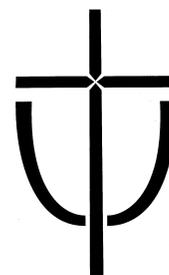




Still Speaking



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

Spring Forward!
Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 13

February 2022

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published
the week of **March 9, 2022.**
The deadline for that newsletter is
Friday, **March 4, 2022.***

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One of the things that I've missed amidst COVID is the Black History Month exhibit that Sharon Harper has traditionally constructed here at Union. It's a labor of love on her behalf, as she seeks to share Black history, culture, and experience. She loves to draw people into the beauty and the power of her community, and she isn't afraid to also share their struggles and pain.

When the Omicron variant surge led our church leaders to dial back in-person experiences at Union this month, this was one of the offerings I was saddest to see canceled.

I was saddened in particular because, as a congregation made up of predominantly of white people, we've got a lot of work to do.

After our Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend service, Union's Worship Ministry talked about the dynamic of cultural appropriation. When is using songs, speeches, and prayers born of another culture appropriation, and when is it appropriate? Kwame Anthony Appiah, who writes the Ethicist column in the New York Times, suggests that using ideas from other cultures reverently and respectfully is not inappropriate, and can, indeed, bridge divides.

Those on the Worship Ministry Zoom were confident that Union singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and proclaiming part of Rev. Dr. King's "The American Dream" were done reverently, prayerfully, and with an eye toward aligning ourselves with King's work and legacy.

Worship Ministry did note, however, that even if a predominantly white church's use of songs and writings from black creators is done reverently, there is still the underlying dynamic that all too often, dominant groups have profited from the use of that material, providing no compensation to those from oppressed cultures.

With that in mind, while Worship Ministry plans to continue to encourage Union to pray with "We Shall Overcome" and "Glory, Glory Hallelujah" and other source material from the Black community respectfully and reverently, with an eye, as I said in my January 16 sermon, toward confession as well as providing a common language, we also intend to

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

February 20

7th Sunday after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
 Luke 6:27-38

February 27

Transfiguration

Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalm 99
 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
 Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

March 2

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

March 6

First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
 Romans 10:8b-13
 Luke 4:1-13

March 13

Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
 Psalm 27
 Philippians 3:17-4:1
 Luke 13:31-35 or
 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

March 20

Third Sunday in Lent

Isiah 55:1-9
 Psalm 63:1-8
 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Luke 13:1-9

(continued from page 1)

encourage an offering next MLK weekend toward which the Union community can donate to our partner organizations in systemically oppressed communities in honor of and in gratitude for these powerful works of prayer.

If this glimpse into how our church continues to strive to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives by working collectively to be anti-racist is interesting to you, you may also be interested in an offering that I'm working on with the Wisconsin Conference UCC Racial Justice Task Force. On Wednesday, February 23 from noon to 1:30 p.m., we will be hosting a Zoom conversation called "White Christians Doing Our Work." This first session will be about what whiteness is, and will include facilitators sharing their anti-racism journeys as well as time for participants to discuss their experiences. The Racial Justice Task Force understands that the lunch hour isn't convenient for all, and so has plans in the works that future sessions will be offered both at noon and again in the evening - watch your This Week at Union emails for details. If you would like information on how to register for the February 23 Zoom, contact the church office or visit the WI Conference UCC Facebook page.

Friends, there's a lot of anti-racism work to be done, there's no denying. AND deep in my heart, I do believe, that we shall overcome. Someday.

May it be so!

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

Our Church Family

Since our last newsletter, our church family has experienced tremendous joys and deep sorrows. We invite you to hold our community members in your prayers, and to reach out with love and support for:

A card or call is always deeply appreciated amidst the joys and struggles of life. Contact the church office if you need a fellow member's address or phone number.

Lent is Almost Upon Us! Ash Wednesday is March 2

Our Ash Wednesday service will be available online in our usual formats **starting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2.** 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 scented oil or even olive oil will do).

One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering is March 27

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.

February Sunday Adult Education 8:45 to 9:35 a.m. via Zoom

"The American Flag and Church Sanctuaries: The Controversy" February 20

Have you ever noticed the American flag in our sanctuary? Have you ever wondered why it's there? What's your opinion on its presence?

On February 20, our own Professor Michael Lukens, church historian, will educate us about the history of flags placed in worship spaces and lead a discussion about the continuing controversy of doing so.

VENUE: Zoom. Check your Friday email for the link.

DATE & TIME: February 20 from 8:45 to 9:35 a.m.

PREP: Dr. Lukens has prepared a Q&A sheet with background facts that he asks attendees to read prior to the session. You can access it through your Friday email.

"What's Your Love Language?" February 27

Do you speak your partner's/child's/close friend's Love Language? If you don't, you may be certain that you love them, but they might not be "feeling the love." The result? A relationship that isn't as robust as it might be.

Over thirty years ago, through his experience with pastoral counseling, Dr. Gary Chapman first identified five primary ways of expressing love. Since then, his "Five Love Languages" have become a household word. Have you identified your primary Love Language? More important, do you know which Language is the primary one for your dear ones?

On February 27, we'll watch video clips of interviews with Dr. Chapman, as he explains and expands on the Languages; then we'll allow time for everyone to go to the Love Languages website, so you can take the quiz to discover your own love Language. After that, you'll be invited to share your suggestions with the group for how to optimize the Love Languages approach. For example, what do you do when your primary Language is "acts of service," but your partner's is "words of affirmation"?

VENUE: Zoom. Check your Friday email for the link.

DATE & TIME: February 27 from 8:45 to 9:35 a.m.

PREP: None, but if you want to take the quiz ahead of time, go to www.5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/love-language.



Blessing Box Update

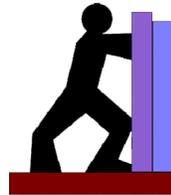
In lieu of a February Stock the Box Drive, the Blessing Box Team is encouraging you to drop off donations whenever you visit Union Church, or to make a monetary donation, visit the church website and click on the "Giving" tab.

Our current needs include:

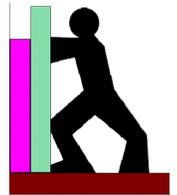
- Canned Meals: Chili, Spaghetti or Ravioli
- Canned Soups
- Pouch Chicken or Tuna
- Ramen Noodle Packs
- Swiss Miss Cocoa Packets
- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Facial Tissue
- Shampoo, Toothpaste

**Our next Stock the Box drive
is Saturday, March 12
from 9 a.m. to noon**

Thank you for supporting this important neighborhood ministry!



Your Church Library Contextual Theology and Reevaluating Prototypes Part 2 by Cathy Putman



Continuing from December's discussion of Native theologian Richard Twiss's book "Rescuing the Gospel from the Cowboys" and how prototypes shape our understanding of what feels "right" within the practices of Christianity.

Prototypes in the Western Protestant church include hymnody, sanctuary architecture, spoken prayer, and limited movement. Union embodies most if not all of these every week based as much on tradition as whether these prototypes speak to the stories and habits of the congregation.

Twiss's book, "Rescuing the Gospel from the Cowboys" is an interesting case for contextual theology as it relates to Native Christians. He shows how Native tribes have moved beyond social and religious attempts to erase Native culture with strict conformance to Western styles of worship. Many, though not all, Native churches now infuse Christian observance with Native cultural practices.

Ojibwe scholar David Treuer in "The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee" offers interesting history for this change. From the 1950s onward, many Natives left reservations for city dwelling. There, tribal members intermarried and a national network of Native relations and friends grew.

The 1970s activism of the American Indian Movement (AIM) put Native issues on the legal map. Changes in the recognized sovereignty of Native tribes in the 1980s gave rise to Native casinos. Casinos paid for tribal schools, museums, and powwows with cash awards. By the 1990s, tribes had enough of an economic cushion to augment traditional survival practices of fishing, ricing, berrying and basket making with a renewed emphasis on tribal culture and languages. Culture and stories (not blood quantity) became the prime movers of what it meant to be Indian.

According to Twiss, a series of national intertribal meetings called Many Nations One Voice (MN1V) integrated tribal culture into Christian church practices. From 1996 onward, MN1V participants adopted sweat lodge rituals, burning sage or sweet grass as part of prayer, dance ceremonies and powwows as a new kind of Native Christianity. Traditional Native singing and drumming formed a healing place, not unlike how simply being in the sanctuary can offer balm for Western Christians. Because spirituality for Natives is intertwined with daily life, even in commercial powwows, dancers and drummers brought their spiritual desire to heal to the performance.

A challenge for churches like Union is to discover whether our practices have been responsive to changes in membership who come with different stories, habits and meaningful practices.

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

Happy reading!

Wednesday's Seminary Secrets

6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom with Julie Harder

"The Bible Under Fire"

Julie Harder will share one of her favorite videos: "The Bible Under Fire." This fascinating documentary describes the furor that occurred in the 1940s-50s when a group of American scholars undertook a new translation of the Bible—*The Revised Standard Version*, precursor to *The New Revised Standard Version* we use at Union. The scholars were accused of changing God's word, denying the virgin birth, and even publishing a communist Bible! (The red cover didn't help.) Book burnings of the RSV were held, and some translators received death threats! *Who knew biblical scholarship could be that thrilling?*

Come, learn about the tremendous task it is to produce a quality translation (which most of us take for granted). We'll discuss the film and consider how people can become entrenched in their ways of interpreting the Bible.

DATE: Wednesday, February 23

PREP: None needed

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

"On the Letter of James"

Advice for living: that may be the quickest way to sum up the Letter of James. This New Testament book is rarely studied, which is unfortunate since it contains a variety of instructions. Topics include listening, anger, showing one's faith through good deeds, respecting the poor and more. I've always enjoyed James, especially the parts that remind me to watch my tongue!

The author is unknown, but some scholars have concluded that he was actually James, Jesus' own brother, who was the leader of the early Jesus movement in Jerusalem after the crucifixion. If true, then the advice in the letter becomes more interesting, since it may have been influenced by a relationship with Jesus himself.

The plan for this series is to read James chunk by chunk, with plenty of time for participants to consider and react to his exhortations. Which guidance rings true? Is some outdated ... or even wrong? As usual with Seminary Secrets, we use our brains to "converse" with the Bible, rather than placidly agreeing with everything it says.

DATES: Wednesdays, March 9, 23, 30, April 6 (no class on March 16)

PREP: Short readings to be completed prior to each class

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



**EPH, JOSHUA
and Others**

Give BIG Green Bay

EPH and JOSHUA will be part of Give BIG Green Bay. Your donations through Give BIG Green Bay are matched by groups like the Packers.

Donations to JOSHUA will help fund election voter engagement, panel discussions, postcard campaigns, bus transportation to visit legislators, social change rallies, and staff training. Donations to EPH will fund case management, diapers, transportation, and basic supplies for families.

Give BIG Green Bay will also feature other organizations that Union often partners with, including Casa ALBA Melanie, CASA of Brown County, COMSA, Howe Community Resource Center, NEW Community Shelter, and We All Rise African American Resource Center.

Give BIG Green Bay runs from noon February 23 until noon February 24. Find more information at www.givebiggreenbay.org.

Give BIG Green Bay has raised more than \$5.5 million over the past four years to support our community.

Union Church Calendar

February 20, 2022—March 31, 2022

February 20 Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. Adult Ed: "American Flag Controversy" (Zoom)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Resuming In-Person Ministry (Zoom)

February 22 Tuesday

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

February 23 Wednesday

- 12:00 p.m. Give BIG Green Bay Begins
- 12:00 p.m. WI Conference Racial Justice Task Force: "White Christians Doing Our Work" (Zoom)
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Groups (location TBD)
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets: "The Bible Under Fire" (Zoom)

February 24 Thursday

- 12:00 p.m. Give BIG Green Bay Ends
-

February 27 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 8:45 a.m. Adult Ed: "What's Your Love Language?" (Zoom)
- 10:00 a.m. Worship

March 1 Tuesday

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

March 2 Ash Wednesday

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

March 6 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
- 11:00 a.m. Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)

March 8 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)
- 2:00 p.m. Education Ministry (Zoom)
- 5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry (Zoom)
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Gay-Straight Alliance

March 9 Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Youth Groups
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets "The Book of James" (Zoom)

March 10 Thursday

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

March 12 Saturday

- 9:00 a.m. Stock the Box Drive
-

March 13 Sunday

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

March 15 Tuesday

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

March 16 Wednesday

- 5:30 p.m. Get to Know Union (Zoom)
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Groups (Zoom)

March 20 Sunday

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

March 22 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir (rehearsal)

March 23 Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Youth Groups
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets: "The Book of James" (Zoom)

March 24 Thursday

- 6:00 p.m. Get to Know Union (Zoom)
-

March 27 Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing

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

March 29 Tuesday

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

March 30 Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Youth Groups
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets: "The Book of James" (Zoom)

Having Trouble Accessing Union's Worship and Other Online Offerings?

Contact the church office if you're unsure of how to watch our services online or of how to participate in a class or meeting via Zoom, and we'll work to line you up with a church member who can help!



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

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Interested in Exploring Membership in 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 host two Zoom sessions to help people get to know Union Church, our community, and each other on Wednesday, March 16 at 5:30 p.m. and on Thursday, March 24 at 6 p.m. It is helpful to participate in both sessions, but we can make arrangements for those who can only come to one.

Please contact the church office at office@unionucc.com or 920-437-9266 to register and receive the Zoom link.



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>