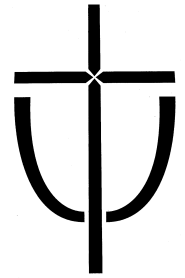


# Still Speaking



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

April 2024

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## Reimagining the Lord's Prayer

One of the pitfalls of knowing something by heart is that it can become rote. Sometimes things we can sing or say from memory become wallpaper as we forget to pay attention to their meaning. This is perhaps best exemplified by the Lord's Prayer. Its familiarity can domesticate it, as we gloss over the words.

That is why I was so excited when Rev. Daniel Cooperrider included three reimaginings of the Lord's Prayer along with the prayers he sent for us to use in worship when we celebrate Earth Day on April 28. What I love about them is that, because they're modeled on the rhythms and themes of the Lord's Prayer, when I read about them I feel like I'm praying twice - once with the words on the page and again as I think back to how each phrase corresponds with the more familiar version.

As we celebrate the Easter season, I pass these on to you with the hope that they will be spiritually nourishing to you and that they can also help you to pray the Lord's Prayer with new eyes.

### An Ecological Lord's Prayer

by Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes, Union Theological Seminary

Our God who are in pluriverses, the skies and the earth,  
Blessed be your name: life.

May your pulsing life come to be seen, heard, touched and felt through the oceans, the forests, in the rocks, in the life of plants and in the sounds of animals and singing birds. May the atmosphere of the sky that carries our ability to breathe continue balanced as fossil presences are kept under the earth.

Give us this day our daily bread through a variety of seeds and grains and leaves without pesticides, without monocultures, from local farms and agro-biodiverse-cultures.

Forgive our plundering of the earth, our total lack of relation and reciprocity with the earth and more than human beings; as cells, mycelium, fungi and

*(continued on page 2)*

**Lectionary Readings**

**April 28**

**5th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

**May 5**

**6th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

**May 9**

**Ascension Day**

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

**May 12**

**7th Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19

**May 19**

**Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b  
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21  
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**May 26**

**Trinity Sunday**

Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29  
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

**June 2**

**2nd Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) and  
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 or  
Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and  
Psalm 81:1-10  
2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6

**June 9**

**3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Samuel 8:4-11, (12-15), 16-20,  
(11:14-15) and Psalm 138 or  
Genesis 3:8-15 and Psalm 130  
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

infinite processes of symbiosis forgive us daily by giving life back when we destroy it.

And lead us not into consumerism and the devouring the earth, but deliver us from the apathy that says nothing can be changed.

For life is kinship, relationality and reciprocity. Now and forever. Amen.

**Lord’s Prayer from the First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament**

O Great Spirit, our Father from above, we honor your name as sacred and holy. Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below.

Provide for us day by day—the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon. The corn, the squash, and the wild rice. All the things we need for each day.

Release us from the things we have done wrong, in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.

Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road, and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways.

Aho! May it be so!

**The Prayer of Jesus**

translation prepared by Nez Percé Elder Hattie Corbett Enos

Oh Great Spirit, You are our Shepherd Chief, in the most high place whose home is everywhere, even beyond the stars and moon. Whatever You want done, let it be done everywhere. Give us Your gift of bread day by day. Forgive our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us. Take us away from wrong doings. Free us from all evil, for everything belongs to You. Let your power and glory shine forever. Amen.

**Attendance for March and Holy Week**

March	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
1st Sunday	106	106
2nd Sunday	95	82
3rd Sunday	134	105
4th Sunday <small>(Palm Sunday in 2024)</small>	110	117
5th Sunday <small>(Easter in 2024)</small>	186	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>410</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>157.8</b>	<b>102.5</b>

Holy Week	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Palm Sunday	110	150
Maundy Thursday	37	40
Good Friday	34	48
Easter 8 a.m.	22	47
Easter 10 a.m.	164	199
<b>Totals</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>484</b>



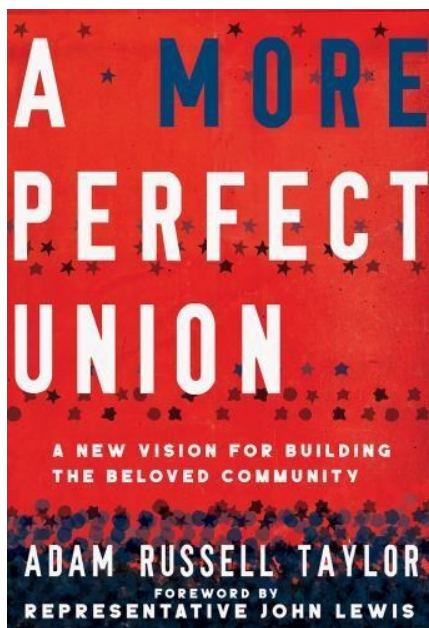
## Tour of Sanctuary Symbolism

photo by Jeff Larson

Have you ever wondered why we have a pelican in our stained-glass window of love? Did you ever wonder why there is an eagle on our lectern?

On May 19 following worship, you can find out those answers and more. We will gather 15 minutes following the end of our worship service in the first two pews in the Sanctuary. You will have a chance to walk through the chancel, the nave, the narthex and the balcony and discover the symbols and learn their meanings. The entire tour should take about 45 minutes.

No need to sign up or register, just come and enjoy the tour. If you are like most people, you are already wondering where the nave is and why it is called the nave. Join us on May 19 to find out!



## JOSHUA Big Read of *A More Perfect Union*

The JOSHUA Spiritual Leaders invite you to a Big Read of *A More Perfect Union* by Adam Russell Taylor.

All are invited to obtain a copy of *A More Perfect Union* and begin reading. The Big Read will then gather readers throughout the community in Zoom sessions as we discuss Section 1 on May 2 and Section 2 on May 30. We will culminate by finishing the book and Zooming with Rev. Taylor on June 20. All Zooms are at 7 p.m.

There is no need to register, simply join us for one or all of the sessions using the link in your This Week at Union Church Friday email.

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## Seeking Sunday Morning Childcare

We are seeking someone 18+ who is loving, energetic, patient, reliable, and good with kids to help staff our church nursery (2 to 3 hours, 2 to 3 Sunday mornings per month).

Compensation is competitive. If you know someone who might be interested, have them contact Pastor Bridget for details.

## Join the AV Team

Union's AV team needs folks who are tech-minded and looking to volunteer for Union in a fun way. Duties include operating the video broadcast board during Sunday service and coordinating the livestream to Facebook and YouTube. (This is a lot easier than it sounds.) Rotation is generally one Sunday a month.

Please reach out to Eric Harkoff at [eharkoff@yahoo.com](mailto:eharkoff@yahoo.com) if interested. Thank you!

## Ladies Lunch Bunch Meets Monday, May 20

Join us at 11:30 a.m.  
at the Village Grille  
in Allouez

Questions?  
Contact Sue Zanzig  
at 920-494-4172

## Web of Life World: Garden News You Can Use

You may know that our lives as we know them depend on zillions of microbes living inside and around us, trillions of pollinators and plants thriving through symbiotic relationships. In some of those relationships, insects like bees are generalists, playing the field. The Maine blueberry bee has a special thing going with just blueberries and a few other fruits. When the specialists lose numbers because of pesticides or lose nesting sites because of poor habitat, well, we lose too.

So what are we doing in Union's gardens? Grass removal, because there are better alternatives for habitat creation. Invasive removal to level the playing field for natives. Use of freely available brown materials for mulching and soil building.

What can you do? The simplest answer is to plant a native tree. Trees do much of the work in habitat restoration. If you don't have space or soil for the keystone species oak, what about a serviceberry (*Amelanchier*) or a pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)? Native lindens (*Tilia americana*) and ninebarks (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) are powerhouses.

Respect your browns. Keep those dead leaves and sticks for mulch around your new tree. When we sweep away the leaves in the fall or spring, we lose a whole year's investment in microbe and bug life. Leaves may look brown but they are gold.

Use the Wisconsin and Minnesota DNR websites listed below, and stay informed about invasives. If they are aggressive, dig them out!

—Cathy Putman

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/index.htm#text-1-4>

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/RegulatedSpecies>

## 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? Contact scholarship committee chair, Sandy Polarek at [smpolarek@aol.com](mailto:smpolarek@aol.com).

## Sunday Adult Education

Gather in Bagby Chapel (9 a.m.) for these informative and inspiring conversations:

### April 28—Rev. Daniel Cooperrider

UCC pastor Rev. Daniel Cooperrider will lead our commemoration of Earth Day. A graduate of the University of Chicago and the University of Chicago Divinity School, Daniel writes at the intersections of theology, environmental ethics, poetry, aesthetics, and climate justice. He will share insights from his 2022 book "Speak with the Earth and It Will Teach You."

### May 5—Students of Black Theology

This past semester, five St. Norbert College students in Dr. Craig Ford's Black Theology class have been learning about Union's history around racial justice. In this session, they will share some of their learnings from class, as well as some ideas of how Union might continue its anti-racism journey.

### May 19—Garden Tour

Gather with Cathy Putman to tour the church grounds and learn about what she describes in her article on page 4.

## Our Church Family

## Priscilla Circle to Meet May 28

Priscilla Circle will gather at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28 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 11)  
is 2 weeks away  
Our rummage sale (May 18)  
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). Take 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](mailto:seif904@sbcglobal.net) or call him at 708-822-8998.

Thanks and see you there!

Drop off = May 11 from 9 to 1  
Sale = May 18 from 8 to 2



## 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!

## Sojourner Circle

Union has a new group! Sojourner Circle is a group of women supporting each other's navigations through career decisions, raising children, personal growth, mid-life reflections, and more. They meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month; coming together for friendship, faith, inspiration, and group volunteer opportunities. The first Thursday is usually a gathering at a member's home, and the third Thursday is generally an activity or restaurant meal out in the Green Bay area.

Recent adventures include a game night, serving dinner at the NEW Community shelter, a painting class, dinner out, making cards for a nursing home, a trivia night, and lots of book discussions.

Contact Emily Lakatos at [emilyclakatos@gmail.com](mailto:emilyclakatos@gmail.com) for more info and to be added to the Facebook group. All those who identify as women are welcome.

## EPH News

### Volunteers Needed

We are seeking volunteers to help get homes ready for new families to move in! If you are interested in volunteering or being added to our volunteer list, please contact Lacy at [lacyh@ephgb.org](mailto:lacyh@ephgb.org) or 920-655-6323.

### Wish List

If you can help, please call the EPH office at 920-544-0258 to arrange a time to drop off donations or arrange a time for us to pick up items, if needed. Thank you!

- Pillows
- Full or twin mattress pads
- C & D batteries
- CO2/Smoke detector combos
- First aid kits
- Toddler sippy cups
- Toddler bedding sets
- Outside games or toys for kids
- Gift cards: Menards, Woodman's, Walmart
- Gas cards in denominations of \$25 or less

## Who's Graduating?



We would like to recognize our 2024 graduates in our June newsletter. Please let the church office know (437-9266 or [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com)) if you will be a 2024 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 12

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 12. 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 28, 2024—May 30, 2024

## April 28 Sunday

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

## April 30 Tuesday

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

## May 1 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group  
at Denny's on Oneida  
5:30 p.m. New Member Class  
5:45 p.m. Dinner  
6:15 p.m. Youth Group

## May 2 Thursday

6:00 p.m. Sojourner Circle  
7:00 p.m. Big Read Zoom Session

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## May 5 Sunday

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

Used Book Sale in the Church Hall

## May 7 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

## May 9 Thursday

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

## May 11 Saturday

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

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## May 12 Sunday

### Housing Offering

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

Used Book Sale in the Church Hall

## May 14 Tuesday

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

## May 15 Wednesday

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

## May 16 Thursday

6:00 p.m. Sojourner Circle

## May 18 Saturday

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

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## May 19 Sunday

### New Member Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation  
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Cathy Putman  
Garden Tour  
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary  
or stream it online  
followed by Coffee Hour  
in the church hall  
11:15 a.m. Sanctuary Symbolism Tour

## May 20 Monday

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

## May 21 Tuesday

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

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## May 26 Sunday

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

**May 27 Monday — Memorial Day**  
Church Office is Closed

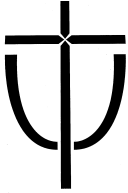
## May 28 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

## May 30 Thursday

7:00 p.m. Big Read Zoom Session





Union Congregational  
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## Blessing Box Food Drive Sunday, May 5

**Thank you for your continuing support of the Blessing Box ministry!**

**Current needs include:**

- Canned Chili or Pasta Meals
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Fruit Cups
- Granola Bars

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 5, 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).



### 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>