

# Still Speaking



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

October 2025



Daylight Saving Time ends November 2

# The Inside Scoop

#### **Newsletter Deadline**

Our next newsletter will be published the week of **November 19**. The deadline for that newsletter is Friday, **November 14**.

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## **Our Music Director Reflects:**

# Time — A Key Ingredient in All We Do

One of my recreational hobbies is breadmaking. I started making yeasted bread around 2018 with a book I saw online described as a "cookbookworkbook," where the recipes build bread skills across multiple chapters. These recipes, meant to be completed in order, lead to more nuanced and complicated chapters requiring cumulative knowledge and skill. No-knead breads lead to kneaded breads to enriched breads to preferments and to beginner sourdough.

While I work, I like to meditate on the cultural longevity of bread. As I stretch and fold the dough, I think of how bread has historically been not just a source of nourishment, but a sign of a thriving community. I stretch the dough—and I think about how having bread means having access to clean water and a successful mill. I fold the dough—and a mill is the result of access to a good harvest. I stretch—and a good harvest is borne of reliable climate and farmers adequately equipped to steward the land and transport goods. I fold—and the knowledge of farming is indebted to generations of First Nations. I stretch—and good roads are built of a community valuing connection over individualism. The list goes on.

Today, I buy flour at the store and run clean water from my kitchen tap. I use a kitchen scale and thermometer, and I apply as much consistency from my knowledge base as I can to create reproducible results. After much practice, I know how to adjust my ingredients and techniques to create a more open crumb or a crisper crust. In the end, all of this leaves one critical variable that I cannot bend to my will: time.

Time is an ingredient borne of process that cannot be rushed, cannot be slowed, and cannot be borrowed from a neighbor in a pinch. If the dough indicates it needs more time for internal biology to run its course toward the type of product I want, I have two options: pay the cost of compromise, or wait. Different days call for different choices, but the long game is the same. I want to make good, beautiful bread, and I want to be proud to share it with others.

(continued on page 2)

# **Lectionary Readings**

# October 26 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Joel 2:23-32 and Psalm 65 or Sirach 35:12-17 or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 and Psalm 84:1-7 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

# November 1 All Saints Day

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 and Psalm 149 Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31

## November 2 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 and Psalm 119:137-144 or Isaiah 1:10-18 and Psalm 32:1-7 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10

# November 9 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Haggai 1:15b-2:9 and Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98 or Job 19:23-27a and Psalm 17:1-9 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38

# November 16 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:17-25 and Isaiah 12 or Malachi 4:1-2a and Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

## November 23 Reign of Christ

Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Luke 1:68-79 or Jeremiah 23:1-6 and Psalm 46 Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43

# November 27 Thanksgiving Day

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Psalm 100 Philippians 4:4-9; John 6:25-35 (continued from page 1)

This lesson on the nature of time has permeated much of my life. I maintain that process is more important than product, and the need for time is best answered with patience. In our choir, I choose to invest in the cumulative lessons we learn each season and the big arc of our program year more than the perfection of any single piece we share. In my private teaching, I insist on students recreating previous patterns of their success more than rushing to imitate a memory of sound. In my relationships, I value systems of conflict resolution more than the comfort of conflict avoidance. The list goes on.

The impact of time as an ingredient is the result of investment in process over product, of the belief that a movement is more than any one moment. A movement built over time will be stronger, more sustainable, and more reliable than a rushed stroke of luck or a product bent to our will by pressure and force. It is worthwhile to "play the long game" and to do our best to meet the perceived needs in front of us with an understanding borne of time and patience. In the meantime, we get loaves out of the oven, strike a chord to start another rehearsal, and check in with our neighbors and loved ones about their days over dinner and music.

Together over time, these moments of care, products of love, and cycles of repetition create systems that strengthen our communities, support the dignity of our neighbors, and fortify our hearts for the long road ahead. God has placed each of us here to exist in connection with those around us and charged us with using our resources to shepherd a world full of more peace, joy, justice, and love. Sometimes our investments ripple beyond our understanding in ways we do not see, or it takes things a while for things to catch on—but there's just no rushing time. Let's enjoy the moments of success, learn from the mistakes, and invest our time in recipes of love that lead to more bread on the table, more harmony in our souls, and more room in our hearts.

Prayerfully, Haley Steele, Music Director

# **Our Church Family**

As a community of faith, we hold one another close through all of life's seasons—celebrating moments of joy and surrounding one another with care in times of challenge. This month, we rejoice with...

Thank you for embodying Christ's compassion so fully and reminding us what it means to be church for one another.





# Women's Advent Evening of Reflection

All who identify as female are invited to our Women's Advent Evening of Reflection on Monday, December 1. At the event, various church members decorate one table and provide dessert for those seated at the table. We have a time of song and reflection followed by dessert and companionship to ground us as we head into the holiday season. This year, a "little women's" room will again be offered for toddlers and grade schoolers.

If you would like to attend, host or cohost a table, sign up at Union Central or email:

Denise Olson (myersolson22@gmail.com) or Cheryl Myers (myers.america@gmail.com).

# Memorial Sunday Ofrenda

On November 9, Union will celebrate Memorial Sunday in which we lift up in prayer the lives of our members and friends who have died in the last year, as well as all our loved ones who are deceased.

This year, we again invite all who worship with us to bring a picture or memento of any loved ones you would like to commemorate. We will create something similar to an Ofrenda, or Dia de los Muertos altar, to honor and celebrate their lives. You may place your items on the altar when you arrive, or during the offertory after the ushers have passed your pew.

Please remember to retrieve your items after worship. Those worshipping with us online are encouraged to place their items near their screen during the service.

# Because of YOU Our Church Changes Lives

Please remember to return your pledges to fund our ministries in 2026 by Sunday, November 2, when we will consecrate them in worship and have a special coffee hour to celebrate.

# Priscilla Circle

Priscilla Circle returns at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, October 28, in the English Room. Jeff Gibson will talk about Union's connection with JOSHUA. Questions? Contact Helen Krueger at <a href="mailto:chkrueger@new.rr.com">chkrueger@new.rr.com</a>.

# **Garden News**

Three princes – Paul Miller, Paul Mroczynski, and Jerry Pavlik – worked some magic on the Native Plants Garden on Friday, October 17. They removed some nasty subsoil, then filled the void left by last year's river rock out festival with fine garden soil. That left a big depression in the open center section of the garden. Using a skid steer, rakes, shovels, and lots of muscle, the hole was filled with substrate and the center section is now beautiful. We won't be holding Cinderella's ball there, but you'd think we had a fairy godperson.

Well, we kinda did. Thanks to former member Lucy Klug for helping us throw the dirt party! Lucy was a church gardener in the early 1990s with the courtyard plantings, and I treasure the baseline notes she and husband Karl kept at that time.

After settling over winter and some weed seed processing, we will resurface most of the center section with limestone screenings, making space for modular sitting areas, meeting areas, and a picnic table.

The back story. In the fall of 2020, work began on the former Biblical Garden located north of the church on the other side of the parking lot. The entrance is the prominent arbor. The 6,000 square feet of garden space has slowly been revamped into a mostly native plants garden with a few legacy plantings from the Women's Fellowship garden in the courtyard.

Gone are the aggressive species and failing shrubs. Weed trees have been cut down and the phone pit covered (thanks, Bill Johnson), the rain barrel installed (thanks, Brad Dorin), trees have been trimmed (thanks, Achim Seifert and Jeff Carels) and grape vine removed (thanks, Brad). With the financial assistance of the Sarah Shinn Marshall PEO grant (thanks, Carolyn Goyne), the entrance was made wheelchair accessible. In the adjacent parking lot strip, many people helped last summer by removing the river rock.

—Cathy Putman



The crew—Cathy Putman, Paul Mroczynski, Jerry Pavlik, and Paul Miller.

# Really Free Market Saturday, November 22

Outreach Ministry is pleased to support a Really Free Market at the Union Fellowship Hall on Saturday, November 22 (11 a.m. to 3 p.m.). This is a community-powered event offered in partnership with NEW CARE, a local group focused on mutual aid and practical ways we all help each other. The Really Free Market is a "rummage sale" where everything is free. No money, no barter, no trade—just neighbors helping neighbors. We encourage people to bring what they can and take what they need. In addition, we are working with school counselors and other supportive services to ensure that individuals and families that may not qualify for other supportive programs are encouraged to attend the Really Free Market.

If you would like to donate items, we are looking for clean, usable items, in good repair (clothing, household items, books, toys, and more). Bring donations to the coatroom through November 16. Items not usable for the market will be donated to local organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul, De Pere Christian Outreach, etc. If you have questions about donations or would like to volunteer, please contact Christie Reese (920-273-5349). We have volunteer opportunities—before, during, and after. Last, if you would like to make a donation to support the event, you may do that online through the Union website, through an envelope in the offering, or at the church office, designated for the Really Free Market.

# NEW Pride Rescheduled Volunteers Needed

This year's NEW Pride Festival has been rescheduled to Sunday, November 2 at the Oneida Casino Hotel. Can you spare two hours between 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. to help out at Union's booth? We're looking for people to staff our booth by telling folks who stop by why you love our church and that it really is Open and Affirming. We'll have pamphlets, candy, a photo display of some Union LGBTQIA families, and GLITTER BLESSINGS! Sign up for a shift at Union Central or by contacting the church office.

# Prospective Member Gathering to be Rescheduled

The October 30 Prospective Member Gathering has been rescheduled. Watch your church communications for details.

Bible Study—Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Join Us!

# Christmas is Right Around the Corner!

Your Christmas Tree and Wreath Committee has put in the orders and we are looking forward to our eighth year for this church-wide fundraiser. As you know, this is an all-hands-on-deck church event that takes scores of people to pull off. First, some dates to put on your calendar.

#### Saturday, November 8 at 9 a.m.

Wreath tent and tree lot assembly (weather permitting). We will need at least six people.

Saturday, November 15 at 9 a.m. Wreath decorating in the church hall. The more the merrier.

## Friday, November 21 at 2 p.m.

Wreath tent and tree lot opens. Get the best trees and wreaths early.

There are sign up sheets for the first two events in Union Central.

You can help by looking through Christmas items you may want to discard and save any you think would look good on a wreath. Please box them up and bring to the church hall the week starting November 10. There will be tables to place your treasures along the window wall. If you would like us to create matching wreaths, please chat with Jeff Carels before that week. Thanks again for supporting this fun and important fund raiser.

—Christmas Tree and Wreath Committee







# Sunday Adult Education 9 a.m. in Bagby Chapel

# November 2 Citizenship Ceremony

Gather with Union members Clare Ryan and Lou Ann Norsetter as they reflect on their experience observing a citizenship ceremony this summer.

# November 16 Money and the Bible

Are there any biblical passages that inform your spirituality around money and wealth? That prompt your generosity? Are there any moneythemed texts that make you uncomfortable? What do we do with such texts? Or with those that simply seem impracticable or even wrongheaded? Julie Harder will lead us as we read a number of bible passages and relate them to the questions above.

# For Those Who Served

On Sunday, November 9, we will recognize and honor those who have served our country in the Armed Forces. Our list of veterans includes:



Joe Bethel, Steve Davis,
Phil Enscoe, Bob Fahres, Don Fenlon,
Cathy Ghoca, Daniel Ghoca, Bob Haglund,
Bill Johnson, Larry Kabat
John Krueger, Ted Ludolph, Rolf Lulloff,
Tom Martin, Bob Rose, Bruce Shafer,
Julie Tetzlaff, Ray Thompson, Ed Tucker,
and Glen Verstegen.

If you are a veteran and are not on this list, please contact the church office (437-9266) with your information including branch of service, rank and years of service. Please plan to be with us in worship as we give thanks for those who have served our country.

# Calling All Angels, Shepherds and Animals!

All are invited to participate in our all ages Christmas Pageant. Sign up at Union Central.



# Rehearsal — Saturday, December 20 9:00 a.m. Costume Distribution & Readers 9:45 a.m. Pageant Walk-Through (rehearsal should be finished by 11 a.m.)

Pageant — Sunday, December 21 8:30 a.m. Costumes & Rehearsal (sweet rolls & juice available for the cast) 10:00 a.m. Christmas Pageant

# Sojourner Circle News

Sojourner Circle will be going to El Sarape East for dinner on Thursday, November 6 at 6 p.m. Sojourner Circle is a group of women supporting each other's navigations through career decisions, raising children, personal growth, mid-life reflections, and more.

We meet from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of the month; coming together for friendship, faith, inspiration, fun, and group volunteer opportunities. The first Thursday is often a gathering at a member's home; the third Thursday is generally an activity or restaurant meal. Activities have included lectures, game nights, a pottery painting class, book discussions, meal prepping for Cooks Who Care, and much more.

Group support includes preparing meals for each other when needed, loving on each others' kids, celebrating milestones, and allowing space to be vulnerable with life's challenges in a supportive, loving environment surrounded by likeminded women.

Contact Emily Lakatos at <a href="mailto:emilyclakatos@gmail.com">emilyclakatos@gmail.com</a> for more info and to be added to the Facebook group. All those who identify as women are welcome.

# **Union Church Calendar**

# October 26, 2025—November 23, 2025

## October 26 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

## October 28 Tuesday

1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

### October 29 Wednesday

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

### October 31 Friday

4:00 p.m. Trick or Treat at Union

# November 2 Sunday Pledge Dedication Sunday Daylight Saving Time Ends

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation

9:00 a.m. Adult Ed:

Citizenship Ceremony

10:00 a.m. Worship

with Holy Communion in the sanctuary or stream it online followed by

Coffee Hour

#### **November 4 Tuesday**

4:30 p.m. Outreach Ministry

5:30 p.m. Worship Ministry

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

#### **November 5 Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group

at Denny's on Oneida

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

5:45 p.m. Dinner

6:15 p.m. Youth Group

6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

## **November 6 Thursday**

6:00 p.m. Sojourner Circle goes to El Sarape East

### **November 8 Saturday**

9:00 a.m. Tent and tree lot assembly

November 9 Sunday
Memorial Sunday and

### **Recognizing Our Veterans**

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation

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

### **November 11 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

#### **November 12 Wednesday**

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

### **November 13 Thursday**

5:00 p.m. Membership Ministry

6:00 p.m. Common Ministry

#### **November 15 Saturday**

9:00 a.m. Wreath Decorating in the church hall

# November 16 Sunday New Member Sunday

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation

9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Money and the

Bible

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary or stream it online

followed by Coffee Hour

## **November 17 Monday**

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

# **November 18 Tuesday**

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir3:00 p.m. Memorial Garden

Committee

# **November 19 Wednesday**

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

5:45 p.m. Dinner

6:15 p.m. Youth Group

6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

# November 21 Friday

2:00 p.m. Tree and Wreath Sale

### November 22 Saturday

10:00 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale 11:00 a.m. Really Free Market

#### **November 23 Sunday**

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation

10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary

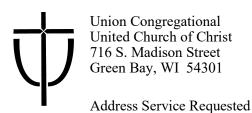
or stream it online

followed by Coffee Hour

# **Our Attendance**

September	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
1st Sunday	120*	95
2nd Sunday	136	107*
3rd Sunday	149	106
4th Sunday	79	82
5th Sunday	_	91
Totals Average	484 121.0	481 96.2

\* Totals include 68 worshippers at Moon Beach in 2025 and 64 in 2024.



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# Union Congregational United Church of Christ

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# **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