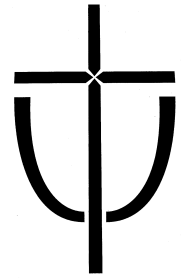


# Still Speaking



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

June 2022

*Still Speaking* will take a break in July.  
Our next issue will be mailed on  
**Wednesday, August 24**  
The deadline for articles for that issue  
is **Friday, August 19.**

**Have a wonderful summer!**

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## Round Tuit

At my last church, Stewardship Ministry created a little index card size file box that sat outside of the church office. In it were round pieces of paper with small- to medium-sized projects that needed to be done around the church, things like vacuuming behind the pew cushions and dusting the banisters. Church members were encouraged to take one of the slips of paper and complete the task whenever they had an hour or two to give to the church. The tasks were printed on round pieces of paper because the chair of Stewardship Ministry at the time was particularly punny and she called this the church's "Round Tuit" list, the list of things we'll take care of when we get "around to it."



Union's Stewardship Ministry has been kicking around a similar type of process to ask for church members' time and elbow grease for a while, and now with the death of our Sexton, Christopher, the need for such a project list has come to a head. Common Ministry agreed with the recommendation of the chairs of Stewardship and Personnel that out of respect for Christopher and to allow the church and staff some time to grieve, we will not post the Sexton position until August.

What this means is that we are going to have a lot of small- and medium-size projects that need to be done when a church member can get a "Round Tuit."

Now, since it's 2022, instead of creating a physical card file that sits outside of the church office, Stewardship Ministry is hoping to share the ongoing

*(continued on page 2)*

**Lectionary Readings****June 26****3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 and Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20  
 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 and Psalm 16  
 Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 9:51-62

**July 3****4th Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Kings 5:1-14 and Psalm 30  
 Isaiah 66:10-14 and Psalm 66:1-9  
 Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

**July 10****5th Sunday after Pentecost**

Amos 7:7-17 and Psalm 82  
 Deuteronomy 30:9-14 and  
 Psalm 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14  
 Luke 10:25-37

**July 17****6th Sunday after Pentecost**

Amos 8:1-12 and Psalm 52  
 Genesis 18:1-10a and Psalm 15  
 Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

**July 24****7th Sunday after Pentecost**

Hosea 1:2-10 and Psalm 85  
 Genesis 18:20-32 and Psalm 138  
 Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

**July 31****8th Sunday after Pentecost**

Hosea 11:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-9, 43  
 Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 and  
 Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11  
 Luke 12:13-21

**August 7****9th Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 and  
 Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23  
 Genesis 15:1-6 and Psalm 33:12-22  
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

**August 14****10th Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19  
 Jeremiah 23:23-29 and Psalm 82  
 Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

*(continued from page 1)*

Round Tuit list electronically via our This Week at Union email starting in July. You'll be able to see week by week what projects need to be done, how long we estimate the project will take, and will have a contact person listed who you can reach out to if you have questions.

In the meantime, as Stewardship gets this up and running, there are a handful of things - like vacuuming the halls, keeping the English Room or Chapel Classroom clean and neat, mowing the lawn, or dust mopping the church hall - that need to be done on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis until we hire a Sexton. Contact Pastor Bridget or Clay Reese if you would be willing to "adopt" a room or a task for the summer.

Gratefully,  
 Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

**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:

-



## **Stock the Box Drives Saturday, July 9 AND Saturday, August 13 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
- Canned Veggies: Corn, Peas or Green Beans
- Canned Fruit
- 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!**

## **Christopher Nikolai, Friend to All**

"This is your local sexton speaking."

More often than not, that is how Christopher greeted me when he and I talked on the church phones, he, the building and maintenance supervisor and I, the administrative assistant. Christopher was always upbeat and ready to go.

Monday through Thursday, I could count on Christopher being at Union before I arrived. That is until that first Wednesday in June when his car was nowhere to be found.

He's helping his dad, I thought. Or, he's helping his partner, Andrew.

Christopher helped a lot of people over the years. That's who he was.

But this time was different. Christopher needed help. He had suffered a massive heart attack.

Christopher started at Union in March 2021. Shortly thereafter, he enlisted my help.

Now, I spend most of my days in front of a computer, but Christopher had me removing urinals from the wall and changing batteries in the emergency lights located at the tippy top of a stairwell that seemed to go on forever.

Give him credit. Though we both were leery of heights, he did most of the climbing while I held the ladder.

Christopher loved to engage in conversation. When he found out my daughter, Rebecca, went to school in Stevens Point, he asked if she had been to the Wicked Willow, a vegan restaurant there. She hadn't, but that didn't deter him from asking every time he saw her.

His talents were many. Union member Jeff Gibson related how on Sundays, Christopher would sit nearby as Jeff worked the controls used to livestream the worship service. If something unexpected came up, Jeff would consult Christopher. Almost always, Jeff said, Christopher was right.

"I'm going to miss that, 100 percent," Jeff said the morning of Christopher's funeral.

We will all miss him. As Pastor Bridget related in her sermon that day: "A church member who had gotten to know Christopher through a variety of offerings said she felt like our church's experience of Christopher was kind of like Mary Poppins. He came seemingly out of nowhere. He taught us some important lessons. He brought even more of what we needed than we realized that we needed. He helped us come closer to being our best selves. And then, the wind changed."

I don't remember Christopher's last words to me. I never said good-bye.

Some might find that unsettling, but not I. Christopher will live on in my memory for the remainder of my time on earth.

This summer, Rebecca and I and the rest of my family will visit the Wicked Willow. I'm sure we'll give it a great review, just like Christopher did.



## Union Church Welcomed Eight New Members on June 12

### Jamie and Jason Wozniak

The Wozniak family has attended Union for about four years, and they have finally decided to make it official. They really enjoy the atmosphere at Union and have found a church family. They are especially impressed by the community outreach.

Jason and Jamie work (and met) at Nielsen in the market analytics field. The couple has four amazing children: Brooke (24), Deanna (13), Skie (12), and Tony (7). The Wozniaks were looking for a welcoming and affirming church, and they certainly found that at Union.



### Scott Mertens

Born in Manitowoc and a resident of Green Bay since 1984, Scott is proud to be a Wisconsinite. Scott and his wife, Kathi, have been married for 42 years. They have one child, a son, Neal, who is 31. Scott is retired having two degrees and working as an optician/optical store manager for three years and an information technology professional for 30 years. His interests are primarily outdoors including camping, hiking, kayaking among others, although a current disability has lessened these activities.

Scott assisted with the senior youth group and coordinated the congregation's Lifest activities at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Green Bay. He was a Christian volunteer at The Cup of Joy for 10 years and wrote for Phantom Tollbooth, a contemporary Christian music webzine for six years.

Scott's interest in joining Union Church is three-fold. Primarily, the church's foundation of love and acceptance is critical to his belief as a Christian. Also, having been brought up in a UCC church and knowing his sister's love for her church (she's a UCC member in Appleton), has provided him a direction for his desire to join Union.

Scott looks forward to spiritual growth at Union.



### Wendy Woodward

Wendy—with her college-aged daughter in tow—moved to Green Bay a year ago to lead digital transformation at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Wendy and her daughter live on Nicolet Drive with a nice view of the bay, and they have embraced their community by starting both a book club and bunco club in their neighborhood. Wendy is looking forward to being the hands and feet of Jesus in partnership with Union Church.

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## Cathy Valk and Larry Kabat

Cathy was born and raised on Green Bay's west side to Ralph and Betty Carpenter. She is the oldest of four children. She graduated from Green Bay West High School in 1965 and then attended beauty school. She married Jim Valk in 1969. Jim passed away from cancer at age 50. Following Jim's passing, Cathy worked at the west side Shopko Store, ProVantage Pharmacy, and Imperial Supply prior to retiring.

Cathy has a son, Eric, married to Nicole, and they have two boys, Aidan and Owen. Cathy's interests are crafts such as knitting and needlepoint, and she loves baking all kinds of goodies. Gardening around the condo is another favorite.

Larry was also born and raised on the west side to Larry and Birdie Kabat. He is one of eight children, the second oldest of the surviving seven. He graduated from Premontre High School and then spent two years at Sacred Heart Seminary and a year at St. Norbert College. At that point, he went to work for his Dad in the family shoe business, ultimately buying it in 1974. He married in 1970, spent two years in the Army as a chaplain's assistant. He has three children and was divorced in 1997.

He left the business at age 55 and worked at St. Vincent Hospital until age 65. He now serves as a crossing guard in Allouez and a patient sitter at Bellin Hospital two days a week.

Neither Cathy nor Larry was looking for a new partner in life, but they feel they were brought together for a reason, and they were officially married on August 9, 2017.

Larry and Cathy came to Union due to frustration with their prior church not recognizing women and the LGBTQ community as equals in the eyes of God. Since attending services for the past several months, Cathy and Larry have felt extremely welcomed and comfortable at Union.

## Jon Wiltse and Barrett Tryon

Jon resides in Tiletown and has strong family roots in his native northern Door County. Jon is a territory sales manager for Kemper Insurance and has been involved in sales all his life. Jon is a graduate of Carroll University in Waukesha. He is a proud father of three children: Kaylee, Trenton, and Weston. He is also a proud grandfather of Liam and Kinsley. Outside of work, Jon enjoys traveling and spending time with his family and friends.

Barrett is an anchor/reporter for WFRV-TV. He moved to Green Bay in August 2021. He is originally from Sarasota, Florida, but has lived all over for his television career. Before you ask, he has (quickly) learned to embrace and love the Packers. When he's not at work, he's likely playing with his 12-year-old Italian Greyhound-Chihuahua mix rescue named 'Cooper' who rarely listens when his name is called at the dog park.



## Volunteers Needed

**Sunday Morning Faith Formation** is looking for 1 to 2 more teachers for our 2nd-4th grade class for the fall, as well as teachers' aides for our K4-1st and 2nd-4th. We have a great curriculum. With enough volunteers, ideally you are on the schedule twice a month or so, depending on what your calendar allows.

Contact Beth Lyman at  
[beth.e.lyman@gmail.com](mailto:beth.e.lyman@gmail.com)  
to learn more.

### Youth Group Advisors

We're seeking Youth Group Advisors to round out our already dynamic slate of volunteers.

Contact Benny Rieth at  
[benjamine.rieth@bellincollege.edu](mailto:benjamine.rieth@bellincollege.edu)  
to learn more about how our Wednesday night youth groups are shaping up for the fall.

### Cooking for a Crowd

Do you like cooking for a crowd? We're looking for folks to make dinner for 25 to 30 people once or twice a month to feed our Youth Group and other Wednesday night programming attendees.

Contact Pastor Bridget at  
[bridget@unionucc.com](mailto:bridget@unionucc.com)



The WI Conference  
**Racial Justice Task Force**  
invites you to a

# Voting Rights, Race, and Faith

Zoom  
Tuesday, June 28, 6pm

We'll look at the racial justice issues at stake in the current fight for voting rights, hear about threats to voting rights in specific Wisconsin municipalities, and receive concrete ideas of how our members and congregations can advocate for robust voting rights for all.

Featuring Anjali Bhasin of WI Conservation Voices and Voters, Shauntay Nelson of All Voting Is Local, and Rabbi Bonnie Margulis of Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice



Registration required:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/join/registration/tZUrc-iqrTkjGNwT\\_UAFrcXEI7gag-6EaRBp](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/registration/tZUrc-iqrTkjGNwT_UAFrcXEI7gag-6EaRBp)

or contact Lisa Hart at the Conference  
[lhart@wcucc.org](mailto:lhart@wcucc.org)

The zoom will be recorded and available upon request.



## Congratulations to Our Graduates!

- **Emma Krueger**, daughter of **Chris Krueger** and granddaughter of **Helen and Chuck Krueger**, graduated from Bay Port High School and plans to attend Rock Valley College in Rockford, Illinois in the fall.
- **Ben Ver Giesen** received two associate degrees from Fox Valley Technical College which will help support his interior design business.

# Union Church Calendar

June 26, 2022—August 31, 2022

**June 26 Sunday**

**Strengthen the Church Offering**

10:00 a.m. Worship

**June 29 Wednesday**

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

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**July 3 Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Worship  
with Holy Communion

**July 4 Monday—Independence Day**

Church Office is Closed

**July 6 Wednesday**

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group  
at Denny's on Oneida  
8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

**July 9 Saturday**

9:00 a.m. Stock the Box Drive

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**July 10 Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Worship

**July 13 Wednesday**

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

**July 14 Thursday**

4:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry

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**July 17 Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Worship

**July 18 Monday**

11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch at  
The Village Grille  
12:30 p.m. Generosity Team

**July 19 Tuesday**

3:45 p.m. Resuming In-Person  
Worship Ministry Team

**July 20 Wednesday**

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

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**July 24 Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Worship

**July 27 Wednesday**

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

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**July 31 Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Worship

**August 3 Wednesday**

7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group  
at Denny's on Oneida  
8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

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**August 7 Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Worship

**August 9 Tuesday**

**FALL PRIMARY ELECTION**

Outreach Ministry Bake Sale  
4:00 p.m. Outreach Ministry  
(Zoom)  
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry  
6:30 p.m. Worship Ministry

**August 10 Wednesday**

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels  
2:30 p.m. Education Ministry  
(Zoom)

**August 11 Thursday**

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

**August 13 Saturday**

9:00 a.m. Stock the Box Drive

-----  
**August 14 Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Worship

Church Picnic after worship in  
St. James Park  
Bring a dish to pass

**August 15 Monday**

11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch  
Details to Follow at a  
Later Date

**August 17 Wednesday**

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

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**August 21 Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Worship

**August 24 Wednesday**

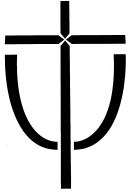
8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

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**August 28 Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Worship

**August 31 Wednesday**

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels



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

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**Sunday, August 14**

Worship in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m.  
Picnic to follow in St. James Park.  
Bring a dish to pass . . . and lawn chairs.

**Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ**

716 S. Madison Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301  
e-mail: [office@unionucc.com](mailto: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>