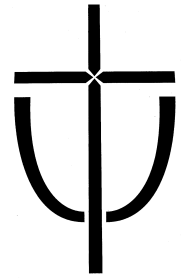


Still Speaking



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

April 2022

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

Our next newsletter will be published the week of **May 18, 2022.**

The deadline for that newsletter is **Friday, May 13, 2022.**

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"Calmly Plotting the Resurrection"

There's a book on my shelf entitled "*Calmly Plotting the Resurrection.*" The book itself probably wouldn't be very interesting to laypeople—it's an outline of weekly retreat themes and ideas intended to draw us toward Easter, toward newness in Christ, toward a resurrection way of being.

But that title!

"*Calmly Plotting the Resurrection,*" intentionally moving toward newness of life, intentionally moving toward a spirituality that embraces the central Christian notion that the death dealing powers of this world are no match for the power of God, now that is something I hope is compelling.

This idea of calmly plotting how to live the deepest Christian truth, that God is stronger than the grave, that God will not leave the powers of destruction to have the last word, comes to mind as I share with you the Generosity Team's invitation to participate in our Easter Offering. A new offering opportunity, the Easter Offering, is an invitation to make a one-time gift to the operating expenses of the congregation, in the spirit of resurrection and renewal and vitality.

In our January Annual Meeting, we voted on a budget which includes an additional half-time pastoral staff person for the second half of the year. Common Ministry has authorized a search committee to begin the process of hiring for this position, and is excited to share that its main focus will be on Community Engagement—helping Union to "make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives, and in all human relations" by expanding our work of inclusion, justice, and love beyond our walls.

When I think of what resurrection looks like, what renewal and vitality look like, it's living the Gospel in the world. It's connecting with other people and organizations to further the Christ Spirit in the world. It's doing what we can to transform all human relations with the Spirit's love. Resurrection looks like helping our church to have the resources we need to be agents of God's abundant grace.

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

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

April 24 — 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32;

Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150

Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

May 1 — 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 8 — 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23

Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 15 — 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

(continued from page 1)

And so, the Generosity Team invites you to join us in calmly plotting the resurrection by making a one-time gift to this Easter Offering which will help our church to be on a better financial footing to be able to sustain the Assistant Pastor for Community Engagement position long term. This Easter Offering, which is understood to be above and beyond any pledge you may have made, will bolster the church's operating funds and will help us to search for this vital new member of our pastoral staff with the confidence that we have the resources to sustain the position.

Gifts to this campaign may be made to the church via the enclosed envelope, by going to www.unionucc.com/giving, or by simply writing "Easter Offering" on the memo line of a check.

Whether you participate in this Easter Offering or not, thank you for all of the ways that you calmly plot the resurrection, for all of the ways that you intentionally and methodically use this life that you've been given to move us beyond the powers of death and into abundant, grace-filled Easter life in Christ.

On Easter, we will proclaim, "Christ is risen," and this Easter Offering is one more way that we can make that tangible, not just in our lives, but in this world that God loves so much.

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

Our Church Family

We join together as a church family in celebrating the joys and struggles of life:

•

Holy Week with Union Church

Worship will also 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



Seeking Mission Aligned Non-profits

Union has a beautiful office space available to rent to the right mission-aligned non-profit. Renovated in 2019, our non-profit incubator space has good natural light and five workstations that could be rented to one or several organizations for a reasonable rate. Please help us spread the word. Have interested parties contact Pastor Bridget. In doing so, Union can continue to utilize one of our largest resources, our building, for the building up of God's reign in the world.



Stock the Box Drive Saturday, April 9 from 9:00 a.m. until Noon

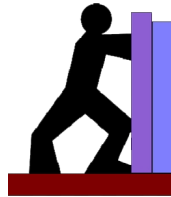
Our next Food Drive is coming up soon, and your donations are welcome and appreciated!

Our current needs include:

- Canned Fruit
- Canned Veggies: Corn, Peas or Green Beans
- Canned Meals: Chili, Spaghetti or Ravioli
- Canned Soup
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Granola Bars
- Ramen Noodle Packs
- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Facial Tissue
- Shampoo, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Bar Soap

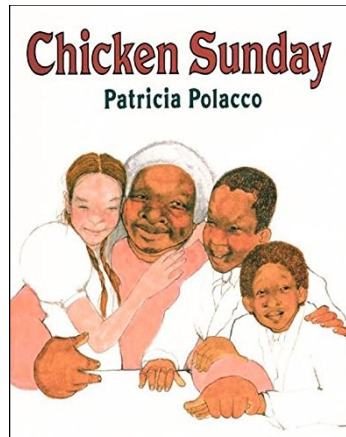
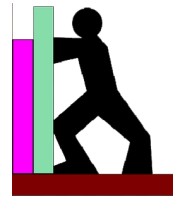
If you're not able to participate in the Food Drive, you're welcome to drop off Blessing Box items any time you visit Union Church. To make a monetary donation, visit the church website and click on the "Giving" tab.

Thank you!



Your Church Library Varied Themes in Children's Books for Easter

by Cathy Putman



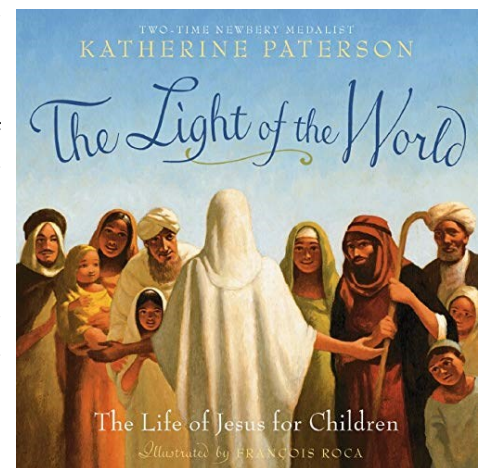
Two of the Easter-themed picture books in the church library feature Ukrainian Easter eggs, lovely wax-resist dye creations that celebrate spring and new life. Both books are by Patricia Polacco, a prolific author/illustrator who draws on her diverse family ties in producing these books.

In Chicken Sunday, the eggs forge a relationship between an elderly storekeeper and some "rotten kids." Rechenka's Eggs, set in Russia, centers the cherished eggs in a folk tale that highlights their life-giving property.

Petook is a story in which Jesus is part of a background in the witness of a rooster. All three books are a subtle way to experience the damage and rebirth themes of the season.

Beyond colored eggs and new clothes for spring, Easter can be a hard story to talk about with children. The story takes place in historical time – the crucifixion – and outside of historical time – the resurrection. The first is a cruel act of the Roman Empire, the second a story that rubs against our science-based grasp of what really happens.

The Light of the World, by acclaimed author Katherine Paterson, is a simply worded but sound biography of Jesus that elides the cruel aspects of the crucifixion. Peter's First Easter expands the role of this disciple, as he becomes an eyewitness to the several Easter week scenes recorded in the Gospels. While the fictionalization by former Lutheran pastor Walter Wangerin might seem presumptuous, it speaks to how these events coalesced for the disciples in the new movement that became Christianity.



A final offering for Easter is the text-heavy The Very First Easter. The illustrations, despite the characters westernized appearance, are dramatic and evocative. For a younger child, you might want to "read the pictures" rather than the informative narration.

All of these books, plus a few more, are in the basket under the window in the church library. Happy reading!

Any Interest in Joining a Union “Zoom Small Group”?

Are you missing having social contact with your Union family? Even though in-person activities are slowly resuming, it’s entirely possible that more Covid-variant waves will come and go, which may require us to back off on at-church gatherings at times. Moreover, some of us—for a variety of reasons—have more long-standing reasons that make getting to church functions problematic.

One possible solution to the above realities would be to form small groups of Union members who would meet regularly—but via Zoom, rather than in person. The purpose of such groups would simply be to keep in touch—to chat as if we were gathered around a table in Pilgrim Hall—but from the safety and convenience of our homes. Each small group could decide when and how often they’d like to “get together.”

If this sounds at all attractive to you, please contact either Pastor Bridget or Julie Harder. Right now, we are just trying to get a sense of how many people might be interested, so we can decide if and how to proceed with this project—no commitment is needed yet! Of course, joining such a group would require having the necessary equipment to Zoom; i.e., a personal computer or a tablet with a camera, or a smartphone. If you have the equipment but don’t know how to “press the right buttons” to join a Zoom meeting, fear not! We can arrange “training”!

Again, if this sounds like it might be a fun thing to try, please do contact us—don’t wait to see if others will do so: if we don’t get any response to this “ad,” the project will be shelved. So, email Julie Harder at jblackharder@gmail.com or Pastor Bridget at bridget@unionucc.com or call the church office at 920-437-9266.

Our Housing Offering is in May!

This congregation is generous. There’s a widespread recognition that our gifts are meant to be shared. That Spirit has sustained this church since 1836!

We will extend that generosity through our Housing Offering on May 8. This offering supports the work of the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH) and the ongoing maintenance at Jubilee House.

EPH brings together diverse Christians to partner in ways that provide some people who are housing insecure in Green Bay with solid, decent housing, along with the opportunity to gain skills to thrive. Jubilee House, in Union’s backyard, is part of EPH and it is Union’s responsibility to maintain this property.

That’s no small gift—to participate in the resurrection of Jesus! As we continue our Easter celebration of new life, let’s continue Union’s legacy of generosity through this special offering.

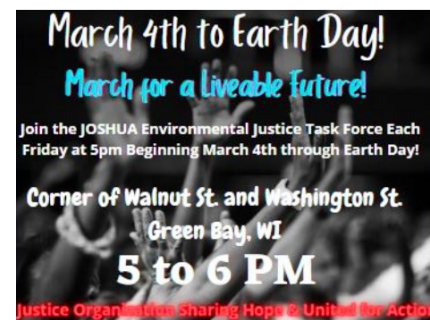
Spring Bulb Fundraiser

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>

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

JOSHUA Weekly Demonstrations



The JOSHUA Environmental Justice Task Force is holding weekly demonstrations demanding that Canadian fossil fuel corporation Enbridge not be allowed to expand its Line 5 oil pipeline in Wisconsin. JOSHUA asks you to stand with the Indigenous-led resistance to Line 5 by joining us in this action to fight the already dire threat of climate change. We will meet every Friday at 5 p.m. until Earth Day at the corner of north Washington Street and east Walnut Street.

A Message from Gifts & Memorials Ministry

We are always thankful for the generosity and forethought of our members who have gone before us as they envisioned the future of Union Congregational United Church of Christ. Their legacies continue to grace us through gifts left in their wills which have helped us to remain a vital and vibrant congregation.

We, too, can invest in the future of vital ministries, enabling Union to reach out with Christ's love to future generations.

Please consider including Union Church in your will.

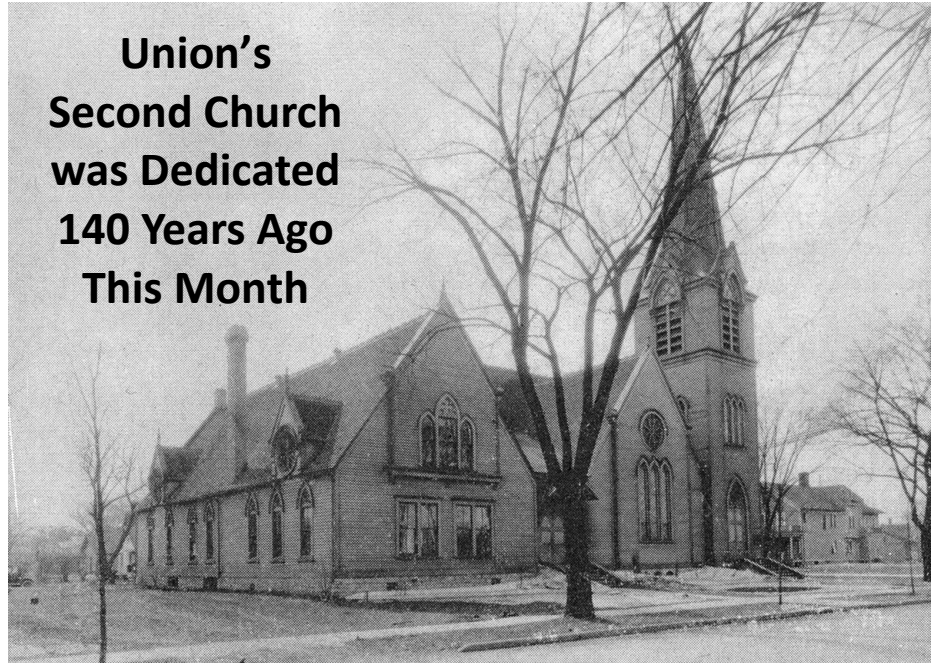
Thank You!

Who's Graduating?



We would like to recognize our 2022 graduates in our June newsletter. Please let the church office know (437-9266 or office@unionucc.com) if you will be a 2022 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!

Union's Second Church was Dedicated 140 Years Ago This Month



Union's Second Church after it was remodeled in 1914.

Three buildings have housed Union Church in its 186 years of existence. Our second building was dedicated 140 years ago this month.

Below is excerpt of an article from the Green Bay Advocate, dated April 6, 1882, that marked the occasion. (Note: *The church changed its name from First Presbyterian to Union Congregational in 1899.*)

Dedication of the Presbyterian Church.

The formal dedication of the new Presbyterian church edifice took place on Sunday last, and was an event long to be remembered in the history of the society. The original church edifice of the society was erected in 1838 and dedicated Sept. 9th of that year, being the second Protestant house of worship in Wisconsin, the other one being at Stockbridge. This church was in 1880 the oldest in the State (the Stockbridge church not being used for worship) and was destroyed by our great fire on Sept. 20, 1880.

The congregation immediately took steps to rebuild the church, on the site formerly occupied by the parsonage, which was also destroyed, and every energy has been bent toward the realization of

that purpose, now accomplished. The plans were prepared by Mr. J. McDonnell, architect, of this city, and the contract was taken by Schwarz & Voight, Ft. Howard. The building is wood, early English style architecture, irregular in its outline, but harmonious and pleasing to the eye. It is 94x64 feet on the ground, with auditorium 50 ft. 6 in. by 60 ft. 6 in., with vestry and classrooms connected with the auditorium by folding doors—these rooms making an addition to the auditorium of 32x62 feet. The ceiling of the auditorium is 28 feet high, with open timber roof, the ribs arching upward from the corners. The windows are stained glass of handsome pattern. The tower proper is 17 feet square and 54 feet high, surmounted by a spire 60 feet high, and that by an ornamental iron finial 14 feet high—making the entire height 124 feet.

Union Church Calendar

April 10, 2022—May 24, 2022

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
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
(Zoom)
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
6:30 p.m. Adult GSA

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. Worship with Holy
Communion

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

April 19 Tuesday

NO Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

April 20 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

April 24 Sunday

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

April 25 Monday

12:30 p.m. Generosity Team (Zoom)

April 26 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Visitation Ministry
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

April 27 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

May 1 Sunday

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

May 3 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)
2:30 p.m. Education Ministry
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

May 4 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

May 8 Sunday

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

May 10 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir
6:30 p.m. Adult GSA

May 11 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

May 12 Thursday

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

May 14 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Stock the Box Drive

May 15 Sunday

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

May 17 Tuesday

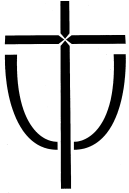
12:00 p.m. Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Visitation Ministry
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

May 22 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

May 24 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir



Union Congregational
United Church of Christ
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GREEN BAY, WI

Union Joins In “No Mow May”

Union will be participating in “No Mow May,” a conservation initiative that encourages people to stop mowing or mow less often for the month of May to create habitat and provide resources for bees and other early-season pollinators. This is particularly important in urban areas where floral resources are often limited. First popularized by Plantlife, an organization based in the United Kingdom, No Mow May is gaining traction across North America.

In May, many municipalities, including Green Bay, will relax enforcement of long-grass rules, allowing residents to delay or reduce lawn cutting as a way to promote pollinator-friendly habitat early in the growing season. Participation is voluntary; however, in many municipalities **online registration and posting a city-issued yard sign is required**. Google “No Mow May” and your city’s name to learn of specific requirements or visit the Green Bay Botanical Garden’s website, gbbg.org/ and search for “No Mow May” to learn more.



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>