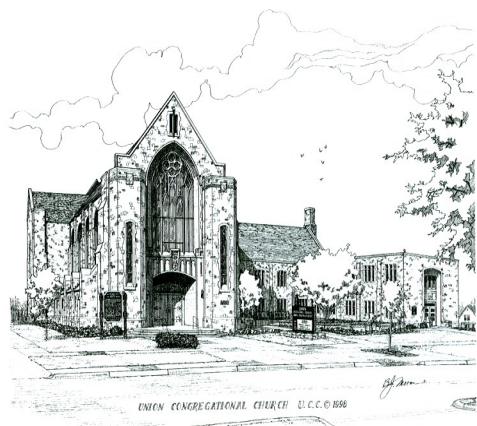
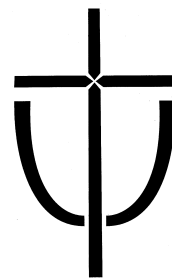




Still Speaking



Indeed, the word of God is living and active...

-Hebrews 4:12

June 2025

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

Our next newsletter will be published
the week of **August 20, 2025.**

The deadline for that newsletter is
Friday, **August 15, 2025.**

Our Church Family ----- 2

Worship in the Courtyard ----- 3

EPH Housing Success Story ----- 3

Volunteer Opportunities ----- 4

Join the AV Team ----- 4

Strengthen the Church ----- 4

Your Church Library ----- 4

All-Church Retreat ----- 5

Congratulations, Graduates! -- 6

Band Concert Food Drives ----- 6

Blessing Box ----- back page

Becoming a WISE Church: We Need Your Voice

At Union, we believe that the Gospel calls us to love God with our whole selves—and to love our neighbors as ourselves. That means all of who we are: body, mind, heart, and soul. It means being a church that sees, welcomes, and values people as whole and holy, even, indeed especially, when we're struggling.

That's why our congregation is exploring becoming a **WISE church**: *Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged in the mental health of our members and our wider community.* WISE is a designation created by the United Church of Christ to help congregations faithfully respond to mental health concerns with compassion, inclusion, and action. It's rooted in the belief that all of us, whether we live with anxiety, depression, trauma, addiction, neurodivergence, or simply the wear and tear of a stressful world, are beloved by God and belong fully in the life of the church.

We know mental health touches all of our lives. National statistics tell us that *1 in 5 adults in the U.S. experiences a mental health challenge in any given year. For youth, that number is even higher. And nearly all of us, whether directly or indirectly, have been impacted by these struggles.* Unfortunately, stigma around mental health still prevents many people from seeking the support they need. Too often, people suffer silently, even in the places that should feel safest.

The good news is this: the church can be a place of healing, honesty, and hope. In fact, it already is. Many people turn first to a faith community when they are struggling. Our work is to make sure that when they do, they are met with real welcome and lasting support—not just in our words, but in our worship, our leadership, our programs, our prayers, and our priorities.

That's where you come in.

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

June 22—2nd Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a and
Psalm 42 and Psalm 43 or
Isaiah 65:1-9 and Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39

June 29—3rd Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 and
Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 or
1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 and Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 6—4th Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-14 and Psalm 30 or
Isaiah 66:10-14 and Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 13—5th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17 and Psalm 82 or
Deuteronomy 30:9-14 and Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 20—6th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12 and Psalm 52 or
Genesis 18:1-10a and Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 27—7th Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10 and Psalm 85 or
Genesis 18:20-32 and Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

August 3—8th Sunday after Pentecost

Hosea 11:1-11 and Psalm 107:1-9, 43 or
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23 and
Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 10—9th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 and Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Genesis 15:1-6 and Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

August 17—10th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7 and Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Jeremiah 23:23-29 and Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

(continued from page 1)

As part of our journey toward becoming a WISE congregation, we're conducting a **brief survey** to hear from you, our church family. We want to know:

- What kinds of support or resources would be most helpful to you or your loved ones?
- What barriers might prevent full participation in our congregation's life?
- How can our worship, language, ministries, programs, and spaces be more inclusive and supportive?
- What kinds of education or conversations would help reduce stigma and increase understanding?

Your voice matters. We all have mental health. Whether mental health concerns are a daily part of your life or something you want to understand better, we want to hear from you.

This is not a one-time effort. It's an ongoing commitment to embody the love of Christ in ways that are real and relevant. As Psalm 34 reminds us, *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted." Our calling is to be close, too.*

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey found in your This Week at Union email or contact the church office for the link or a paper copy and thank you for walking with us on this journey toward deeper compassion, greater inclusion, and Christ-centered community.

In hope and healing,

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels and Christie Reese

For the WISE Planning Team

Our Church Family

One of the graces of being part of a church family are the prayers and care we offer one another. This month, we lift up in prayer:

•





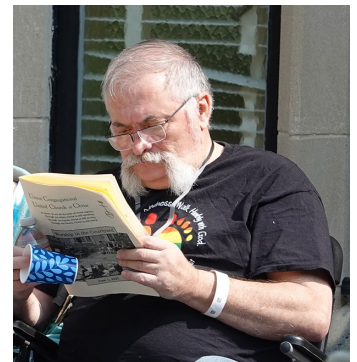
Gail Carels and Sue Tucker



Children Moments with Beth Lyman Piontek and Pastor Bridget

Worship and Picnic in the Courtyard

On Sunday, June 8, members and friends of Union Church worshipped and picnicked in the courtyard.



An Ecumenical Partnership for Housing Success Story: New Homeowners

As an EPH Church, Union members are invited to contribute to the annual EPH offering opportunity and to the Housing Offering on Mother's Day. This year, Union Church members contributed over \$8,000 to the EPH mission of providing safety, stability and solutions for families experiencing homelessness.

A message of gratitude to our congregation from EPH Executive Director Crystal De Cleene:

Thanks to your generous support, another family living in an EPH home recently accomplished their goal of owning a home! In May, this family purchased the house they have been living in for the past three years as part of the EPH program. They went through our transitional housing program in less than a year before moving into our long-term supportive housing program, where they continued to stay focused on their dream of owning a home. Not only did they purchase their house in May, but one of their children also graduated from high school. They recently joined the EPH team for a celebratory breakfast in which they shared a photo of their son in his cap and gown, and surprised each of the staff members with a small thank you bag as a token of their appreciation for the support they have received over the past few years. Thank you for generously sharing your time and financial resources with EPH – you're helping families build stable lives and giving them the opportunity to make their dreams a reality!

Bite Size Volunteer Opportunities

Would you be willing to be on a list of folks who help give members rides to church? Our current request is from someone who needs a ride from De Pere.

We're also looking for adults who would be willing to be on a list of possible subs when one of our nursery staffers calls in sick.

If you're interested in helping in either way, contact Pastor Bridget.

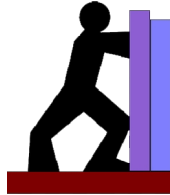
Join the AV Team

Our AV team needs folks who are tech-minded and looking to volunteer for Union in a fun way. Duties include operating the video broadcast board during Sunday service that we livestream to Facebook and YouTube or running the sound board. (This is a lot easier than it sounds, and we have great trainers!) Rotation is generally one Sunday a month.

Please reach out to Daniel Hatton at dhatton@outlook.com or Pastor Bridget if you're interested. Thank you!

Strengthen the Church Offering is June 29

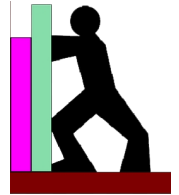
Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Union Church will receive the STC offering on June 29.



Your Church Library

Fiction Additions

by Cathy Putman

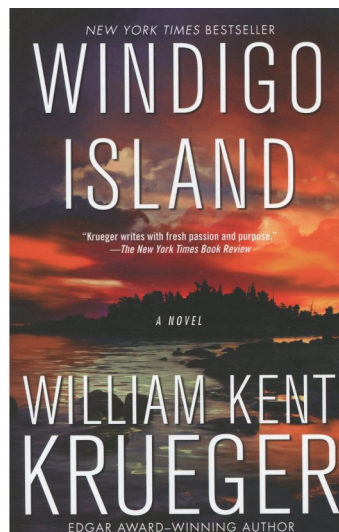


Every year the church library benefits from the book sale in two ways. First, we raise some money to supplement our book and supply budget. Second, we receive some newer popular fiction that we add to our fiction section. This is an area that turns over consistently. By our records, only about five fiction volumes remain from the time the library catalog became electronic and online in 2012.

You can search the catalog from home. Librarything.com/catalog/UnionCongUCC is the web address. The catalog is built on top of Excel so there is a search box or you can reorder the columns – author, title, date, Dewey Decimal number, etc. – to inspect the collection in different ways.

Anyway, we added quite a lot of fiction this round. We now have several William Kent Krueger Cork O'Connor mysteries, with the newest his 2014 "Windigo Island," and the four newer Louise Penny Inspector Gamache mysteries through "A Grey Wolf." These series are shelved in the mystery section with pink M labels. If you are a fan of either series and would like to donate some to fill out our collection, we would welcome them!

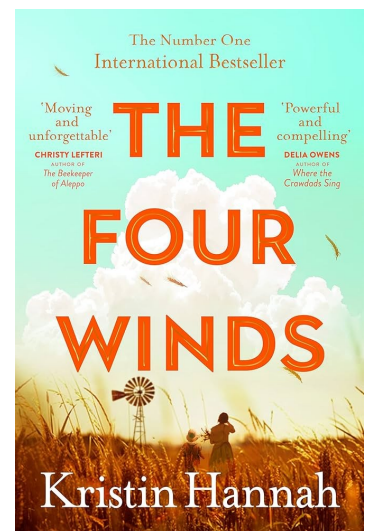
Other popular books we added were Kristin Hannah's "The Four Winds," "The Great Alone," and "The Women." Author of more than 20 novels, Hannah is a master of emotional storytelling with strong women living at significant junctures in modern American history.



Another gift was the first three North of the Tension Line novels that take place in Door County. Author J. F. Riordan has been called a "modern day Jane Austen" who chronicles the comic and intriguing in small-town living. Both Riordan and Hannah are shelved in the regular fiction section to the left as you enter the library.

Remember, church library books have no due date or fines though prompt returns are appreciated. To check out, use the card in the back of the book. Enter your name and the date and year of borrowing.

Happy reading!





Registration Form

2025 All-Church Retreat at Moon Beach Camp

Friday, September 5 - Sunday, September 7, 2025

Family Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Participants: Adult(s) Child(ren)/Ages

Are there any physical disabilities that we should know about?

Any dietary concerns/food allergies? _____

Costs: Adults \$190 x _____ = _____

Children under 18 \$35 x _____ = _____

Total Cost = _____

All pricing includes 2 nights lodging and 4 meals.

Please make check payable to Union Church and note Moon Beach Retreat on the memo line. You may choose to make a deposit of half the total cost at the time of registration with the remainder to be paid upon arrival at Moon Beach Camp. Scholarships are available (see Pastor Bridget). **Return this form and your check to the church office or via mail by Sunday, August 24, 2025 to:**

Union Church, 716 S. Madison St., Green Bay, WI 54301

We're so glad you decided to join us for a special time of getting to know one another better, building relationships in the body of Christ, learning more about how God continues to speak to us, enjoying the beautiful outdoors, and just plain having FUN!

All-Church
Retreat

September 5-7, 2025

Our All-Church Retreat is a weekend of fun, fellowship, and reflection. The retreat takes place at Moon Beach Camp which is in St. Germain just west of Eagle River and is part of the Outdoor Ministry program of the United Church of Christ. It sits on the shores of Moon Lake and Little Saint Germain Lake. Cabins overlook Moon Lake, and each is furnished, heated, and has a bathroom with a shower. There is a beautiful lodge, and the camp is fully staffed with helpful people.

People arrive Friday evening, partaking of snacks and fellowship time around the lodge fireplace. We are treated to three meals on Saturday and brunch on Sunday. Camp staff will again offer a Saturday morning program for our children at the same time as the adult session.

Afternoons and evenings are up to you. There will be activities, planned and impromptu. There is a beach with watercraft, hiking trails and places to sit, read and reflect. Evening is game time with ice cream sundaes and a bonfire.

Sunday, we enjoy brunch and worship informally. We are usually on our way by 11 o'clock.

Cost for the retreat is \$190 per adult and \$35 per child. Financial aid is available (talk to Pastor Bridget). You can sign up to attend the retreat by contacting the church office, or by filling out the form at left or those available at Union Central.



The Wisconsin Conservation Voters' Green Energy Tax Credit roundtable was held at Union on June 11. Pictured (L-R): Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels, Melinda Danforth (Oneida Nation), Melissa Schmitz (Resiliency Coordinator for the City of Green Bay), Andy Buck (International Union of Painters and Allied Trades), Jesse Michalski (IBEW/Eland Electric), Theresa Lehman (Miron Construction), and Carly Eaton (BlueGreen Alliance).

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

- **Evan Ash**, son of **Janet Roberts and Jeff Ash**, graduated from the University of Maryland with a Ph.D. in history. He also holds a master's degree in history from Miami University of Ohio and a bachelor's degree from UW-Green Bay.
- **Olivia Delvaux**, daughter of **Elizabeth and Paul Delvaux**, graduated from Green Bay East High School and will attend UW-Madison in the fall.
- **Emmaline Weist**, daughter of **Anne Rakow-Weist and Rod Weist**, graduated from UW-River Falls with a bachelor's degree in social work and as a licensed social worker.

Blessing Box City Band Concert Food Drives!

Wednesday Evenings - Beginning June 18

The Blessing Box team will be collecting canned foods on Wednesday evenings, during the Green Bay City Band Concert season.

If you'd like to participate, you're welcome to drop off donations at the Mayflower Entrance on your way to the concert. **Thank you!**

Concert details available at <https://greenbaycityband.com>.



Union Church Calendar

June 22, 2025—August 24, 2025

June 22 Sunday

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

June 23 Monday

5:45 p.m. WISE Team

June 29 Sunday

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

July 2 Wednesday

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

July 4 Friday—Independence Day

Church Office is Closed



July 6 Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship
with Holy Communion in
the sanctuary or stream
it online followed by
Coffee Hour

Blessing Box Food Drive

July 13 Sunday

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

July 20 Sunday

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

July 21 Monday

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

July 27 Sunday

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

August 3 Sunday

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

Blessing Box Food Drive

August 5 Tuesday

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

August 6 Wednesday

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

August 10 Sunday

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

August 12 Tuesday

3:00 p.m. Memorial Garden
Committee
4:00 p.m. Education Ministry
5:00 p.m. Stewardship Ministry

August 14 Thursday

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

August 17 Sunday

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

August 18 Monday

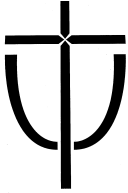
11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch at
the Village Grille

August 24 Sunday

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

May Attendance

May	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
1st Sunday	114	106
2nd Sunday	139	104
3rd Sunday	132	113
4th Sunday	87	68
Totals	472	391
Average	118.0	97.8



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, July 6

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

Current needs include:

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

Donations can be placed on the blue table inside the Mayflower entrance on Sunday, July 6 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.



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>