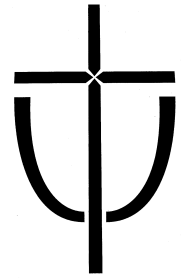


Still Speaking



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

March/April 2025

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **May 7**.
The deadline for that newsletter is **Friday, May 2**.*

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A Lesson from the Bees

A friend told me a story recently. His sister's family are beekeepers who operate here in Wisconsin in the summer and migrate the bees to Florida in the winter. On a visit this summer, as they were walking through the honey house, she opened a vat of honey. On top, there were three little bees, struggling, drowning in the sticky honey. My friend asked his sister if they could help the bees. She agreed, but even as they were scooping them out into an empty yogurt container, she was explaining that she was pretty sure they wouldn't survive.



They placed the container with the sticky, struggling bees outside on the step, and went on with their day.

When they circled back a few hours later, the yogurt container was covered in bees! The three little suffering bees were surrounded by their sisters (all of the bees are females) who were cleaning the sticky nearly dead bees, helping them to get all of the honey off their bodies.

Throughout the day, my friend and his sister continued to check in on the bees and how they were tending to their ailing sisters. They were amazed when they peered in at one point and two of the sticky bees were gone, and were overjoyed at dusk when all of them had been cleaned off enough to have flown away.

Those three little bees lived because they were surrounded by family and friends who would not give up on them, family and friends who refused to let them drown in their own stickiness, refused to let them be casualties of the honey collection process, and resolved to help until the last little bee could be set free.

As we find ourselves in the middle of Lent 2025, a season I'm encouraging the congregation to use to build margins of time and space to allow God in, margins for grace and hope and love to weave their way into

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings**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

April 13 — Palm Sunday

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

April 17 — Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14 and
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 18 — 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

April 19 — 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

April 20 — Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25
and Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or
Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18 or
Luke 24:1-12

April 27 — 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29 or
Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

May 4 — 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20) and Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

(continued from page 1)

our lives, I'm looking at these bees as a powerful image of the church. The three little bees were struggling. Even the expert said that there was no hope.

But the other bees weren't going to just leave. They saw a sister in trouble, and they took care of her. Truth be told, the healthy bees' ministrations may just as likely have been efforts at performing hospice as they were hospital. The cycle of life could have taken the story in a different direction. What makes this a story of church is that even if the sticky bees had died, they wouldn't have been alone.

Along with the personal transformation we seek during Lent, the season also calls us to care for one another. The three classical disciplines of Lent are praying, fasting, and almsgiving, and what is almsgiving if not taking care of those in need. Following Jesus isn't solo work. It is the collective effort to liberate all of creation, to make life here on earth as close to the kingdom of God for all as is in our power to do.

There's a lot of suffering out there, both personal and societal. My Lenten prayer for us all is that we will take a lesson from the bees and minister to one another, take care of one another. Then, with integrity and authenticity, we will be able to pray, "on earth as it is in heaven."

Reverend Bridget Flad Daniels

Our Church Family

Amidst storm clouds and struggles, there are also rays of hope and grace. This month our church lifts up prayers of gratitude, thanksgiving, and blessing:

-

Easter Breakfast — Sunday, April 20

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 to enjoy 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.

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.

Palm Sunday—April 13

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:05 a.m. Children gather for Palm Procession



Maundy Thursday—April 17

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



Good Friday—April 18

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

Easter Sunday—April 20

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

Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation

Gather in Bagby Chapel at 9 a.m. for these informative and inspiring conversations. Our intent is to have Adult Faith Formation at least on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, and sometimes even more.

April 6 — Casa Alba Melanie: Amanda Garcia

Gather with Amanda Garcia, Executive Director of Casa Alba Melanie, to hear about the work Casa Alba Melanie is doing, current experiences of immigrants in Green Bay, and how people of good will can help.

April 27 — Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH)

Decades ago, with creativity and spirit, several Union members dreamed of our congregation doing its part to address homelessness in our city. This led to the establishment of Jubilee House on the southwest corner of the church's property, a precursor to what is now the EPH. Gather to learn more about the history of EPH and this impactful organization's current work.

After worship — Earth Day Clean Energy Workshop

Gather in the Chapel **after worship** on April 27, for a special Earth Day presentation. We will learn about the benefits of clean energy and some of the tax credits and rebates that are available to help people afford to make their homes more energy efficient and prepared for the clean energy transition. Alex Galt, the Clean Energy Connector for the City of Green Bay will offer this as part of the City's clean energy plan.

May 4 — Intersections of Buddhism and Christianity

In her early 20s, Union member Emily Lakatos stepped away from the church and immersed herself in Zen Buddhism, living and meditating at a Japanese Zen Center in New York. There, she engaged in rigorous daily practice and intensive meditation retreats (sesshin), an experience that re-shaped her life.

In her early 40s, Emily returned to the UCC, the church of her youth, and experienced Christianity with a beginner's mind. Her experiences in Zen have led to a more nuanced understanding of Jesus's teachings — she believes that if we peel back the layers of Christianity to the core essence, Zen Buddhism and Christianity are pointing at the same thing — and by looking at that thing from a new perspective, we may be able to understand it better and gain new insight.

Seminary Secrets for April The Spectrum of Lenses in Biblical Interpretation

No doubt you've noticed that people vary widely in how they view the Bible—from "God dictated every word" to "the Bible is a dangerous, ancient piece of nonsense." This is quite a spectrum. Where do you fall on the spectrum? Where do various denominations fall? Why does this matter? It matters because the way that people and groups view the Bible shapes personal behavior and political causes.

In this class, we'll explore the variety of "lenses" through which the Bible can be interpreted. Elements of this spectrum include questions such as: Did God "inspire" the Bible—if so, how? What kind(s) of "truth" does the Bible convey? What kind of "authority" does the Bible carry? Using a tool of my own devising, you'll discover your own lens. We'll then analyze statements from denominations such as the Missouri Synod Lutheran church, the Roman Catholic Church, the ELCA, United Methodist Church and, of course, the UCC. If time allows, we'll also look at the Wisconsin Synod Lutheran Church.

*This will be a two-session topic,
each taking 90 minutes, running from 6:15 to 7:45 p.m.*

Session 1: Wednesday, April 9

Session 2: Come either April 16 or 23

*(Session 2 runs twice because a date that worked
for the majority of people could not be found.)*

WHERE: Chapel Classroom (behind Bagby Chapel)

VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE OPTIONS: I video record each session so if you need to miss one, there is the opportunity to catch up by watching or listening to the recording. In addition, the sessions are offered in a hybrid mode, so you can Zoom in if you can't make it in person.

LEADER: Julie Harder. Julie holds a master's degree in theology/biblical studies and has taught religious studies at St. Norbert College.

HOW TO SIGN UP: Contact Julie at jblackharder@gmail.com. Please indicate which dates you are likely to attend, and whether you'll come in person or via Zoom. Contact Julie if you have questions!



Our Lenten movies continue through the first weekend in April! Gather with your fellow Unionites as we screen and discuss the faith implications of one film every Sunday night. 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 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 a 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.

Antiques to Benefit Blessing Box

Allouez Antiques & Vintage, 1510 S. Webster Avenue, has selected the Blessing Box to be the recipient for all money collected in March from sales in the non-profit fundraiser booth. If you would like to donate antiques or the like for the sale, contact Stacie Christian at 920-639-8421, or come pick out an item to buy so you can add to the donation!

For more info, visit the Allouez Antiques & Vintage Facebook page.

Priscilla Circle to Meet March 25

Priscilla Circle will gather at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25 in the English Room. Jeff Larson will talk about Green Bay Sail & Paddle. Join us.

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 25, and your order will be shipped directly to you in early May—just in time for spring planting.

Watch your This Week at Union emails for a link to this opportunity.

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

Our Attendance

February	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
1st Sunday	97	107
2nd Sunday	101	119
3rd Sunday	82	94
4th Sunday	103	114
Totals	383	434
Average	95.8	108.5

It's Almost Rummage Sale Season!

Outreach Ministry is again sponsoring our annual rummage sale which will occur on Saturday, May 17. In years past we made enough money to feed nearly 750 people at NEW Community Shelter. This year we hope for even greater results. 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 10 and will continue during the week that follows. If interested, please sign up at Union Central or email Achim Seifert at 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. Donations can be brought to the Chapel Classroom starting April 22.

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

Please consider helping with this event. Thank you.

Easter Cards for Brown County Jail

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to be wholly cut off from family and society, especially at the holidays? One of our JOSHUA congregations is again asking for Easter cards for those who are living at Brown County Jail. Those who are incarcerated find these cards very meaningful.

— — The following guidelines are required: — —

No envelopes	Sign your first name only
No crayons	No glitter on the cards
No magic marker	No glued on decorations or stickers

It's okay to add a short encouraging message or Bible verses for them to read in their Bibles. Please PRINT these. Bring any cards for those in jail to the church office by Wednesday, April 2.

Our Housing Offering is May 11

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 11. This offering supports the work of the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH). EPH brings together diverse congregations to partner in ways that provide 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.

As we continue our Easter celebration of new life, let's continue Union's legacy of generosity through this special offering.

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 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 23.

Questions? Please contact scholarship committee chair, Sandy Polarek at 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 4 and May 11, before and after church. Most books are \$1. Mass market paperbacks and some children's books will be 50 cents.

For a successful sale, we need your donations. Please bring books to the church library. Anyone wishing to help sort and set up, contact Cathy Putman, 920-435-1540 or cputman@new.rr.com. Cathy is planning to do most of the work during the week leading up to May 4.

Union Church Calendar

March 23, 2025—April 30, 2025

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, including Get the Vote Out postcards
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Sunday Movie: "Mississippi Burning"

March 25 Tuesday

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

March 26 Wednesday

- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study
- 4:30 p.m. Worship Ministry
- 5:45 p.m. WISE Team

March 27 Thursday

- 6:00 p.m. Prospective Members Session

March 30 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
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Sunday Movie: "Crimes & Misdemeanors"

April 1 Tuesday

Spring General Election

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

April 2 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

April 3 Thursday

- 6:00 p.m. Sojourner Circle

April 6 Sunday — Blessing Box Drive New Member Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education: Casa Alba Melanie
- 10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion in the sanctuary or stream it online
- 5:00 p.m. Lenten Movie: "Match Point"

April 8 Tuesday

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

April 9 Wednesday

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

April 10 Thursday

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

HOLY WEEK

April 13 Palm Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 10:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:05 a.m. Children gather for Palm Procession

April 15 Tuesday

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

April 16 Wednesday

- NO DINNER or YOUTH GROUP
- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

April 17 Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 p.m. Communion within
Worship in the church hall

April 18 Good Friday

- 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Worship

April 20 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

Nursery opens at 7:45 a.m.

No Faith Formation

No Adult Education

No Coffee Hour

April 21 Monday

Church Office is Closed

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

April 22 Tuesday

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

April 23 Wednesday

- 6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

April 27 Sunday

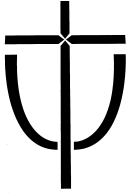
- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation and Confirmation Faith Community Field Trip
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Education: EPH
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by Coffee Hour
- 11:15 a.m. Earth Day Clean Energy Workshop

April 29 Tuesday

- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

April 30 Wednesday

- 1:00 p.m. Bible Study



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 Spring Food Drives

Sunday

April 6



Sunday

May 4

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

Springtime needs include:

- Bottled Water
- Canned Chili or Pasta Meals
- Canned Fruit
- Instant Pasta or Rice Meals
- Paper Towels / Toilet Paper
- Tuna or Chicken (Canned or Pouch)

Donations can be placed at the front of the Sanctuary
on Food Drive Sunday or on the blue table inside the
Mayflower entrance at any time.

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

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>