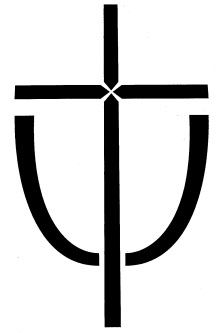


# Still Speaking



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

October 2023



Daylight Saving Time  
ends November 5

## Dismantling the Oppressor's House

*The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change. — Audre Lord*

Normally, my October newsletter article has something to do with stewardship and generosity. Not to be formulaic, but the October newsletter is always mailed in the middle of our annual pledge campaign, and so it's a reasonable communication tool to tell some of the stories of the vital ministry we do as Union Congregational United Church of Christ, and in turn to encourage you to be generous in your financial support of that ministry.

But this is not a normal year.

As the death toll in Gaza climbs and two U.S. aircraft carriers and other forces are now amassing in the Mediterranean, this isn't a normal October.

And yet, being able to reflect with you, ever so briefly, about the state of the world IS part of what makes Union special. Whereas I have colleagues who lament that their churches wouldn't tolerate hearing about world events from the pastor, Union is the exact opposite. Since the latest fighting broke out two weeks ago, I've heard from numerous church members asking for help making sense of the horrors unfolding in front of us.

Now, while a two-page newsletter article gives us nowhere the amount of time needed to process the centuries of strife in the Middle East and the complexity of the current situation, what we do have time to do is turn to Jesus' sermon on the mount. Many forget that, along with the Beatitudes (the "blessed are theys") are Jesus' teachings to go the extra mile, give not only one's cloak but also one's tunic, turn the other cheek. If you've been part of Union long enough, you've heard me unpacking those teachings, helping folks to understand that Jesus wasn't telling his followers to "just roll over and take it," but rather that utilizing creative alternative means is the only chance we're going to find our way out of this mess.

The quote at the top of this article is a powerful modern day iteration of that teaching. There is no way that more violence, more killing of civilians, more fueling of hatred and grudges is going to move either side forward.

*(continued on page 2)*

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published  
the week of **November 15.***

*The deadline for that newsletter is  
Friday, **November 10.***

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Blessing Box Drive -----	back page

**Lectionary Readings****October 22****21st Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99 or  
Isaiah 45:1-7 and  
Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10  
Matthew 22:15-22

**October 29****22nd Sunday after Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and  
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 or  
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 and Psalm 1  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Matthew 22:34-46

**November 1****All Saints Day**

Revelation 7:9-17 and  
Psalm 34:1-10, 22  
1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

**November 5****23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Joshua 3:7-17 and  
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37 or  
Micah 3:5-12 and Psalm 43  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13  
Matthew 23:1-12

**November 12****24th Sunday after Pentecost**

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 and  
Psalm 78:1-7 or  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 or  
Amos 5:18-24 and  
Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or  
Psalm 70  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

**November 19****25th Sunday after Pentecost**

Judges 4:1-7 and Psalm 123 or  
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 and  
Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11  
Matthew 25:14-30

*(continued from page 1)*

Rabbi Moishe Steigmann and I had only met a handful of times before the tragic shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh in 2018. In the aftermath of that horror, I organized a candlelight vigil the next Shabbat, to wrap the congregants of Congregation Cnesses Israel in light and peace as they gathered for prayer. Hundreds lined the streets and sang "Let There Be Peace On Earth." In the ensuing years, Rabbi Moishe has become a friend from afar (he lives in Milwaukee) and a trusted voice of wisdom in my life. Late last week, he wrote this:

*The reality of why I haven't posted--is that, through all this, despite my "wants," I have mostly been feeling...numb. Incapacitated. Disillusioned. Almost defeated.*

*Yet, at the same time, I don't ever want to lose my humaneness, my sense of decency, and my compassion for anyone and everyone suffering in Israel and in the Palestinian territories. And I haven't been able to reconcile the two.*

*How do I call out those who supported or elected terrorists in the first place without ceding my compassion for the interminable plight that drove them there? How do I call a government for ongoing provocation without ignoring the pain their people have suffered from decades of bombings? How do I reconcile my belief that Hamas must simply be destroyed with the potential casualties that it will necessitate? How do I balance the dignity of life, the indignity of murder and killing, the urgency of war, and the scar that they sear on the soul?*

*So I've retreated. I've hidden.*

*I know what my head wants: I want to rant, to scream, to demand justice. And I also know that is not me, is not who I am nor who I aspire to be. I couldn't reconcile the fear, disgust, and disconnect within myself with my mindful approach to Judaism and to life.*

*And so I stayed silent.*

*I share this not because my journey is necessarily unique or even instructive. I share this in part because I need to hear it for myself. But mostly I share it because numbness is a toxin. Apathy is the ally of evil. Disillusion is the champion of hate.*

*I hope that, shortly, I will be ready to offer my fuller voice. In the meantime, I will do my best to hold together two seemingly polar hopes: for a decisive end to Hamas' terrorism and, ultimately, for peace for all in the region.*

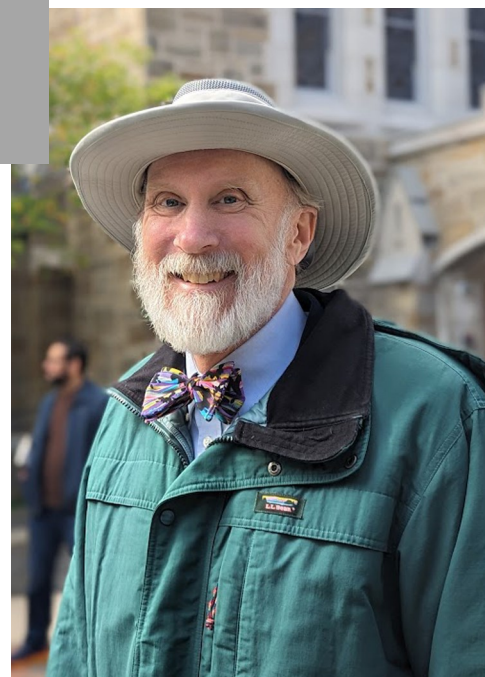
My hope joins with Rabbi Steigmann's. May our rage be wedded to our humaneness. May we not allow ourselves the luxury of numbness, apathy, and disillusion. May we tap the energies of Jesus and Audre Lord, bringing about genuine change by finding new and different tools to bring about sustainable peace.

This is not the stewardship newsletter article I intended to write. But I'm grateful to be shepherding a congregation that not only tolerates but expects that we bring our faith to bear on the real troubles of this world.

Yours In All of the Names of the Divine,  
Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels



Union Church's  
Heifer Living Gift Market  
on Sunday, October 8  
raised close to \$6,000!  
(photos taken by Clay Reese)



## Union Church's 6th Annual Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

We are in the planning stage of our Christmas Tree and Wreath sale. Our tree lot will be open on Friday, November 17 and every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from then until December 17 or when all trees and wreaths are sold.

We are asking for your help in supporting this fundraiser by purchasing a tree and/or a wreath and by volunteering to staff the lot for a 2-hour shift. Lot hours will be the same as last year: Friday (4 to 6 p.m.), Saturday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Sunday (noon to 4 p.m.) A Google Doc will be used to sign up for shifts.

We will also be asking for volunteers to help decorate the wreaths starting on Saturday, November 11 at 9 a.m. Other than that Saturday, there will not be scheduled times to do the decorating, so we ask you to come at times that are convenient for you during normal office hours (8-4, M-F). Supplies and wreaths will be available in the church hall.

We thank you for your past support and look forward to another successful season selling trees and wreaths.

—Christmas Tree and Wreath Committee

## Memorial Sunday Ofrenda

On November 19, Union will celebrate Memorial Sunday in which we lift up in prayer the lives of our members and friends who have died in the last year, as well as all our loved ones who are deceased.

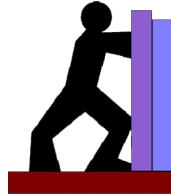
This year, we again invite all who worship with us to bring a picture or memento of any loved ones you would like to commemorate. We will create something similar to an Ofrenda, or Dia de los Muertos altar, to honor and celebrate their lives. You may place your items on the altar when you arrive, or during the offertory after the ushers have passed your pew.

Please remember to retrieve your items after worship. Those worshipping with us online are encouraged to place their items near their screen during the service.

## Suzuki Music Academy Holiday Violin Recital

The Suzuki Music Academy invites Union members and friends to their 2023 holiday student violin recital on Saturday, December 2, at 2:00 p.m. in the Union Church sanctuary with refreshments directly following in the church hall. Admission is free.

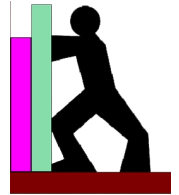
The Suzuki Music Academy is grateful to be renting space for student lessons at Union and would love for the Union community to hear the fruits of their work since beginning this relationship with Union in June 2022.



### Your Church Library

## The Earth Will Teach You

by Cathy Putman



We continue our discussion regarding the book [Speak with the Earth and It will Teach You](#). Author Daniel Cooperrider was the keynote presenter at a Wisconsin Conference Creation Care retreat held at the Daycholah Conference Center on October 14.

Cooperrider describes his book as a series of braided narratives. His intention is to foreground natural elements in the Bible, in contrast to the more common reading of Scripture which focuses on human and divine actions and relationships. And he reads what has been called the Book of Nature, which we can think of as our own experiences immersed in the wild world.

To shape his work, Cooperrider begins with the classic philosophic elements: water, fire, earth and air then transitions within each section to concrete representations of them: rivers, mountains, trees and clouds. All four of these representations are exemplified in Biblical narratives. You only need think of the river in the Garden of Eden or Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, stories of origin. Or the mountain that Abraham climbs with Isaac or Jesus' encounter with Satan in the desert, places of significant testing.

Cooperrider draws attention to Abraham and Sarah's extravagant hospitality under the oaks of Mamre, trees which themselves are gracious hosts to a multitude of insects and birds. Entomologist Doug Tallamy has documented how oaks are the most hospitable of all trees, sheltering and feeding more than 400 caterpillar species. Forest ecologists, Peter Wohlleben ([The Hidden Life of Trees](#)) and Suzanne Simard ([Finding the Mother Tree](#)) imagined and documented the mutual aid communication webs of trees with each other and the mycorrhizal network of underground creatures. This is a wonderful example of how we can learn graciousness from the Book of Nature.

The last representation that Cooperrider writes about is clouds – Noah's rainbow in the clouds, the cloud pillar that led the Israelites, the cloud where Moses meets with God. Clouds with their myriad and morphing shapes form and dissipate as part of the water cycle. If we open our minds beyond the notion of clouds as the portents of harsh weather or hard times, clouds can lift us as they embody the ephemeral—the presence of the sacred.

Why is this important to read and reflect upon? Theologian Sallie McFague in [A New Climate for Christology](#) expresses the growing notion that we need a new origin story, one which does not put humans in a utilitarian relationship with nature, as either masters or stewards. Cooperrider places humans in the role of students of nature, sometimes as scientists but more as those who seek meaning through our mindful attention to what our natural world has to teach.



## Capital Campaign Corner

Thank you to all who pledged a total of \$571,880.46 to our Building for Faith in Action Capital Campaign. As of October 15, we have received \$156,294.38 of those commitments, which is over 23% of the total pledged.

This is a healthy pace for a campaign of our size, and has allowed us to undertake all of our most critical capital projects: the new Mayflower doors are installed and functioning well and the courtyard and south sanctuary tuckpointing is completed. We are optimistic that the west church hall roof will be re-shingled before the snow flies.

Next on the list are replacing some elevator mechanicals and overhauling the Wi-Fi throughout the building. Stewardship Ministry will keep you informed as we keep completing projects, and are grateful that your pledging has already allowed us to do much needed work.

\* As you fulfill your Capital Campaign pledge and your regular budget pledge, please make sure to note your intentions for your donation, so that the office staff can direct the funds appropriately.

### Union: Faith in Action

Our ministries depend on your financial support. If you haven't already done so, please prayerfully consider making a pledge to Union's 2024 ministry.

Pledge cards may be returned via the offering plate or to the church office. You can also let us know of your pledge by sending an email to [finance@unionucc.com](mailto:finance@unionucc.com) or by going to [www.unionucc.com/giving](http://www.unionucc.com/giving).



### 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 9**  
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 10**  
8:30 a.m. Costumes & Rehearsal  
(sweet rolls & juice available for the cast)  
10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant

### Priscilla Circle Meets October 24

Priscilla Circle returns at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, October 24, in the English Room. Pat Shafer will update us on the On the Mark Dyslexia Clinic. Questions? Contact Helen Krueger at [chkrueger@new.rr.com](mailto:chkrueger@new.rr.com).

### Games Night is Back Wednesday, October 25

Games night is back! Dust off your favorite board game, or if you do not have one to bring, perhaps you can bring a snack to share at the LGBTQIA2S+ and allies Games Night on Wednesday, October 25 at 6 p.m.

Union's Outreach Ministry and the Pride Center of Northeastern Wisconsin are joining together for a night of fun! Bring a friend, your family, significant other, or bring yourself and meet new friends! Kid-friendly games and crafting will be available too.

We will see you on Wednesday, October 25, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the church hall. Questions? Call Stacie Christian at 920-639-8421.

### Trick or Treat at Union Church

We're seeking donations of candy to be handed out on Halloween (4 to 7 p.m.). This is a simple, sweet way to connect with our neighborhood.

If you'd like to pitch in, drop candy off at the church office by October 26 (so that Pastor Bridget knows how much she needs to supplement). An additional adult volunteer or two is always welcome to help with this fun offering.

### Our December 4 Women’s Advent Evening of Reflection Theme is “Woman Divine”

All who identify as female are invited to our Women’s Advent Evening of Reflection on Monday, December 4. At the event, various church members decorate one table and provide dessert for those seated at the table. We have a time of song and reflection 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 attend, host or cohost a table, sign up at Union Central or email: Denise Olson ([myersolson22@gmail.com](mailto:myersolson22@gmail.com)) or Cheryl Myers ([myers.america@gmail.com](mailto:myers.america@gmail.com)).

### Our Church Family

One of the true blessings of a church is the family of choice that develops as we live and grow and pray and learn together. In a special way this month, we join our hearts and minds in prayer:

- 

Fill your cup!

Union CONGREGATIONAL

An Evening of Christmas Jazz and Family Activities

6:30pm - Open house for caregivers and their families  
7:30pm - Christmas Jazz Concert

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dec. 7 at 6:30pm | Union Congregational UCC  
716 S. Madison St., Green Bay, WI 54301

This event is funded in part by a Catalyst Grant from the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ

All are invited to a special Jazz Christmas concert on December 7 at 7:30 p.m. We’re also inviting the staff of local social service organizations and their families to a special pre-concert Fill Your Cup Christmas Party at 6:30 p.m. with treats, cookie decorating, holiday crafts, and giveaways to thank them for all they do to make our community a better place.

Watch your Union communications for ways you can help our church give this holiday gift to the staffs of the many area social service organizations who make our community a better place.

### Christmas Fund Offering is December 17

The Christmas Fund Offering provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses. 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](http://unionucc.com). Your gift will be included on your annual giving statement. Thank you.

# Union Church Calendar

## October 22, 2023—November 19, 2023

### October 22 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  
 11:15 a.m. Dr. Sherry Warren on  
 women's and gender  
 justice

### October 24 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle  
 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir  
 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

### October 25 Wednesday

5:45 p.m. Youth Group  
 Bonfire & Dinner at  
 Pastor Bridget's  
 6:00 p.m. LGBTQIA2S+ and Allies  
 Games Night  
 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

### October 26 Thursday

6:00 p.m. New Member Class

### October 29 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  
 11:15 a.m. Love in Action  
 through Music

### October 31 Tuesday

12:00 p.m. Bible Study  
 4:00 p.m. Trick or Treat at Union

### November 1 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

### November 5 Sunday

#### Pledge Sunday

#### Daylight Saving Time Ends

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

### November 7 Tuesday

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

### November 8 Wednesday

6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

### November 9 Thursday

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

### November 11 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Wreath Decorating

### November 12 Sunday

#### New Member Sunday Recognizing Our Veterans

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

### November 14 Tuesday

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

### November 15 Wednesday

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

### November 17 Friday

4:00 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

### November 18 Saturday

10:00 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

### November 19 Sunday

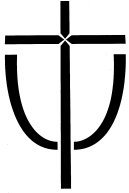
#### Memorial Sunday

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  
 12:00 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

## Our Attendance

September	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
1st Sunday	80	70
2nd Sunday	113*	100*
3rd Sunday	105	84
4th Sunday	89	92
<b>Totals</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>346</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>96.8</b>	<b>86.5</b>

\* Totals include 67 worshippers at Moon Beach in 2023 and 47 in 2022.



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

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GREEN BAY, WI

## Blessing Box Winter Food Drive! Sunday, November 5

It's time to get the Blessing Box ready for the upcoming winter season. The items listed below are especially helpful. Thank you!

- Granola Bars / Single-Serving Snack Packs
- Instant Oatmeal or Cocoa Mix Packs
- Microwave Pasta Meals
- Pouch Fruit
- Pouch or Box Instant Potatoes or Rice Mixes

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, November 5 or on the blue table inside the Mayflower entrance at any time.

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](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>