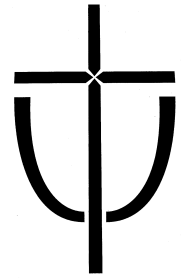


# Still Speaking



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

March 2024

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **April 24**.  
The deadline for that newsletter is **Friday, April 19**.*

<b>Easter Breakfast</b> -----	<b>2</b>
<b>Holy Week with Union Church</b> ---	<b>3</b>
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## Big Read: “A More Perfect Union”

Have you ever done something that seemed “pie in the sky” and it worked? Like inviting a nationally known speaker to Zoom and they replied “yes” within an hour?

That’s what happened the other day when Steve Hartman, Union’s liaison to JOSHUA, stopped by my office.

The JOSHUA Spiritual Leaders, inspired by Steve’s deep and impassioned study of the topic of Christian Nationalism, had been bandying about the idea of encouraging all of the JOSHUA churches and other affiliate organizations to read “A More Perfect Union” by Adam Russell Taylor.

While Steve and I dreamed about what this Big Read might entail, I jokingly wondered if we could get Rev. Taylor to Zoom with us.

As luck would have it, after filling out a rather elaborate form on the Sojourner’s website, Rev. Taylor’s people said he’d be delighted to Zoom with us as a capstone to our Big Read of his book.

The publicity for the book describes it thus:

America is at a pivotal crossroads. The soul of our nation is at stake and in peril...In *A More Perfect Union*, Adam Russell Taylor, president of Sojourners, reimagines a contemporary version of (Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s) Beloved Community that will inspire and unite Americans across generations, geographic and class divides, racial and gender differences, faith traditions, and ideological leanings.

In the Beloved Community, neither privilege nor punishment is tied to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or economic status, and everyone is able to realize their full potential and thrive. Building the Beloved Community requires living out a series of commitments,

*(continued on page 2)*

## Lectionary Readings

### March 17 — 5th Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
 Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16  
 Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

### March 24 — Palm Sunday

(Liturgy of the Palms)  
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
 Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16  
 (Liturgy of the Passion)  
 Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16  
 Philippians 2:5-11  
 Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39, (40-47)

### March 28 — 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

### March 29 — 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

### March 30 — 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

### March 31 — Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9  
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43  
 John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

### April 7 — 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133  
 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

### April 14 — 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4  
 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

### April 21 — 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23  
 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

(continued from page 1)

such as true equality, radical welcome, transformational interdependence, *E Pluribus Unum* (““out of many, one””), environmental stewardship, nonviolence, and economic equity. By building the Beloved Community we unify the country around a shared moral vision that transcends ideology and partisanship, tapping into our most sacred civic and religious values, enabling our nation to live up to its best ideals and realize a more perfect union.

In initiating this Big Read, the JOSHUA Spiritual Leaders’ Caucus is calling our community to actively pick up the baton as we take our turn in building up the Beloved Community. We find ourselves in a culture of strict divides with practically everyone saying, “We should do something about that.” This Big Read of “A More Perfect Union” is a one small step toward a faithful response to the intense divide and suspicion in our current public discourse, a reasoned and faithful forum to forge a strong pathway forward for our Brown County community.

With a foreword by the late Representative John Lewis, “A More Perfect Union” may be just the clarion call needed for people of faith communities.

All are invited to obtain copies of “A More Perfect Union” and begin reading on the anniversary date of Rev. Dr. King’s assassination, April 4, 1968. The Big Read will then gather readers in three Zoom sessions this spring, including a capstone zoom with Rev. Taylor. Watch your church communications for those dates.

There is no need to register, simply join us via the link found in your This Week at Union email for one, two, or all three of the sessions.

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

## Easter Breakfast Sunday, March 31

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 8 a.m. worship 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>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
1st Sunday	107	88
2nd Sunday	119	112
3rd Sunday	94	90
4th Sunday	114	106
<b>Totals</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>396</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>108.5</b>	<b>99.0</b>

## 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 — March 24

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



### Maundy Thursday — March 28

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



### Good Friday — March 29

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

### Easter Sunday — March 31

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



Nursery opens at 7:45 on Easter Sunday

No Faith Formation  
No Adult Education on Easter Sunday

## Our Church Family

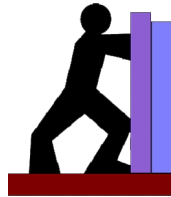
One of the graces of being a church family is the support we offer to one another.

### 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/ucuccgb-s24>

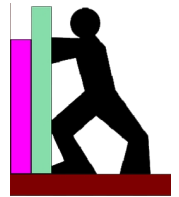
Our experience of the bulbs last year was wonderful, but selection does dwindle if you drag your feet.



Your Church Library

## Forgiveness Literature

by Cathy Putman



Whether a hurtful act is accidental, impulsive and regretted, or deeply vicious, it is an act that cannot be taken back. The worldly expectation is of revenge or state retribution. Pardon or amnesty is the public act of halting this process and forgiveness a private, emotional response. With its emphasis on the personal, “The F Word Exhibition,” addresses the acts and conversations that defy expectations and provide a humane exit from hurt.

Forgiveness literature turns often on two events: the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) sessions chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Charleston mass murder at Mother Emmanuel Church. The church library has detailed narratives of both. No Future Without Forgiveness was written by Tutu and published in 1996. Forgiveness, while not required of those testifying, was believed to be an important part of national reconciliation. Journalist Jennifer Hawes wrote a similarly encompassing narrative of the tragic church massacre, Grace will Lead Us Home, in 2019. Many but not all of the family members of those who were killed were quick to forgive Dylann Roof in keeping with Jesus’s forgiveness on the cross.

Two new books were added to the library based on a review in The Christian Century.

Forgiveness: an Alternative contains four discussions entitled retaliation, repentance, remission and resurrection. Written by a Harvard Divinity School professor, it is intellectually stimulating and nuanced. From the introductory comments, “Matthew Ichihashi Potts explores the complex moral terrain of forgiveness, which he claims has too often served as a salve to the conscience of power rather than as an instrument of healing or justice.” Following Hannah Arendt in The Human Condition, he defines forgiveness as “the refusal of retaliatory violence.” What Potts adds to this understanding is that the refusal comes through penitence and grief, of mourning, of living in and with the losses we cannot recover.

Philosopher Myisha Cherry has written an accessible discussion in Failures of Forgiveness. She covers many topics, but the key chapter comes near the end. In it, Cherry offers the idea of radical repair, in contrast to superficial repair (lip service) or thrifty repair (less risky). Radical repair gets to the root, often involving far more costly change than simply halting violence or oppression. In this regard, Blacks in South Africa today decry the absence of reparations, like the return of land, that are an unfulfilled promise of the TRC. Per Cherry, radical repair requires collaboration.

For these and other books about forgiveness, please see the basket underneath Tina Bechtel’s lovely photographs in the church library.



## A Thank You from Ray Thompson

I'd like to thank Pastor Bridget and the planning committee for the wonderful sendoff I received on February 11. I was reminded again of my love for Union when the service concluded with such an emotional moment followed by the joyful celebration upstairs. I appreciate all of the wonderful cards, gifts of money and the beautiful adaptation of the St. Cecilia stained-glass window—depicting the saint of music—to enjoy in my home. Your thoughtfulness provided a beautiful ending to my time as organist at Union.



With heartfelt thanks to all,  
Ray



Above left: Ray and Pastor Bridget  
Below left: Ray and Linda Larson  
At right: Ray and Jeff Gibson



Note date change to the second Sunday of the month!

## Blessing Box Food Drive April 14, 2024

**It's time to stock the Blessing Box for Spring!**  
**Food drive suggestions include:**

- Canned Chili or Pasta Meals
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Pasta Sauce
- Canned Soup
- Canned Tuna and Chicken
- Canned Vegetables

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, April 14, or on the blue table inside the Mayflower entrance at any time.

**Monetary donations are also welcome, and we'll do the shopping!** To make a monetary donation, send a check with "Blessing Box" on the memo line, or donate via the church website at [www.unionucc.com/giving](http://www.unionucc.com/giving).

**Thank you!**



## Adult Ed: Proof-texts

Have you ever been “proof-texted?” That is, has anyone ever told you that *you must believe (fill in the blank)*, based on a few biblical verses? Likewise, has anyone ever tried to convince you that your ethical or social convictions are dangerously erroneous because Chapter X, Verse Y says so? If so, you may have felt at a loss to respond. The person you’re talking with is engaging in a practice called proof-texting. Your proof-texter is able to handily quote the Bible at you and you may not know how to best counter such an argument, other than with a feeble, “Well, that’s not how I look at it.”

On Sunday April 7, Julie Harder will be leading an Adult Class on Proof-texts. We’ll learn how to recognize a proof-text and then explore “Harder’s Three Questions to Ask” when evaluating its validity. Along the way, we’ll look at some of the proof-texts that have been wielded over the centuries to support far-reaching social practices and ideologies.

## Priscilla Circle to Meet on March 19

Priscilla Circle will gather at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19 in the English Room. Mary Hemminger will talk about the Blessing Box. Join us.

## It's Almost Rummage Sale Season!

Outreach Ministry is again sponsoring our annual rummage sale which will occur on Saturday, May 18. Last year we made enough money to feed nearly 750 people at the NEW Community Shelter. This year we are hoping for even greater results. This is where you come in. To make this another success, we need:

**Volunteers** — Folks are needed for tent set up, room set up, sorting, pricing and selling. Set up will start Saturday, May 11 and will continue during the week that follows. If interested, please sign up at Union Central or email Achim Seifert at [seif904@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seif904@sbcglobal.net).

**Items to sell** — Last year we were blessed to have some significant donations like bikes, grills, even a push lawn mower. If you have items in good shape, please consider donating them for this good cause.

**Buyers** — Come and check out the incredible items we will have for sale.

More info to follow, but as you look at your spring cleaning and volunteer time, please consider this event. Thank you.

## Capital Campaign Corner



Thank you to all who pledged a total of \$571,880.46 to our Building for Faith in Action Capital Campaign. We have received \$265,861.44 of those commitments, which is over 46.8% of the total pledged.

This is a healthy pace for a campaign of our size. Last fall, Common Ministry authorized Stewardship Ministry to go ahead with 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 working with a roofer to have the west church hall roof resingled this spring. Things are in the works to update some elevator mechanicals and the Wi-Fi throughout the building is being overhauled this month. In the sanctuary, five pews (and therefore five cushions) have been shortened as part of our commitment to accessibility, and Outreach Ministry has been granted 1/3 of the \$15,000, that is \$5,000, from the Capital Campaign funds designated for their work. Among other efforts, through these funds Union will be a Healing Sponsor of the We All Rise Juneteenth Celebration. 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.

## 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 24.

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

## Used Book Sale

The church library will hold our used book sale this May. Books will be available upstairs in the church hall on Sundays, May 5 and May 12, 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 3.

# Union Church Calendar

March 17, 2024—April 17, 2024

## March 17 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Julie Harder
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Sunday Movie: "The Forgiven"

## March 18 Monday

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

## March 19 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

## March 20 Wednesday

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

## HOLY WEEK

### March 24 Palm Sunday

#### 9:00 a.m.

Faith Formation

#### 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

## March 26 Tuesday

- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## March 27 Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

## March 28 Maundy Thursday

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

## March 29 Good Friday

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

## March 31 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

Nursery opens at 7:45 a.m.  
No Faith Formation  
No Adult Education

## April 1 Monday

Church Office is Closed

## April 2 Tuesday

### Spring General Election

- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## April 3 Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

## April 7 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Julie Harder
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall

## April 9 Tuesday

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 4:00 p.m. Education Ministry
- 5:45 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## April 10 Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

## April 11 Thursday

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

## April 14 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
- Blessing Box Food Drive

## April 15 Monday

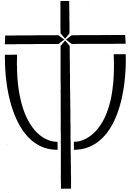
- 11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch at the Village Grille

## April 16 Tuesday

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

## April 17 Wednesday

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



Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
716 S. Madison Street  
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## Interested in Learning More About Union Church?

Interested in learning more about Union Church 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 Thursday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, May 1 at 5:30 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 19.

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>