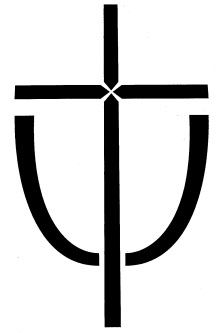


Still Speaking



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

November 2024

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **December 18, 2024.***

*The deadline for that newsletter is Friday, **December 13, 2024.***

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Gifts and Memorials Ministry Changes Lives

Over the past six weeks, as part of our “Because of YOU, Union Church Changes Lives” campaign, we’ve been highlighting the tremendous and varied life-changing ministries that our church undertakes.

The final ministry we’d like to highlight is our Gifts and Memorials Ministry. Gifts and Memorials manages the funds the congregation receives for purposes other than our operational budget. Very often these gifts come in the form of people remembering the congregation in their will or gifts our members make in memory of friends who die.

Each year, Gifts and Memorials Ministry sets a percentage of the church’s non-operational financial assets as a rough spending guideline for the year, usually somewhere between 4 and 5 percent. Throughout the year, members of the church and other ministries write grant requests to Gifts and Memorials.

Sometimes, those grant requests come from Common Ministry, the church’s oversight board, for unforeseen non-budgeted expenses (think of the assessment the church received when Madison Street was repaved or the insurance deductible incurred due to the fire in the Mayflower Classroom this summer).

More common are the grant requests written by members looking for funds for mission-aligned needs and projects beyond our church walls. Just last week, Common Ministry approved two such recommendations from Gifts and Memorials.

One grant request, written by Christie Reese, will support the Safe Overnight Parking ministry provided by Wise Women Gathering Place, which provides a place for the people who live in an average of 45 vehicles each night to park. Imagine fleeing domestic violence with your children, sleeping in your car, and having to wake up every couple of hours to run the heater, making sure you both don’t run out of gas and also don’t risk carbon monoxide poisoning. The impacts of a poor night’s sleep night after night can include “degraded decision making, brain functioning, and emotional regulation. It impairs one’s ability to navigate people and programs in seeking resources and stability.” The Safe Overnight Parking program not only provides safety monitors to help parkers feel safe, they also provide battery packs to run electric blankets, so parkers can sleep through the night without running their vehicles.

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings**November 24****Reign of Christ**

2 Samuel 23:1-7 and
Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18) or
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 and
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

November 28**Thanksgiving Day**

Joel 2:21-27 and Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Matthew 6:25-33

December 1**1st Sunday of Advent**

Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

December 8**2nd Sunday of Advent**

Baruch 5:1-9 or Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 15**3rd Sunday of Advent**

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 22**4th Sunday of Advent**

Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

December 24**Christmas Eve**

Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

December 25**Christmas Day**

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

(continued from page 1)

As we learned this spring when Union hosted the Safe Overnight Parking program for three weeks while the lot on the west side where they normally park was being repaved, most of the people utilizing this program are living in their cars on a short-term basis and many are working to save the funds for first and last months rent. Gifts and Memorials recommended, and Common Ministry approved, the recommendation to grant this ministry \$12,500, the cost to operate for one month.

The other life-changing Gifts and Memorials grant Common Ministry approved this month is \$10,000 toward the work We All Rise African American Resource Center is doing at All Seasons Transformation House, the transitional living facility for men they operate. All Seasons provides housing for men who are in transition—whether coming out of homelessness or rehab or prison or some other setback—a place to get back on their feet. Last year, the building's boiler failed. This year the water heater failed, and they're also fighting a "particularly stubborn" infestation of bedbugs. The grant request, written by Jammie VerGiesen, will help We All Rise to address these issues.

This fall, as we've been celebrating how Union Church changes lives, we've lifted up our education and youth ministries which help our members to grow in their faith. We've given thanks for our inspiring worship and music. We've highlighted the ways that our Outreach Ministry gives members ways to put flesh on God's love. We've reminded the congregation that the work that our Stewardship Ministry does on our building and infrastructure changes lives, too, as this phenomenal asset supports all of these ministries. Today's snapshot of Gifts and Memorials Ministry gives us a peek at one more facet of how, Because of YOU, Union Church Changes Lives.

To make a pledge toward Union's 2025 Ministries,
email your intentions to finance@unionucc.com
or visit www.unionucc.com/giving.

Our Church Family

Time and again, we are reminded that our congregation is really a family. This month, our church family offers gratitude and best wishes to...

Our Christmas Fund Offering is December 15

"Christmas Around the World" Is This Year's Women's Advent Event Theme

It's time to sign up for Union's annual Women's Advent Event which will be Monday, December 2. Doors open at 6 p.m. for punch and fellowship; program begins at 6:30 p.m.

This year's theme will explore Christmas traditions from a variety of cultures. Sign up at Union Central if you would like to attend or would like to host a table. See your This Week at Union email for details.

Tree and Wreath Sale

Our tree lot opens for business on Friday, November 22 and will be open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until December 15 or when all trees and wreaths are sold.

We are asking for help to support this fundraiser by purchasing a tree and/or a wreath and by volunteering to staff the lot for a 2-hour shift. See your This Week at Union email for the link to sign up for shifts, or contact the church office. Thank you.

Tree lot hours:

Friday (4 to 6 p.m.)

(opens at noon on Black Friday)

Saturday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Sunday (11:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Christian Disciplines

Several people have expressed an interest in exploring further the Christian disciplines presented in October during Adult Education. If you are interested, you are welcome to join us. We will be trying to meet the fourth Sunday of the next few months to dig deeper into the disciplines.

Our first meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 24 at 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel Classroom. We will focus on Meditation, Simplicity and Confession.

—Ed Tucker

Advent and Christmas at a Glance



Needed: Donations of Nativity Sets for a special Christmas Eve project. Sets will not be returned. Partial sets are welcome. 175 "characters" needed by December 22.

Sunday, Dec. 1 1st Sunday of Advent

We begin our preparation for the birth of our Lord, and will celebrate Communion.

Monday, Dec. 2 Women's Advent Evening of Reflection

Prepare your spirit for the celebration of God With Us. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. — Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 8 2nd Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist and his message of repentance and renewal are the focus on this second Sunday of Advent.

Sunday, Dec. 15 3rd Sunday of Advent

On this Sunday, we reflect on Mary and her amazing part in the gift of God's love.

Saturday, Dec. 21 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

For the pageant rehearsal schedule, please see page 6.

Sunday, Dec. 22 4th Sunday in Advent—Christmas Pageant

We tell the story of Jesus' birth in the drama of the Christmas Pageant. **NO FAITH FORMATION** this Sunday.

Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Our early service is more informal with special thought given to children's attention spans. Our later service of scripture, carols, and candlelight is preceded by wonderful Christmas music starting at 7:30 p.m. Join us!

3:00 p.m. Worship with a special welcome to our children

7:30 p.m. The Music of Christmas

8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight worship

Sunday, Dec. 29 Christmastide

We continue the celebration of Jesus' birth. **NO FAITH FORMATION** this Sunday.

December Adult Education

Sundays at 9 a.m.
in the Bagby Chapel

The Politics of EDI**December 1**

Gather with Union member Stacie Christian, recently retired Assistant Vice Chancellor of Inclusive Excellence, former Interim Director of Multicultural Resource Center, and former director of the PRIDE Center at UWGB as she discusses the politics of EDI in university education.

“Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin.”**December 8**

“Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin.” will have a limited run at Bay Park Theatre, beginning November 22. Gather with professor emeritus Michael Lukens, who has studied and written about Bonhoeffer for decades, for a discussion of the film and its controversial portrayal of this Protestant minister, theologian, and resister.

Was Mary a Virgin?**December 15**

Why do so many churches teach that Jesus was conceived by a virgin? Which biblical authors introduced that claim? Must one believe that doctrine in order to be a Christian? What’s the difference between the concepts of the virgin “conception” vs. the virgin “birth”? Which church teaches that Mary remained a virgin for life and which ones acknowledge that after Jesus’s birth she had normal marital relations with Joseph? Julie Harder will address these questions and more.

Union Church Welcomes New Members!

On October 27, it was our joy to welcome two new members to the faith and fellowship of Union Church!

Anneliese Waggoner**121 Greene Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54301-2941****Landline: (920) 435-7527; Cell: (920) 360-1569**

Anneliese is a longtime Green Bay resident. She considers herself a generic Protestant having been confirmed Lutheran, longtime Presbyterian and now a member of Union Church. She has two children and three grandchildren.

Brad Gebben**2809 Belle Plane Road, Green Bay, WI 54313-7257****Cell: (217) 343-7458**

Brad is a chaplain who works in palliative and hospice care. Brad has a beautiful wife and young son, both who keep him very busy. Brad is happy to be in a church that welcomes all people.

Giving Envelopes

If you would like numbered weekly giving envelopes for 2025 and haven’t received them in the past, please notify the church office by December 6. You may pick up envelopes as of December 16 outside the church office.

Stock Gifts

If you make a gift of stock to the church and would like your gift credited to your statement this calendar year, please initiate this transaction no later than December 13. Also, let us know of your intention to make a stock gift so we are aware it is your gift when we see the stock sale come to us.

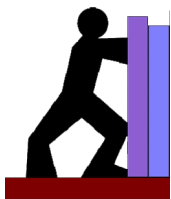
If you need information on how to make a gift of stock, please contact Katrina Catteruccia at finance@unionucc.com.

**Merry Christmas!
from Union Church**

Every Sunday in November you can touch, feel and buy this one-of-a-kind ornament after worship in the church hall.

Please bring cash or a check if you hope to buy one or more.

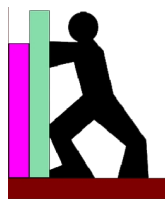
Cost is \$25 each.



Your Church Library

Amy-Jill Levine

by Cathy Putman



Amy-Jill Levine is a scholar and author who brings a unique perspective to the New Testament. She was raised in a conservative synagogue and still attends though she is not a believer per se. Her religious practices as a child and young adult and her scholarship help Christians to have better information about the conditions of life for Jesus and his followers. In the introduction to her new book, Jesus for Everyone, Levine says, "To misunderstand Judaism is to misunderstand Jesus."

In an earlier work, Short Stories by Jesus, Levine talked about parables in the Gospels. The new book ranges farther, embracing subjects that are meaningful for us today.

The purpose is two-fold, first to address misinformation. For instance, as someone who has been a member of progressive Protestant churches my whole life, I have heard many negative characterizations of the Pharisees as rich and complacent rule followers. Not so fast says scholar Levine. Historians place many Pharisees in the working class, such as Pharisee Paul of Tarsus, who was a leatherworker. While Luke's Gospel insults them as "lovers of money," Josephus, a blunt Jewish historian, makes no such characterization. Most important, says Levine, Jews then (and now) did not espouse a prosperity theology, neither wealth nor poverty signaled righteousness or sin.

The second purpose is to interpret the Scripture in ways which are true to the text but have a bearing on our concerns today. Again in the section on economics, Levine discusses Jesus's always vexing command to give away all you have. Her take on this is a specific directive to a particular young rich man in Mark 10. Levine notes, that Jesus adds to the list of commandments, "do not defraud." This word occurs nowhere else in the Gospel but in Old Testament Apocrypha. Defrauding is linked with exploitation. So with subtlety and without sermonizing, the concept of reparations arises for our consideration within the context of money and its use.

Levine continues in this fashion for several chapters roving over topics such as healthcare, ethnicity, family values and politics. At times I felt she was too much in the weeds, but as readers without the pressures of academic proof, Levine's perspective and imagination open some doors and windows for us as we listen to the ancient words.

Jesus for Everyone, Short Stories by Jesus, and The Jewish Annotated New Testament for which Levine was an editor, and a few of Levine's children's book are in the basket under the window in the church library.

January Winter Sowing Workshop

As we look to next year in the native plant gardens, there's a need for quite a few forest floor native plants. To save money and to experiment a little, we plan to do some winter sowing in gallon milk jugs. We have seeds for at least 10 species, a supply of Pro Mix, and a plant corral for overwintering the jugs.

If you'd like to learn this technique and give us a hand, I plan to have a workshop on either Thursday, January 9, or Friday, January 10, at church in the early afternoon. If this interests you, email me (cputman@new.rr.com) or use the sign up sheet at Union Central. We will be drilling holes, cutting, mucking about with soil, seeds, burlap, duct tape and marking materials. We could use 15 additional gallon milk jugs which can be left in the library.

Annuals to winter sow:

- Snapdragon • Pansy • Poppies • Marigold
- Cosmos • Bachelor's buttons
- Sunflower • Calendula • Love-in-a-mist

Vegetables to winter sow:

- Kale • Broccoli • Cauliflower • Onions
- Scallions • Brussels sprouts • Cabbage
- Kohlrabi • Beets • Spinach • Lettuce
- Swiss chard • Bok Choy

Herbs to winter sow:

- Dill • Parsley • Oregano • Lavender
- Sage • Chives • Cilantro



The Seven Principles Couples Workshop — Coming in February!

The Seven Principles Couples Workshop is based on the internationally acclaimed research of Dr. John Gottman as presented in his bestselling book—The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work. This educational workshop is designed to help committed couples improve their friendship, enhance romance and intimacy, and manage conflict constructively.

LEADER: Julie Harder, who has completed training to become a Gottman Leader, will present the workshop.

FORMAT: This structured program, designed by the Gottman Institute, includes short lectures alternating with private couple exercises (no public sharing of issues).

BENEFITS: Provides structure, motivation, and accountability to truly enhance your relationship, using evidence-based tools gleaned from Dr. Gottman's forty years of research.

LOCATION: Union Congregational Church, 716 S. Madison Street, Green Bay, WI 54301

COST: \$90 per couple includes books and presenter; \$10 Early Bird Discount; scholarships are available by contacting Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels at the church office.

DATES & TIMES: Sundays, February 9, 16, 23 and March 2; 1 to 4:30 p.m. Couples should attend all four sessions.

DEADLINES: Registration must be received by Thursday, January 16. Early Bird deadline is Friday, January 3.

HOW TO REGISTER: Registration forms are available at Union Central or by calling the church office (920-437-9266). Return the form to the church office (see address above). Include a check or pay online at www.unionucc.com/giving (click on "7 Principles Couples Workshop"). Or, register at www.unionucc.com/updates and pay online

Space is limited to 14 couples; registration will close when the workshop fills. Non Union Church members are welcome!

THIS WORKSHOP IS APPROPRIATE FOR HETERO-SEXUAL AND GAY/LESBIAN COUPLES WHO ARE:

- From newlyweds to decades-long marrieds
- Pre-marital or contemplating engagement
- In other long-term committed relationships

IT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR COUPLES:

- In severe relationship distress
- With significant emotional or physical abuse or with mental health problems
- In which one or both partners are addicted to drugs, alcohol, or other compulsive behavior.

QUESTIONS? Contact Julie Harder at julie.harder.projects@gmail.com.

Our Attendance

October	2024	2023
1st Sunday	94	106
2nd Sunday	83	NA
3rd Sunday	102	84
4th Sunday	102	103
5th Sunday	—	80
Totals	381	373
Average	95.3	93.3

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 21
 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 22
 8:30 a.m. Costumes & Rehearsal
 (sweet rolls & juice available for the cast)
 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant

Union Church Calendar

November 24, 2024—December 25, 2024

November 24 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary (or stream it online) followed by Coffee Hour
11:15 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale
11:30 a.m. Christian Disciplines

November 26 Tuesday

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

November 28 Thursday

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED

November 29 Friday

CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED
12:00 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

November 30 Saturday

10:00 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

December 1 Sunday

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Stacie Christian The Politics of EDI
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary with Holy Communion (or stream it online) followed by Coffee Hour in the Church Hall
11:15 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

December 2 Monday

6:00 p.m. Women's Advent Event

December 3 Tuesday

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

December 4 Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group
1:00 p.m. Bible Study
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. Youth Group

December 5 Thursday

6:00 p.m. Sojourner Circle

December 6 Friday

4:00 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

December 7 Saturday

10:00 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

December 8

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Michael Lukens Dietrich Bonhoeffer
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary (or stream it online) followed by Coffee Hour
11:15 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

December 10 Tuesday

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

December 11 Wednesday

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

December 12 Thursday

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

December 13 Friday

4:00 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

December 14 Saturday

10:00 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

December 15

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Christmas Fund Offering

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Julie Harder Was Mary a Virgin?
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary (or stream it online) followed by Coffee Hour
11:15 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

December 16 Monday

11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch

December 18 Wednesday

1:00 p.m. Bible Study
5:45 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. Youth Group

December 21 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

December 22 Sunday

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

NO Faith Formation or Confirmation
10:00 a.m. Union's Christmas Pageant in the sanctuary (or stream it online) followed by Coffee Hour

December 24 Tuesday

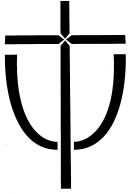
CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 p.m. Early Worship Service
7:30 p.m. The Music of Christmas
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service

December 25 Wednesday

CHRISTMAS DAY

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!
CHURCH OFFICE IS CLOSED



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

Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

PERMIT NO. 53
GREEN BAY, WI

Blessing Box Food Drive Sunday, December 1

Our December Food Drive is coming up soon!

Winter-season items are especially helpful, including:

- Boxed or Microwave Soups
- Fruit Pouches
- Granola Bars
- Instant Oatmeal or Hot Chocolate Packets
- Instant Potatoes or Rice Mixes
- Microwave Chili or Pasta Meals
- Paper Towels or Toilet Paper
- Pouch Tuna or Chicken
- Ramen Noodle Packs

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 1 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.



Union Congregational United Church of Christ

716 S. Madison Street
Green Bay, WI 54301
e-mail: 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>