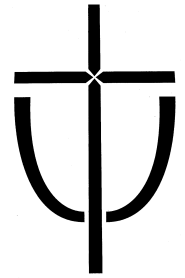


Still Speaking



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

March 2022

Our Blessing Box is a Blessing!

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

Our next newsletter will be published the week of April 6. The deadline for that newsletter is Friday, April 1, 2022.

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Our Blessing Box continues to surprise and inspire me, and I hope it does you as well.

Last weekend, I noticed a gently-loved teddy bear squished into it. Perhaps she'll get a new someone to love her.

My most recent offerings were the boxes of Girl Scout cookies we bought. We don't need those in our kitchen, but I hope they can bring a little sweetness to another household.

Throughout the course of each month, I hear lots of stories about the Blessing Box, and hear lots of questions, too. To give you a picture of what the Blessing Box does and how it operates, I thought I'd share some vignettes.

James is a neighborhood resident who has seen our Saturday food drive signs. He has never needed any sort of assistance before, but recently started a new job, and won't get a paycheck for two weeks. He stops by every night and picks up one package of noodles and a can of vegetables.

Agnes walked up to the box as it was being filled by one of our volunteers. The volunteer struck up a conversation with her, asking if there was anything in particular that we're not stocking that could be helpful. Agnes got teary and shared that her partner had died of COVID a couple of months back, and their already tight household income had now been cut in half. She says that what we're stocking is just right for her, and to tell the church how grateful she is.

Amanda drives up to the box tentatively. She takes a long time getting out of her car, which looks like she might be living in it, maybe even with a kid or two. She picks through the shelves, apparently looking for pre-cooked items and cans with pop-tops. She may not have a kitchen. She takes a hearty grocery bag full.

Jackie and Bob are Union members. They're so glad to see Union responding to the needs of people in our community that they write a monthly check to support the Blessing Box.

Mary, Jean, Marty, Claudia, Bruce and Joni are Union members who volunteer to stock the box 3 times each week. The restock team organizes items donated to the Blessing Box, and purchases additional items to ensure there is sufficient supply on hand for each re-stock. In order to wisely steward the congregation's financial donations, Blessing Box purchases are based on the team's knowledge of items that are most consistently utilized by those we serve.

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings**March 20 — 3rd Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 27 — 4th Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

April 3 — 5th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

April 10 — Palm Sunday

(Liturgy of the Palms)

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

(Liturgy of the Passion)

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

April 14 — Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 15 — Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22;

Hebrews 10:16-25 or

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9;

John 18:1-19:42

April 16 — Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14 or

Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8

Matthew 27:57-66 or

John 19:38-42

April 17 — Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

(continued from page 1)

George is a regular. A couple of times a week, he can be found filling up a bag or two, also with items that don't need a kitchen to prepare. Those who stock the box have wondered if he's bringing items to others who are also hungry.

Dick and Jane seem to know our restock schedule, as they often arrive each time the box is filled. Their tendency to take all of the paper products and cleaning supplies has led us to have some conversations with them, about making sure there are "blessings" available for others as well. However, we also realize we don't have direct knowledge of their challenges or circumstances.

Andre is a neighbor who walks his dog past the Blessing Box. Each time he goes to the grocery store, he picks up a couple of items on sale and puts them in the box. He remembers how humbling it was when he would accompany his mom to a food pantry when he was a child, and appreciates both the dignity which is afforded by the Blessing Box's anonymity as well as that someone in need can access these resources immediately. He's noticed that the box often seems to be cleared out by afternoon on Saturdays, and so he tries to drop off his offerings then, to fill the gap until our volunteers stock again.

I hope these vignettes give you a snapshot of the Blessing Box, how it operates and how it is truly being a blessing and serving a need. By and large, this humble undertaking has had tremendous impact. Not a week goes by that someone doesn't tell me a story of how grateful they are for this simple ministry.

Outreach Ministry and the restocking team know that an open shelving unit restocked three times a week is not a perfect system. We know that there may be people who abuse our generosity. From time to time we have to repair the box because of vandalism, or clean up donations that have been scattered on the ground. And while Outreach Ministry continues to discuss these issues monthly, we remain committed to being an expression of grace. Sometimes grace is messy. Sometimes grace isn't utilized in the way that the giver would envision. Sometimes it is even taken advantage of. And, we also know that grace, freely given, can be transformative - both to the receiver and to the giver.

So thank you, and may blessings abound.

Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

Coffee Hour Update

Are you missing the weekly coffee hour?

With great anticipation, we are hoping to begin enjoying fellowship over a cup of coffee and a sweet treat in the near future. In order to be prepared for the potential to enjoy this fellowship, we need people to sign up to host this wonderful tradition (set up, prepare coffee, arrange trays of treats, and clean up). It is best for scheduling if two or three take the same weekend each month. In addition to hosts, we need volunteers to sign up for bringing treats to share. This can be done once, twice, or on a monthly rotation, whichever you prefer.

Please contact Traci Briggs at 920-264-4165 (voice message or text) or email her at honeybugs619@sbcglobal.net to sign up or with any questions.

Holy Week with Union Church

Worship will be accessible via Facebook Live
on the Union Congregational United Church of Christ page
or on our YouTube channel which can be accessed from www.unionucc.com.

Palm Sunday—April 10

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:55 a.m. Children gather for Palm Procession
10:00 a.m. Worship



Maundy Thursday—April 14

7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion



Good Friday—April 15

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Worship in the Shadows

Easter Sunday—April 17

10:00 a.m. Joyful Easter Worship

No Faith Formation, No Adult Education on Easter Sunday



One Great Hour Of Sharing/Ukraine 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.

We will also be gathering offerings for the UCC's disaster and refugee assistance to those affected by the Russian war on Ukraine. Offerings can be made through the end of April by noting "OGHS" or "Ukraine" on your check or envelope.



Stock the Box

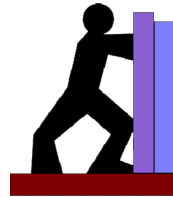
Our next Food Drive is April 9. Your donations are welcome and appreciated! If you are not able to participate in the drive, you are welcome to drop off donations whenever you visit Union Church. To make a monetary donation, visit the church website and click on the "Giving" tab.

Our current needs include:

- Canned Meals: Chili, Spaghetti or Ravioli
- Canned Soups
- Canned Corn, Green Beans, Peas
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Facial Tissue
- Shampoo, Deodorant, Toothpaste

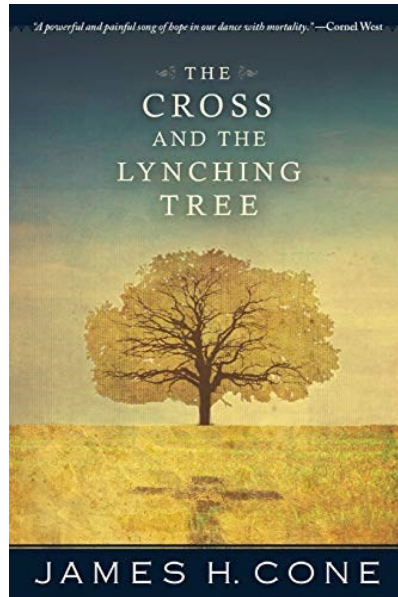
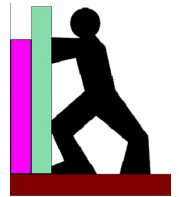
Our next Stock the Box drive is Saturday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to noon

Thank you for supporting this important neighborhood ministry!



Your Church Library Church Historian Addresses the Black Church's Justice Ethic

by Cathy Putman



A few years ago the theological book group that I attend was reading James H. Cone's The Cross and the Lynching Tree. One of the members asked "what was the church doing during the years when lynchings were frequent occurrences in the South?"

I struggled to answer that question using resources in our church library. A 1965 history of American Christianity did profile Martin Luther King, Jr. and we had on our shelves Cone's 1970 groundbreaker, A Black Theology of Liberation. In part that was Cone's point. White churches which perceived themselves as progressive turned a blind eye to Jim Crow and there was very little in the historical record about what Black churches were doing.

Theologian and historian Gary Dorrien has filled the gap with two books about the Black Social Gospel: The New Abolition: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Black Social Gospel and Breaking White Supremacy: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Black Social Gospel.

Lesser known than its white counterpart, the Black Social Gospel movement combined a justice ethic with political reform of social structures. Many of the leaders from the 1880s onward were not church people – Booker T. Washington, Du Bois, and Ida B. Wells-Barnett. Still, Black churches were a bulwark for the movement as a gathering place, an educational forum and a shelter from the indignities of everyday life, and Black clergy pushed for a modernized theology that took up social issues.

The politics of the civil rights movement after 1955 was a continuation of the work of earlier Black reformers, though the white church took notice of King because he explicitly framed the reform work as God's work, building the beloved community. After King's assassination, the movement segued to Black Power which opened the door for Cone's theology rooted in Blackness.

As we continue to address white supremacy, Dorrien's books can be helpful. And if you read nothing else, The Cross and the Lynching Tree is a powerful corrective.

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

Happy reading!

Killoran Scholarship Fund

Thanks to Bernie and Sally Killoran, a wonderful gift is available to the youth of the church. The Killoran Scholarship provides up to \$1,500 scholarships renewable for four years of undergraduate study.

If you are a high school senior or graduate and a member of Union Church, you are eligible to apply. Applicants must enroll in a full-time undergraduate program at Lakeland University, Northland College, or any four-year school in the University of Wisconsin system.

If interested in applying, contact the church office for an application. Applications must be received by May 20.

Questions? Please contact scholarship committee chair, Sandy Polarek at smpolarek@aol.com.

Seminary Secrets Miniseries: "On the Letter of James"

Leader: Julie Harder: jblackharder@gmail.com or 920-465-0752

The plan for this series is to read James chunk by chunk, with plenty of time for participants to consider and react to James' exhortations. As usual, we use our brains to "converse" with the Bible, rather than placidly agreeing with everything it says.

VENUE: Zoom. Contact Julie for the link.

DATES/TIME: Weds., March 23, 30; April 6, 13; 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

PREP: Short readings to be completed prior to each class.

TO SIGN UP: Contact Julie. She will email the readings to you.

Spring is in the Air

Garden Coordinator

After several years of coordinating our gardening efforts, Jone Wood has decided to move on from that position. We are deeply grateful for her efforts, and now are looking for someone to take on the responsibilities she had.

In particular, the Garden Coordinator organizes volunteers to plant colorful annuals around the church grounds, helps to direct volunteers in regards to things like weeding, mulching, and pruning, and serves as a general consultant regarding all things that grow. Contact Pastor Bridget or Clay Reese, Stewardship Ministry chair, to hear more.

Spring Bulb Fundraiser

Our Spring Bulb Fundraiser is back! We are again partnering with Three Rivers Wreath & Plant Co. to offer a unique variety of bulbs, bare roots, and tubers to help our budget. Union earns 50% profit from every sale! Simply purchase items online through the link below **before April 25**, and your order will be shipped directly to you in early May.

[https://threeriversfundraising.com/fundraiser/
ucucc-sp22](https://threeriversfundraising.com/fundraiser/ucucc-sp22)

Our experience last year was wonderful, but selection does dwindle if you drag your feet.

Our Church Family

The prayers we lift up this month mirror the cycles of faith: life, death, and new life.



Looking for an informative and interesting way to spend a few hours? Check out HerStory at the Neville Public Museum.

According to the museum: "HerStory explores the changing roles and experiences of women in work, politics and their community through photographs, stories, and artifacts. Seventeen contemporary women were interviewed, their stories recorded, and personal artifacts loaned for this exhibition while fifteen additional female stories and artifacts demonstrate change within time from 1900 to present."


One of those 17 contemporary women is our own Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels. In 2015, Bridget became Union Church's first female senior minister.

Pastor Bridget wrote about her museum inclusion in a Friday email to the congregation: "And while I will admit that I'm rather proud to be featured in this way, I also write to you, the people of Union, to acknowledge your role in this honor. From its inception, the people of Union have charted a bold course for how we understand we are called to make God's love tangible in Brown County."

HerStory will remain open through November 6.

"One of the things that's been most important to me in my ministry and one of the things that I think I really mirror from the gospels is justice and inclusion. It's something that's been really important to the ministry that I've done both as a lay person and now that I've been ordained."

Reverend Bridget Flad Daniels is the Senior Pastor at Union Congregational Church in Green Bay. Growing up in Fredonia, WI, Reverend Bridget's family health struggles and formative experiences developed her relationship with God. She went on to study philosophy at St. Norbert College.



Easter Flowers

Contributions for the Easter altar can be sent to the church office along with this form. Cost of a lily or other spring flower is \$20.

Please send your contribution by Friday, April 8.
Flowers may be taken home after our 10 a.m. Easter service.

Flower Order

I/We will provide flowers for the Easter altar.

Dedication _____

Name _____

Check enclosed \$ _____

Union Church Calendar

March 20, 2022—April 18, 2022

March 20 Sunday

Third Sunday in Lent

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

March 21 Monday

4:30 p.m. Visitation Ministry
(Zoom)

March 22 Tuesday

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

One Great Hour of Sharing

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Spring Informational
Meeting (in-person or
Zoom)

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)

April 3 Sunday

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

April 5 Tuesday

SPRING GENERAL ELECTION
12:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)
3:30 p.m. Education Ministry
(Zoom)
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
(Zoom)
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry (Zoom)
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

April 6 Wednesday

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

April 7 Thursday

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

April 9 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Stock the Box Drive

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!

HOLY WEEK with UNION CHURCH

April 10 Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:55 a.m. Children gather for
Palm Procession
10:00 a.m. Worship

April 12 Tuesday

NO Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

April 13 Wednesday

NO YOUTH GROUPS
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets: "The
Book of James" (Zoom)

April 14 Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Communion within
Worship

April 15 Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Worship in
the Shadows

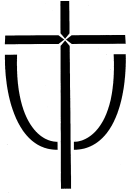
April 17 Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. Joyful Easter Worship

No Faith Formation
No Adult Education
on Easter Sunday

April 18 Monday

Church Office is Closed



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

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Spring Informational Meeting

All are encouraged to remain in the sanctuary or log on to Zoom for our spring informational meeting following worship on Sunday, March 27. The agenda will include:

- an update on the church's finances to date,
- the progress of the Assistant Pastor Search Committee,
- discussion about a proposal to add solar panels to the roof of the Mayflower wing, and how this might relate to the capital campaign slated for later in the year,
- answering questions and hearing about some of the upcoming ministry opportunities of the congregation.

Those who are not in-person for worship are invited to join the meeting via Zoom. The link will appear in your This Week at Union email or you can get it from the church office.

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>