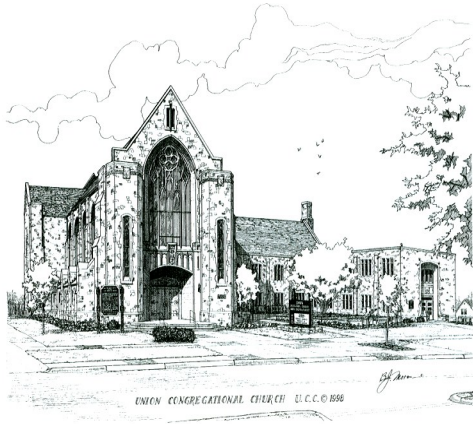
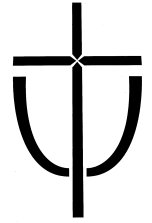




Still Speaking



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

August 2025

All-Church Retreat at Moon Beach To Focus on Building Community

The Inside Scoop

Newsletter Deadline

*Our next newsletter will be
published the week of **Sept. 17**.
The deadline for that newsletter
is Friday, **Sept. 12**.*

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What makes community work? Why is our society in crisis? And—most importantly—what can we do about it?

These are the questions at the heart of "Join or Die," a compelling feature documentary that will serve as inspiration for our upcoming church retreat. The film follows the journey of Robert Putnam, the acclaimed social scientist whose groundbreaking research into the collapse of community in America—famously published in "Bowling Alone"—has never been more relevant than it is today.

Putnam's findings were stark: over the past 50 years, Americans have become increasingly disconnected from one another. Civic groups have dwindled, neighborhood ties have frayed, and our sense of shared identity has weakened. And while that might sound like a sociological concern, the impact is deeply spiritual, deeply human—and deeply relevant to who we are as a church.

In "Join or Die," Putnam is joined by an impressive group of thinkers and leaders as they explore the relationship between civic life and societal health. But what makes the film especially hopeful is that it also profiles communities across the country that are rebuilding connection: people gathering, organizing, and making meaning together.

Sound familiar?

At Union Church, we don't just believe in community—we practice it. We eat together, sing together, pray together, grieve together, and roll up our sleeves to serve our neighbors. We show up, not just out of habit, but out of conviction: that our lives are bound up in something bigger. That our shared life—imperfect as it may be—is sacred.

That's why "Join or Die" is such a fitting companion for our all-church retreat at Moon Beach this year. We'll be exploring the theme of connection: how we build it, why it matters, and how our church can be a community where people don't just attend—but truly belong.

(continued on page 2)

Lectionary Readings

August 24

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 1:4-10 and Psalm 71:1-6 or
Isaiah 58:9b-14 and Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

August 31

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13 and Psalm 81:1, 10-16
or Sirach 10:12-18 or Proverbs 25:6-7
and
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

September 7

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 18:1-11 and
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 or
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and Psalm 1
Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33

September 14

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 and Psalm 14 or
Exodus 32:7-14 and Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

September 21

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 and Psalm 79:1-9 or
Amos 8:4-7 and Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

September 28

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 and
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 or
Amos 6:1a, 4-7 and Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

October 5

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 1:1-6 and
Lamentations 3:19-26 or Psalm 137 or
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and Psalm 37:1-9
2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

(continued from page 1)



If you'd like to get a head start on the conversation, we invite you to watch "Join or Die" before the retreat. It's not required (and we'll have it running in the dining room on Friday night, but that's not always the easiest time to focus), but it's a powerful and accessible way to start thinking about what community means in this moment—and what role we can each play in weaving it together again.

Watch it at home with a cup of tea, invite a friend to join you, or even take notes (if you're that kind of person—we see you!). However you engage, we think you'll find it both thought-provoking and hopeful.

Because in a world of disconnection, choosing to gather—on a retreat, in worship, at a table, or in a neighborhood—isn't just a nice idea. It's a sacred one.

In Joyful Hope,
Pastor Bridget

P.S. The retreat is September 5-7 this year.

Our Church Family

You've probably seen the T-shirt that was produced by the United Church of Christ some years ago that proclaims, "Be the church: protect the environment, care for the poor, forgive often, reject racism, fight for the powerless, share earthly and spiritual resources, embrace diversity, love God, enjoy this life." I would add, "Show up for one another." Thank you for the myriad ways you show up for one another:

•

Union Church Faith Formation 2025-26

Faith Formation kicks off with an open house on September 14. Children, parents and teachers will get to know one another in their classrooms, with K4 through 5th graders in the Mayflower I and II classrooms on the lower level of the church, and 6th through 8th in the Fellowship Room on the second level.

The curriculum we will use this year will be "Shine," a dynamic Faith Formation curriculum that engages Christian communities and families in their life together through Bible Stories, spiritual practices, peacemaking, service, and more. Again this year will be a monthly rotation workshop in which we will provide interactive activities geared toward multiple learning styles and age levels.

Faith Formation Open House is Sunday, September 14 at 9:00 a.m.

Youth Group Begins Wednesday, September 17 at 5:45 p.m.

Wednesday night programs begin September 17 with dinner at 5:45 p.m. followed by Youth Group for 6th through 12th graders. Youth will engage in mission, projects, learning, relationship building, and all-around fun.

We again have a tremendous slate of teachers, leaders, aides, cooks, and bottle washers lined up, but we need more. As with everything at church, our child and youth formation ministries don't work without the ongoing efforts of our members and friends. It is critical to the success of these ministries that both parents and other church members pitch in to help. These programs simply cannot exist without you. Contact Beth Lyman Piontek at 920-217-3564 or beth.e.lyman@gmail.com to learn more about what roles are needed.

Registration materials will be mailed home to all households in our database with school-age children. Additional copies will be available in the classrooms the first day of Faith Formation or by contacting the church office.

Wednesday Youth Programs

Our Youth Groups will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month this year starting on September 17. A typical Wednesday evening will be:

5:45 to 6:15 p.m.	Dinner
6:15 to 7:30 p.m.	Youth Group

ReUnion Sunday is September 14

8:45 a.m. Nursery Opens

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday rehearsals begin September 9

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Open House

Mayflower I and II and Fellowship Room

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary with **Holy Communion**

Potluck in the church hall following Worship

**Blessing Box
Food Drive**
(see back page)

Heifer Help Needed!

Heifer Sunday and the Live Market (October 19) is a favorite event at Union. We need your help. We are looking for volunteers to host animal tables at the Live Market. This is a great family friendly volunteer event.

To learn more or to volunteer, contact Wendy Woodward at wwoodward@hotmail.com or (847) 814-5168.

Priscilla Circle News

Priscilla Circle will reconvene Tuesday, September 23, at 1:00 p.m. in the English Room. We plan to meet on the fourth Tuesday of October and November as well.

Priscilla Circle is a group of women who meet for a program and socializing. We share beverages and treats and a short devotional. New members are always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Questions? Please contact Helen Krueger at chkruenger@new.rr.com.

PRIDE Alive is September 20

Union is excited to again have a booth at NEW PRIDE Alive at the Brown County Fairgrounds on September 20. We will have treats, information about Union, a gallery of LGBTQIA+ family photos, and will offer glitter blessings!

Volunteers are needed to staff the booth, to talk about why you love our church, and to offer glitter blessings (we'll have instructions and glitter!). Sign up at Union Central or contact the church office to take a two-hour shift or two on Saturday (noon to 6).

Love Learning

Between August 24 and September 14, Union Church will be collecting donations for Love Learning. Union Church has collected diapers for Love Life Ministries. Love Learning is a part of Love Life Ministry, but instead of diapers, Love Learning's goal is to provide books for children, newborn to 3 years old. We know that children exposed to books before they can read is key to creating children who love to read! Your donation of board books will help get these sturdier books into the hands of these young children.

We love new books but gently used works great too! A board book has hard, thicker pages and can handle the excitement of this age group as they learn eye-hand coordination and the patience to turn a page.

Love Learning serves a number of Latino families and bilingual books are popular. Finding Spanish/English board books locally can be a challenge, but I can order them online. If you would like me to do the shopping for you, a monetary donation is welcome.

Thank You for considering Love Learning with your donation.

—Toni Champeau, on behalf of Outreach Ministry

Union to Join Neighborworks' "Good Neighbor Week"

At Union Church, we believe faith is something you *do*. And Good Neighbor Week gives us the chance to put our faith into action in a very real, very tangible way. We're rolling up our sleeves to help renovate homes because everyone deserves to live in a place that is safe, dignified, and well-cared for.

This isn't about charity. It's about solidarity.

It's about showing up with hammers, paintbrushes, and open hearts to say: *We see you. You matter. And we're in this together.*

It's about living out our values of compassion, justice, and radical love.

And honestly? It's also a way to be good neighbors *ourselves*—to meet people we might not otherwise know, to build relationships, and to remind ourselves that this city is stronger when we take care of one another.

When Outreach Ministry learned of Neighborworks' "Good Neighbor Week," we knew we wanted to be part of it. We contributed \$1,500 of the mission funds you donated as part of the Capital Campaign, and we have a sign up sheet at Union Central for folks interested in rolling up their sleeves and being a good neighbor on Wednesday, September 24 from 12:30 to 4 p.m.

So yes—we're in. For peeling paint and rusty railings. For laughter shared over ladders. For porch steps rebuilt and hope restored.

Because that's what good neighbors—and good churches—do.





Union UCC > Fox River Trail Saturday “Social Walks”

All are invited to two walks along the Fox River Trail this autumn, both on Saturday mornings, September 13 and October 18. The intent is to share time together in a beautiful setting so proximate to our church, and to provide a low-threshold opportunity to introduce friends and neighbors to our church community.

Starting time is 9:00 a.m. at the church parking lot. All participants will walk at their own pace, 20 minutes down the trail and 20 minutes back to the church. Then we will head upstairs to socialize over coffee/tea and breakfast goodies. This event would be a good opportunity to invite a friend or someone you know that may be interested in dipping their toe into our church community.

Why Participate in the Social Walks at Union UCC?

We’re initiating a new, refreshing way to connect with others, enjoy nature, and start your weekend with intention this fall - Union UCC’s Social Walks along the Fox River Trail.



Rejuvenate in Nature

Enjoy the peaceful beauty of the Fox River Trail—just steps from our church. Autumn is the perfect season to experience the changing leaves and crisp air.



Build Community

These walks are all about togetherness. Whether you’re deep in conversation or just walking side-by-side, you’ll be strengthening bonds with others in our faith community.



Bring a Friend (or Two!)

These walks are open to everyone and are a lowkey way to help friends and neighbors get to know Union.



Gentle and Accessible

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the church parking lot. Walk at your own pace—20 minutes out, then 20 minutes back—no pressure, just presence.



Warm Fellowship Awaits

After the walk, join us upstairs for coffee, tea, and delicious breakfast treats. It's a relaxed, welcoming space to chat and connect.

No RSVP needed. Just show up and walk with us on **Saturday, September 13** and on **Saturday, October 18**. Come as you are, and leave refreshed.

Seminary Secrets: Psalms, Ancient Israel's Prayerbook

The book of Psalms gives us a fascinating glimpse into the mind and heart of Ancient Israel. These prayers, which are thousands of years old, are quite diverse. Some, of course, express praise and thanks to Yahweh. Others are desperate pleas for help. Some are quite dark, spewing out grief, anger, or even a bitter wish for violent vengeance upon one's enemies. Some shaped the way that the Gospels were written.

In the upcoming Seminary Secrets series, we will learn how to identify the different types of psalms. We will think about the context that produced them. We will consider how they have been prayed for millennia both by Jews and Christians—there is excellent evidence that psalm recitation was part of the very earliest Christian worship and, to this day, many denominations regularly include a psalm among the Sunday readings.

Finally, we'll ask these questions: How does one pray using someone else's words? Which psalms express your own thoughts and feelings? What about those psalms that no longer feel right to pray?

The Psalms Series will be held from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, September 10, 17, and 24.
To sign up and get the readings, contact Julie Harder at jblackharder@gmail.com.

If you are not familiar with what Union's "Seminary Secrets" classes are about, here is a short summary:

WHAT: In these sessions, we learn to interpret the Bible using the standard critical tools that mainstream biblical scholars employ. Biblical scholars employ those tools to discover what the original author of a biblical text was trying to say to his original audience. We then consider how (and if) this message is still relevant. During each session, there is a mix of presentation and discussion.

LEADER: Julie Harder. Julie holds a master's degree in theology/Biblical studies and has taught religious studies at St. Norbert College. She has been leading Seminary Secrets classes at Union since 2013.

WHEN: Most Wednesdays during the school year, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

HYBRID OPTION: Classes have both an in-person and Zoom-in option. Zoomers are shown on a large screen so that in-person people can see and hear them. Zoomers can also see and hear in-person participants, PowerPoint slides and the blackboard.

"HOMEWORK": Most sessions have a short reading assignment to be completed beforehand.

WHAT IF I CAN'T COME TO ALL SESSIONS? Naturally, you'll learn the most if you can come to all sessions, but sometimes people have to miss. If you miss, you're encouraged to view or listen to the Zoom recording.

QUESTIONS? Email Julie at jblackharder@gmail.com.



Blessing Box Produce Pantry

Fresh Produce Welcome!

It's summer harvest season! If you have produce available, please consider sharing it in the Blessing Box Produce Pantry.

Produce should be placed outdoors on the produce stand, located next to the Blessing Box. *Thank You!*

Attendance

June	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	July	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
1st Sunday	NA	80	1st Sunday	76	80
2nd Sunday	106	92	2nd Sunday	103	67
3rd Sunday	85	57	3rd Sunday	77	84
4th Sunday	79	102	4th Sunday	78	79
5th Sunday	100	107			
Totals	370	438	Totals	334	310
Average	92.5	87.6	Average	83.5	77.5

Union Church Calendar

August 24, 2025—October 1, 2025

August 24 Sunday

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

1:30 p.m. Interfaith Prayer Service
at St. James Park

August 26 Tuesday

5:45 p.m. WISE Team

August 31 Sunday

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

September 1 Monday

Labor Day—Church Office Closed

September 2 Tuesday

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry (Zoom)
5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry (Zoom)

September 3 Wednesday

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

September 5-7 Friday-Sunday

All-Church Retreat
at Moon Beach

September 7 Sunday

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

September 9 Tuesday

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

September 10 Wednesday

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

September 11 Thursday

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

September 13 Saturday

9:00 a.m. Fox River Trail Walk

ReUnion Sunday September 14

8:45 a.m. Nursery Opens
9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearses
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
Open House
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
with Holy Communion or
stream it online

Potluck Luncheon in the church hall
(following worship)

Blessing Box Food Drive

September 15 Monday

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

September 16 Tuesday

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

September 17 Wednesday

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

September 20 Saturday

12:00 p.m. PRIDE Alive at Brown
County Fairgrounds

September 21 Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Education:
Union's History of
Women's Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
or stream it online
followed by Coffee Hour
in the church hall

September 23 Tuesday

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

September 24 Wednesday

12:30 p.m. Good Neighbor Project
1:00 p.m. Bible Study
6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

September 28 Sunday

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

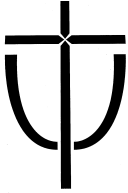
September 30 Tuesday

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

October 1 Wednesday

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





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, September 14

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

Current needs include:

- Canned Chili or Pasta Meals
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Soup
- Canned Spaghetti Sauce
- Instant Pasta or Rice Meals
- Paper Towels / Toilet Paper
- Pouch Tuna or Chicken
- Ramen Noodle Packs

Donations can be placed on the blue table inside the
Mayflower entrance on Sunday, September 14 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
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(920) 437-9266

Rev. 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>