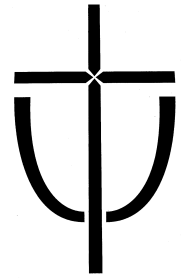


Still Speaking



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

June 2023

Still Speaking will take a break in July.
Our next issue will be mailed on
Thursday, August 24
The deadline for articles for that issue
is **Friday, August 18.**

Have a wonderful summer!

Generosity Moves Union Forward

Praise be to God, and Thanks be to you! Through your generosity, over \$519K in pledges from 76 households have been received toward our Building for Faith in Action Capital Campaign. That is 80% of our stretch goal of \$650,000, and will allow us to move forward with all of the proposed projects and will seed the Capital Projects Maintenance Fund. Pledging to a campaign like this, beyond your regular giving, is an act of faith, sacrifice, and generosity. Perhaps most of all, supporting our church says that you believe in what we're doing. To all of this, on behalf of the entire congregation and everyone affected by Union's ministry, I say thank you.

As I was planning what to write this month, I asked the Building for Faith in Action Core Team to write to me with a few sentences about their experiences of the campaign. My thought was that I would pick a phrase from one and an idea from another to weave into my article. Upon receiving their reflections, though, I decided that you should have the opportunity to see them all because they're really a snapshot of what church is about, and what our church does well. You'll notice that the writing style of each team member is unique, as were the gifts they each brought to the campaign - much like what happens in the wider church.

So, again, thank you for your generosity, and please join me in thanking this faithful team who did marvelous work to help our congregation Build for Faith in Action:

Tim Harder: I appreciated how, with collaborative collegial synergy, the team used its diversity of talents to bring together a celebration of Union's rich past and a vision of our continuing mission to put our faith in action. It was truly a pleasure to be part of such a talented and committed team.

Deb Rose: My experience working on the Capital Campaign Core Team is one of friendship and support. While we knew each other as members of Union Church before coming together for the campaign, it was the act of volunteering to help each other whenever asked—no hesitation, that amazed

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Lectionary Readings

July 2 — 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14 and Psalm 13 or
Jeremiah 28:5-9 and Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

July 9 — 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
and Psalm 45:10-17 or
Song of Solomon 2:8-13 or
Zechariah 9:9-12 and Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16 — 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34 and Psalm 119:105-112 or
Isaiah 55:10-13 and Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23 — 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a and
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24 or
Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or
Isaiah 44:6-8 and Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30 — 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28 and
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128 or
1 Kings 3:5-12 and Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 6 — 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 17:1-7, 15 or
Isaiah 55:1-5 and Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5 and Matthew 14:13-21

August 13 — 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 and
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b or
1 Kings 19:9-18 and Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 20 — 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 45:1-15 and Psalm 133 or
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

(continued from page 1)

me. Yes, the Core Team had defined roles and responsibilities, yet we always joined together to 'work' and had lots of fun. Our discussions were rich and full of innovative ideas that transformed into something grand and wonderful with everyone's input. I treasure the new and deeper friendships I have made.

Ed Tucker: We always face the question of where we should spend our money. How much do we give to those in need and how much do we use for ourselves. This is a key question when we face a capital campaign. We all tend to agree on extending an extravagant welcome to people, but do we all appreciate our church building as an extravagant statement of faith and of presence? Do we need an extravagant statement of presence in our community or should our actions and financial charity speak for us and instead maintain a more humble and stark building? Our building, our extravagant statement of faith/presence points to our belief in God's abundance, not the human fear of scarcity. We as a faith community do not hoard but freely give. Our building speaks to our action in community rather than a place for individual quests for salvation. Our windows call us to Truth, Service, Chivalry, Mercy, Hope, Love, Justice and Faith rather than focusing on my sins, my forgiveness, my salvation and my corner on truth. Our building speaks to us and our broader community of who we are and what we are about. For that reason, I supported the capital campaign with its provision for mission because they, building and mission, are in fact one and the same.

Barbara McClure-Lukens: Our Campaign team had a big agenda to accomplish when we began our work together in late winter. Fortunately, there was a natural and easy bond quickly established among us, each person drawing on their reservoir of skill, enthusiasm, and commitment to the vital ministry of Union Church. I have often thought about this quote from Abraham Joshua Heschel as we have worked together, "God is hidden in the world; it is our task to let the Divine emerge from our deeds." How wonderful it is to be at this point and know that we are well on the way to the stretch goal.

Jeff Carels: The campaign gave me the opportunity to reflect on our church's history and the impact our church has had in our community and wider world in our 187 years of ministry. I was amazed to read about the many examples of our efforts that made a big difference in the lives of others.

Jeff Gibson: Working on the Pacesetter Team and reaching out to people reinforced how generosity is embedded into our congregation. People are really willing to step up to share their time, talents and treasure. The campaign team brought together people with different skills, and the way the work was defined and organized made it easy to match team members to the tasks to be accomplished. It was pretty easy to figure out how I could fit in.

Mary Hemminger: Serving on the Capital Campaign Team has been an exceptional experience. I appreciated the collective commitment to overall goals, and the creativity, wisdom and faith-in-action that my colleagues brought to the team was inspiring!

Happy Birthday, Ray Thompson!



photo by Deb Rose

Union's organist, Ray Thompson, turned 80 years old on June 7. On Sunday, June 4, Haley Steele, Union's music director, led the congregation in singing Happy Birthday. Ray has been the church organist since June 2005.

Next Ties to Mexico Date is July 12

Outreach Ministry's next Ties to Mexico gathering will take place on Wednesday, July 12 from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the church hall. We will tie fleece blankets for a refugee center in Nogales, Mexico. If you can tie a knot, you have the skills we need.

We'll introduce the program to any newcomers, explaining how it works. New participants are always welcome. Feel free to bring a fabric scissors or a snack to share.

Contact Tina Bechtel at 920-621-0956 or bechtel.tina@yahoo.com with questions

Union Church T-Shirt Contest

Do you have creative ideas for a new Union Church T-shirt? Membership Ministry would like to have new T-shirts printed and we're looking for your ideas. Mock up your proposed design and email it to Membership Ministry Vice Chairs Jessica Lundgren and Libby Sievert at jesslibby522@gmail.com by August 6 for consideration.



A graphic for "LGBTQ+ and Ally GAME NIGHT". It features a yellow sticky note with a red pushpin and the text "SAVE THE DATE" in a red stamp. To the right are wooden blocks with the letters L, G, B, T, Q, and a plus sign, each with a small number below it. Below the blocks are colorful game pieces: a blue chess knight, a red chess king, a blue domino, and a blue die. The text "GAME NIGHT" is written in large, colorful, block letters. Below the graphic is the text "Thursday, July 27 in St. James Park" and "more info to follow".

Thursday, July 27
in St. James Park

more info to follow



Union member Kathleen Caylor of Caylor Photography was busy at work this spring, donating her time and professional expertise as she photographed our Confirmation celebration (above) and the Imago Dei Ecumenical PRIDE Worship, as well as taking Pastor Bridget's official portrait for the wall at church.

Jazz on July 2

You won't want to miss worship on Sunday, July 2, as we celebrate Independence Day "Union Style" featuring a reflection on citizenship by Pastor Bridget and music by our jazz ensemble including original arrangements by Sam Stranz of Spirituals, hymns of battle, and songs of peace and protest.

Summer Choir is Beginner-Friendly!

Summer Choir is convening two more times before ReUnion Sunday! Mark your calendars for our July and August dates below.

Our music is beginner-friendly, and the atmosphere is relaxed and joyful. Contact Haley Steele (music@unionucc.com) to learn more, or simply come to rehearsal. Bring a friend!

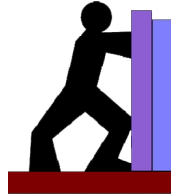
July 11 (6:30 p.m. rehearsal) & Sunday, July 16 (9:15 a.m. call time)

August 1 (6:30 p.m. rehearsal) & Sunday, August 6 (9:15 a.m. call time)

Union's All-Church Retreat at Moon Beach is

September 8-10

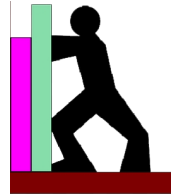
A beautiful weekend of fun and fellowship for all ages!



Your Church Library

Learning More About Gun Violence

by Cathy Putman



In a recent sermon, Pastor Bridget expressed a hope that the congregation would embrace the issue of gun violence.

This many-pronged problem, unique among Western nations in its scope, historically finds an ally in the Second Amendment. Activist and historian Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz writes in Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment how individuals and voluntary militias since the 17th century used gun force to claim land for settlers at the expense of Native peoples. Once slavery gained a foothold, slave patrols also relied on guns to control enslaved people on the plantation and when chasing escapees. Dunbar-Ortiz's gun rights narrative finds a through line from the earliest days to the present day of the nation established to protect white hegemony. Whether guns are contributors or simply artifacts of that history, it's up to the reader to decide. Continuing inequality for people of color, however, means that gun wielding individuals have an outside influence on their safety.

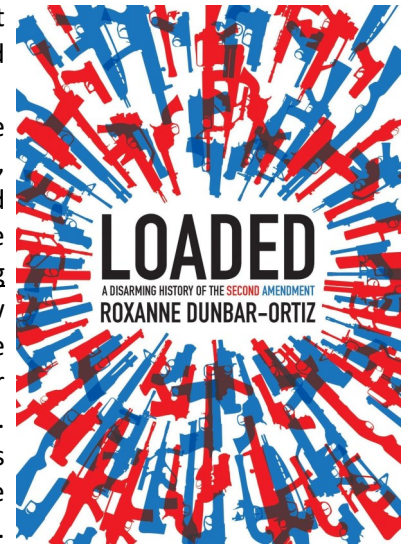
Today's notion that the Second Amendment is a bulwark for hunters was established in the early days of the nation. James Fenimore Cooper and other novelists first mythologized the hunter and later the western cowboy sheriff as gun-toting protectors working the border of the frontier against hostile Indians and fierce wild animals. But it was not until the 2008 Supreme Court decision *District of Columbia v. Heller* that the individual right to possess and carry guns was made explicit, although the NRA had been campaigning for that right since 1974.

Mass shootings, which account for a small percentage of America's death by gun, Dunbar-Ortiz suggests, are linked in to country awash in guns and few restraints on ownership by those involved in domestic violence. More than 60 per cent of mass shootings are domestic violence related.

An area Dunbar-Ortiz does not address is suicide, which represented about 53 percent of U.S. gun deaths in 2021, overwhelmingly of white males.

The most explosive news regarding gun violence concerns racially or ethnically motivated mass shootings and the significant numbers of unarmed Black men killed in police custody. For a listing of books related to these issues, see online investigator of gun violence in America, The Trace, and their recently compiled bibliography:

<https://www.thetrace.org/2023/06/books-to-research-gun-violence-america/>




City Band Concert Food Drives!

On Wednesday evenings, the Union Church parking lot is filled with the vehicles of folks who attend Green Bay City Band Concert at St. James Park.

At Pastor Bridget's suggestion, the Blessing Box team is going to invite concert-goers to drop off canned food on the church steps, on their way to the concert.

If you'd like to help distribute food drive leaflets and receive donations, please contact Mary Hemminger at mhemminger23@gmail.com. Thank you!

Sample Food Drive Leaflet




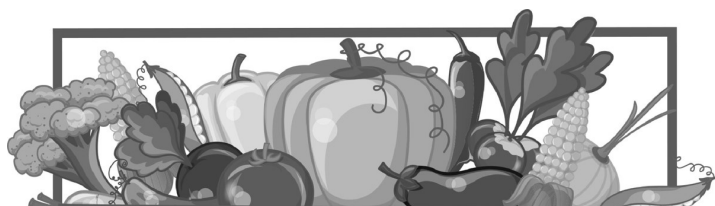
**Union Church Food Pantry
City Band Concert Food Drive!**

The Union Church Food Pantry serves the local community, and we'd appreciate your help!

Next time you're planning to attend the Green Bay City Band Concert, please bring along canned foods for our pantry to share.

Donations can be dropped off on the church front steps (next to the parking lot) on your way to the concert.

Thank you!

Blessing Box Produce Pantry Coming Soon!

The Blessing Box Food Pantry will soon have a companion Produce Pantry!

Our produce stand will be located next to the Blessing Box and will provide space for us to offer fresh fruit and vegetables to those we serve.

The Produce Pantry will open in early August — just in time for garden harvest season. Stay tuned for updates!



Congratulations to Our Graduates!

- **Cady Kinjerski**, daughter of **Nicole and Jamie Kinjerski**, graduated from West De Pere High School and plans to major in astrophysics at UW-Oshkosh in the fall.
- **Isabelle Wauters** graduated summa cum laude (4.0 GPA) from UW-Superior with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. Isabelle is a first generation college student.
- **Seth Logerquist**, son of **Ross and Dori Logerquist**, graduated from Green Bay West High School and plans to study theology at Lakeland University in the fall. Seth will be part of Lakeland's Ulrich Scholars Program, a program which Union's Gifts and Memorials Ministry helped to establish several years ago.

Our Church Family

Bound together as a church family, we pray:

Volunteers and Items Needed for Jubilee House Turnover

Another family is successfully transitioning to their own housing after seven months in Jubilee House. That said, Jubilee House will need to be cleaned and restocked for the next family. This process will take place the week after July 5. If you are able to help clean and set up the beds/house for the next family, please contact Carolyn O’Brien at (920) 660-0541.

Items needed:

- Standard pillows
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste
- Shampoo, conditioner
- Body wash, hand soap
- Twin sheets, twin light blankets
- Laundry baskets, laundry detergent

There is a box in the coat room to place items. Thank you for supporting the families at Jubilee House and EPH.

Carolyn O’Brien,
Jubilee House Coordinator

Our Attendance

May	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
1st Sunday	110	75
2nd Sunday	131	85
3rd Sunday	154	78
4th Sunday	60	76
5th Sunday	--	82
Totals	455	396
Average	113.8	79.2

Killoran Scholarship Hits Milestone

Thanks to a generous gift of just over \$98,000 given to Union's Gifts and Memorials in 2006 by Bernie and Sally Killoran, 29 students have received a total of \$98,250 in scholarship funds to assist them in their pursuit of an undergraduate degree at a four-year University of Wisconsin school, Lakeland University, or Northland College. What’s more, due to wise stewardship, more than \$73,000 remains in the fund. The scholarship program has now officially granted more than its original principle and is poised to continue well into the future.

Killoran scholarships are renewable for up to four years. Applicants are asked to write a personal statement reflecting their goals and aspirations as they continue their education. They need to describe their participation in church and its impact on their lives. They are also asked to stay in touch with the scholarship committee by sending grades and writing a narrative describing their accomplishments and challenges two times each year. In the first year of the scholarship, students can receive up to \$1,500. They may apply for renewal each of the next three years. Up to \$1,000 is granted each year and is based on their continued correspondence and good standing at their respective schools.

A committee of church members reads each application and looks forward to hearing from each recipient throughout their time in school. The dedicated committee has been very pleased to have the opportunity to learn about these wonderful students and see how they grow throughout their college career. Members of the committee include Kris Vespia, Mary Garber, Betty Bienash, Jeff Zahn, Sandy Polarek, and the Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels. If anyone would like to join us, we would love to have new members. It is a privilege to get to know the students and to faithfully distribute the funds that Bernie and Sally have entrusted us with.

We, as a church community, are fortunate to have had Bernie and Sally step up to assist our youth as they continue their education. I know that there are 27 young adults who appreciate the financial assistance that the Killoran scholarship gave them and two more are receiving assistance now. Hopefully, there will be many more to receive assistance from the Killoran Scholarship in the future.

—Sandy Polarek

Celebration of Spirit in Song

Union member Tanya Westmoreland is organizing an afternoon of music and neighborliness called:

Celebration of Spirit in Song
Saturday, July 22 starting at 1 p.m. in Seymour Park
330 S. Oakland Street

Gather with our neighbors from across the city for music, food trucks, and community.

Union Church Calendar

July 2 — August 20, 2023

July 2 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Jazz worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the English Room

July 3 Monday

Church Office is Closed

July 4 Tuesday—Independence Day

Church Office is Closed

July 5 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group at Denny's on Oneida

July 9 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the English Room

July 11 Tuesday

6:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry (Zoom)
6:30 p.m. Summer Choir

July 12 Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Ties to Mexico

July 16 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the English Room

July 17 Monday

11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch at the Village Grille
11:30 a.m. Generosity Team (Zoom)

July 22 Saturday

1:00 p.m. Celebration of Spirit in Song at Seymour Park

July 23 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the English Room
11:00 a.m. Garden Work Day

July 27 Thursday

TBD LGBTQ+ and Ally Game Night in St. James Park

July 30 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the English Room

August 1 Tuesday

3:30 p.m. Education Ministry (Zoom)
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry (Zoom)
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry
6:30 p.m. Summer Choir

August 2 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group at Denny's on Oneida

August 6 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the English Room

August 8 Tuesday

TBD Stewardship Ministry

August 9 Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Ties to Mexico

August 10 Thursday

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

August 13 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the English Room

August 19 Saturday

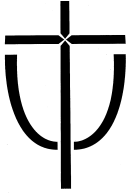
9:00 a.m. If These Homes Could Talk Astor Neighborhood Walking Tour

August 20 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the English Room

If These Homes Could Talk

Union will once again be the starting point of the Astor Neighborhood walking tour on Saturday, August 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. Buy your tickets now on the Brown County Historical Society website, as it sold out last year.



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

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GREEN BAY, WI

Blessing Box Food Drive! Sunday, July 2

Thank you for your continuing support of the Blessing Box Ministry! Our next food drive will be held on Communion Sunday, July 2.

Current needs include:

Canned Beef Stew or Chili
Canned Chicken or Tuna
Canned Vegetables or Fruit

Donations can be placed next to the Baptismal Font on Sunday, July 2 or at any time on the blue table inside the Mayflower entrance.

To make a monetary donation, send a check with "Blessing Box" on the memo line, or donate via the church website by clicking on the Giving tab.



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>