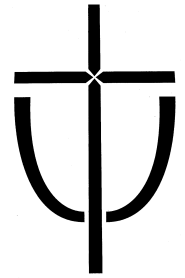


Still Speaking



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

August 2023

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **September 20**.*

*The deadline for that newsletter is Friday, **September 15**.*

Our Church Family -----	2
Faith Formation 2023-24 -----	3
ReUnion Sunday -----	3
Heifer Living Market Needs You -----	4
Priscilla Circle News -----	4
Love Life Annual Diaper Drive -----	4
Parson's Purse in Need of Funds -----	4
All-Church Retreat -----	5
Adult Faith Formation -----	6
JOSHUA Recycling Fundraiser -----	6
Blessing Box Food Drive -----	back page

Thank You and Praise Be to God!

by Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

We did it!

Or more accurately, we're doing it! After several years of praying and planning, our church community has engaged in a successful capital campaign that will enhance how we are able to utilize our building and grounds for mission, provide Outreach Ministry with resources to make a real impact, and create a stable financial footing for future capital needs.

As a pastor, I'm always reluctant to assess ministry by the numbers. The number of people at an event does not measure the quality of the impact our work has on people's lives, cannot begin to quantify the transformative effect of what we do.

And yet, at this stage of our Building for Faith in Action Capital Campaign, I do look at your responses to this effort as a measure of our church's vitality.

Not only does the list of projects address critical infrastructure needs, such as replacing the Mayflower doors, the west side of the church hall roof, and the elevator motor, it also allocates resources toward projects that speak to who our church is, including installing solar on the Mayflower roof, renovating the lower level to better accommodate both our internal child and youth programming as well as the needs of mission partners, and creating a fund through which Outreach Ministry will be able to engage in meaningful justice and outreach work.

The fact that our community responded to this measured, mission aligned campaign as robustly as we have speaks to the vitality of what we're doing. You believe in Union. You believe in the Gospel of God's all inclusive love. You believe in loving our neighbors, no exceptions, and putting that love into action. And you've pledged to keep the infrastructure that undergirds these ministries robust.

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

August 27

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 1:8-2:10 and Psalm 124 or
Isaiah 51:1-6 and Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

September 3

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15 and
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b or
Jeremiah 15:15-21 and
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

September 10

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14 and Psalm 149 or
Ezekiel 33:7-11 and
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 17

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31 and Psalm 114 or
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21 or
Genesis 50:15-21 and
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 24

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15 and
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or
Jonah 3:10-4:11 and
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

(continued from page 1)

Capital Campaign Next Steps:

- Continue to pray for the ministries of our church. This may seem obvious, but rooting all that our congregation does in prayer is critical. Prayer makes sure we stay humble. Prayer infuses what we do with inspiration.
- Fulfill our pledges. The timeframe set out for fulfilling pledges is three years; Stewardship and Common Ministries are staggering the initiation of projects based on monies on hand. For an FAQ regarding fulfilling pledges, go to www.unionucc.com/giving/capitalcampaign or contact the church office.
- Pledge to Union's fall budget campaign. While the Building for Faith in Action Capital Campaign funds essential infrastructure needs, the fall budget campaign is what keeps the lights on. With inflation, it will be critical that our donors exceed their 2023 pledges by 3 to 5%. The Generosity Team hopes the theme of this year's fall budget pledge campaign, **Union: Love In Action**, will energize, inspire, and once again highlight just how vital our church's ministries are. Materials will be mailed in late September.
- Watch your church communications to see updates as our projects get underway, and thank one another for investing in our church.

Capital Campaign By The Numbers:

Total Amount Pledged: **\$572,039**
Number of Households Pledging: **94**
Pledged Funds Received to Date: **\$145,157**
Building for Faith in Action: **Priceless**

Our Church Family

Union Church Faith Formation 2023-24

Faith Formation kicks off with an open house on September 17. Children, parents and teachers will get to know one another in their classrooms, with K4-1st and 2nd-4th graders in the Mayflower I and II classrooms on the lower level of the church, 5th and up in the Fellowship Room on the second level, and high school in the Chapel Classroom.

The curriculum we will use this year will be "Shine," a dynamic Faith Formation curriculum that engages Christian communities and families in their life together through Bible Stories, spiritual practices, peacemaking, service, and more.

Faith Formation Open House is Sunday, September 17 at 9:00 a.m.

Youth Group Begins Wednesday, September 20 at 5:45 p.m.

Wednesday night programs begin September 20 with dinner at 5:45 p.m. followed by Youth Group for 6th through 12th graders. Youth will engage in mission, projects, learning, relationship building, and all-around fun.

We again have a tremendous slate of teachers, leaders, aides, cooks, and bottle washers lined up, but we need more. As with everything at church, our child and youth formation ministries don't work without the ongoing efforts of our members and friends. It is critical to the success of these ministries that both parents and other church members pitch in to help. These programs simply cannot exist without you. Contact Beth Lyman Piontek at 920-217-3564 or beth.e.lyman@gmail.com to learn more about what roles are needed.

Registration materials will be mailed home to all households in our database with school-age children. Additional copies will be available in the classrooms the first day of Faith Formation or by contacting the church office.

Wednesday Youth Programs

Our Youth Groups will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month this year starting on September 20. A typical Wednesday evening will be:

5:45 to 6:15 p.m. **Dinner**
6:15 to 7:30 p.m. **Youth Group**

ReUnion Sunday is September 17

8:45 a.m. Nursery Opens

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Open House

Mayflower I and II, Fellowship Room, and Chapel Classroom

9:00 a.m. Adult Faith Formation—Judge Donald Zuidmulder

Adults and high school students gather in Bagby Chapel

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion

Potluck (in the church hall following Worship)

**Blessing Box
Food Drive**
(see back page)

Heifer Help Needed!

Heifer Sunday and the Live Market (October 8) is a favorite event at Union. We need your help. We are looking for one person to assist with the coordination of the event. We are also looking for volunteers to host animal tables at the Live Market.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Heather Collins hblue@gmail.com or 920-639-8821.

Priscilla Circle News

Priscilla Circle will reconvene Tuesday, September 26, at 1:00 p.m. in the English Room. We plan to meet on the fourth Tuesday of October and November as well.

Priscilla Circle is a group of women who meet for a program and socializing. We share beverages and treats and a short devotional. New members are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Questions? Please contact Helen Krueger at chkrueger@new.rr.com.

PRIDE Alive September 23

Union is excited to again have a booth at NEW PRIDE Alive at the Brown County Fairgrounds on September 23. We will have treats, information about Union, a gallery of LGBTQIA+ family photos, and will offer glitter blessings!

Volunteers are needed to staff the booth, to talk about why you love our church and to offer glitter blessings (we'll have instructions and glitter!). Sign up at Union Central or contact the church office to take a two-hour shift or two on Saturday (noon to 6).

Love Life East Annual Diaper Drive

Our annual diaper drive for Love Life East is taking place now through September 10. Love Life provides a partial supply of diapers to low income families for babies ages 0 to 3 years. A family can get diapers once a month. That is a package of 100 for newborn to size 2 and a package of 75 for sizes 3 and up. The greatest need is for sizes 5 and 6.

The first 6 months of this year, a monthly average of 165 families came for diapers. A total of 3,753 packages of diapers were given out from January through June. Love Life is making a difference. It also provides formula, layettes for newborns, gently used clothing and baby furniture.

A container for donated diapers will be in the coat room for your contribution. Every baby with a dry bottom thanks you! For more information, call Jean Smithback at 920-930-8271.

Parson's Purse In Need of Funds

Here at Union, we have a special fund we call the Parson's Purse. This is the account out of which Pastor Bridget is able to respond to the real emergency needs that present themselves at our doors. From housing and rental assistance to helping people get their utilities turned back on to covering the copay for prescriptions to gas cards, there are any number of reasons that people come to the church asking for assistance.

This fund is currently in need of replenishment. If you are so moved, sending a check to the church office with "Parson's Purse" in the memo line will help this emergency ministry to continue to make a concrete difference.



Blessing Box Produce Pantry

**Cucumbers, Beans, Lettuce, Tomatoes
Broccoli, Apples, Squash or Potatoes!**

All kinds of fresh produce are welcome and appreciated for the Blessing Box Produce Pantry.

Produce can be dropped off any time—please place it on the produce stand located next to the Blessing Box.

Thank You!



Registration Form

2023 All-Church Retreat at Moon Beach Camp

Friday, September 8 - Sunday, September 10, 2023

Family Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Cell Phone _____

Participants:	Adult(s)	Child(ren)/Ages
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Are there any physical disabilities that we should know about?

Any dietary concerns? _____

Costs: Adults	\$175 x _____	=	_____
Children under 18	\$30 x _____	=	_____
	Total Cost	=	_____

All pricing includes 2 nights lodging and 4 meals.

Please make check payable to Union Church and note Moon Beach Retreat on the memo line. You may choose to make a deposit of half the total cost at the time of registration with the remainder to be paid upon arrival at Moon Beach Camp. Scholarships are available (see Pastor Bridget). **Return this form and your check to the church office or via mail by Sunday, August 27, 2023 to:**

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

We're so glad you decided to join us for a special time of getting to know one another better, building relationships in the body of Christ, learning more about how God continues to speak to us, enjoying the beautiful outdoors, and just plain having FUN!



All-Church Retreat
September 8-10, 2023

Our All-Church Retreat is a weekend of fun, fellowship, and reflection. The retreat takes place at Moon Beach Camp which is in St. Germain just west of Eagle River and is part of the Outdoor Ministry program of the United Church of Christ. It sits on the shores of Moon Lake and Little Saint Germain Lake. Cabins overlook Moon Lake, and each is furnished, heated, and has a bathroom with a shower. There is a beautiful lodge, and the camp is fully staffed with helpful people.

People arrive Friday evening, partaking of snacks and fellowship time around the lodge fireplace. We are treated to three meals on Saturday and brunch on Sunday. Our Saturday morning session this year will focus on fostering a sense of belonging. Camp staff will once again offer a Saturday morning program for our children at the same time as the adult session.

Afternoons and evenings are up to you. There will be activities, planned and impromptu. There is a beach with watercraft, hiking trails and places to sit, read and reflect. Evening is game time with ice cream sundaes and a bonfire.

Sunday, we enjoy brunch and worship informally. We are usually on our way by 11 o'clock.

Cost for the retreat is \$175 per adult and \$30 per child. Financial aid is available (talk to Pastor Bridget). You can sign up to attend the retreat by contacting the church office, or by filling out a form at Union Central.

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation Fall/Winter Calendar 2023

Gather in Bagby Chapel at 9 a.m. (first and third Sundays of the month) for these informative and inspiring conversations:

September 17 — Judge Donald Zuidmulder — Brown County Judge Zuidmulder will talk about the county's Treatment Courts and Diversions programs which he pioneered and how they have been powerful alternatives to incarceration. Under his leadership, Brown County has led the state in implementing these programs.

October 1 — Habitat for Humanity — Representatives from Habitat for Humanity, which was brought to Brown County by members of Union, will join us to share their recent efforts.

October 15 — St. John's Shelter — If homelessness isn't visible, people may think it doesn't exist. This past shelter season, St. John's Ministries served 605 individuals with 18,308 nights of shelter. They are preparing for another busy season, which begins November 1. Jesse Brunette of St. John's Ministries will provide an update on their critically important mission of serving the homeless and housing insecure in Green Bay.

November 5 — Phil Hauck — In his book, "The Golden Age of Brown County Enterprise," Union member Phil Hauck described the very entrepreneurial activities of five important Green Bay companies. Since then, innovation has slowed down, threatening our prosperity. He'll explain why, and what community leaders are doing about it.

November 19 — Nicole Polarek — In July of 2022, Union member Nicole Polarek and her family were inches away from the mass shooting at the Highland Park (Illinois) Independence Day Parade. With pictures and stories, Nicole will offer an intimate, harrowing view into gun violence.

December 3 — Wonder-Full Christmas: The Nativity as the Mysterious but Real in Art and Music — Dr. Michael Lukens will explore how Christians have marveled at the story of Jesus' birth for at least twenty centuries and how music and art help to shape our understandings.

December 17 — Christmas Carols: the Meanings — Dr. Julie Black Harder will lead our final session of the semester in which we'll discover how Matthew's and Luke's proclamations about Jesus were translated into traditional Christmas carols. We'll also consider how recent re-wording of some carols has obscured some of those messages.

JOSHUA Fundraiser Electronic Recycling

September 16

from 8 a.m. to 12 noon

Come bring your old, unused,
and broken electronics
(anything with a plug)

**to St. Matthew's Church parking lot,
130 Saint Matthews Street,
for JOSHUA's fundraiser!**

Volunteer sign-up coming soon.

Attendance

June	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
1st Sunday	73	73
2nd Sunday	99	71
3rd Sunday	72	73
4th Sunday	95	74
Totals	339	291
Average	84.8	72.8

July	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
1st Sunday	87	56
2nd Sunday	74	59
3rd Sunday	91	60
4th Sunday	73	58
5th Sunday	79	58
Totals	404	291
Average	80.8	58.2

Union Church Calendar

August 27, 2023—October 3, 2023

August 27 Sunday

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

September 3 Sunday

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

September 4 Monday

Labor Day
The Church Office is Closed

September 5 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry (Zoom)
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry

September 6 Wednesday

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

September 8-10 Friday-Sunday

All-Church Retreat at Moon Beach

September 10 Sunday

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

September 12 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
3:30 p.m. Education Ministry (Zoom)
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

September 13 Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Ties to Mexico

September 14 Thursday

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

September 16 Saturday

8:00 a.m. JOSHUA Electronics Recycling Fundraiser

ReUnion Sunday September 17

8:45 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearses
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Open House
9:00 a.m. Adult Education with Judge Donald Zuidmulder
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary with Holy Communion or stream it online

Potluck Luncheon in the church hall
(following worship)

September 18 Monday

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

September 19 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

September 20 Wednesday

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

September 23 Saturday

12:00 p.m. PRIDE Alive at Brown County Fairgrounds

September 24 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

September 26 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study
1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

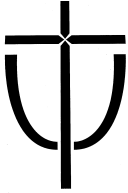
October 1 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Education: Habitat for Humanity
10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall
11:30 a.m. Season of Love in Action (stay tuned for details)

October 3 Tuesday

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





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

Address Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

PERMIT NO. 53
GREEN BAY, WI

Blessing Box Food Drive! Sunday, September 17

Thank you for your continuing support of the Blessing Box Ministry! Our next food drive will be held on Communion Sunday, September 17.

Current needs include:

- Canned Chili and Pasta Meals
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Granola Bars
- Instant Rice or Potato Mixes

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 17 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

Rev. 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>