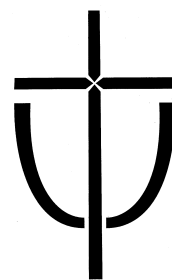


Still Speaking



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

May 2025

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be published the week of **June 18, 2025**.
The deadline for that newsletter is Friday, **June 13, 2025**.*

Our Church Family	2
Plan Ahead on May 18	3
Our Housing Offering is May 11 ----	3
Priscilla Circle Meets May 27	3
Welcome New Members	3-5
Juneteenth Celebration	4
Strengthen the Church Offering ----	6
Who's Graduating?	6
Blessing Box Food Drive	6
Union Church Calendar	7
Union Church Picnic	back page

Holding One Another Through the Storm: A Call to Hope and Care

In these heavy days, when so many headlines bring dread instead of direction, cruelty instead of compassion, it is easy—human, even—to feel overwhelmed. We witness families being separated, the gutting of aid to the poor, and differences being criminalized, all while sacrificing the vulnerable for the sake of power. Even as people of faith, it's tempting to lose hope.

As followers of Jesus, we are not strangers to struggle. Our sacred texts are filled with cries from the margins, psalms of lament, and prophets who dared to speak truth to power. Jesus, who lived under the heel of empire, modeled resistance not through violence or domination, but through radical love, deep community, and stubborn hope. Jesus healed when the law said “keep away.” He fed when the authorities said “go home.” He forgave when the powerful said “crucify.”

And so must we.

Now is the time to take care of one another with purpose and urgency. The fear and grief that swirl around us are not meant to be carried alone. Mutual care—showing up for each other in body, in spirit, in action—is how we resist despair. When one of us is targeted or terrified, the rest of us must rally around them, not just with words but with groceries, bail funds, child care, protest signs, and prayer. This is what it means to be the Body of Christ: interconnected, indivisible, and alive with grace.

There is no denying the harm being done—harm that disproportionately falls on Black, Brown, queer, trans, disabled, and undocumented lives. Our calling is not to look away. It is to look directly into the pain and say, “You are not alone.” It is to remember that justice is not handed down from on high but is grown between us, in the sacred work of community.

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings**May 11****Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 9:36-43 and 23

Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 18**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 25**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

May 29**Ascension Day**

Acts 1:11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

June 1**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

June 8**Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21

John 14:8-17 (25-27)

June 15**Trinity Sunday**

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31; Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

June 22**Second Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a and

Psalm 42 and 43 or

Isaiah 65:1-9 and Psalm 22:19-28

Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

(continued from page 1)

Do not mistake this call to kindness for weakness. Love is not passive. To love in these times—to keep loving—is itself a kind of protest. Every time we refuse to turn our backs on one another, we chip away at the structures of hate. Every meal shared, every ride given, every time we show up at a hearing, at a vigil, at a rally, we make it harder for the empire to win.

And still, it is okay to be tired. It is okay to weep. Even Jesus wept. But we must never forget that resurrection follows crucifixion. That hope is not a naïve optimism, but a practice — something we nurture together, in song, in silence, in soup kitchens and sanctuary spaces.

We have never been a church that runs from the hard truths. We are a church where grief is held gently, where fear is named and met with presence, and where every act of care is a faithful act of defiance. Let us be a church that reminds each other, again and again: we are not alone, and we are not powerless.

The empire may thunder. But our gospel still whispers the deeper truth: Love will find a way.

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

Our Church Family

As my article in this newsletter lifts up, every act of care is an act of faith and hope. With that in mind, we wrap these people and households in prayer and care:

-

Plan Ahead on May 18

Our church will be surrounded by the route for Green Bay's first Epic Marathon on Sunday, May 18. The organizers assure us that with Union at mile 12 of their race, the concentration of runners will make it easy for our worshippers to drive around the barricades to access our parking lot. The church will be most easily accessible from Cass Street. Nonetheless, please allow yourself extra time to arrive on May 18, exercise extreme caution as you navigate the barriers, and obey street parking signs.

Our Housing Offering is May 11

Our Housing Offering takes place 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 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.

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 Church Welcomed 14 New Members on April 6



Angie and Eric Corwin

Eric is a structural engineer at MBI and Angie is an architect at Mead & Hunt. The couple moved from Minneapolis to Green Bay in 2022 with their twins, Tillie and Theo, and their cats, Hank and Hope. Angie and Eric enjoy their new home, but they miss the many trails and parks in Minneapolis.

When looking for a new church, Eric and Angie were interested in checking out Union as it shares their belief that everyone is a child of God without discrimination. As they continued to attend, they were drawn to the welcoming community. They are excited to become members.



Jan Davis

Jan grew up in Eureka, Illinois, the daughter of a farm bureau advisor and a working mother with five children. Jan has lived in Peoria, the suburbs of Chicago, Rancho Palos Verdes, Little Rock, and Modesto. She and her husband moved to Green Bay in 2013 to be near their daughters and grandchildren. Jan retired a year ago after 30 years creating training for adult learners. She enjoys family time, baking, travel, historical fiction, and singing with the Chancel Choir.



Michelle Gauger

Michelle grew up in Sturgeon Bay. Michelle and her husband settled in Green Bay after getting married 34 years ago. The couple has three adult children and two grandchildren. Michelle has worked as a counselor for many years and currently directs counseling services at UWGB. She has been searching for a church where everyone is welcome and started attending Union in the fall of 2024. From the first sermon, Michelle knew she had found her new community.

(continued on page 3)

Juneteenth Celebration is June 14

Outreach Ministry invites you to extend our partnership with We All Rise African American Resource Center by supporting the City of Green Bay Juneteenth Celebration. The event is being held Saturday, June 14 (noon to 9 p.m.) at Joannes Park. We All Rise has asked we partner in the following ways:

- Talk about and attend the event with friends and family.
- Help staff Union's table to share Glitter Blessings (like we do for PRIDE), and raise awareness that Union's doors are open to all.
- Sign up for a shift to pick up trash and clean up the park throughout the event.

We All Rise also asks that you pray for God's protection and peace at the event, as we celebrate the end of legalized slavery in the U.S.A.

We All Rise needs your help! Please indicate on the sign up form in your This Week at Union email when you are available to assist. You can choose multiple shifts.

Additionally, please sign up to volunteer for Union's table on the sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour.

If you have questions, contact
Jammie VerGiesen at
jlvergiesen@gmail.com
or text/phone (920) 228-1446.



Welcome, New Members!

(continued from page 3)

Jackie Gelhar

Jackie had been very hurt by her former faith communities. She was even considering never joining one again.

After attending NEW Pride, she met Union member Larry Kabat who gave her a glitter blessing, and the two had a wonderful talk. Although it has been a slow process, Jackie kept feeling drawn back. Finally, she felt ready to join this wonderful congregation and see where God leads her!

Jackie is a single mom with seven (mostly grown) children. She is between jobs but is actively looking. She has a dog, four cats, and a bearded dragon. Jackie loves to read and spend time with her children and friends. She hopes to someday have more time to volunteer.

Pam Klingert

Pam is a retired RN of 40 years. She has two married adult children and three grandsons. She enjoys spending time with family and friends. She also enjoys reading, cooking and being outdoors.

Pam was drawn to Union Church because of its inclusive philosophy.

Collin Marshall

Collin was born and raised in the Green Bay area. He grew up Catholic having gone to St. Bernard's K-8. He graduated from Preble High School.

Collin started college at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois, originally going for music on a guitar scholarship. There he was exposed for the first time to the United Church of Christ. Halfway through college, Collin transferred back home and finished at St. Norbert College.

Collin and his wife, Katie, live in De Pere and have two wonderful children. While Collin has been Catholic most of his life, he has been searching since his time at Elmhurst for a more open and welcoming faith community. This is why he chose to become a member here at Union.

Collin works as a commercial banker with a local community bank and had previously spent time in wealth management. Katie and Collin are active in the community, serving on several non-profit boards and committees. In his limited free time, you can find Collin reading at a coffee shop or taking the family's goldendoodle named Shorty (kid's idea and, no, she is not short) for a walk through the neighborhood.



Gloria Morgan

Gloria and her late husband, Mike, moved to Green Bay when he was offered a position at UWGB when the campus first opened. While he taught older students, Gloria worked with preschoolers. She became interested in Marie Montessori, her respect for the child and her approach to providing a welcoming learning environment. Gloria taught in a modified Montessori program for several years, then opened her own program, The Magic Years, by renting the Quonset building from her church, Our Saviour Lutheran Church. After five years, she was asked by the director of education to close her program and open up Our Saviour's. After about 15 years, she retired.

More recently, Gloria has been driving for Meals on Wheels. Gloria's family consists of her daughter, Michelle; son-in-law, David; granddaughter, Morgan; and her cats, Autumn and Homer.

When Gloria began looking for another church, a friend invited her here. As Gloria read the words on the front of the bulletin, she felt this was where the Lord was guiding her.



Emily and Paul Mroczynski

Emily grew up in Winnetka, Illinois and Paul grew up in Pulaski, Wisconsin. The two met at UW-Madison in 1979 and married in 1984. The couple has three adult children: Megan, a counselor in Milwaukee; Kate, an OT in St. Paul; and Luke, a data scientist in Madison.

Emily has been an RN for 45 years working at Bellin and as a school nurse. Currently she is a lactation specialist. Paul, retired from St. Norbert College, works part time at Lodge Kohler.

Emily and Paul love to hike, travel, spend time with family and friends and bird watch. Emily loves to read and bake. Paul's an avid golfer and handyman. Paul and Emily are excited to continue their faith journey at Union where they already have been welcomed with open arms!



Beth and Jeff Norton

Beth and Jeff have lived and worked in Green Bay since 2015. Beth works in IT support at Camera Corner and Jeff works as a drop ship specialist at Imperial Supplies.

When not working, they enjoy time with their cats, River and Lilith, as well as playing video and board games. During warmer months, they enjoy camping and disc golfing.

Beth and Jeff felt a strong calling to find a new church family in 2020, and they were drawn to Union's spirit of inclusiveness and strong sense of community outreach.

George and Sandy Ochs

Sandy and George recently moved to Green Bay from Thousand Oaks, California. Sandy is a retired UCC minister and George spent his career in financial services. The couple has two adult sons and three (way above average) grandkids. George likes to be very busy; Sandy – not so much.



Strengthen the Church Offering is June 29

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and church vitality.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Union Church will receive the STC offering on June 29.



What is Faith? Seminary Secrets topic for May 14, 21

What do you mean when you speak of "faith"? When you hear others use that word, do you assume that you're talking about the same concept and experience? (That might be a faulty assumption, since, like so many other religious terms, "faith" can mean different things to different people.) And does the nature of one's faith change as one grows through a lifetime?

We'll learn about two concepts: (1) The elements that go into a "complete" faith and (2) the research that shows how faith changes with growth/life experiences (James Fowler's "Stages of Faith").

In addition to better understanding your own faith experience, this class should equip you to grasp where others are in regard to their faith. We'll explore whether and how Union encourages movement through Fowler's faith stages.

WHEN? Wednesdays, May 14 and 21 — 6:15 to 7:45 p.m. (feel free to leave early if needed)

WHERE? May 14: Church Hall (2nd floor) May 21: Chapel Classroom (1st floor)

VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE OPTIONS: I video record each session so if you 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.

HOMEWORK? There will be handouts to read and process beforehand (about 8 pages each session).

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 & GET READINGS: Contact Julie at jblackharder@gmail.com. Indicate whether you'll come in person or via Zoom. Questions? Contact Julie!

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) 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!

Blessing Box Food Drive Sunday, June 1

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

Current needs include:

- Bottled Water
- Canned Chili or Pasta Meals
- Canned Soup
- Canned Spaghetti Sauce
- Cereal (Boxed)
- Instant Pasta or Rice Meals
- Paper Towels / Toilet Paper

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, June 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 Church Calendar

May 11, 2025—June 23, 2025

May 11 Sunday

Mother's Day

Union's Housing Offering

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
Union's Used Book Sale

May 13 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Generosity Team
4:00 p.m. Education Ministry
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry
5:30 p.m. Bell Choir
6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

May 14 Wednesday

1:00 p.m. Bible Study
2:30 p.m. Retreat Team
3:15 p.m. Memorial Garden
Committee
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

May 17 Saturday

8:00 p.m. Union's Rummage Sale
(until 2:00 p.m.)

May 18 Sunday

Confirmation Sunday

9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Women's Roles
in Christianity
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
(or stream it online)
followed by Coffee Hour
in the church hall

May 19 Monday

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

May 21 Wednesday

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

May 25 Sunday

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

May 26 Monday — Memorial Day

Church Office is Closed

May 27 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

June 1 Sunday

Worship in the Courtyard

Potluck Picnic

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy
Communion in the
Courtyard followed by a
picnic potluck (NO online
worship this day)

June 3 Tuesday

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

June 4 Wednesday

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

June 8 Sunday

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

June 10 Tuesday

4:00 p.m. Education Ministry
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry

June 12 Thursday

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

June 14 Saturday

12:00 p.m. Juneteenth Celebration
at Joannes Park

June 15 Sunday

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

June 16 Monday

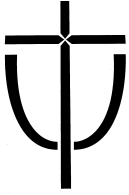
11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch at
the Village Grille

June 23 Sunday

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

April Attendance

April	2025	2024
1st Sunday	135	83
2nd Sunday	142	106
3rd Sunday (Easter in 2025)	214	94
4th Sunday	121	113
Totals	612	396
Average	153.0	99.0



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



AND CHURCH PICNIC

Bring a lawnchair 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.

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>