

# Union Congregational United Church of Christ



At Union, we are all the body of Christ together:  
Through our voices, Christ is still speaking  
Through our hands, Christ is still serving  
Through our hearts, Christ is still loving



May 18, 2025

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Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop. You can access the loop by activating the T-coil in your hearing aid. If you do not have a T-coil, you can request a portable receiver from an usher.

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# Welcome to Union Church!

- Today's service is being live streamed via Facebook and YouTube.
- During the Children's Moments, the live stream will display a graphic, in order to protect our children's privacy.
- See an usher if you would like a children's activity packet or if you need help finding the nursery.
- Visitors are encouraged to fill out a visitor card at the usher's station or email [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com) to receive our weekly email newsletter.
- Visitors, if you would like more information about our church, please take home a yellow "Welcome to Union Church" folder located at either sanctuary door. If you have trouble finding them, ask one of our friendly members to help you locate one!
- We encourage those who are COVID positive or have cold or flu symptoms to worship from home and to consult with your healthcare provider to ensure you are engaging in best practices regarding masking, distancing, and receiving vaccines/boosters, particularly if you or someone you live with have health concerns.



## Music Notes



Today's music points to both the "now," and the "not-yet" of the church's ministry. We are reminded that our daily labors, the "now," ripple beyond our comprehension ("Great Work Has God Begun in You"). As we look prophetically to a brighter future ("We Are Becoming Peace") and a better path for those to come, the "not-yet," we are affirmed that this work of love in a weary world begins with our consent to serve ("The Summons" and "Take my Life, God Let it Be...").

Our choral anthem ("Home By Another Road") is a reprise of a piece offered immediately after last November's election. Today, as we celebrate Confirmation, its call to partnership rings even more clear. ("Join me now, the road is wide, all God's children side by side, where justice will shine and love abide, we're headed back home by another road, yes, we're headed back home by another road.") In these lyrics, the road is a metaphor for both the better paths we choose as the result of new information, as well as the internal transformation we experience by more profound understanding.

—Haley Steele, Music Director

***Serving Christ . . . Loving Each . . . Affirming All***

**Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Confirmation Sunday**

May 18, 2025

10:00 a.m.

**GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

(\*) invites all who are able to stand

**PRELUDE:**

*"People of the Lord"*

arr. Mark Hayes

With music and silence we begin worship, praying quietly and opening our hearts to God.

**THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY**

Welcome! Please share Announcements, Ministry Opportunities, Joys and Concerns.

**PRAISING OUR GOD**

**\*PRAYER OF UNDERSTANDING:** (in unison)

We gather in this place,  
in part because we know you and celebrate you  
and in part because we wish to get to know you better, gracious and everloving God.  
Most importantly, we come in awe and gratitude because you know us.  
May the way you know us fully and cherish us  
confirm in us the foundation of being secure in your love  
that we might accept the challenge of being your agents on earth.  
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** (in unison)

Holy One, Jesus teaches that we were created in love,  
yet when we face ourselves in the mirror, all too often we do not love what we see.  
For our prejudice  
For our hatred  
For our pride  
For our apathy  
For our cruelty  
For our blindness  
For our hollow sense of self

For our inflated ego  
For our inner critic  
For our needless stoicism  
For our sense of worthlessness  
For our inability to see ourselves as beloved:  
For holding on to old resentments  
For calling others 'enemy'  
For seeing borders as fences and not invitations to exploration  
For not living the truth that the whole world is in your hands  
Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\* PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

\* HYMN:

*"The Summons"*  
(see page 5)

KELVINGROVE

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Acts 11:1-18

p. 130

### CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Children are invited to gather on the chancel steps and bring their offering.  
Following Children's Moments, all children are welcome to remain in worship.  
Additionally, parents are welcome to accompany their children to our "playground" in the south transept to play and pray quietly or to drop them off downstairs to play in the nursery.  
Activity bags with crayons, etc. are available from an usher.

CHORAL ANTHEM:

*"Home By Another Road"*

Mark Miller

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

1 Thessalonians 5:13b-22

p. 205

SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

FAITH STATEMENTS:

Christian Reese and Gabriel VerGiesen

## RITE OF CONFIRMATION

### QUESTIONS OF THE CONFIRMANDS

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

### THE BOND OF UNION (in unison)

***Giving our all as we have been given all...***

**We accept the religion of love and service which Jesus lived and taught, and declare it our purpose to strive to do the will of God, and to make the Christ Spirit dominant in our lives and in all human relations.**

### WELCOME AND RECEPTION

**Pastor:** Let us, the members and friends of Union Church, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**People:** **Just as we do in Baptism, we once again promise you our continued love, support, and care as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in knowledge and love of God as we witness to our risen Savior.**

### ACT OF CONFIRMATION:

Xavier Hatton

Gabriel VerGiesen

Christian Reese

### PRAYER OF CONFIRMATION

**Moderator:** Please join with me in welcoming these young people into the full life of the church.

**People:** **We rejoice, O bountiful God, with Xavier, Gabriel, and Christian.**

**We give thanks that they have been moved to affirm their baptisms.**

**Help them to live not only for themselves but for Christ and all of God's creation.**

**Keep them abounding in hope, pressing toward the goal of fullness of life.**

**Increase in them the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Grant them love for others,**

**joy in serving you, peace in disagreement, patience in suffering, kindness toward**

**all, goodness when confronted with evil, faithfulness in temptation, gentleness in**

**the face of opposition, self-control in all things. Thereby strengthen them for their**

**ministry in the world, that the world may draw closer to your kingdom by virtue of**

**their lives. We pray this through Jesus Christ, who will never leave them to face**

**their struggles alone. Amen.**

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN NO. 448:

*"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"*

(see page 6)

VIENNA

The New Century Hymnal

### THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please join us in praying the Lord's Prayer in these words or a translation meaningful to you.

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### THE OFFERING

Offertory: *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is/O Breathe on Me"*

arr. Charles Callahan

\*Praise Response: *"We Are Becoming Peace"*

Linnea Good

***We are be - com - ing peace.***

***We are be - com - ing peace.***

***A well of pa - tience, well of grace,***

***Make our souls a ho - ly place.***

***We are be - com - ing peace.***

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**God of youth and age, of plenty and of want, of security and of challenge, we thank you.**

**Bless these gifts, those we physically present today, those we symbolically lay at your altar, and our very lives, that they may be consecrated into agents of your holy work of transformation in the world. Amen.**

## SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

\* HYMN NO. 353:

*"Great Work Has God Begun in You"*

(see page 7)

VERBUM DEI

The New Century Hymnal

### \*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

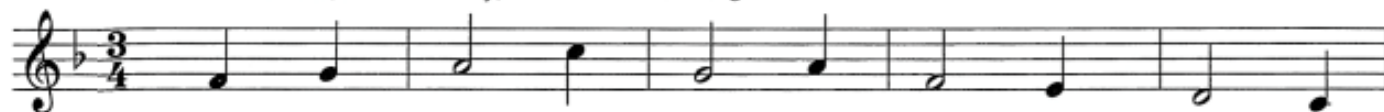
*"Ring Jubilee"*

Susan E. Geschke

Bell Choir

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **David Thie**,  
and **Ed Tucker** who offered our Children's Moments.

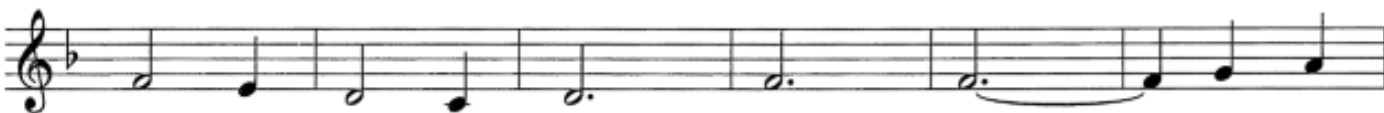
# The Summons



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but  
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but  
 4. Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but  
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but



call your name? Will you go where you don't  
 call your name? Will you care for cruel and  
 call your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
 call my name. Let me turn and fol - low



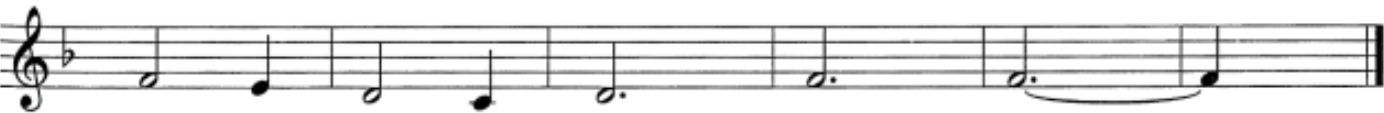
know And nev - er be the same? Will you  
 kind And nev - er be the same? Will you  
 side And nev - er be the same? Will you  
 you And nev - er be the same. In your



let my love be shown, Will you let my  
 risk the hos - tile stare Should your life at -  
 use the faith you've found To re - shape the  
 com - pa - ny I'll go Where your love and



name be known, Will you let my life be  
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
 world a - round, Through my sight and touch and  
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown In you and you in me?  
 pray'r In you and you in me?  
 sound In you and you in me?  
 grow In you and you in me.

# Take My Life, God, Let It Be

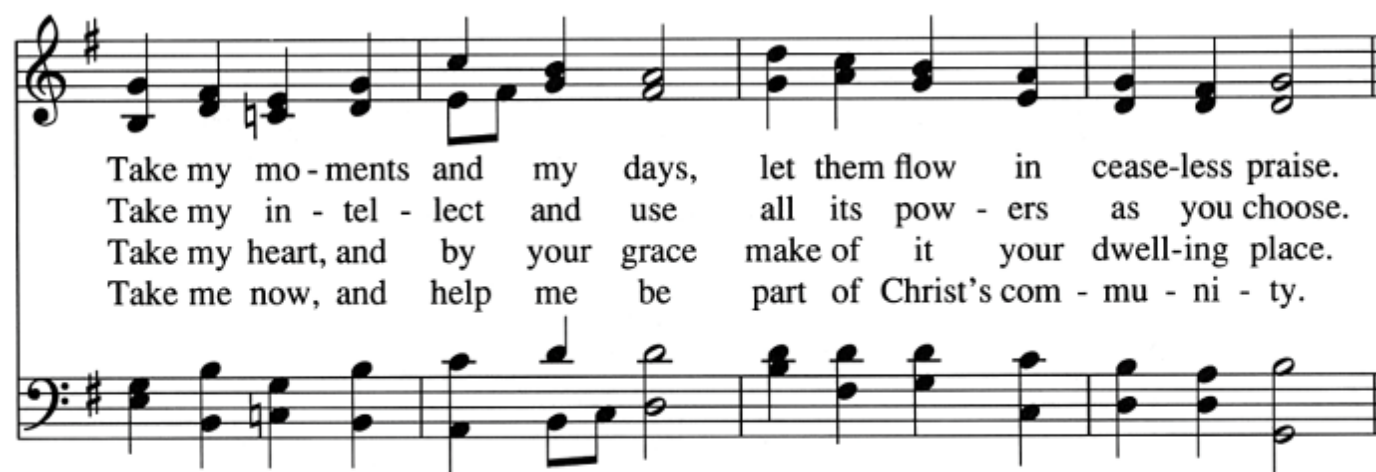
448

*Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.*

*Rom. 12:1*



1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.  
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.  
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.  
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.



Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.  
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.  
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.  
Justin H. Knecht, 1797  
Alternate tune: HENDON

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## Great Work Has God Begun in You

*Phil. 1:6; Col. 2:6; Eph. 5:1*

Tune: VERBUM DEI L.M.

Alternate tune:

Carol Birkland, 1995

William P. Rowan, 1993

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

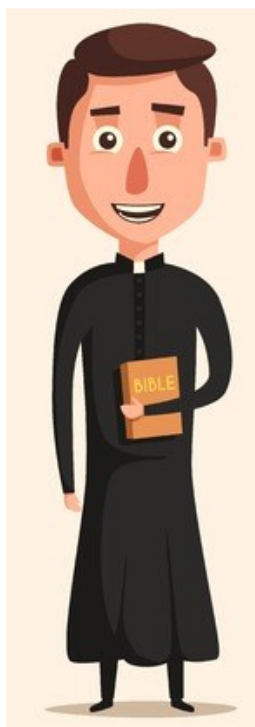
1 Great work has God be - gun in you, so let the Spir - it  
 2 In love, God calls you to this day, and gives you strength, these  
 3 A - round God's ta - ble cel - e - brate the end of bond - age,

fol - low through; The mark of Christ up - on your brow, bap -  
 vows to say; Take up the faith that you were shown, and  
 sin, and hate: A feast of love and vic - to - ry, the

tis - mal touch re - mem - ber now.  
 grow, as - sured you are God's own.  
 gift of Christ who sets us free.



Bring a lawn chair or blanket and a dish to pass for our Outdoor Worship and Potluck Picnic in the courtyard. Membership Ministry will provide some grilled meat and non-meat mains and bottled water. We will only have a couple of small tents for shade, so bringing a hat or parasol might be a good idea! We'll need help for set up and clean up. Plan to arrive at 9 a.m. if you can.



## **Parson's Purse In Need of Funds**

Here at Union, we have a special fund we call the Parson's Purse. This is the account out of which Pastor Bridget is able to respond to the real emergency needs that present themselves at our doors. From housing and rental assistance to helping people get their utilities turned back on to covering the copay for prescriptions to gas cards, there are any number of reasons that people come to the church asking for assistance.

This fund is currently in need of replenishment. If you are so moved, sending a check to the church office with "Parson's Purse" in the memo line will help this emergency ministry to continue to make a concrete difference in people's lives.

# Blessing Box Food Drive Sunday, June 1

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

**Current needs include:**

- Canned Chili or Pasta Meals
- Instant Pasta or Rice Meals
- Canned Soup
- Paper Towels / Toilet Paper
- Canned Spaghetti Sauce
- Pouch Tuna
- Granola Bars

Donations can be placed on the blue table inside the Mayflower entrance on Sunday, June 1, or 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).



## Who's Graduating?



We would like to recognize our 2025 graduates in our June newsletter. Please let the church office know (920-437-9266 or [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com)) if you will be a 2025 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!

## Souper Cooks

Our next Souper Cooks opportunity is May 22. Souper Cooks is a group of volunteers that prepares (1:00 p.m.) and serves (4:45 p.m.) at the NEW Community Shelter on Mather Street. Cooking usually takes one hour, and serving takes a little over an hour. You choose whether you would like to cook, serve, or do both.

No training is needed; simply be ready to lend a helping hand. You are guaranteed to feel as if you have made a difference—because you have.

Learn more via the Outreach Opportunities cards in the church hall. Contact Marty Berry [mjpberry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mjpberry@sbcglobal.net) or Achim Seifert [seif409@sbcglobal.net](mailto:seif409@sbcglobal.net) to volunteer.

## Weekly Planner

May 19 — 24

### **Monday:**

11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch  
at the Village Grille  
5:45 p.m. WISE Team

### **Wednesday:**

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

### **Thursday:**

1:00 p.m. Souper Cooks (prep meal)  
4:45 p.m. Souper Cooks (serve meal)

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### **NEXT SUNDAY: May 25** **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

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

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### **Priscilla Circle Meets May 27**

Priscilla Circle will meet on May 27 at  
1:00 p.m. in the English Room.  
Eric Goska will talk about the history  
of the NFL draft.

## Union Congregational United Church of Christ

Union Congregational United Church of Christ is an **Open and Affirming Congregation**. We are a Christian fellowship where diverse perspectives may live together in the Spirit of Christ and where all persons are precious children of God without qualification or discrimination because of ability, age, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

e-mail: [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com)  
church office: 920-437-9266  
website: [www.unionucc.com](http://www.unionucc.com)

### **Ladies Lunch Bunch Meets May 19**

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

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

## Our Church Staff

Senior Minister..... Bridget Flad Daniels  
Administrative Assistant..... Eric Goska  
Financial Secretary..... Katrina Catteruccia  
Building & Maintenance Supervisor..... Brad Dorin  
Music Director..... Haley Steele  
Organist..... Franklin Beyer  
Handbell Ensemble Director..... Linda Cook  
Librarian..... Cathy Putman

### Student Music Interns:

Megan Jodar, Zeke Fietsch-Huber, Caleb Hale

### Nursery Attendants:

Jenna Stevens, London Graham, Katelyn Mertens