity Team is inviting us to consider our monetary commitment not from a perspective of percentage increase, but rather from the perspective of what it means to each of us to be generous. Join us!

Sunday, December 18 is our **Christmas Pageant Sunday!** Co-Directors **Inky Meng and Deb Rose** invite your participation as we tell the story of Jesus' birth together in this beloved annual tradition. Please sign up at Union Central or through the church office (437-9266 or [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com)). Join us!

Saturday, December 24 is **Christmas Eve!** We will worship at 3:00 p.m. in a service that is sensitive to and inclusive of all generations, and at 9:00 p.m. in a traditional service of lessons, carols, Holy Communion and candlelight. Join us!

Sunday, December 25 is **Christmas!** We will worship at 10:00 a.m. There will be no other programming, including *Building Disciples*, on Christmas Day. Join us!

In this busy season it's easy to get lost in the details, especially when our hearts are troubled by Peggy's resignation. In these days, I think that our Purpose Discernment process is even more necessary and urgent. What is our purpose as a congregation of disciples of Jesus? What is our purpose as a part of the body of Christ? Perhaps the answer is profoundly found in the Bond of Union that has gathered this congregation in covenant for 102 years:

*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.*

Practicing Jesus' religion of love and service in our day...striving to do God's will...and making the Christ Spirit dominant in every facet and aspect of our individual and corporate lives: may this focus help us to be filled with all the abundant blessings of God's love...in action...through us. For the love of God, let us be the church! See you in church.

Chuck Mize

## Memorial Sunday November 20

November 20 is Thanksgiving Sunday. On this Sunday when we give thanks for the abundance of God's blessings and that Christ is the King of our lives, we will also give thanks for the lives of those who have died and to whom our church has ministered in the past year. We do this each year on the last Sunday of the Christian Year to remember what has been, to proclaim again that Christ is Lord of both the dead and the living, and to prepare for the beginning of a new church year with the first Sunday in Advent (November 27). The persons for whom we will be giving thanks are:

**Jodi Glasheen, Howard Angell,  
David Vlack, Robin Spears,  
Martha Kuehn, Allison Bush,  
David Wilsman, Chester Stoda,  
Jeffrey Borkovec, Jeanne Skogg  
and Addie Davis.**

## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

This year's interfaith Thanksgiving Service, sponsored by GIFT – Gathered In Faith Together – will be held at Union Church on Tuesday, November 22 at 7 p.m. An interfaith choir led by our own **Courtney Sherman** will sing...**Ray Thompson** will lead worship at the organ...and **Fr. James Nielson** from St. Norbert College will be bringing the message. A monetary offering for St. John's Homeless Shelter will be received. GIFT is a community of religious leaders gathered from downtown congregations. Join us as we give God thanks and praise together!

—Chuck Mize

## Heifer Living Gift Market Sunday, December 4, 2011 following worship

I could repeat the slogans posted on the Heifer website or splashed about the pages of their publications to solicit your help again this year for Union's Living Gift Market fund raising. But you can read those yourself.



No, what I'd like to do is share with you some of my own musings. As I prepare to coordinate our efforts at Union for another year, I read and reread the Heifer news articles and thought about what Heifer's work means to me.

I've learned about communities of women becoming empowered by the gifts of Heifer that have helped them work in cooperation to provide food, education and a future livelihood for their families. Other stories tell of villagers living with the shame and stigma of poverty. Through the resources and training provided by Heifer International, they now prosper. And during their transformation, they found a dignity and respect not only for themselves, but for others with whom they share the results of their success and resources.

There are so many more, and when I learn of each story I am reminded that Heifer International's work is a way I can pass on the love that has been so lavishly given to me. Love you ask? Yes, love! I looked it up just to be sure. The first definition listed for charity: "benevolent goodwill toward or love of humanity." That seems familiar, doesn't it? "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. (I Corinthians 13:13, KJV). Or more familiarly, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (I Corinthians 13:13, NRSV)

A faith that we can make a difference, a hope that someday indignities and oppressions will be overcome, and a love that will bring peace to humanity.

—Elizabeth Delvaux

## Timeline: Union's Purpose Discernment Team

- Summer 2011: Common Ministry, Purpose Team and congregation read Changing the Conversation.
- Weekend with the Rev. Tony Robinson, October 28-30.
- Six "share your thoughts" small group sessions offered during the week following Tony's visit.
- Purpose Team draws on the response from the congregation to draft a purpose statement.
- December 13: Purpose Team to present draft purpose statement for approval by Common Ministry.
- Annual Meeting, January 29, 2012: Purpose statement to be presented to the congregation.
- March 13: Purpose Team to present draft priorities for approval by Common Ministry.
- Easter 2012: Priorities to be presented to the congregation.
- Purpose and priorities statements will then guide decision-making.

—Barbara McClure-Lukens, moderator

## Get Ready to Cook



Union Church will be preparing and serving meals at St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter this winter. Our first date is **Thursday, Dec. 8**. We will need volunteers to cook, transport food, serve, prepare leftovers and clean up. There is a sign-up sheet at Union Central.

- Cook at Union Church (3-5 p.m.)
- Clean up, transport food (5-5:30 p.m.)
- Serve, prepare leftovers and clean up (5:30-7:45 p.m.)

Our first meal will be the traditional taco meal, but we are open to a different menu or service on a different day in future months if there is interest in the congregation for alternatives. Thanks for your help.

For more information, please contact Cathy Putman (435-1540 or [cputman@new.rr.com](mailto:cputman@new.rr.com)).

—Outreach Ministry

## Altar Flowers

Please consider providing flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special event. Below are dates available for you to provide flowers:



**Dec. 4 or Dec. 11**

Please call the church office at 437-9266 or sign up on the board next to the office if you would like to provide altar flowers for one of these Sundays. Thank you.



## EPH Success Story

What comes to mind when you think of your house? To we who have owned a home for a time, it's things like mortgage payments, chores, upkeep.

But what does a homeless person think when they consider a house? They probably think that it's an impossible dream, something they never will get.

Well for one formerly homeless family, this dream has come true. On October 27, Tracy and her son received the keys to their new Habitat house that they will be moving into shortly. Their journey from homelessness began several years ago just outside our church walls. They were accepted into the Salvation Army Transitional Housing program and were placed in Jubilee House where they stayed for over two years. Tracy had to overcome a lot to get where she is today and learn new skills and habits. But we gave her a place to do that, and she has gone on to achieve something that a few short years ago she would never have thought possible.

What does owning a house mean to her—well you should have been at the dedication because I can't do justice to what she said and how much it means to her. She is very thankful to everyone that made her dream come true and that includes us.

—Jeff Carels

## Common Ministry Open Forum

Common Ministry welcomes visits from congregation members wishing to share their views with us. We allot 15 minutes at the beginning of the meeting for the forum, and we meet the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel Classroom. The date of the next meeting is December 13.

As our congregation engages in critical issues and changes in the coming year, Common Ministry needs to hear from you. Please join our monthly meeting, either at the forum or as an observer, or talk individually with a Common Ministry member. Thank you.

—Barbara McClure-Lukens, Moderator



## Christmas Pageant December 18, 2011

Sign-up sheets are available at Union Central!  
Please decide how you would like to participate.

**Rehearsal and costume fitting will be  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Saturday, December 17.**

9:30 – Light and sound, and readers rehearse  
10:00 – 3rd grade through adult – costume fitting  
10:30 – Rehearsal for 3rd grade through adult  
10:30 – 2 year through 2nd grade – costume fitting  
11:00 – Full rehearsal

### **Sunday, December 18**

8:15 – Scribe, Guards, Angels arrive to get dressed  
8:30 – Brief rehearsal in sanctuary  
9:15 – Rest of participants dress for the pageant



## **"Watch for the Light" Women's Advent Event**

Come and prepare your spirit for the celebration of our Savior's birth.

**Where:** Pilgrim Hall

**When:** Monday, November 28

(doors open at 6:00 p.m.; program begins at 6:30 p.m.)

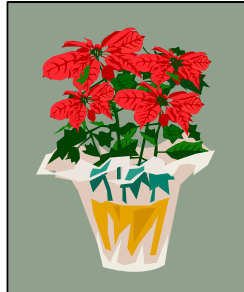


Dessert and fellowship to follow. Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 23 to Union Central or by calling the church office at 437-9266.

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# Our Church Family

## Christmas Altar



Please join us in preparing our altar for the Christmas season. The altar committee will be purchasing poinsettias by **December 13**. The average cost of each poinsettia will be \$20.00. If you wish to contribute, please fill out the order form below and mail to the church or leave your donation at the church office, and indicate any necessary information for the bulletin.

### Poinsettia Contribution

I/we would like to contribute for poinsettias

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

### Dedication for the Bulletin

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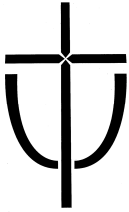
Please return this form to the church office. Thank you!

# November 20, 2011 to December 25, 2011

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m. Handbell Rehearsal      10:00 a.m. Worship  
 9:00 a.m. Building Disciples      10:20 a.m. Church School (4-year-olds through 2nd grade)  
 Fellowship and refreshments following Worship; Nursery care provided: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
<b>Acronyms</b> found within this table  <b>LIR</b> Learning in Retirement  <b>GSA</b> Gay-Straight Alliance					<b>Memorial Sunday</b> <sup>20</sup>  After worship <b>JOSHUA</b> Union's Core Team meets
<b>21</b>  <b>21</b>	1 p.m. <b>Bible Study</b> <b>22</b>  3 p.m. LIR Choir  6:30 p.m. <b>Band Rehearsal</b>  7:00 p.m. <b>Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>NO YOUTH PROGRAMS</b>  <b>NO "7:16 at 716"</b>	<b>24</b>  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	<b>25</b>  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<b>26</b>  <b>27</b>
6:00 p.m. <b>28</b> <b>Women's Advent Event</b> <b>Watch for the Light</b>	1:00 p.m. <b>29</b> <b>Bible Study</b>  3 p.m. LIR Choir  6:30 p.m. <b>Band Rehearsal</b>	5:45 p.m. <b>Dinner</b> <b>30</b>  6:15 p.m. <b>Hanging of the Greens</b>  <b>"7:16 at 716"</b>	<b>1</b>  7:00 p.m. <b>Chancel Choir</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>4</b>  <b>Heifer</b> <b>Living Gift Market</b>
<b>5</b>	1:00 p.m. <b>Bible Study</b> <b>6</b>  5:15 p.m. <b>Education Ministry</b>  5:30 p.m. <b>Inreach, New Member</b> <b>Outreach &amp; Worship</b> <b>Ministries</b>  6:30 p.m. <b>Band Rehearsal</b>	7:00 a.m. <b>7</b> <b>Men's Breakfast Group</b>  5:45 p.m. <b>Dinner</b>  6:15 p.m. <b>Youth Fellowship</b>  <b>"7:16 at 716"</b>	<b>8</b>  3:00 p.m. <b>Cooking for St. John's</b> <b>Homeless Shelter</b>  6:30 p.m. <b>Anna Fellowship</b>  7:00 p.m. <b>Chancel Choir</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  <b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	9:30 a.m. <b>13</b> <b>Memorial Garden Trustees</b>  1 p.m. <b>Bible Study</b>  5:30 p.m. <b>Stewardship Ministry</b>  6:00 p.m. Adult GSA  6:30 p.m. <b>Common Ministry</b>  6:30 p.m. <b>Band Rehearsal</b>	<b>14</b>  5:45 p.m. <b>Dinner</b>  6:15 p.m. <b>Youth Fellowship</b>  <b>"7:16 at 716"</b>	<b>15</b>  7:00 p.m. <b>Chancel Choir</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  Morning <b>Christmas Pageant</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> (please see page 5 for details)  <b>18</b>  <b>Christmas Pageant</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  1 p.m. <b>Bible Study</b>  6:30 p.m. <b>Band Rehearsal</b>	<b>21</b>  1:00 p.m. <b>Prayer Shawl</b>  5:45 p.m. <b>Dinner</b>  6:15 p.m. <b>Prayer Shawl</b>  6:15 p.m. <b>Youth Fellowship</b>  <b>"7:16 at 716"</b>	<b>22</b>  7:00 p.m. <b>Chancel Choir</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  3:00 p.m. <b>Family Worship</b>  9:00 p.m. <b>Candlelight Worship</b> <b>with Holy Communion</b>  <b>25</b>  10:00 a.m. <b>Worship in the sanctuary</b>



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

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GREEN BAY, WI

# Christmas Eve



- 3:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve for all ages  
with an emphasis on our children
- 8:40 p.m.** The Music of Christmas
- 9:00 p.m.** Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship  
with Holy Communion

Join us...and invite your friends...as we celebrate the joy  
of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

## **Union Congregational United Church of Christ**

716 S. Madison Street  
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**Charles E. Mize**  
Senior Minister

**Diane L. Tugel**  
Interim Education and Program Director

**Jerry L. Kuehn**  
Interim Pastoral Assistant

**Barbara McClure-Lukens**  
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>