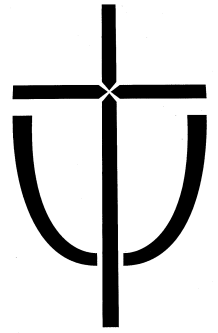


Still Speaking



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

November 2022

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter
will be published the week
of **December 14, 2022.***

*The deadline for that newsletter
is Friday, **December 9, 2022.***

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For the morning program during our all-church retreat this fall, I invited my colleague Rev. Andrew Warner to help our attendees articulate Union's WHY. That is, to work to put into words our church's purpose.

My reasoning for inviting Andrew to do this is rooted in the fact that when we are clear about our purpose, we then find both clarity and insight. Being able to articulate our church's WHY can help us to develop ministries, help us turn down other opportunities that may not be as good of a fit, and help us share what our congregation is truly passionate about.

Andrew led us through a series of exercises; first naming WHAT Union does that is interesting or important or impactful, then HOW we do those things, as groundwork for exploring our church's WHY. The exercises and questions were so compelling, I wove them into several sermons throughout our fall Loving Our Neighbors...No Exceptions Stewardship Campaign.

**What do you love about Union?
When have we seen Union at its best?
Why does this church matter to God?**

Your answers are breathtaking and moving. You wrote about inclusion and belonging. A lot. You wrote about loving our neighbors without exception. You wrote out the Bond of Union, especially "to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations." Being Open and Affirming stood out for many as something they love and that God loves.

At the retreat, someone shared that they saw Union at its best when one of our children played their instrument in worship recently, and this led to a rich discussion both about how prioritizing youth is important as well as about how our "best" isn't always something big or flashy, but often comes through in our general ways of being, like loving one another and welcoming the stranger as guest.

Outreach and transforming the world through service, advocacy, and generosity was another theme in your responses.

In fact, a cynic might say that our answers were rather...predictable. They are, in a sense, but I find the fact that these are the themes you find

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings**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

November 27**1st Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

December 4**2nd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

December 11**3rd Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55

James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 18**4th Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

December 24**Christmas Eve**

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

December 25**Christmas Day**

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)

John 1:1-14

(continued from page 1)

compelling in our church to be energizing. The fact that you're probably not surprised by one another's answers tells me that we are truly living these things, that these themes and behaviors are woven into the very fabric of who Union is and what we're about.

As we wrap up this year's Stewardship Season, I look to the ways that you have articulated Union's purpose, and I am filled with gratitude. Gratitude first and foremost to God for inspiring us to love so fully and extravagantly and expansively, but also gratitude to all of you for answering God's call to love. We may be a small band of Christ's followers, but the way we live God's love makes a difference!

Gratefully,
Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

Our Church Family**Did You Remember Union Church in Your Will?**

Thanks to the estate of Carol and Jim Bowley for making a generous gift to Union Church. Remembering Union in your will is an impactful way to keep our congregation vital for generations to come.

**Suzuki Music Academy
Holiday Violin Recital**

The Suzuki Music Academy invites Union members and friends to their 2022 holiday student violin recital on Saturday, December 3, at 2:00 p.m. in the Union Church sanctuary with refreshments directly following in the Church Hall. Admission is free.

The Suzuki Music Academy is grateful to be renting space for weekly student lessons at Union and would love for the Union community to hear the fruits of their work since beginning this relationship with Union in June 2022.

Our Attendance

October	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
1st Sunday	NA	67
2nd Sunday	65	67
3rd Sunday	74	54
4th Sunday	99	50
5th Sunday	91	73
Totals	329	311
Average	82.3	62.2

Priscilla Circle Meets November 22

Priscilla Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 22 at 1 p.m. in the English Room.

Women's Advent Evening of Reflection is December 5

All who identify as female are invited to our annual Women's Advent Evening of Reflection on Monday, December 5. At the event, various church members decorate one table and provide dessert for those who will be seated at the table. We have a lovely time of reflection and song followed by dessert and companionship to ground us as we head into the holiday season. This year, a "little women's" room will be offered for our toddlers and grade schoolers. If you would like to sign up to attend, host or cohost a table, or are interested in learning more, please contact Denise Olson (myersolson22@gmail.com) or Cheryl Myers (myers.america@gmail.com), or sign up at Union Central.

Christmas Fund Offering is December 11

The Christmas Fund Offering provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses, including pension and health premium supplementation, emergency assistance, and Christmas thank-you checks.

Please consider giving to our UCC church family. If contributing by check, make out your check to Union Church and indicate Christmas Fund in the memo line. You may also give electronically at unionucc.com. Your gift will be included on your annual giving statement. Thank you.

Advent and Christmas at a Glance



Sunday, Nov. 27 1st Sunday of Advent

We begin our preparation for the birth of our Lord.

Sunday, Dec. 4 2nd Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist and his message of repentance and renewal are the focus on this Second Sunday of Advent. We will gather at our Lord's table in Communion.

Monday, Dec. 5 Women's Advent Evening of Reflection

Prepare your spirit for the celebration of our Savior's birth. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. — Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 11 3rd Sunday of Advent

On this Sunday, we reflect on Mary and Joseph and their amazing part in the gift of God's love.

Saturday, Dec. 17 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

For the pageant rehearsal schedule, please see page 6.

Sunday, Dec. 18 4th Sunday in Advent—Christmas Pageant

We tell the story of Jesus' birth in the drama of the Christmas Pageant. **NO FAITH FORMATION** this Sunday.

Saturday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Our early service is more informal with special thought given to children's attention spans. Our later service of scripture, carols, and candlelight is preceded by wonderful Christmas music starting at 7:30 p.m. Join us!

3:00 p.m. Worship with a special welcome to our children

7:30 p.m. The Music of Christmas

8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight worship

Sunday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day

NO WORSHIP this Sunday.

Sunday, Jan. 1 New Year's Day Jazz Worship

Join us for Jazz Worship with Holy Communion and a potluck brunch in the Church Hall. The service will also be available online. **NO FAITH FORMATION** this Sunday.



Union Church Welcomes 8 New Members!

On November 6, it was our joy to welcome 8 new members to the faith and fellowship of Union Church!

Amanda and Daniel Hatton

The Hatton family has lived in Green Bay for five years. Previously, they lived in Sturgeon Bay for 15 years.

Amanda works part time for Green Bay Botanical Garden and is a ceramic artist. Daniel works from home for AT&T. He enjoys photography and cars.

Jade is a freshman at Green Bay East High School and is in the drawing intensive program. She loves birds and plays piano. Xavier is a 6th grader at Leonardo da Vinci School. Xavier loves soccer and Legos.



Carol Jones

Carol is living at the Nicolet Highlands Apartments in De Pere and is enjoying retirement. She raised four boys. Two—Steve and Ron—are also members of Union Church.

Carol loves Union’s Open and Affirming standing in the UCC. She enjoys Bible study, reading, and watching old classic movies.



Judy Moats

Judy is a retired attorney. She was born in Eau Claire and raised in Wisconsin.

After having lived in Virginia for many years, Judy returned to Wisconsin. She is the aunt of Union member Jessica Lundgren. Jessica and Libby Sievert are the proud parents of Toby who was born in March.

Judy has attended Union for a number of years. She says Union is “the epitome of all are welcome.”

Jeremy Pelegrin and Bob Hileman



Jeremy



Bob

Along with his partner, Bob, Jeremy has enjoyed coming to Union for the past couple of years. Jeremy has a background in music and theater as well as the social service field, but currently works helping non-profit groups with fundraising at PMI Entertainment and Lambeau Field.

Bob has a professional background in the hospitality field and the culinary arts. He often spends his time volunteering for local food pantries and community theaters. With roots in the St. Paul and Denver areas, Bob moved to Green Bay about five years ago. Bob’s immediate family includes his partner, Jeremy, and his Shih Tzu, George Bailey.

Creation Care Projects — Solar and Green

On Saturday, November 5, I attended the Wisconsin Conference's Creation Care meeting at the newly renamed Daycholah Center (formerly Pilgrim Center) near Ripon. Churches from across the state met for a confab on topics such as solar power, creating a green team at the church, native plant gardening and how to engage and partner with a church neighborhood in creation care projects.

Union is currently engaged in two of these efforts. Regarding solar power, the consensus of those whose churches had already done an installation was that it is performing better than predicted and there have been no maintenance issues. David Mickle, son of longtime member, Ken Mickle, and someone who grew up at Union, guided the solar effort at Plymouth UCC in Madison, an older building with a smallish congregation. In some communities like River Falls, the UCC project has motivated other churches (a little inter-church rivalry here) to complete solar projects of their own, realizing that investing in solar power cares for the earth and pays back the church.

Union has become the site of another green project: a native plant garden/habitat in the former Biblical Garden north of the parking lot. In addition to its stated purposes, the site offers opportunities for green efforts managing the church landscape in general. Native gardens revel in castoff green materials such as fallen leaves and untreated grass clippings, which are used to improve the lean soil and give insect life a



Ballasted solar panels on a flat church roof in North Carolina. Union's panels would be installed on racks above the roof and would not puncture the roof surface.

habitat. Less to the curb or dumpster, more to the earth. Presentations at the conference highlighted efforts turning narrow, parking lot adjacent beds into pollinator gardens, rejuvenating buckthorn infested woodlands, and converting expansive lawns into grassland plantings.

What was interesting is that one creation care project often led to more efforts. Creation care teams took hold of church recycling, neighborhood litter, energy conservation, and education in best practices.

Interested in forming a group to work out a Union green strategy? If so, please contact me, Cathy Putman. (Call/text 920-435-1540 or email cputman@new.rr.com.)



Isabelle Wauters and Jonathon Boldt

Isabelle and Jon are an engaged couple. They are getting married in July 2024.

Jon and Isabelle are new to religion in general, but they know Union is the right place for them because they have felt so welcomed. They also love how open and affirming Union is to everyone.

Isabelle is a full-time college student majoring in elementary education. She plans to graduate in May of 2023. Jon is a store manager and owns a small business.

Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

Our tree lot opens for business on Friday, November 18 and will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from then until December 18 or when all the trees and wreaths are sold.

We are asking for help to support this fundraiser by purchasing a tree and/or a wreath and by volunteering to staff the lot for a 2-hour shift. See your Friday email from Union for the link to sign up for shifts, or contact the church office. Thank you.

Tree lot hours:

Friday (4 to 6 p.m.)

Saturday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Sunday (11:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Giving Envelopes

If you would like to receive numbered weekly giving envelopes for 2023 and haven't received them in the past, please notify the church office by December 7. You may pick up envelopes as of December 16 outside the church office.

Stock Gifts

If you choose to make a gift of stock to the church and would like your gift to be credited to your account this calendar year, please initiate this transaction no later than December 16. Also, let us know of your intention to make a stock gift so we are aware it is your gift when we see the stock sale come to us.

If you need information on how to make a gift of stock, please contact Katrina Catteruccia at finance@unionucc.com.

The Blessing Box Receives a Grant!

This month we were notified that the Blessing Box has been awarded a \$2,400 grant from the *H.E.L.P. Fund, Inc. Sarah Shinn Marshall Fund*! This is a Capital Grant, which means the funds are intended to be used for maintenance and repair of the Blessing Box structure, and for purchase and maintenance of cabinets and other equipment used for storing and managing our inventory.

Our Thanks!

We are very grateful to the donor organizations and to Union Church member Deb Rose who assisted us with the grant application and submission process:

- *The Wisconsin P.E.O. Sisterhood H.E.L.P. Fund, Inc. (Helping Everyone Live Purposefully)* provides short-term financial help for individuals in need and grants to non-profit organizations serving Wisconsin Communities.
- *The Sarah Shinn Marshall Fund* which grants monies up to \$2,500 to 501(c)(3) Wisconsin non-profit organizations or agencies for capital expenditures that will assist the agency in serving Wisconsin communities and persons who may be disabled, disadvantaged or in extreme financial hardship.

Deb can be reached at debrose1104@gmail.com for more information about the *Wisconsin P.E.O. Sisterhood H.E.L.P. Fund, Inc.*

December Opportunities to Bless the Blessing Box!

Outreach Ministry has designated the Blessing Box as a participant in two Union Church Christmas community sharing traditions: the *Giving Tree* and the *Reverse Advent Calendar*. Watch for more information about these opportunities in your *This Week at Union* emails. In light of Blessing Box inclusion in these programs, we will not hold a December food drive.

Cash donations are also always welcome and appreciated! To donate, send a check to the church office either via the offering plate or in the mail, with "Blessing Box" on the memo line. Or, go to the church website www.unionucc.com and click on the "Giving" tab.

Calling All Angels, Shepherds and Animals!

All are invited to participate in our all ages Christmas Pageant.



Sign up at Union Central

Rehearsal — Saturday, December 17

9:00 a.m. Costume Distribution & Readers

9:45 a.m. Pageant Walk-Through

(rehearsal should be finished by 11 a.m.)

Pageant — Sunday, December 18

8:30 a.m. Costumes & Rehearsal

(sweet rolls & juice available for the cast)

10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant

Union Church Calendar

November 20, 2022—December 24, 2022

November 20 Sunday

MEMORIAL SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Faith Form & Confirmation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
or stream it online
11:15 a.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

November 27

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 a.m. Faith Form & Confirmation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
or stream it online
11:15 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

November 29 Tuesday

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

December 2 Friday

4:00 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

December 3 Saturday

10:00 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale
2:00 p.m. Suzuki Music Academy
Violin Recital

December 4

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 a.m. Faith Form & Confirmation
10:00 a.m. Worship
with Holy Communion
in the sanctuary or
stream it online
11:15 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

December 5 Monday

6:00 p.m. Women's Advent Event

December 6 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
2:30 p.m. Education Ministry
3:30 p.m. Worship Ministry
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

December 7 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. Youth Group

December 8 Thursday

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

December 9 Friday

4:00 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

December 10 Saturday

10:00 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale
11:00 a.m. Sober Living House
Bingo & Chili Fundraiser

December 11

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Christmas Fund Offering

9:00 a.m. Faith Form & Confirmation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
or stream it online
11:15 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

December 13 Tuesday

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

December 14 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets (Zoom)

December 17 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant
Rehearsal

December 18

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

UNION'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

NO Faith Form or Confirmation
10:00 a.m. Union's Christmas
Pageant in the sanctuary
or stream it online

December 20 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study

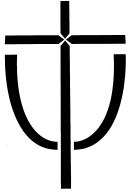
December 21 Wednesday

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

December 24 Saturday

CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 p.m. Early Worship Service
7:30 p.m. The Music of Christmas
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship
Service



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

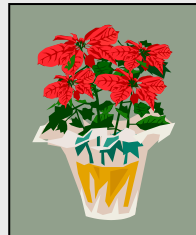
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PERMIT NO. 53
 GREEN BAY, WI

Christmas Altar

Join us in preparing our altar for the Christmas season. We will be purchasing poinsettias at an average cost of \$20 each. If you wish to contribute, please fill out this order form and return it to the church office **by December 16.**



Poinsettia Contribution

I/we would like to contribute for poinsettias

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Dedication for the Bulletin

Union Congregational United Church of Christ

716 S. Madison Street
 Green Bay, WI 54301
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 (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>