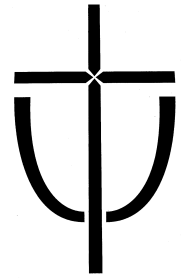


# Still Speaking



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

March 2023

## Protect Us In Our Anxiety

### The Inside Scoop

#### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published  
the week of **April 26.***

*The deadline for that newsletter is  
**Friday, April 21, 2023.***

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All too often, when someone asks how we are doing, we reply “Fine.” And often, the person really, really needs to know us to interpret our response. Is it a curt “Fine,” an exuberant “Fine,” or the pained “Fine?” I fear that many of us go through our lives closed off from one another with no other stone in the wall than “Fine.”

As we anticipate our walk through Holy Week this year, it’s likely the disciples would report that they are doing “Fine.” But really? Really, are they doing fine? Ah, no. They are in the midst of fear, anxiety, and disaster as religious leaders and politicians seem fixated on control as a means to furthering their agendas and Jesus won’t back down from his commitment to liberate everyone from the systems, beliefs, and behaviors that enslave us. The disciples are not fine. We are not fine.

Jesus’ disciples in 33 A.D. weren’t fine, and we aren’t today. Legislators in too many states to name are attempting to limit LGBTQIA+ and women’s basic human rights, people of color continue to face profound levels of bigotry, the word Christian has come to be more closely aligned with hypocrisy than with liberation, and I hear regularly from congregants about pervasive personal dis-ease and anxiety.

All of this was swirling through my head as I read “Protect Us In Our Anxiety” by Lauren L. Murphy. This article reflects on a short prayer spoken by the presider in the Roman Catholic Mass after the Lord’s Prayer, called the Embolism, or expansion. When I was growing up, the official prayer included the phrase, “protect us from all anxiety.” It serves the purpose of expanding on the phrase in the Lord’s Prayer, “deliver us from evil.”

Murphy reflects that when her pastor tweaked the official phrase ever so slightly, instead praying, “protect us in our anxiety,” the prayer became a tool she used to process and manage her anxiety.

In our anxiety? In? Yes, in. A subtle shift, but a profound one. People who struggle with their mental health are often told to pray more, trust more, have more faith. “Let go and let God.” It is a slap in the face to anyone managing a crisis, struggling with depression or anxiety, trying to find a way

*(continued on page 2)*

**Lectionary Readings****March 19 — 4th Sunday in Lent**

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**March 26 — 5th Sunday in Lent**

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

**April 2 — Palm Sunday**

(Liturgy of the Palms)  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matt 21:1-11  
(Liturgy of the Passion)  
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matt 26:14-27:66 or Matt 27:11-54

**April 6 — Maundy Thursday**

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**April 7 — Good Friday**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or  
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1-19:42

**April 8 — Holy Saturday**

Job 14:1-14 or  
Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24  
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8  
Matthew 27:57-66 or  
John 19:38-42

**April 9 — Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Corinthians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or Matt 28:1-10

**April 16 — 2nd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

*(continued from page 1)*

forward. Mental illness is not a lack of faith. In fact, I'd argue that it displays an abundance of faith: to still show up, to muddle through, to problem solve, to anticipate relief. Folks with anxiety are not faithless. They're counting the bricks and hoping to God they won't fall down around, or on, us.

With "protect us in our anxiety," I found a home for my fear: I don't need to wish it away or pray it away. Anxiety doesn't work like that. Rather than being protected from all anxiety, what I need is to be protected in my anxiety. Protected as I sit shaking in my bed—overheated yet somehow with cold sweats, heart racing, dizzy—because of a panic attack. Protected as I worry about who will fall victim to crisis and calamity next. Protected as I navigate the very murky waters of mingling grief and anxiety. Protected as I try to put the pieces that have shattered around me back together. Protected... [Murphy]

Friends, there's a lot of anxiety out there—due to our inhumanity toward one another as well as due to mental health concerns. When you find yourself anxious, which we all will at some point, my prayer is that you will know God's protection in it. That you will know that Christ understands and empathizes with your struggle. That your church community will walk beside you and share the load.

We're rounding the home stretch on our 2023 Lenten season. May this prayer, and all you do to seek healing for yourself and others, prepare you for Easter and the most profound truth of our faith—that Love never dies.

Love,  
Pastor Bridget

## Easter Breakfast Sunday, April 9

8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Inreach Ministry invites those attending worship on Easter to enjoy a delicious breakfast in the church hall. No reservations are necessary. Bring your friends and eat after early worship (8 a.m.) or before worship at 10 a.m. Sign up at Union Central if you would like to help provide food, set up, or clean up. A free-will offering would be gratefully accepted.

## Our Attendance

February	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
1st Sunday	88	*
2nd Sunday	120	*
3rd Sunday	90	*
4th Sunday	106	38
<b>Totals</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>38.0</b>

\* folks were encouraged to stream our worship service rather than attend in person.

## Holy Week with Union Church

Worship, with the exception of Maundy Thursday and the early Easter service, will also be accessible via Facebook Live on the Union Congregational United Church of Christ page or on our YouTube channel which can be accessed from [www.unionucc.com](http://www.unionucc.com).

### Palm Sunday—April 2

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:55 a.m. Children gather for Palm Procession
- 10:00 a.m. Worship



### Maundy Thursday—April 6

- 6:00 p.m. Agape Meal with Holy Communion in the church hall (includes a light dinner)



### Good Friday—April 7

- 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Worship in the Shadows in the sanctuary

### Easter Sunday—April 9

8:00 a.m.

Easter Worship with Holy Communion in Bagby Chapel



8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

Easter Breakfast in the Church Hall

10:00 a.m.

Joyful Easter Worship in the sanctuary OR stream it online



No Faith Formation  
No Adult Education on Easter Sunday

## OGHS Offering Changed to March 26

One Great Hour of Sharing on March 26 is a churchwide offering to support the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC.

## Priscilla Circle to Meet on March 28

Members of Priscilla Circle will gather at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28 in the English Room. Lou Ann Norsetter and Betty Bienash will present a travelogue on their recent trip to Greece.

## Spring Bulb Fundraiser

Our spring bulb fundraiser is back! We are again partnering with Three Rivers Wreath & Plant Company to offer a unique variety of bulbs, bare roots, and tubers to help our budget. Union earns 50% profit from every sale! Simply purchase items online using the link below between now and April 24, and your order will be shipped directly to you in early May—just in time for spring planting.

<https://threeriversfundraising.com/fundraiser/ucucc-s23>

Our experience of the bulbs last year was wonderful, but selection does dwindle if you drag your feet.

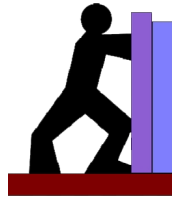
Don't miss

### Life on the West Bank

an opportunity to meet and hear the stories of 2 Palestinian Christians

**April 16 at 9 a.m.  
in Bagby Chapel**

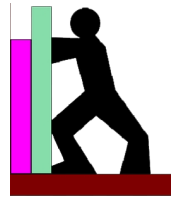
see your This Week at Union email for more details



## Your Church Library

### Two Stories About Easter

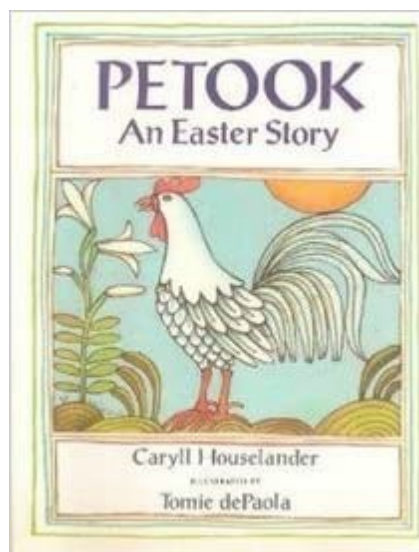
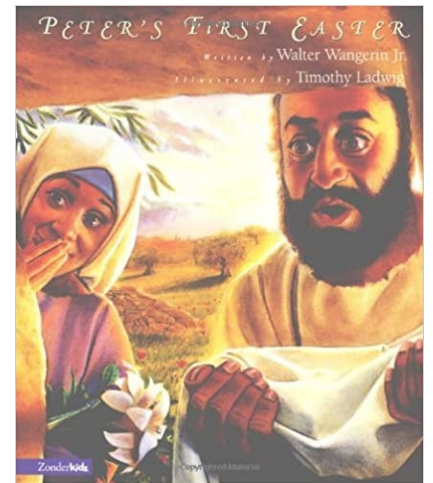
by Cathy Putman



The genius of the Old and New Testament scriptures is their intimate way of telling story, within the context of the family or close associates, in the case of Jesus.

The Gospel story of Jesus's last days as observed by Peter is deeply dramatic and it is brought concretely to life by snatches of dialogue and the exchange of glances. The sense of Messiah hovers over the events. Perhaps there will be a miraculous rescue in the offing which Peter will witness. But this story has no genre-based outcome. It's a chronicle that simply unfolds and tests Peter.

We have in the church library a picture book that threads the biblical details together and offers a vivid version of the Holy Week story and continues through the events of Eastertide. It's called Peter's First Easter and was written by former Lutheran pastor Walter Wangerin, Jr.



In another picture book, Petook: An Easter Story, situated at a distance from the politics and personalities of Easter, mystic and writer Caryl Houselander offers an Easter story infused with the seasonal cycle of rebirth. Petook observes the commotion on Golgotha Hill but interprets it in the context of a newly laid egg. In this time of humans despoiling nature's patterns, the mystic lens widens the political story of Jesus's death into one that encompasses all life's creatures.

Whether we are drawn to the Easter story by its depiction of a movement unfolding or by the symbolism of the crucifixion events, these two books

resonate with deeply felt emotions of their authors and provide a way to share Easter with children.

These books—and others—are in the basket under the window in the church library. Happy reading!





**TORIL FISHER**

**Divine Ambiguity:  
Reclaiming The Sacred**

*"Divine Ambiguity: Reclaiming The Sacred" promotes a celebration of humanity. If we open our hearts to compassion and understanding, we will find The Divine in everyone and everything.*

The exhibit in the church hall of Union Church will remain open through Easter.



## Our Church Family

One of the gifts of being a church family is the support we offer one another.

This month:

- 







## Register Now for Church Camp

Registration is now open for summer camps at Daycholah Center on Green Lake and Moon Beach on Little St. Germain Lake, with offerings for pre-K through high schoolers as well as adults and families, including Rainbow Family Camp and sessions for people with autism.

In these places set apart, you will be warmly welcomed by a loving community and have the time to recharge and connect deeply with God, nature, and each other. The outdoor ministry of UCCI welcomes people of all faith backgrounds or no faith background. We provide modern and comfortable accommodations, delicious meals, toasty campfires, and a team eager to serve you. Nature shares the wonder of the sun, stars, water, and trees. The Spirit of God will meet you here.

Summer camp for youth is all about being together and having fun! If you've been thinking about summer camp, make this the year! Campers make new friends, build confidence and independence through shared adventures, and come together in a community of acceptance and belonging.

Visit [www.ucci.org](http://www.ucci.org) for schedules and registration, and contact Pastor Bridget to inquire about scholarships.

### Killoran Scholarship Fund

Thanks to Bernie and Sally Killoran, a wonderful gift is available to the youth of the church. The Killoran Scholarship provides up to \$1,500 scholarships renewable for four years of undergraduate study.

If you are a high school senior or graduate and a member of Union Church, you are eligible to apply. Applicants must enroll in a full-time undergraduate program at Lakeland University, Northland College, or any four-year school in the University of Wisconsin system.

If interested in applying, contact the church office for an application. Applications must be received by May 19.

Questions? Please contact scholarship committee chair, Sandy Polarek at [smpolarek@aol.com](mailto:smpolarek@aol.com).

### Used Book Sale

The church library will resume its book sale this May. Books will be available upstairs in the church hall on Sundays, May 7 and May 14, before and after church. Most books are \$1. Mass market paperbacks and some children's will be 50 cents. Can't beat that!

For a fun and successful sale, we need your donations. Bring your books to the church library on the first floor starting now. Thanks for the help!

Anyone wishing to help with sorting and set up, please contact Cathy Putman, 920-435-1540 or [cputman@new.rr.com](mailto:cputman@new.rr.com). Cathy is planning to do most of the work on Friday, May 5.

# Union Church Calendar

March 19, 2023—April 20, 2023

## March 19 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten Movie Series: Rabbi Abraham Heschel

## March 20 Monday

- 11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch

## March 21 Tuesday

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

## March 22 Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets
- 

## March 26 Sunday

### One Great Hour of Sharing

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten Movie Series: Dorothy Day

## March 28 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle
- 4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry (Zoom)
- 5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## March 29 Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

## HOLY WEEK

### April 2 Palm Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
- 9:55 a.m. Children gather for Palm Procession
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall

### April 4 Tuesday — Spring Election

- NO Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

### April 5 Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

### April 6 Maundy Thursday

- 6:00 p.m. Communion within Agape meal in the church hall

### April 7 Good Friday

- 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Worship in the Shadows

### April 9 Easter Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in Bagby Chapel
- 8:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the church hall
- 10:00 a.m. Easter Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall

No Faith Formation  
No Adult Education

## April 11 Tuesday

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

## April 12 Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets
- 

## April 16 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education: Life on the West Bank
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall

## April 17 Monday

- 11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch

## April 18 Tuesday

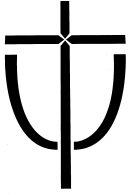
- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 5:45 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## April 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

## April 20 Thursday

- 5:00 p.m. Membership & Inreach
- 6:00 p.m. Common Ministry



Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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Green Bay, WI 54301

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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 Wednesday, April 19 at 5:30 p.m. and on Thursday, April 27 at 6:00 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, May 7.

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

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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>