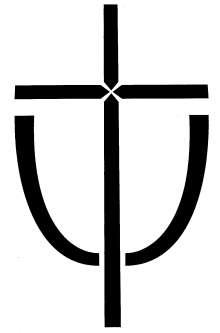


# Still Speaking



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

September 2022

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter  
will be published the week of  
October 19, 2022.*

*The deadline for that newsletter is  
Friday, October 14, 2022.*

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## With God All Things Are Possible

One of my favorite scripture verses is Luke 1:37, "With God, all things are possible."

Sure, some of why I like it is that it's hopeful. Optimistic. It draws us toward the bright side of life.

But I also find it inspirational because it first leans on God. We're going to be able to do great things, but that greatness is predicated on the presence of the divine.

This scripture comes to mind as our congregation will later this month kick off a Feasibility Study for a proposed Capital Campaign. There are numerous projects proposed, some essential (like replacing the roof on the west side of the church hall) and some that are more missional (like overhauling the former Mayflower spaces to make them more conducive to our Faith Formation needs and those of On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic and the proposed solar installation on one of the church's flat roofs).

What strikes me about all of the proposed projects is that they all support, whether directly or indirectly, Union's mission to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations.

The cover of the Feasibility Study brochure that you'll receive in the mail later this month starts with the headline, "All Are Welcome," based on the Marty Haugen hymn that we sometimes sing in worship:

*Let us build a house  
Where love can dwell  
And all can safely live  
A place where  
Saints and children tell  
How hearts learn to forgive  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions  
Rock of faith and vault of grace  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions  
All are welcome, all are welcome  
All are welcome in this place*

*(continued on page 2)*

**Lectionary Readings****September 18****15th Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 and Psalm 79:1-9  
 Amos 8:4-7 and Psalm 113  
 1 Timothy 2:1-7 and Luke 16:1-13

**September 25****16th Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 and  
 Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16  
 Amos 6:1a, 4-7 and Psalm 146  
 1 Timothy 6:6-19 and Luke 16:19-31

**October 2****17th Sunday after Pentecost**

Lamentations 1:1-6 and  
 Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137  
 Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and Psalm 37:1-9  
 2 Timothy 1:1-14 and Luke 17:5-10

**October 9****18th Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 and Psalm 66:1-12  
 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c and Psalm 111  
 2 Timothy 2:8-15 and Luke 17:11-19

**October 16****19th Sunday after Pentecost**

Jeremiah 31:27-34  
 and Psalm 119:97-104  
 Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 121  
 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

**October 23****20th Sunday after Pentecost**

Joel 2:23-32 and Psalm 65  
 Sirach 35:12-17 or  
 Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22  
 and Psalm 84:1-7  
 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

**October 30****21st Sunday after Pentecost**

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
 and Psalm 119:137-144  
 Isaiah 1:10-18 and Psalm 32:1-7  
 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
 Luke 19:1-10

*(continued from page 1)*

I'm really proud that our congregation has worked to make this a reality. That Union is a house of God where love dwells, and that in both word and action we strive to be a community in which all can safely live, especially those who have been told by other churches that they don't belong. We are a vital witness of God's absolute, unfaltering love.

And so I'm excited to see where this Feasibility Study leads us. Over the next month and a half, you'll have the opportunity to complete surveys, participate in listening sessions, and be interviewed by representatives from the James Company, the capital campaign consultancy firm that was secured by Common Ministry. You will both be invited to give feedback on the project list as well as be invited to give insight into your willingness to support the campaign financially. The James Company will then write a report of this data and make a recommendation to Common Ministry as to whether the congregation has indicated that we have the wherewithal to undertake a campaign.

Through all of this, I come back to Luke 1:37, "With God, all things are possible." I am firmly convinced that the work and mission of this congregation is vital, that we are doing deep, meaningful work that builds up Jesus' core values of love and hope and justice. And so, I'm going to keep on praying that we, together with God, will lend our resources to this grand project. This building is mission. May God work through it and us to make this world a better place, both for us and for our neighbors near and far.

Gratefully,  
 Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

## **Loving Our Neighbors . . . No Exceptions**

### **Annual Budget Pledge Campaign**

In the same envelope as the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study brochure referenced above, you'll also be receiving a letter and pledge card about our fall Budget Pledge Campaign. This is our annual campaign which helps the church to understand your intended financial commitment for the upcoming year, which in turn helps us to budget. These funds help us to keep the lights on, the parking lot plowed, and to pay our staff. Even as we contemplate a Capital Campaign, know that your ongoing annual budget support is critical for the vitality of our church. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## **Tuesday Bible Study Has Resumed**

All are welcome to participate in (Zoom) Bible Study. Each Tuesday at noon, we look to the scriptures that will be proclaimed in worship the coming Sunday. No prior Biblical knowledge is needed. Because each week's study stands alone, you can drop in any week that suits you. Get the link to join us in your This Week at Union email or from the church office.

## **Ladies Lunch Bunch Meets September 19**

Our next Ladies Lunch Bunch will be Monday, September 19 at 11:30 a.m. at the Village Grille on Hoffman Road. We order off the menu and our goal is totally social.

All who identify as female are welcome to join us. For everyone's safety, please be vaccinated. Please contact Jean Smithback at 920-930-8271 with questions.

## **Priscilla Circle Returns, September 27**

Priscilla Circle returns at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, September 27, in the English Room. We plan to meet on the fourth Tuesday of October and November as well.

Priscilla Circle is a group of women who meet for a program and socializing. New members are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

If you have questions, please send Helen Krueger an email at [chkruieger@new.rr.com](mailto:chkruieger@new.rr.com).

## **Heifer Help Needed!**

Heifer Sunday and the Live Market is a favorite event at Union. We'll celebrate on October 30 this year and we need your help. We are looking for one person to assist with the coordination of the event. We are also looking for volunteers to host animal tables at the Live Market.

For more information or to volunteer, please send an email to Heather Collins at [hblue@gmail.com](mailto:hblue@gmail.com) or call her at 920-639-8821.

## **Go Green! Go Solar!**

As a follow-up to the lightly attended March 2022 meeting regarding the solar panel project that Mark Smith shepherded from inception to proposal status, Lou Norsetter and I met this summer to understand how other UCC churches in Wisconsin chose to implement a solar panel project, their experiences with their utility and the installation, and the lessons learned.

We investigated six UCC installations as well as the Bay Settlement Community of the Sisters of St. Francis. The interviews covered a variety of situations from powering an 1880s clapboard at St. Paul's UCC in Colgate to the modern Trost Center of the Wisconsin Conference UCC. Others included Middleton Community Church, First Congregational Madison, Plymouth UCC in Madison, and Wisconsin Rapids UCC.

Most projects had a starting point of wanting to do something green. Some churches had congregation members with experience in home solar; others began their projects at the request of a pastor. Like Union, congregations favored the projects but had some uncertainty about the details.

But once the churches took the big leap, they found that their contractors were strong and proactive partners, spotting and fixing small issues quickly. Because there are few moving parts in a solar installation, there was no maintenance. The after-the-fact consensus was positive, strongly positive.

But as we all know, the devil (and the delight) is in the details: sizing the installation, understanding the utility reimbursement for excess power, thinking through future needs for electricity such as auto charging stations, uncovering the tax incentives for congregation members, and the cost savings offered by new legislation.

Lou and I will be communicating more about the solar project in future months. We invite interested congregation members to join our work group!

For starters, let's all learn more by visiting the Bay Settlement array that the Sisters of St. Francis have installed based on their needs and values. Their contractor was Eland Electric, the one who offered us the most attractive proposal last winter. We plan to offer a light lunch on Sunday, September 25, at 11:30 a.m., then travel to Bay Settlement for a short tour. Plenty of time to be home for the Packers! RSVP for lunch/tour to the church office 920-437-9266.

Go Green!

—Cathy Putman

## **PRIDE Alive Volunteers Needed**

Can you spare two hours on Saturday, September 24 between noon and 6 to help staff Union's booth at PRIDE Alive? We're looking for people to tell folks why you love our church and that it really is Open and Affirming. We'll have pamphlets, a photo display of Union LGBTQIA families, and glitter blessings! Sign up for a shift through the link in your This Week at Union email, on the sign-up sheet at Union Central, or by contacting the church office.

## Neighbors in Need

The United Church of Christ offers grants to organizations nationwide engaged in justice work. Our church will support this effort with a special offering on Sunday, October 2. Any gift, no matter the amount, shows we share a hope for a world free of poverty and prejudice.

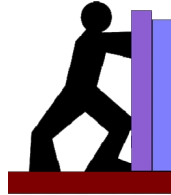
## Blessing Box Funds Running Low

The Blessing Box has been in operation for over two years and during that time the community and members of this congregation have generously given food and money to support it. Thank you!

Because of an increase in traffic, we decided in January to supplement food drive donations with bulk purchasing. We are now averaging about \$550 per month in purchases. At that rate, our funds will run out before Thanksgiving. The increase in cost is due primarily to inflation.

Usage is up also. The box empties quickly after we fill it three times a week. We'd like to consider filling it four times a week, but that means we will have to increase monetary and food donations significantly.

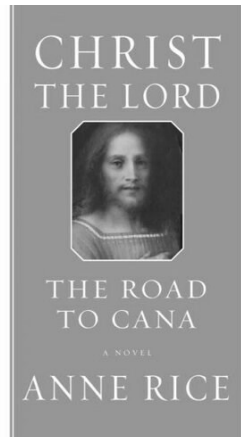
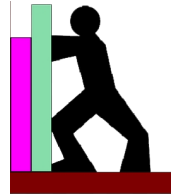
If you can help us continue this important ministry, please consider donating monetarily through the church giving website. Thank you.



## Your Church Library

### Recent Gifts to the Church Library

by Cathy Putman



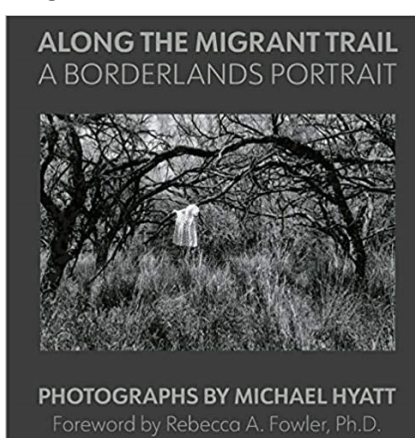
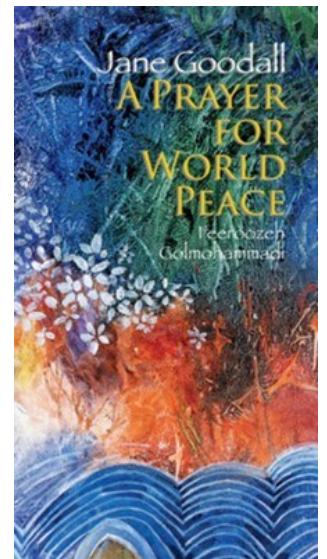
In the aftermath of COVID and the lack of a used book sale, the church library has added fewer books than usual this year. But the few that have come our way are interesting, and we are grateful to the givers for the gifts.

Before leaving for North Carolina, Sylvia Garrido gave us Anne Rice's highly imaginative life of Jesus novel, The Road to Cana. Published in 2008, it was a sequel to Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt and part of a projected four-book series. Rice confronted severe medical issues related to diabetes in 2004, prompting her return to the Catholic faith. By 2013, she had separated from organized religion but did not lose her relationship with Jesus. On Amazon

she is quoted, "I have always written about outsiders, about outcasts, about those whom others tend to shun or persecute. And it does seem that I write a lot about their interaction with others like them and their struggle to find some community of their own." This sentiment rings true of her supernatural novels and her life of Christ books. Rice died in 2021.

Friend of the church, Anneliese Waggoner, has given us Jane Goodall's A Prayer for World Peace. This slender book, copiously illustrated by Iranian artist Feeroozeh Golmohammadi, urges us to care for all creation – people, animals and ecosystems. Goodall says, "Lasting peace between peoples will never come about unless we learn to respect and live in harmony with nature."

Judy Larmouth donated the book, Along the Migrant Trail: A Borderlands Portrait. Judy traveled



to the borderlands with a Union group a few years ago. This series of images recalls the tribulations, the needs and the welcome offered by some to those crossing the desert between Mexico and the U.S. as refugees from violence and poverty.

These gifts reflect in prayer, in pilgrimage and imagination, living with the Christ spirit dominant. They and other books are in the basket under the window in the church library. Happy reading!

## October-November Seminary Secrets Series

### Why Is Mark So Dark?

**Most Christians have a hard time keeping the four Gospels straight.** That is, most have a “harmonized” story of Jesus in their heads, which they’ve learned from children’s Bibles, Sunday School, sermons, and snippets of Scripture read in church on Sundays. But the four biblical Gospels were written at different times, by different authors who lived in different communities. Hence, when each Gospel is studied closely, unique characteristics become apparent.

**For example, here are some fun facts about the Gospel of Mark:**

- Mark is our earliest Gospel, written about 70 CE (AD).
- Mark is full of gloom and doom about Jesus’ fate as one destined to die humiliated and abandoned by all, even his Father.
- Why is Mark dark?
  - \* It was written just after the Jewish-Roman war, which involved a brutal three-year starvation siege of Jerusalem; the war ended when the Romans breached the city walls and destroyed the Temple and most of the city.
  - \* Mark’s community was under persecution; the temptation to abandon loyalty to Jesus was acute.
- How does Mark compare to the other Gospels?
  - \* Mark was the basis for both Matthew and Luke, and shares much of its material with those two. Those Gospels had access to a list of Jesus’ sayings (scholars call “Q”); Mark apparently did not. This fact, together with Mark’s dark outlook, uniquely shaped its theology and themes.
  - \* Since Mark lacked access to Q, his Gospel is the shortest and most concise. It’s action packed, with fewer sayings and parables. Compared to John, Mark’s story-line, picture of Jesus, and overall theology are dramatically different.

**Studying each Gospel on its own terms is an eye-opening experience! Therefore, this academic year, we will focus on studying the Gospels,** using the standard tools of biblical criticism. We’ll start with **Mark**, then go on to **Luke**. Since **Matthew** and **John** have been covered in recent years, we’ll consider whether we want to review those as well. All of this will create the foundation necessary for an in-depth study of **the historical Jesus**, the final topic in this year’s series. No prior biblical knowledge is necessary, so please don’t hesitate to join in!

**VENUE—HYBRID CLASSES!** With a Meeting Owl Pro device, Julie can now offer “hybrid” classes. Some people will be in-person at church; others can simultaneously attend via Zoom. The people physically in the room can see and hear the Zoomers and the Zoomers can see and hear everyone who’s speaking—fellow Zoomers and those in the classroom.

**DATES AND TIME:** Wednesdays (6:15 to 7:30 p.m.) October 19 through November 16.

**IF YOU MISS** a class, video-recordings will be available so you can catch up.

**TO SIGN UP AND GET READINGS:** Contact Julie Harder, at [jblackharder@gmail.com](mailto:jblackharder@gmail.com) or 920-465-0752. **Please indicate whether you prefer in-person or by Zoom.**

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## Our Church Family

As our church family steps into fall we offer special prayers for students, educators, and parents as this new year offers opportunities for growth while at the same time posing its own unique challenges.

- .
- .

Please reach out to one another to offer the love, support, and care we promise as a church family.

## Our Attendance

<b>August</b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>
1st Sunday	56	110
2nd Sunday	70	54
3rd Sunday	52	80
4th Sunday	63	50
<b>Totals</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>294</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>73.5</b>

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## Love Life Diaper Drive

Union Church's annual diaper drive for Love Life began Sunday, September 11 and will run through October 9. Love Life is supported by many local churches and the United Way.

The drive provides a partial supply of diapers, formula and gently used clothing for low income families with children ages 0 to 3 who are in the WIC program. Newborns are given a layette with a collection of clothing, blankets and care items needed for their first few weeks. Each child gets a new outfit and a book at birthday time. At age three, they are given materials to promote toilet training and they leave the program.

A package of diapers contains 50 diapers, which can be collected once a month. In August, 178 packages were provided to 148 families. That works out to 8,900 diapers distributed in one month! The sizes most needed are 4, 5, and 6. Also, because of the recent formula shortage which limited the amount one could buy, formula is needed. Most used are cans of Similac, any variety.

In short, Love Life needs diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6 and also cans of Similac formula. Donations can be placed in the container in the coat room at church.

The families are so grateful for this assistance. Thanks in advance for helping give our youngest citizens a good start in life.

If you have questions about the diaper drive, call Jean Smithback at 920-930-8271. Thanks!

**You are cordially invited to  
join us for  
JOSHUA's Annual Banquet**

**\$50 per ticket or \$350 for a table of eight**



**Featuring Tamra Oman, statewide director for the EXPO FREE Campaign. Tamra works to lift the voices of women impacted by the legal system.**

**October 13th, 2022 at 5:30 PM  
Riverside Ballroom, 1560 Main St,  
Green Bay, WI**

**FORWARD TOGETHER IN  
FAITH AND JUSTICE**

**RSVP on our website: [www.joshua4justice.org](http://www.joshua4justice.org)**

Tamra Oman (see above) is the statewide director for the EXPO FREE campaign. What is FREE? FREE is an organization of formerly incarcerated women associated with the EXPO organization. EXPO works to restore the rights and dignity of those affected by the criminal justice system. FREE and EXPO are in the process of developing a presence in the Green Bay area.

The FREE Campaign was founded in 2016 by women who are members of EXPO Wisconsin, when they began to notice the lack of discussion of women's particular incarceration challenges. Led by people who are directly impacted, EXPO (Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing) is committed to dismantling all systems that support mass incarceration and excessive supervision. EXPO exists so that people with shared experience of incarceration are able to build collective power to change the climate of incarceration in Wisconsin. EXPO is an affiliate of WISDOM, a faith-based community organization in Wisconsin.

The banquet will also include an auction. The banquet is the main fundraising activity supporting JOSHUA's operations. Go to [joshua4justice.com](http://joshua4justice.com) to purchase tickets or call Caitlin Haynes at (920) 391-9286.

# Union Church Calendar

## September 18, 2022—October 19, 2022

\*Zoom links are available in your This Week at Union email, from the church office, or from Ministry chairs.

### ReUnion Sunday September 18

8:45 a.m. Nursery Opens  
 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
           Open House  
 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearses  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
           with Holy Communion or  
           stream it online

**Potluck Luncheon in Pilgrim Hall**  
 (following worship)

### September 19 Monday

11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch  
           at the Village Grille

### September 20 Tuesday

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

### September 21 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels  
 5:45 p.m. Dinner  
 6:15 p.m. Youth Group

### September 24 Saturday

12:00 p.m. PRIDE Alive at Brown  
           County Fairgrounds

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### September 25 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
           or stream it online

After worship

Light lunch followed by a tour of the  
 Bay Settlement Community  
 of the Sisters of St. Francis

### September 27 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)  
 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle  
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

### September 28 Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Angels

-----

### October 2 Sunday

#### Neighbors In Need Offering

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
 10:00 a.m. Worship with  
           Holy Communion  
           in the sanctuary or  
           stream it online

After worship

Information Gathering  
 for Feasibility Study in the sanctuary

### October 4 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)  
 2:30 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

### October 5 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group  
           at Denny's on Oneida  
 5:45 p.m. Dinner  
 6:15 p.m. Youth Group  
 6:30 p.m. Information Gathering  
           for Feasibility Study in  
           the sanctuary

### October 8 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Stock the Box Drive

### October 9 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
           or stream it online

### October 11 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)  
 5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry  
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir  
 6:30 p.m. New Member Class

### October 12 Wednesday

6:30 p.m. Information Gathering  
           for Feasibility Study  
           (Zoom)

### October 13 Thursday

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

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### October 16 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
           or stream it online

### October 17 Monday

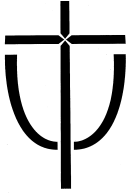
11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch  
           at the Village Grille

### October 18 Tuesday

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

### October 19 Wednesday

5:30 p.m. New Member Class  
 5:45 p.m. Dinner  
 6:15 p.m. Youth Group  
 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets



Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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## Interested in Learning More About 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 be hosting two classes to help people get to know Union, our community, and each other on Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30 p.m. and on Wednesday, October 19 at 5:30 p.m. It's helpful to participate in both sessions.

After those two sessions, people who would like to join the church will be received into membership during worship on Sunday, November 6.

Please contact the church office at [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com) or 920-437-9266, to register and receive the Zoom link.

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### **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>