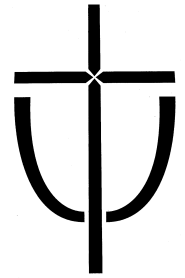


# Still Speaking



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

February 2025

## Spring Forward!

Daylight Saving Time Begins  
Sunday, March 9

## Thank You, David, and Welcome Franklin!

### The Inside Scoop

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **March 19**. The deadline for that newsletter is **Friday, March 14**.*

- Lent Is Almost Upon Us ----- 3
- Priscilla Circle ----- 3
- One Great Hour of Sharing ----- 3
- Lenten Sunday Movies ----- 3
- Help for the Homeless Drive --- 4
- Uncovering History ----- 4
- Your Church Library ----- 5
- Ladies Lunch Bunch ----- 5
- Sunday Adult Education ----- 6
- Supporting Your Church ----- 6
- Blessing Box Drive ---- back page

Last winter, when David Hassel agreed to fill in while we searched for an organist, I don't know that he fully grasped the depth and breadth of the position. Of course, there's the playing on Sunday and rehearsing the chancel choir on Tuesday, but the preparation that goes into providing so much music week in and week out is tremendous. Add to that the fact that the search for our new organist has taken a full year, and I'm pretty sure it's safe to say that David's hearty "yes" was not offered with full knowledge of what he was getting into.

With that in mind, I ask you to join me in offering David deep and hearty thanks for the ministry and service he has given to Union as our Interim Organist for this past year. His artistry has deepened our prayer, and I am deeply, deeply grateful to him.

It is also now my honor to share with you the news that we have hired our next staff organist after consulting with the Organist Search Advisory Team and with considerable contribution from our Music Director Haley Steele. David's last Sunday as Interim Organist will be March 2, with a cake celebration of gratitude to follow in the church hall during coffee hour.

Our new organist, Franklin Beyer, will begin his service to Union as we begin Lent, with the 7 p.m. service on Ash Wednesday, March 5.

Franklin is a classically trained pianist, earning his bachelor of music in piano performance from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi.

Franklin's church experience started when he was 14 years old and had to take over as the organist at his church after the sudden passing of the organist,



Franklin Beyer

*(continued on page 2)*

**Lectionary Readings**

**February 23**

**Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 and  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
Luke 6:27-38

**March 2**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

Exodus 34:29-35 and Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2  
Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

**March 5**

**Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or  
Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**March 9**

**First Sunday in Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

**March 16**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 and Psalm 27  
Philippians 3:17-4:1  
Luke 13:31-35 or  
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

**March 23**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 55:1-9 and Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

**March 30**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Joshua 5:9-12 and Psalm 32  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21  
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**April 6**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Isaiah 43:16-21 and Psalm 126  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Isaiah 43:15-21; John 12:1-8

*(continued from page 1)*

his then piano teacher. During his time playing for the church, Franklin taught himself the intricacies of organs and how they work, as well as teaching students of all ages to play piano. Before heading off to college, Franklin had the opportunity to lead multiple choirs of all ages, two bell choirs, and run the music department at the church.

Currently, Franklin plays piano for the Green Bay Civic Symphony while holding a job with Schneider National in Transportation Logistics. Franklin lives in the Green Bay area with his wife, Judy, and son, Archer. They enjoy looking for new places to shop, eat, and have fun around the area.

Thank you, David, and welcome Franklin!

Pastor Bridget Flad Daniels

**Our Church Family**

While the life of our church family is rooted in our day-to-day experiences, it is often the peaks and valleys that bring us together. Let us be supportive of one another in our day-to-day living even as we lift up these church members in prayer:

**Our Attendance**

<b>December</b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
1st Sunday	117	NA
2nd Sunday	115	158
3rd Sunday	124	104
4th Sunday	204	Christmas Eve
<b>Totals</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>262</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>140.0</b>	<b>131.0</b>
Dec. 24 early	113	155
Dec. 24 late	180	167

<b>January</b>	<b><u>2025</u></b>	<b><u>2024</u></b>
1st Sunday	101	89
2nd Sunday	108	76
3rd Sunday	125	100
4th Sunday	115	105
<b>Totals</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>370</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>92.5</b>

Note: The weather was a factor in 2nd Sunday 2024 attendance.

## Lent is Almost Upon Us! Ash Wednesday is March 5

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. We will worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. The service offers us the possibility to renew our dedication to the ways of Jesus. We will receive the ashes of repentance and the oil of healing. Join us!

## Priscilla Circle Meets February 25

Priscilla Circle will gather at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25 in the English Room. Pastor Bridget will share some insights from Brene Brown's "The Gifts of Imperfection." Join us.

## One Great Hour Of Sharing Offering is March 9

One Great Hour of Sharing is a churchwide offering to support the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. Through this offering, we invest in communities worldwide by providing education and vocational training to girls and boys, supporting microcredit lending and seeing people through to self-sufficiency, empowering families with skills to support themselves and their neighbors, and participating in sustainable solutions that offer dignity to all.



This year for Lent, we're once again going to the movies! Gather with your fellow Unionites as we screen and discuss the faith implications of one film every Sunday night of Lent. The discussions promise to be lively.

We'll ask two participants to sign up to bring a big pot of soup every week. Sign up at Union Central or contact the church office. Plan on 5 p.m. until 7:30 or 8 p.m., depending on the length of the movie.

**March 9 — "Join or Die" - PG (2023)** — In this feature documentary, follow the half-century story of America's civic unraveling through the journey of legendary social scientist Robert Putnam, whose groundbreaking "Bowling Alone" research into America's decades-long decline in community connections could hold the answers to our democracy's present crisis.

**March 16 — "Resistance" - R (2020)** — Before he became known as the world-famous mime Marcel Marceau, aspiring Jewish actor Marcel Mangel joins the French Resistance during the war. He agrees to take part in a dangerous mission to save 123 Jewish orphans from the grasp of the Nazis and the ruthless Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie and take them to safety across the border to Switzerland.

**March 23 — "Mississippi Burning" - R (1988)** — This drama-thriller is loosely based on the FBI investigation into the real-life murders of three civil rights workers in Mississippi in 1964. The movie shows how difficult it is to investigate if people are bound by social pressure. It is neither a family movie nor entertainment, but a depiction of black spot in U.S. history after WWII.

**March 30 — "Crimes and Misdemeanors" - R (1989)** — With a star-studded cast, Woody Allen meditates on life, death, God, religion, morality, crimes and responsibility, love and lust, happiness and the price one pays for it, and among those eternal subjects - how much fun it is to skip work or school and to sneak to the movies.

**April 6 — "Match Point" - R (2005)** — "Match Point" is a cool, classically elegant and concise film that addresses all of the big questions—love, morality, death, fate, chance—without ever seeming heavy or self-conscious. Almost twenty years after Crimes and Misdemeanors, Woody Allen brings these universally human themes to a very different conclusion.

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## Help for the Homeless Spring Hygiene Drive February 23 through March 16

Did you know that hygiene and cleaning items are not covered by FoodShare/Food Stamps? Help for the Homeless' annual spring hygiene drive runs through March 16 to help supplement these items.

This drive works to stock the shelves of 83 homeless and crisis programs in the Fox Valley and north central Wisconsin for the year. All donations stay in the community where they are collected. These donations allow these support programs to dedicate their time to providing resources for personnel, safe housing, food, and education to people they serve.

### — Most Needed Items —

- Deodorant
- Dish soap
- Laundry soap
- Paper towels
- Hair Care Products, including BIPOC hair types
- Body and face wash/soap
- Feminine care products
- Dental care products and toothbrushes



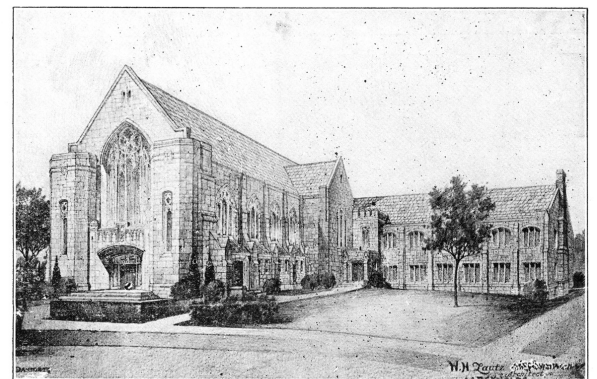
Please review the list of most needed items and donate! A collection bin is located in the coatroom at Union.

## Uncovering History

History abounds in the building that has been Union Church's home for more than 95 years (cornerstone laid May 1929). Mary Hemminger can attest to that after tidying and organizing the first-floor AV closet.

Mary discovered a drawing of the church that had seen better days. But how old was it?

Administrative Assistant Eric Goska located a bulletin from 1929 (at right) that appears to incorporate said drawing. Eric took a photo and, using Photoshop, "cleaned" up the photo (below). Common Ministry is hoping a sponsor will come forward to have the drawing restored ahead of the building's 100-year anniversary.



(Our New Church)

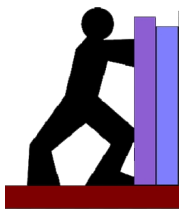
### Union Congregational Church Green Bay, Wisconsin

Sunday, March 17, 1929

#### The Hour of Worship

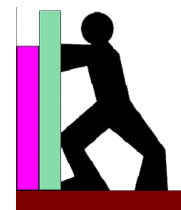
- ORGAN PRELUDE "Cantilene" ..... Capocci
- THE CALL TO WORSHIP
- DOXOLOGY
- INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER
- GLORIA PATRI
- RESPONSIVE READING—Selection 30
- HYMN No. 304
- ANTHEM—"O for a closer walk with God"..... Foster
- SCRIPTURE READING
- PRAYER
- CHANTED RESPONSE
- JUNIOR SERMON—"The First Button"
- OFFERTORY SOLO—"My hope is in the Everlasting" ..... Stainer  
B. W. Huebner
- OFFERTORY PRAYER
- HYMN NO. 181
- SERMON—"THE 'IMPOSSIBLE' GOSPEL OF JESUS."  
III. "Follow Me!"
- PRAYER
- BENEDICTION
- ORGAN RECEPTIONAL "A Fugued Postlude" ..... Rinck





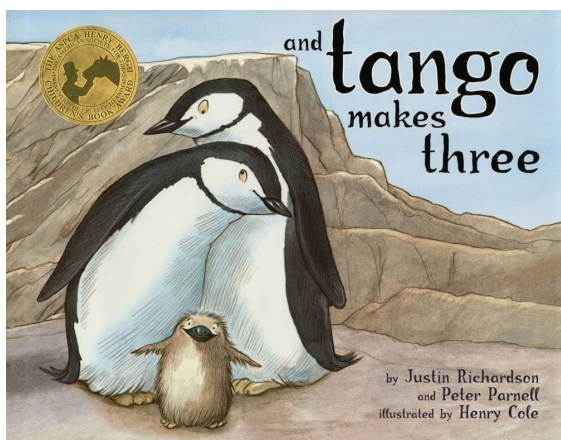
## Censorship, Erasure and Keeping Voices Alive in the Church Library

by Cathy Putman



Among the book lovers in the congregation, I am certain that many have been concerned by the book challenges endured by school librarians in recent years, challenges that were mostly to fiction rather than nonfiction. Stories have a way of influencing us that fact and theory do not.

I have certainly considered adding banned books to our collection as a form of pushback to these challenges. But our mission is more restricted – we don't have a very big chapter book section, for instance – so the direction the library has taken is to keep a multiplicity of voices alive. This is the basis of multicultural collecting, providing both mirrors of our lives and windows into the lives of others.



Award winning and often challenged, "And Tango Makes Three" is aligned with Union's message of open and affirming.

Yet good intentions are not always realized in practice so I did a little collection analysis using the sorting capability of our free catalogue software, LibraryThing. Looking at the collection of volumes published in 1990 or later, which is 80 percent of the books on the shelves, 52 percent of the authors are male. Of those 18 per cent are BIPOC authors, almost half of whom are Black writers. (BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous and People of Color.) On the female author side, 13 per cent are BIPOC, and again almost half of those are Black.

Books we hold published earlier than 1990 are predominantly authored by white males – theologians, church historians, other religious thinkers – reflecting their preponderance of influence before mainline publishers began to take notice of non-white authors, artists and topics of interest. Within genres, 17 per cent of adult fiction and 27 per cent of the children's fiction/picture book section have minority writers – Black, Native, Asian, Hispanic, and Middle Eastern including Jewish points of view. Not captured by this sorting are stories of gay families, gender identity, disability, refugees, immigration, and other social situations which are fewer but present in the collection.

Are we where we should be in these times? I welcome your thoughts.



Award winning, bestselling and frequently challenged, "The Hate U Give" is a young adult debut novel embracing themes of #blacklivesmatter and police shootings and race as factors in teens' social lives.

### Ladies Lunch Bunch Meets March 17



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

Questions? Contact Sue Zanzig at 920-494-4172



## Sunday Morning Adult Education

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

**March 2** — Kandis Smith and Julia McLester from Wise Women Gathering Place will discuss Wise Women programs and what they entail and what brought us to the point of needing those programs. From its origins around a kitchen table sharing about midwifery and childbearing, Wise Women Gathering Place has become an independent non-profit organization that provides Native American culturally-specific services to any person harmed by violence.

**March 16** — Why do we have crosses in our churches and sometimes around our necks? What does the cross symbolize? The cross, of course, is a reminder that Jesus died by crucifixion. And the most dominant interpretation of that event is that Jesus's tortured death somehow paid for humanity's sins. However, some Christians balk at the idea that a loving God would choose this method of forgiveness. Interestingly, if one understands the historical context of why Jesus was crucified, the cross can take on an entirely different meaning. Equipped with this knowledge, one can see that the cross symbolizes a way, a path of transformation, both personal and political. Julie Harder will explore the historical realities that led to Jesus's arrest and execution, and the insights that result.

## Supporting Our Church, Now and Beyond

Union Church has been an important part of our lives for many years—actually decades. We have been and continue to be proud supporters of this church's mission and message. We have been particularly pleased that our support has contributed to the Church's ability to be an outreach leader in the community.

And while we walk on this earth, we will continue to contribute both our time and treasure to our Church. But what about the inevitable time when we are no longer here?

We long ago also decided to include Union Church in our estate plan. Obviously, we will ensure our children and grandchildren will be well taken care of, but our plan also provides for the Church, because it is important to us that the Church will be able to continue to spread its message and influence into the future.

Some people make bequests for specific purposes. Our thinking is that we don't today know what will be the most pressing needs of the Church in the future, so we will trust in the good judgement of a future Common Ministry to decide how our gift will be used.

There are a number of ways folks can include the Church in their estate plan. One can include a gift in a will. The Church can be named as a total or partial beneficiary of a life insurance policy or an IRA or other retirement plan (this was our choice). And there are certainly other options available depending on your personal situation.

What's important is to just do it. The last few years have impressed us deeply with the knowledge that you never know what's coming around the corner—tomorrow is not promised.

We hope that you share our dedication to our Church and its work, and that you also will take steps now to include Union in your estate planning.

—Gail Hohenstein and David Thie

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## Interested in Learning More About Union Church?

Interested in learning more about Union Congregational UCC and discerning whether this is the right church home for you? Our Membership Ministry will be hosting two classes to help people get to know Union, our community, and each other on **Wednesday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m.** (includes dinner) and on **Thursday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m.** It's helpful to participate in both sessions.

After those sessions, those who would like to join the church **will be received into membership during worship on Sunday, April 6.** Please contact the church office at [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com) or 920-437-9266, to register.

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# Union Church Calendar

February 23—March 23, 2025

## February 23 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 in the church hall
- 1:00 p.m. The Seven Principles Couples Workshop

## February 25 Tuesday

- 1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle
- 4:15 p.m. Worship Ministry
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## February 26 Wednesday

- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

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## March 2 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Wise Women Gathering Place
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall celebrating David Hassel
- 1:00 p.m. The Seven Principles Couples Workshop

Blessing Box Drive

## March 4 Tuesday

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

## March 5 Ash Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group at Denny's on Oneida
- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets
- 7:00 p.m. Worship in the sanctuary

## March 6 Thursday

- 6:00 p.m. Sojourner Circle

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## March 9 Sunday

**One Great Hour of Sharing**  
Daylight Saving Time Begins

- 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
- 10:30 a.m. Confirmation trip to Divine Temple
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Sunday Movie: "Join or Die"

## March 11 Tuesday

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

## March 12 Wednesday

- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study

## March 13 Thursday

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

## March 16 Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
- 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: "Resistance"

## March 17 Monday

- 11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch at the Village Grille
- 1:00 p.m. Generosity Team

## March 18 Tuesday

- 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

## March 19 Wednesday

- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 5:30 p.m. Prospective Members Session
- 5:45 p.m. Dinner
- 6:15 p.m. Youth Group

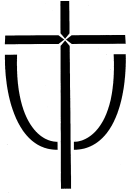
## March 20 Thursday

- 6:00 p.m. Sojourner Circle

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## March 23 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 in the church hall
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Sunday Movie: "Mississippi Burning"



Union Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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Green Bay, WI 54301

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GREEN BAY, WI

## Blessing Box Food Drive Sunday, March 2

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

### Winter weather needs include:

- Cereal (Boxed)
- Chili (Microwave Bowl or Pouch)
- Instant Pasta or Rice Meals
- Pasta Noodles
- Pouch Tuna or Chicken
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 2 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

**Heather Collins**  
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>