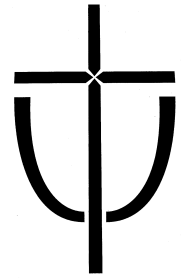


Still Speaking



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

May 2022

The Great Resignation Hits Churches . . . And This Pastor is Happy!

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published
the week of June 22, 2022.*

*The deadline for that newsletter is
Friday, June 17, 2022.*

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**Union Church
Rummage Sale ----- back page**

If you've been reading the news, you've probably heard the term "The Great Resignation." It refers to a societal phenomenon in which we've seen significant swaths of the workforce resign from their employment in the last two years. Factors include wage stagnation, workplace dissatisfaction, and both safety and fatigue in regard to COVID-19.

What you may not have realized is that churches are experiencing a Great Resignation as well. Susan Beaumont, who writes and coaches around the intersection of organizational health and spiritual vitality describes the situation she's seeing in many congregations this way:

We don't know whether the absence of volunteers is due to temporary post-pandemic fatigue, ongoing fear of the pandemic, or a seismic cultural shift.

The early days of the pandemic provided a natural pause in many volunteer relationships. When the buildings closed and programs went on hiatus, we relied on staff to innovate a narrower portfolio of offerings. It was safer to keep the number of people in the building to a minimum. Congregants were overwhelmed with the demands of work, school, and family—all restricted to the home. Churches grew accustomed to working with fewer volunteers. Now we want our volunteers back, but they are slow to respond.

At this stage of the pandemic, people are carefully assessing how they invest their time and talent. Job transitions in the workforce are at an all-time high as people reevaluate how they will spend their days. It makes sense that people are extending the same scrutiny to their volunteer lives.

We're experiencing this at Union, too. As we work to resume, reinvigorate, and revitalize ministries that have been dormant amidst the pandemic, many of our former volunteers are either not returning or are taking this opportunity to retire—and reasonably so.

Take Ed Tucker, for example. When we have our Education Ministry Appreciation in worship on Sunday, Ed Tucker will retire from teaching Faith Formation after 35 years. (Make sure you reach out to express your gratitude for

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings**May 22****Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

May 26**Ascension Day**

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

May 29**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:16-34

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

June 5**Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21

John 14:8-17, (25-27)

June 12**Trinity Sunday****First Sunday after Pentecost**

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 and Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

June 19**Second Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a and

Psalm 42 and Psalm 43

Isaiah 65:1-9 and Psalm 22:19-28

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

(continued from page 1)

all he's done in those 35 years!) No one will begrudge Ed his retirement, and yet he is one of the faces of the Great Congregational Resignation. And while I lift up Ed simply because the depth, breadth, and length of his service is notable and worthy of congregational recognition, this wouldn't be a Great Resignation if he were alone. Folks have, reasonably, stepped back from ushering, reading, hosting coffee hour, gardening, and so much more.

And, while many of my colleagues are pessimistic about this phenomenon, I'm not. A church consultant I worked with years ago (whose name I've forgotten) had a theory that vital churches needed to continually be creating new opportunities and ministries because it's hard for people to insert themselves into already existing groups. His idea was that it's hard to navigate the already existing interpersonal dynamics and unwritten rules of existing programs and offerings, and so he was a big advocate for creating new opportunities, so that folks would see that there was room for them around the circle.

Take our music ministry, for example. Without our experience of the pandemic and the resulting need to put the chancel choir on hiatus, several of our cantors would not have had the opportunity to share their gifts. Our online services gave these folks the opportunity to serve the congregation in a way that worked for them, a way that was different from the tried and true "way we've always done it."

Don't get me wrong, one of my ministerial fears is having NO ONE to teach Faith Formation or lead Youth Group. My initial reflex to the news of very active volunteers moving and others stepping back from roles is absolute dread. But recently, I've become more philosophical about it. Maybe it's age or parenting or pandemic wisdom, but more and more I find myself looking at resignations as opportunities for the church. Maybe, instead of framing this as a Great Resignation, we need to look at it as a Great Reimagining, a Great Reshuffling, a Great Transformation. While we're deeply grateful for the time and energy and gifts people have given to the church and its ministries in their current shape, the Great Resignation can be an opportunity to update both what we do and how we do it.

Susan Beaumont, the coach and writer I quoted earlier, has a few suggestions about re-engaging volunteers, including streamlining roles, promoting flexibility (i.e. the time / way things happen), moving toward episodic micro-volunteering, and helping people pursue their passions. I think all of these suggestions have possibility, and I also think that the Great Resignation gives us some space.

For some, that space is made by knowing that there's room for them to offer their gifts. In some instances, that space will be made by reimagining and reshaping how we share the Gospel.

And so, know that there's room for you to live your faith within this congregation, room for you to share your gifts. We need you, not just to fill someone else's shoes. It would be almost impossible to do that. We need you to be a part of this next chapter of Union's magnificent story, a story of thousands upon thousands of people over the years who have striven to "do the will of God and to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations."

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

Spring Bulb Fundraiser Update

Thanks to all who participated in our Spring Bulb Fundraiser in which we again partnered with Three Rivers Wreath & Plant Co. We raised \$91.50!

Habitat for Humanity Women's Build

Habitat for Humanity is looking for anyone who identifies as a woman to sign up to fundraise for and help construct a home for a family in the area. If interested as an individual or group, google greenbayhabitat.org to find out more and sign up. No experience is necessary.

Priscilla Circle Returns!

Priscilla Circle will meet Tuesday, May 24 at 1 p.m. in the English Room. All women (friends and members) of Union Church are welcome. Email Helen Krueger at chkrueger@new.rr.com with questions.

Please Share Your Vision for Union's Education Ministry

Education Ministry is asking all members and friends of Union Church, especially those who are kids, have kids, or who are active in our child and youth programming, to share their vision for Union's Education ministry, encompassing children's moments, faith formation, youth groups, and adult education.

To share your thoughts with us, please fill out the survey we created, which is available via our This Week at Union email or the QR code printed at right. If you prefer to fill out a paper copy, contact Eric in the church office, and he will send one to you.

Also, we are recruiting adults to teach, advise, or otherwise facilitate activities for all age groups. The survey includes an opportunity to volunteer. If you prefer to speak with someone



Use your phone to scan this QR code to share your vision for Union's Education Ministry.

directly, email Beth Lyman Piontek at beth.e.lyman@gmail.com or call her at 920-217-3564. If you're even considering it, please reach out. There is no such thing as too many volunteers!

Our Church Family

So much of the grace of church is experienced in our relationships with one another. As the old hymn goes, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. Before the throne of God we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares. We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear; and often for each other flows a sympathizing tear." Bound together as a church family, we pray with:

|



Stock the Box Drive Saturday, June 11 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:

- Instant Rice, Pasta or Mashed Potatoes
- Nut Mix Snack Packs (individual serving size)
- Peanut Butter (medium)
- Canned Meals: Chili, Spaghetti or Ravioli
- Canned Soups
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Granola Bars
- Ramen Noodle Packs
- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper
- Shampoo, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Bar Soap

If you're not able to participate in the 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!

From the Church Librarian: The Mother of Earth is Soil

You may have heard about the 90% decline in monarch butterflies a few years ago. Citizens planting milkweed have started to turn that decline around. Less publicized is the 30% decline in birds and 60% in turtles since 1970 due mostly to loss of habitat.

Habitat has been lost to the growth of suburbia and its expansive lawns. At Union, we signaled our understanding of habitat by participating in No Mow May. Now, Union doesn't have enough grass to stage a game of tag, but those grass plots could connect our three distinct garden areas if they were planted as habitat.

Douglas Tallamy, University of Delaware entomologist, has sounded the alarm about habitat loss for more than a decade with his books, Nature's Best Hope and Bringing Nature Home. Our set aside natural areas and national parks are a patchwork of conservation that have not stemmed species loss. In Tallamy's view, what can connect these preserves is the use of private suburban yards planted as habitat.

In some parts of the western U.S., lawns are now outlawed because there isn't enough water to support them. There are exceptions for turf that is "in use" for playing fields and the like. Frankly, I almost never see front lawns in Green Bay or Allouez "in use" by children or adults.

Why am I writing this? Norman Wirzba, theologian at Duke University Divinity School, has written extensively on the fate of all life hanging in the balance. In This Sacred Life, he explains that the scientists have found that the vast numbers of microbiological species that live within the human body share a family relationship with the majority of the bacteria in the soil.

"Perhaps the ancient Jewish association between adam [son of the red earth] and adamah [earth] isn't so far off the mark after all. The Garden of Eden story means for people to look down and around, rather than up and away. It means for them to get busy with understanding and nurturing the sources of life that nurture them. To disown this grounded life, to refuse to give one's attention and care to it, or to yearn to escape from the limits and possibilities of the soil, is to invite manifold forms of misery. It is, perhaps, even to precipitate a kind of death."

The relational story of Eden is Tallamy's story too. Soil and its microorganisms support plants which support insects which support birds, humans and more. At church, we explore forces of social and political power, oppression and disregard. Tallamy and Wirzba alert us to a frontier that is superficially biological, but deeply relational.

The books mentioned above are not in the church library. Tallamy's books are in the Brown County Library system. I will be adding Wirzba's newest book, Agrarian Spirit: Cultivating Faith, Community, and the Land, when it is released in August.

May 20 is Endangered Species Day. There is a bipartisan bill before Congress that would bring \$18 million to keep declining species from becoming endangered. Wisconsin's current spending in this area is \$1 million or less. If this issue touches you, contact your federal Congress representative in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act right away. It needs to be passed before Congress breaks for summer.

—Cathy Putman

Running for a Reason: Dr. Lulloff Returns to Boston

Talk of running inevitably turns to the brain when speaking with Dr. Rolf Lulloff. That makes sense given his passion for both.

At the age of 80, Dr. Lulloff participated in his fifth Boston Marathon on April 18. While his time on the pavement proved memorable, his experience the day after was just as gratifying.

Dr. Lulloff, an orthopedist, lost his beloved wife of nearly 56½ years in February 2021 after her 45-year battle with Parkinson's Disease. In seeking answers to what she had to endure and why, he co-founded the Brain Center of Green Bay.

In Boston, Dr. Lulloff honored his wife and others who had passed away from brain-related illnesses. His group said a prayer before starting the race.

Even before leaving Green Bay, Dr. Lulloff knew he would be walking. A hamstring injury prevented him from running the course as he had done before in 1974, 1978, 1979 and 2014.

Dr. Lulloff's daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, and John Gard, a coach for Green Bay Notre Dame Academy's track and field team, walked with him. After a while, their pace of 14 minutes per mile began to slow.

When the van that checks on those at the back of the pack circled a third time, Dr. Lulloff wrapped it up. He had completed 12 miles.

"After six miles, I knew I wasn't going to (finish the course)."

Dr. Lulloff's children – Susan, Sarah, and Andrew – and three of his grandchildren cheered them on in Boston. Six of the Green Bay group worshipped at the Old South Church where runners receive a blessing the day before the run.

On that Sunday, Dr. Lulloff wore the scarf he had received from the church in 2014 when he last ran the marathon. Rev. Nancy Taylor, senior minister and CEO of the church, recognized the scarf which was given to participants the year after the tragic bombing.

"I told you I would be back," he said he told the Rev. Taylor.

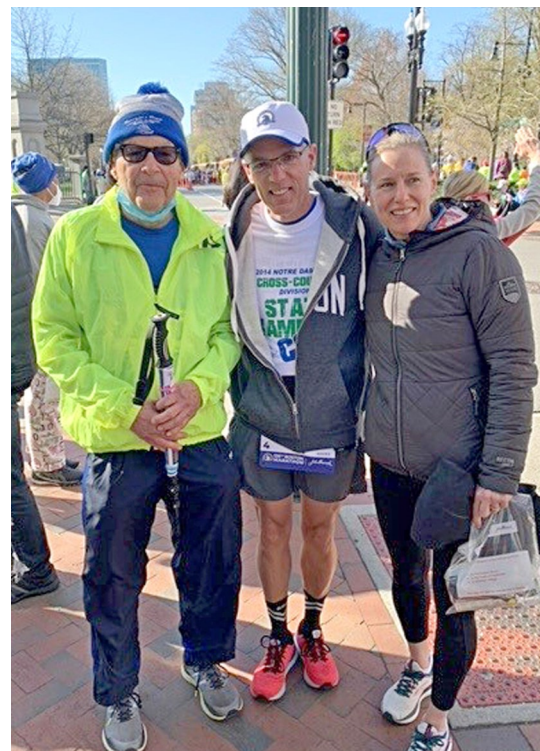
The day after the race, Dr. Lulloff spent two hours in the lab at the VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank. According to its website, the bank is "the largest tissue repository in the world focused on traumatic brain injury (TBI) and chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE)."

The visit ranked with the race itself.

Dr. Lulloff called the staff top-notch. He marveled at the machines they employ, much of their work involving microscopic research.

As always, the memory of his wife was near.

"I'm doing this for Ann. Now we have more answers."



(L-R) Dr. Lulloff, John Gard, Elizabeth Lulloff



(L-R) Rev. Nancy Taylor and Dr. Lulloff

(photos taken by Susan Stanley)



If you are interested in learning more about the non-profit Brain Center of Green Bay, visit www.braincenterqb.org.

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!

On The Mark Dyslexia Clinic's
CORNHOLE
Tournament

Basket Raffles
Need not be present to win.

June 18, 2022
10 AM
Astor Park
1100 Porlier St, Green Bay

Early Bird entry fee \$30 per team.
After June 1 \$40 per team.

Join us to celebrate the four year anniversary of the clinic at our family friendly cornhole fundraiser! Submit your non-refundable entry fee before June 1 for the early bird rate. Profits will be divided 25% to event winners and 75% to On The Mark Dyslexia Clinic Inc. If raining, it will be a social event with indoor games, tournament will not take place. Online registration and Venmo payment available at onthemarkdyslexiaclinic.com Submit paper registration forms and check/cash payments directly to clinic. Questions call (920) 883-7889 or email otmdyslexiaclinic@gmail.com

Cash Prizes

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.

Union Church Calendar

May 21, 2022—July 31, 2022

May 21 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale

May 22 Sunday

Education Ministry Appreciation

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

May 23 Monday

12:30 p.m. Generosity Team

May 24 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir

May 29 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

May 30 Monday—Memorial Day

Church Office is Closed

May 31 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study (last for this program year)

June 1 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

June 5 Sunday

Music Ministry Appreciation

10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Capital Campaign Meeting

June 7 Tuesday

2:30 p.m. Education Ministry (Zoom)
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry

June 8 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

June 9 Thursday

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

June 11 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Stock the Box Drive

June 12 Sunday

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Worship
1:00 p.m. Pride Worship and Picnic at Perkins Park

June 14 Tuesday

4:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry

June 15 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

June 19 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

June 22 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

June 26 Sunday

Strengthen the Church Offering

10:00 a.m. Worship

June 29 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

July 3 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

July 4 Monday—Independence Day

Church Office is Closed

July 6 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

July 10 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

July 13 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

July 19 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

July 20 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

July 24 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

July 27 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

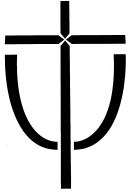
July 31 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship

**Informational Meeting
RE the Capital Campaign**

**After Worship
Sunday, June 5**

Watch your This Week at Union email for details.



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

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PERMIT NO. 53
GREEN BAY, WI

**Saturday, May 21
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**



All proceeds will go to the general Outreach funds
which help people in our community.

**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>