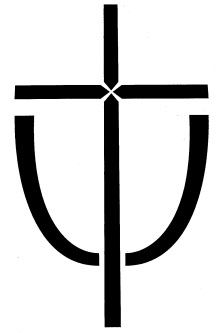


# Still Speaking



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

October 2022



Daylight Saving Time  
ends November 6

## Union's Budget by the Numbers

As we focus on Loving Our Neighbors...No Exceptions in our Stewardship Campaign this fall, my last few email columns to you have been stories of how Union makes a difference in real people's lives. We mailed home a beautiful color brochure that uses pictures and words to help you to weigh in on a possible Capital Campaign early next year. My preaching this fall has centered on Union's "why." That is, why does it matter that our church exists? In all of this, we hope to share a robust snapshot of who Union is and what we're about.

Today, I'd like to share stewardship from a different angle: Union by the numbers. All month, we've been talking about the human interest stories your stewardship enables, but sometimes, it's hard to envision what our pledges do concretely. And so here is a different snapshot - from Union's ledgers:

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

Our next newsletter will be published  
the week of **November 16**.

The deadline for that newsletter is  
Friday, **November 11**.

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\$25,646	Our yearly utility cost.
\$14,276	What it takes to insure our beautiful building.
\$9,750	The yearly cost for snow removal.
\$4,896	Our weekly staff salaries.
\$3,271	Keeps our technology up and running.
\$3,021	The cost of postage.
\$1,248	The cost of copy paper.
\$951	What we spend on our music ministry on a weekly basis.
\$763	What we spent last year on curriculum for youth Faith Formation.
\$520	Is what we spend on health insurance every week.
\$400	What Worship Ministry budgets yearly for flowers, in addition to the flowers you provide.
\$266	Keeps us in altar candles.
\$227	Pays for the ingredients to make the evening meal for over 100 people at the NEW Community Shelter.
\$80	Cost budgeted to provide Wednesday night dinners for all who are interested.
\$55	Keeps our telephones and internet on for a week.
\$47	What we spend for an average week's office supplies and machines.
\$19	Our JOSHUA membership dues breaks down to this much per week.
\$11	Is what it costs to provide coffee hour each week.

(continued on page 2)

## Lectionary Readings

### 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

### November 1

#### All Saints Day

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 and Psalm 149  
 Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

### November 6

#### 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Haggai 1:15b-2:9 and  
 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98  
 Job 19:23-27a and Psalm 17:1-9  
 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17  
 Luke 20:27-38

### November 13

#### 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25 and Isaiah 12  
 Malachi 4:1-2a and Psalm 98  
 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

### November 20

#### Reign of Christ

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79  
 Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 46  
 Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

### November 24

#### Thanksgiving Day

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Psalm 100  
 Philippians 4:4-9; John 6:25-35

(continued from page 1)

Of course, our ministry is so much more than these numbers, so much bigger than dollar amounts. But nonetheless, I think it's important for all of us as community members to have at least a small grasp on what it takes to keep our ministries going. Union IS worship and outreach and education and inreach, and it is your stewardship that provides the necessary infrastructure for these things to flourish. Thank you! Without you, none of this would be possible.

As you pray about your pledge this year, the Generosity Team is asking you to consider raising it 3% to 5% to help Union respond to increasing economic costs and to be on a more stable financial footing both this year, and in the years to come. No matter what you can do, know that we are grateful that this is a church that takes to heart Jesus' commandment to:

Love Our Neighbors... No Exceptions.

Gratefully,  
 Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

## Our Church Family

Please reach out to these church family members who we are holding in prayer:

- Union members **JoHanna Beal and Zak Krueger** who Pastor Bridget married, **Zak's father, Chris**, and grandparents **Helen and Chuck Krueger**.
- **Bob Fahres and his family** as we celebrated a memorial service for his **late wife Anne** this month.
- **Richard Miller and Tom Peterson** as Richard is home after having been hospitalized with health concerns.
- **Larry Heath and Glen Verstegen** as they mourn the death of **Larry's brother, Daniel**.
- **Barrett Tryon** as **his mother** undergoes treatment for cancer.

## Purple Porch Project

Outreach Ministry is proud to join Golden House in promoting Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For the month of October, people are lighting their homes and businesses in purple to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse. Let us pray for health and healing for all as we work for justice.



## Our Attendance

September	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
1st Sunday	70	46
2nd Sunday	100*	71*
3rd Sunday	84	89
4th Sunday	92	47
<b>Totals</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>253</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>86.5</b>	<b>63.3</b>

\* Totals include 47 worshippers at Moon Beach in 2022 and 41 in 2021.

# **ReUnion Sunday**

**was**

## **September 18, 2022**

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## **Let's Fill an Ark—Heifer Sunday is October 30**

**Heifer International** works with communities to end world hunger and poverty. Through our Heifer Living Gift Market we hope to inspire our church family to get involved in ending hunger and poverty, bringing the commandment to love your neighbor to life year-round.

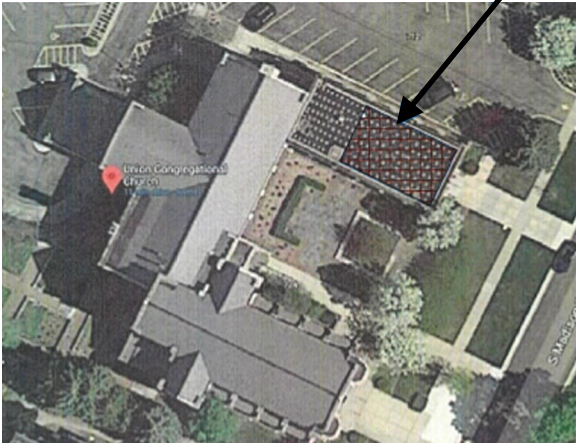
Those who receive our gift not only benefit from the animal, but they also pass on the gift to other families. This allows them to help others as you helped them.

Our goal is to fill an ark. This can be with your gift of a goat, water buffalo, alpaca, llama, sheep, pig, fish fingerlings, rabbits, honeybees, ducks, chickens, and more.

Come out to the courtyard after church on October 30. We will have exhibits, treats and special visitors. If you are not able to join us in person, you can contribute by sending a check to the church (please mark Heifer in the memo line) or online at [unionucc.com/giving](https://unionucc.com/giving) and then select Heifer.

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Solar panel installation acceptable  
in area east of roof hatch.



(L-R) Sister Rose Jochmann, OSF; Sister Mary Kabat, Cathy Putman, Julie Harder, Betty Hartman, Phil and Kitty Hauck, Steve Hartman, Mark Smith, Heather Collins, and Richard Henes (designer of Union’s proposed solar system and part of the team that designed and implemented the Sisters’ array).

## Union Members Explore Solar Savings and Impact

On Sunday, September 25, Union members toured the solar garden of the Sisters of Saint Francis on Nicolet Drive, Green Bay. Sisters Rose and Mary walked us through several green efforts the community has undertaken to reduce their need for fossil fuel. Their commitment to earth care and to finding the means to enact their commitment was impressive. While their fundraising was robust, it initially seemed not quite enough and the Sisters proceeded on faith. In the last hour, a family estate gift completed their need.

The Sisters’ first solar array was installed in 2014. They saw significant improvements in efficiency with the second installation in 2019. Their garden has reduced their electric costs by 50%.

At Union, we are considering a smaller solar application to reduce our electric grid dependence. This investment is an asset that repays its cost over time. Importantly, it would decrease our use of mostly coal-

fueled electricity from WPS, helping us to care for God’s creation as spoken of in Genesis.

The Mayflower wing rooftop where the solar panels would be mounted has been examined and assessed as safe by Berners Schober Architects and Engineering. The 42 panels would have a shallow slope and will not be visible from the street. Wisconsin’s cooler temperatures are good for the equipment and they make electricity in all seasons.

The list cost for the project in spring of 2022 was \$48,000 reduced by \$6,000 to \$42,000 using grants secured by Mark Smith. According to information offered in a UCC denomination webinar, through the new Inflation Reduction Act, we expect the church to be eligible to save 30% of the total cost, or an additional \$14,400 over the initial estimate. More details about the cost saving and an updated estimate will be available in February of 2023.

—Photos and text by Lou Norsetter and Cathy Putman



## The Blessing Box: Two Years of Growth and Counting!

The Blessing Box is an outdoor, 24/7, self-service, no-paperwork-required food pantry. Since it began, many have been served and much has been learned!

**2020** — The Blessing Box opened in the summer of 2020, offering food, household, and personal care items to meet a variety of individual and family needs. A goal was established to restock the pantry three times a week, with items received via monthly congregational food drives.

**2021** — Our second year brought significant and sustained acceleration in usage, and the team struggled to keep pace. The Blessing Box began to empty within hours of restocking and food drive donations depleted quickly, creating frequent shortages. In response, a decision was made to use Blessing Box cash donations to purchase inventory to supplement items received via monthly food drives. The goal was to ensure sufficient supply on hand to stock the Blessing Box three times per week. We also implemented a process to count and track inventory so we could more effectively monitor our rate of usage, identify changes needed to what we offer and improve our ability to estimate replenishment needs.

**2022** — Our current goal is to stock the Blessing Box to approximately 100% full, three times per week. Here is our projection for the month of November 2022:

**Items needed per week:** 325 (to supply three restocks)

**Items needed for the month:** 1,300

**Projected food drive item donations:** 225

**Projected items needed via inventory purchasing:** 1,075

**Inventory purchasing budget status:** We project current cash donation funds to last about 2-1/2 months.

### How Best to Help!

Cash donations are ideal. To donate, get a check with “Blessing Box” on the memo line to the church office via the offering plate or mail, or go to our website and click on the “Giving” tab. If you prefer to shop, donations of food and other items are welcome! Here are some wintertime suggestions:

- Chicken or Tuna Pouches
- Granola Bars or Nuts/Dried Fruit Snack Packs (Individually Wrapped)
- Mac & Cheese
- Ramen Noodle Packs
- Rice or Noodle Side Dish (Instant Dry Mix Pouch or Box)
- Paper Towel and Toilet Paper

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Representing Union Church at the New Community Shelter (we prepare a meal and help serve it one Thursday every month) are (L-R) Patti King, Kitty Hauck, Achim Seifert (coordinator) and Mark Smith. If you would like to learn more about serving, contact Marty Berry at [mjpberry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mjpberry@sbcglobal.net).

(photo courtesy of Phil Hauck)

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## Trick or Treat at Union Church

We're seeking donations of candy to be handed out on Halloween (4 to 7 p.m.). This is a simple, sweet way that we connect with our neighborhood.

If you'd like to pitch in, drop candy off at the church office (8-4, M-F) by October 27 (so that Pastor Bridget knows how much she needs to supplement the supply). An adult volunteer or two is always welcome, to help with this fun offering.

### Women's Advent Reflection Monday, December 5 in Pilgrim Hall

Please consider signing up to host or co-host one of our tables or to read during the program. Thanks!

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## Welcome, Andrew!

(photo courtesy of Cathy Putman)

Please join in welcoming Andrew Verhulst as our new Maintenance Technician (also sometimes called the church Sexton)! Raised in Kiel, Andrew has a breadth of knowledge of things building and maintenance related. In his interview, he told us that one of his favorite pastimes is watching YouTube videos of how to fix things. An avid hunter and fisher, he's also no stranger to the UCC, having been a member of Bethlehem UCC in Kiel before he and his wife moved to the Green Bay area.

Andrew will generally be onsite Sunday through Thursday and as needed. Please seek him out to welcome him and for help in keeping our buildings/grounds in top shape.

SAVE THE DATE  
Union Church's Annual  
**Christmas  
Pageant**  
Sunday, December 18  
at 10 a.m.

## Thank You from the Church Garden

While not quite done in the former Biblical Garden for the season, we've had a lot of help revamping the look and functionality of the space. Gary Gierczak and Bill Johnson cut down weedy and overgrown trees opening up the west side of the garden. Mowers Christian, Carter and Charlie Reese and Charles Schwenk collected grass clippings delivering them to the garden for mulch. A Four Season Tree Care cut the large wood cookies that will be installed as part of the new paths. Before she left, Isis Garrido donated two concrete deco stones.

Most recently, Jeff Carels (see photo) delivered and helped spread about a yard and a half of compost from the west side City Yard.

Our last project will be spreading a winter leaf mulch in the areas we are not fall seeding. We will collect leaves from the church property for this, but they will not be enough. If you bag your leaves and are willing to bring some of them to church, we would welcome the donation. If so, a call, text or email to Cathy Putman ([cputman@new.rr.com](mailto:cputman@new.rr.com) or 920-435-1540) would be great.

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## Support the Outreach General Election Soup Sale

Here's how to help on or before November 8:

- **You can make soup and/or baked goods for the sale.** Quart containers for soup are available in the kitchen starting October 16. Please bring soup in containers (labeled with soup variety) back to church by 7 a.m. on Tuesday, November 8. Church refrigerators are available for storage starting Sunday, November 6. Please call or text Christie Reese at 920-273-5349 if you plan to contribute soup or baked goods for the sale.
- **You can sell soup and goodies on November 8 beginning at 8 a.m. until we sell out.** Please call or text Christie Reese at 920-273-5349 if you can help with the sale table.
- **You can buy some soup and/or a sweet treat on November 8.**

Outreach is grateful for your ongoing support. The funds that are raised at the election food sale go into the general Outreach fund and are used for one-time requests from local partners, holiday service projects, and other outreach initiatives that do not have a designated fund.



# Union Church Calendar

## October 23, 2022—November 26, 2022

### October 23 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
or stream it online  
11:15 a.m. Confirmation meeting  
with teens and parents

### October 25 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circe  
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir  
NO Chancel Choir

### October 26 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Youth Group  
Bonfire & Dinner at  
Pastor Bridget's  
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

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### October 30 Sunday

#### Heifer Living Gift Market

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
or stream it online  
11:15 a.m. Heifer Living Gift Market

### October 31 Monday

4:00 p.m. Trick or Treat at Union

### November 1 Tuesday

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

### November 2 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  
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

### November 6 Sunday

#### New Member Sunday Daylight Saving Time Ends

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

### November 7 Monday

3:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry

### November 8 Tuesday

#### Election Day

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

#### Outreach Election Soup & Bake Sale

8 a.m. until goods sell out

### November 9 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

### November 10 Thursday

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

### November 12 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Stock the Box Drive  
9:00 a.m. Wreath Decorating

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### November 13 Sunday

#### Pledge Sunday Recognizing Our Veterans

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

### November 15 Tuesday

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

### November 16 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Dinner  
6:15 p.m. Youth Group  
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

### November 17 Thursday

3:00 p.m. Visitation Ministry

### November 18 Friday

4:00 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

### November 19 Saturday

10:00 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

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### November 20 Sunday

#### Memorial Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
or stream it online  
12:00 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

### November 21 Monday

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

### November 22 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle  
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir  
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

### November 24 Thursday

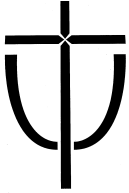
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!  
CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

### November 25 Friday

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED  
4:00 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

### November 26 Saturday

10:00 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale



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

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## Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale



We are in the planning stage of our 5th annual Christmas Tree and Wreath sale. Our tree lot will be open for business on Friday, November 18 and will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from then until December 18 or when all trees and wreaths are sold out.

We are asking for your help in supporting this fundraiser by purchasing a tree and/or a wreath and by volunteering to staff the lot for a 2-hour shift. Lot hours will be the same as last year: Friday (4 to 6 p.m.), Saturday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Sunday (noon to 4 p.m.) A Google Doc will be used to sign up for shifts.

We will also be asking for volunteers to help decorate the wreaths starting on Saturday, November 12 at 9 a.m. Other than that Saturday, there will not be scheduled times to do the decorating, so we ask you to come at times that are convenient for you during normal office hours. Supplies and wreaths will be available in Pilgrim Hall.

We thank you for your past support of this fundraiser and look forward to another successful season selling trees and wreaths.

—Christmas Tree and Wreath Committee

### **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>