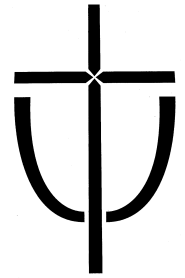


# Still Speaking



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

June 2024

## The Inside Scoop

### Newsletter Deadline

Our next newsletter will be published  
the week of **August 21, 2024**.  
The deadline for that newsletter is  
Friday, **August 16, 2024**.

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## Summer Reading

“To be human in an aching world is to know our dignity and become people who safeguard the dignity of everything around us.”

—from “This Here Flesh” by Cole Arthur Riley

If you’re anything like me, the prospect of a looming summer always includes extra time for reading. Whether it’s the brain-candy of a beach read or finally getting the chance to immerse myself in something that has the critics buzzing, my ideal summer day includes my hammock, an azure sky, and a book to lose myself in.

Reading, for me, isn’t mere pleasure or escape, although it certainly does do that at times. Reading helps me to catch a glimpse of the world from another’s point of view, to see the world through their eyes. One of my favorite classes in grad school was “The Moral Life” in Literature in which we read and wrote about the morality found amidst the pages of some wonderful books, and we discussed how we might engage with the characters pastorally. It was fascinating!

With this in mind, I’d like to share a couple of books with you and invite you to share your recommendations with me and the congregation. The first two I’ll lift up are actually on my To Be Read pile, but they come so highly recommended that I’m confident in passing on that recommendation to you.

In “This Here Flesh,” Cole Arthur Riley “reflects on the stories of her grandmother and father, and how they revealed to her an embodied, dignity-affirming spirituality, not only in what they believed but in the act of living itself.” Riley is the curator of the Center for Dignity and Contemplation, and once held the position of Spiritual Teacher in Residence with Cornell University’s Office of Spirituality and Meaning Making. She posts prayers and quotes regularly as part of her Black Liturgies collection.

“This Here Flesh” “explores some of the most urgent questions of life and faith: How can spirituality not silence the body, but instead allow it to come

(continued on page 2)

**Lectionary Readings****June 30****6th Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 and Psalm 130 or  
 Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 or  
 Lamentations 3:22-33 and Psalm 30  
 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

**July 7****7th Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 and Psalm 48 or  
 Ezekiel 2:1-5 and Psalm 123  
 2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

**July 14****8th Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Psalm 24 or  
 Amos 7:7-15 and Psalm 85:8-13  
 Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

**July 21****9th Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 7:1-14a and Psalm 89:20-37 or  
 Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 23  
 Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**July 28****10th Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 11:1-15 and Psalm 14 or  
 2 Kings 4:42-44 and Psalm 145:10-18  
 Ephesians 3:14-21; John 6:1-21

**August 4****11th Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a and  
 Psalm 51:1-12 or  
 Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 and Psalm 78:23-29  
 Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

**August 11****12th Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 and  
 Psalm 130 or  
 1 Kings 19:4-8 and Psalm 34:1-8  
 Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

**August 18****13th Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 and Psalm 111 or  
 Proverbs 9:1-6 and Psalm 34:9-14  
 Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

*(continued from page 1)*

alive? How do we honor, lament, and heal from the stories we inherit? How can we find peace in a world overtaken with dislocation, noise, and unrest?"

"The Hate You Give" by Angie Thomas also comes highly recommended. (Heck, it's been on banned book lists since it was published in 2017 - a recommendation unto itself.) It "tells the story of Starr Carter, a teenage girl who witnesses police shoot her close friend during a traffic stop. This book contains issues many of today's teenagers are wrestling with: racism and police brutality, drugs and profanity, and a Black protagonist who feels obligated to code-switch between life at home and life at her predominantly white private school." I have every expectation that reading this book will grow my empathy.

The last piece I'll recommend is Barbara Kingsolver's Pulitzer Prize winning "Demon Copperhead." Set in modern day Appalachia amidst the opioid crisis, Demon Copperhead is Kingsolver's modern day retelling of Charles Dickens' "David Copperfield." The book is heavy (it's a retelling of Dickens, after all, so it's going to be long), and it's also heavy (I had to put it down every couple of pages just to digest the story). But it's powerfully told and though it is fiction, it offers a window into a stark reality for many.

Since the three books above are so weighty, I'll share a bonus read. While Elle Duncan's "For You I Will" is a children's book, it's worth the time for adults, too. In it, a parent names all sorts of virtuous things they will do to give their child a firm foundation. My favorite is, "I will wear my joy like a fitted crown of a queen so that you will radiate like the glow of a thousand stars." This book reminds me of the discussion I always have as I'm preparing parents for the baptism of their child. I point out that, even if a family is highly active at Union, their children will have at most four hours of church time a week. Even more than from our church, children learn what it means to be a follower of Jesus from their parents. It's parents' lives that teach ethics and morals, it's parents' lives that teach generosity and care for the poor and vulnerable. It's parents' lives that teach justice and respect. And so, "For You I Will" is a great springboard for thinking about, indeed praying about how we will live by example.

Now that I've given you a glimpse of my bookshelves, would you be willing to share your recommendations for summer reading? Send me an email with your recommendation and a sentence or three about why you recommend it, and I'll pass it along to the congregation. We'll also make a Facebook post about summer reading in which people can share their recommendations in the comments.

May your summer reading not only bring you much needed Sabbath amidst the busy-ness of life, may it also build empathy with this world God loves so much.

Blessed reading!  
 Pastor Bridget



Beth Lyman Piontek, with help from her daughter Audrey, reads from the Book of Job.



## Worship in the Courtyard

On Sunday, June 23, more than 100 members and friends of Union Church worshipped in the courtyard. Originally scheduled to take place at St. James Park, the worship service and church picnic were moved to the courtyard as excessive rainfall left the park too soggy to accommodate the events. The baptism of Solstice Eve LaMalfa took place during worship.



Cheryl Myers leads Children's Moments.



## Our Church Family

Perhaps the most profound aspect of church is how the community puts flesh on God's love by caring for and supporting one another. This month we extend our prayer, care, and support to

## Greater Green Bay Cook Book

This June, the church office received an envelope addressed to the Women's Society Union Congregational Church. It had been mailed from Sunnyside, New York. The sender's name was not included.

Inside was a copy of the "Greater Green Bay Cook Book" which, based on J.M.A. Spence being listed as pastor of Union Church, was published between 1899 and 1906.

Many recipes are contained within the book's 172 pages as are ads for local businesses. Two that stand out, at least to this writer, are Fresh Tongue on page 33 and Fricassee of Frog Legs on page 159.

Here are eight of the twelve "Little Things Worth Knowing" as printed on page 163:

- That rusty flat irons should be rubbed over with beeswax and lard.
- That a pinch of salt will cause eggs to beat quickly.
- That cold tea should be saved for your vinegar barrel.
- That a heated knife will cut hot bread without making it heavy.
- That brooms dipped in boiling suds for a few minutes, once a week, will make them last much longer.
- That spots can be taken from wash goods by rubbing them with the yolk of egg before washing.
- That white spots on varnished furniture will disappear if you hold a hot stove lid over them.
- That sprinkling of vinegar is better preservation for fish than ice. Fish is also improved in flavor by this treatment.

—Eric Goska

## Ties to Mexico Continues this Summer

Blanket tying will take place on Wednesdays, July 10 and August 14, from 10 to noon at church.

But where do all of those blankets go? The primary spot is to Centro de Esperanza, a migrant shelter and resource center in Sonoyta, Mexico, forty miles south of Ajo, Arizona. Migrants and asylum seekers gather there while waiting for an appointment to gain legal entrance into the United States, a process that can take from two to three months.

The shelter/center provides phones, legal aid, medical aid, two meals per day, babysitting, clothing, fellowship and job opportunities. All adults work for the shelter/center as it only employs two part-time paid staff. The new shelter being built will house up to 120 people, with a laundry, kitchen, and fellowship space.

Join us in making fleece blankets on the second Wednesdays in July and August. Good talk and a great cause!

—Barbara McClure-Lukens, Lou Norsetter, Tina Bechtel



— Ladies Lunch Bunch —  
**July 15 and August 22 at 11:30 a.m.**  
**at the Village Grille in Allouez**

**Questions? Contact Sue Zanzig at 920-494-4172**

## Christmas In July

Union's Generosity Team is turning the calendar upside down with a Christmas in July celebration on Sunday, July 21 to thank our members and friends for all of the ways you support our church! Festivities will include a joyous "Christmas" worship, a Christmas party in the courtyard, the unveiling of our Union Christmas ornament fundraiser, and the opportunity to pre-order your Christmas tree or wreath from our lot. Maybe we'll even burst into carols amidst the heat. Wear your Christmas colors and contact Deb Rose if you would be willing to make a few dozen Christmas cookies or other holiday treats and if you have a bubble machine or two we could borrow for the party. (Snow and twinkle lights won't work at 11 a.m. in July!)



Registration Form

2024 All-Church Retreat at Moon Beach Camp

Friday, September 6 - Sunday, September 8, 2024

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

Are there any physical disabilities that we should know about?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Any dietary concerns? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Costs: Adults	\$180 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 25, 2024 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 6-8, 2024

Our Theme This Year:  
**(WHOA) We Help One Another:  
How We Show Up**

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. Camp staff will 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 \$180 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.

## Blessing Box Food Drives Sundays, July 7 and August 4

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

Current needs include:

- Bottled water (individual serving size)
- Canned Chili or Pasta Meals
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Canned Vegetables
- Paper Towel and Toilet Paper

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the sanctuary on food drive Sundays 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).

## Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

**Wednesday, July 10, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. AND  
Sunday, July 14, 12:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

Interested in knowing how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 6-18? If so, please join members of Education Ministry for a two-part **Youth Mental Health First Aid** training facilitated by Christie Reese on **Wednesday, July 10, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.** and **Sunday, July 14, 12:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

This training will cover topics including:

- Common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges in youth.
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- How to interact with a child or adolescent in crisis.
- How to connect the youth with help.
- Expanded content on trauma, substance use, self-care and the impact of social media and bullying.

To sign up, or to indicate interest in participating in future sessions if the July 2024 dates do not work for you, please complete the form found in your This Week at Union email or contact the church office. Questions? Please contact Christie Reese at 920-273-5349.



## Blessing Box City Band Concert Food Drives!

The Blessing Box team will be collecting canned foods on Wednesday evenings during the Green Bay City Band Concert season.

If you'd like to participate, you're welcome to drop off donations at the Mayflower Entrance on your way to the concert. *Thank you!*

The Band Concert season begins Wednesday, June 19  
Details at <https://greenbaycityband.com>

# Union Church Calendar

June 30, 2024—August 18, 2024

## June 30 Pride Sunday

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

## July 3 Wednesday

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

## July 4 Thursday—Independence Day

Church Office is Closed



## July 5 Friday

Church Office is Closed

## July 7 Sunday

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

Blessing Box Food Drive

## July 10 Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Ties to Mexico  
6:00 p.m. Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

## July 14 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall  
12:00 p.m. Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

## July 15 Monday

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

## July 19 Friday

6:30 p.m. Sojourner Circle Movie Night  
(contact Emily Lakatos for details)

## July 21 Sunday

### Christmas in July

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

## July 28 Sunday

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

## August 4 Sunday

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

Blessing Box Food Drive

## August 6 Tuesday

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry  
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry

## August 7 Wednesday

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

## August 8 Thursday

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

## August 11 Sunday

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

## August 13 Tuesday

Fall Primary Election  
4:00 p.m. Education Ministry  
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry

## August 14 Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Ties to Mexico

## August 17 Saturday

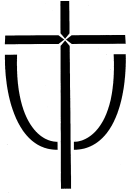
9:00 a.m. Astor Neighborhood "If These Homes Could Talk"

## August 18 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online

## May Attendance

May	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
1st Sunday	106	110
2nd Sunday	104	131
3rd Sunday	113	154
4th Sunday	68	60
<b>Totals</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>455</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>113.8</b>



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

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GREEN BAY, WI



**LET'S CELEBRATE**

**PRIDE**

**JUNE 30TH**  **AT 10AM**

Bring your friends  
Rainbow wear encouraged

**COME WORSHIP WITH US**



**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>