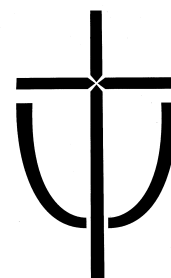


Still Speaking



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

April 2023

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

Our next newsletter will be published the week of **May 24, 2023**.

The deadline for that newsletter is **Friday, May 19, 2023**.

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Union Church’s Spiritual Home Has Stood the Test of Time

One of my favorite things to do when I’m driving through a neighborhood is to look at houses and churches and storefronts and imagine the hopes and dreams that went into building them.



Union Church, spring 2023.

Who originally thought of the design? What was going on in their lives? Was this house the culmination of years of planning and saving? Did two or three friends pool their resources to build a shop or expand their business? Is this building the beginning of a family’s story? Is it a compromise of two or more people’s vision? Or is it the culmination of a dream, representing a legacy of hard work?

Since I reflect on these human stories behind architecture whenever I’m walking the dog or biking in a new city, you won’t be surprised that the origin stories of church buildings are particularly fascinating to me.

Do you know the origin story of our current church building?

The congregation held a number of meetings in 1925 and 1926 to discuss whether to renovate our then current building or to build anew. After exploring numerous possibilities, the congregation voted in the annual meeting of 1927 to pursue building on a new site. Various locations were entertained, and our current location on Madison Street at Spring Street was

(continued on page 3)

Lectionary Readings

April 30

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

May 7

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 14

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 18

Ascension Day

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

May 21

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

May 28

Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

June 4

Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

June 11

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9 and Psalm 33:1-12

or Hosea 5:15-6:6 and Psalm 50:7-15

Romans 4:13-25

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Union Church's Capital Campaign Set to Kick Off!



2023 Capital Campaign

Kickoff Sunday - April 30

Invitation-to-Prayer Sunday - May 28

Commitment Sunday - June 11

With Celebration Picnic to Follow!



Our Church Family

Lost and Found

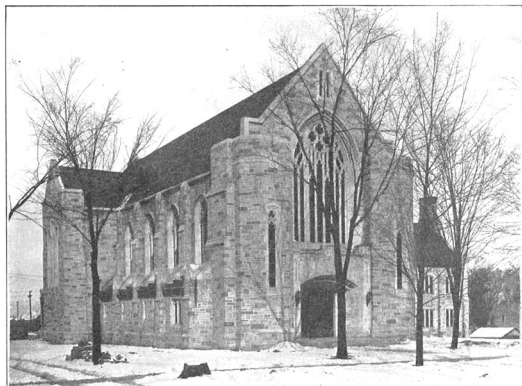
The lost and found bin in the coat room will be emptied on May 15.

Please be sure to double check there if you misplaced something recently.

Our Attendance

March	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
1st Sunday	106	53
2nd Sunday	82	32
3rd Sunday	105	46
4th Sunday	117	61
Totals	410	192
Average	102.5	48.0

(continued from page 1)



SERVICES OF DEDICATION

of the

UNION CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

—————
March 25rd - 27th, 1950
—————

MINISTER
REVEREND LEONARD A. PARR, D.D.

chosen after someone put push pins into a map and figured out that 64% of the church's members lived on the city's east side, south of Mason Street. We purchased lots 4, 5, and 6 of "Astor block 19" for a total of \$17,225, which would be the equivalent of \$298,854 today.

And then the congregation undertook what today we call a capital campaign, retaining a fundraiser from Chicago, Dr. Divine (isn't that a great name?), hosting informational meetings every night for a week, and securing \$107,000 in pledges by Easter Sunday. Dr. Divine continued to meet with members and friends of the congregation over several years to secure additional funding.

Members traveled across the Midwest to see recently constructed churches, eventually choosing William H. Lautz, an instructor at the Art Institute of Chicago, as our architect after being impressed by his other work. Almost two and a half years after voting to

build a new church, the congregation broke ground on our current building on May 26, 1929, moving items that had been in a time capsule in our second church into the cornerstone of this new one. Ten months later construction was complete, and the building we call our church home was dedicated in the spring of 1930.

It's fascinating to me that this magnificent building where we gather to learn and pray, support one another and recharge, plan our outreach and discern ways to make the Christ Spirit dominant, was built amidst the Great Depression. It astounds me that, even after the market crashed in November 1929, this congregation followed through with plans to create a spiritual home that has stood the test of time.

Our first church building housed us when our pastor and a select few lay leaders courageously harbored formerly enslaved people. Our second church building was our home when we elected our first female trustee in 1887. 1887! This, our third building, has been our home as we fought for women's suffrage. It is where the Green Bay Community gathered on April 4, 1968 to grieve the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This building is where we welcomed Dr. Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity, who inspired our members to initiate a chapter here in Green Bay. This building is where we prayerfully and prophetically voted to declare our congregation Open and Affirming in 1999, becoming only the third church in Wisconsin to do so.

And, through all of this, we have gathered in this church home to praise God, learn about Jesus' teachings, celebrate life's joys with one another, and support one another in our sorrows. A church home does a lot of heavy lifting.

At our annual meeting this January, we voted to undertake a capital campaign to fund repairs and renovations to this, our church home. Over the next seven weeks, church members will be sharing stories and insights about the ways that this church matters. I hope you will be inspired, and I pray that you will be moved, like our ancestors in 1929, to invest in the future of this congregation. Those ancestors stepped out in faith to build this space which has housed and launched life changing ministry over the last century.

May the Spirit go to work in us yet again, that this remarkable resource we have been entrusted with will be instilled with new life and vitality.

—Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels



Blessing Box News

“Lord, when did we see you hungry?”...

“I tell you the truth. Whatever you do for the least of these...you did for Me.”

Matt 25: 31-40 (NIV)

Thank you again to all who have supported the Blessing Box Ministry. We will have our monthly collection on Sunday, May 5, which is a Communion Sunday. Place your items around the Baptismal Font.

You can still leave items near the box, or place them on the blue table just inside the Mayflower doors anytime.

This month's special needs include:

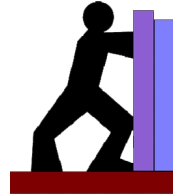
- Canned Chili
- Canned Pasta Meals
- Canned Fruit

Monetary donations are also welcome and can be made online at:

www.unionucc.com

or mailed to:

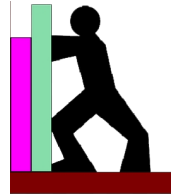
Union Church
716 S. Madison St.
Green Bay, WI 54301



Your Church Library

Nature and the Web of Life

by Cathy Putman



A few months back I wrote about former Massachusetts Conference Minister and UCC pastor Jim Antal's book on climate change and the role of the church. For Antal, the theology is rooted in a practice of stewardship of the earth, a version of God giving dominion to Adam and Eve. Stewardship resonates with the American sense of conservation pioneered by Theodore Roosevelt and his influencer, John Muir, and it gives priority of place to humans as the prime agents in the web of life.

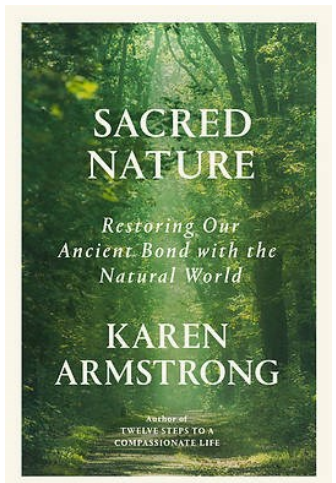
There are other theologies that place humankind in an ecological web, though not always the prime mover. In the March 2023 issue of *The Christian Century*, theologian Brian Bantum probes the biblical value of an everlasting life for Adam and Eve and all the other creatures before the fall and imagines them piling up on each other with the passage of time. The incongruity aside, there is something important about the balance that comes when death is a respected part of a life cycle. Certainly the reintroduction of the wolf to Yellowstone and the sea otter to the North Pacific coastline reasserted a balanced ecology that humans had disrupted.

In "Sacred Nature," Karen Armstrong offers the example of the shaman in non-Western culture who participates in nature, finding the sacred in his or her enlarged sensory relationship, rather than in a supernatural one.

No matter which Biblical Creation story we turn to – the seven days, God the potter, or Noah's ark – we find a world brought into being and then just is, more or less static. Our scientific narrative presents a universe that evolves from a big bang, galaxy formation, Earth and other planets forming and then the seemingly lifeless subatomic particles self-organizing and transforming into cells replete with life processes. Emphasis on dynamic and on evolution.

Transformation is a matter driven process and not reserved for salvation as it often is in biblical Christian thinking. Reassessing the place of humans in transforming web of life means a shift in Christian ethics from redemption to creation. As the UCC denomination and American churches generally address the human vicissitudes of climate change, your church library is exploring some of the newer trends in theological thinking related to ecology and place of humans in our wider world.

The *Christian Century* is located in the English Room for your use. Karen Armstrong's book is on order. Books by Thomas Berry, Teilhard de Chardin, and children's books that explore ecological relationships can be found in the basket under the window in the church library. Happy spring!



“Life in the West Bank”



Fadi Rishmawi (pictured) and his wife, Abeer, spoke to the Adult Education class on April 16. Fadi and Abeer live in the Palestinian West Bank, just outside Israel, where they have raised a daughter and son.



They spoke of the atrocities that the Israeli government imposes on their lives, both daily and through policies, in order to constrict and subjugate Palestinians. Fadi was a hospital administrator, and Abeer a teacher. They gave multiple examples of how Israeli laws, policies and police have caused personal difficulties.

The visit was part of a week-long sponsorship by the St. Norbert College Peace & Justice Center, and coordinated at Union by Rev. Steve Hartman.

—story and photos by Phil Hauck

Priscilla Circle to Meet May 23

Priscilla Circle will gather at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23 in the English Room. Stacie Christian will tell us about popular items in the antique business. Join us.

Mayday! Mayday! Mayday!

Our rummage drop off (May 13) is 2 weeks away
 Our rummage sale (May 20) is 3 weeks away!

People have asked what should I bring? Generally large items like furniture (sofas, beds, desks) don't sell well. No mattresses, paint or electronics (unless small). If it's old and on it's last leg throw it out. Clothes and shoes don't sell (unless clean and unique), bring those to St. Vincent de Paul.

Kitchen items, toys, garden tools, small furniture like end tables, picture frames, lamps, sport items and small rugs sell well. If it's newer and clean, it has a better chance of selling.

Hope that gives some guidance. Remember 100% of the proceeds will go to Souper Cooks which directly feeds hundreds of people.

Finally we need a few more people to help. Please contact Achim Seifert at seif904@sbcglobal.net or call him at 708-822-8998.

Thanks and see you there!

Drop off = May 13 from 9 to 1
 Sale = May 20 from 8 to 2

Union Church's Used Book Sale Update

Thanks to everyone who has brought books for the Used Book Sale being held the first two Sundays in May! Because the Capital Campaign needs workspace in the church library, please bring your donations to the second floor and put them under the coat rack in the hallway.

We are interested in all kinds of books: adult, children's, nonfiction, fiction. Things that don't sell well are Readers Digest condensed books, textbooks and encyclopedias. We pass those on to thrift stores. Thanks!

—Cathy Putman

A Message from Gifts & Memorials Ministry

We are always thankful for the generosity and forethought of our members who have gone before us as they envisioned the future of Union Congregational United Church of Christ. Their legacies continue to grace us through gifts left in their wills which have helped us to remain a vital and vibrant congregation.

We, too, can invest in the future of vital ministries, enabling Union to reach out with Christ's love to future generations.

Please consider including Union Church in your will.

Thank You!

Meals for NEWCAP's Family Shelter, Center for Advocating Believing and Achieving (CABA)

Outreach Ministry has taken on a new service project. Here's your chance to be a part of it!

We are in need of families or groups of friends and families that would like to provide an evening meal at CABA. Union is responsible for delivering the evening meal, homemade or store-bought, on the second Monday of each month, starting May 8.

Here are the details:

- Prepare/purchase/deliver dinner to CABA (315 S. Jefferson Street) by 6 p.m.
- Plan for 16 people to eat
- At this time, there are no dietary restrictions
- Deliver the meal warm or provide directions for reheating (deliver by 5 p.m. if prep is needed)

Please contact Christie Reese (920-273-5349, call or text) for more information and to claim your date. They're going quickly! This is a great way to be God's hands and feet in Green Bay, and have some fun cooking, or making a Costco run, at the same time.

Available dates in 2023

August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11

Available dates In 2024

January 8, February 12, March 11

Who's Graduating?



We would like to recognize our 2023 graduates in our June newsletter. Please let the church office know (437-9266 or office@unionucc.com) if you will be a 2023 graduate (high school, college) and what type of degree (associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctorate, etc.) you have earned. We would like to say congratulations and give others a chance to do the same!

Our Housing Offering is May 14

This congregation is generous. There's a widespread recognition that our gifts are meant to be shared. That Spirit has sustained this church since 1836!

We will extend that generosity through our Housing Offering on May 14. This offering supports the work of the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH).

EPH brings together diverse congregations to partner in ways that provide some people who are housing insecure in Green Bay with solid, decent housing, along with the opportunity to gain skills to thrive. Jubilee House, in Union's backyard, is part of EPH and it is Union's responsibility to maintain this property.

That's no small gift—to participate in the resurrection of Jesus! As we continue our Easter celebration of new life, let's continue Union's legacy of generosity through this special offering.

Union Church Calendar

April 30, 2023—May 29, 2023

April 30 Sunday

Capital Campaign Kickoff 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

May 2 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 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

May 3 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 (Zoom)

May 7 Sunday

New Member Sunday

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

May 9 Tuesday

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

May 10 Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets (Zoom)

May 11 Thursday

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

May 13 Saturday

- 9:00 a.m. Rummage Sale Dropoff (until 1:00 p.m.)

May 14 Sunday

Housing Offering

- 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

May 16 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 3:00 p.m. Visitation Ministry
- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

May 17 Wednesday

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

May 20 Saturday

- 8:00 a.m. Union's Rummage Sale (until 2:00 p.m.)

May 21 Sunday

Confirmation Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall
- 11:00 a.m. Capital Campaign Church Tour

May 23 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle
- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir

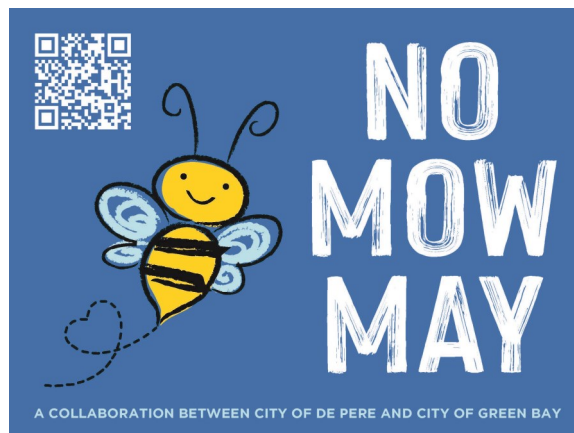
May 28 Sunday

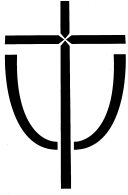
Invitation-to-Prayer Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall

May 29 Monday — Memorial Day

Church Office is Closed





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

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GREEN BAY, WI



Come One! Come All!
SAVE THE DATE!
Celebrate Capital Campaign Commitment Sunday
Sunday, June 11, 2023 After Worship

Picnic in the Church Hall
Fried Chicken with Fixin's, Pies, Refreshments and Games!

Sign up at Union Central – See you there!

Brought to you by:
Membership and Inreach Ministry
and the Capital Campaign Core Team

Questions:
Deb Rose debrose1104@gmail.com 920-347-4976



Building for Faith in Action

**Union Congregational
United Church of Christ**

716 S. Madison Street
Green Bay, WI 54301
e-mail: 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>