

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



December 14, 2025

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.



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.
- Please 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 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.

Christmas Eve at Union Church

Join us and invite your friends
as we celebrate the joy of the
birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

3:00 p.m.

Worship for all ages with a
special message to our children
(no nursery)

7:30 p.m.

The Music of Christmas

8:00 p.m.

Candlelight Worship
(nursery open)



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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Carolyn Taylor
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

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.

*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

"Come Hope"

Amanda Udis-Kessler

1
Come hope to our deep des-pair. Come peace in a time of war. Come

2
Come hope to our deep despair. ——— Come peace in a time of war.

3
Come hope. Come peace

5
1
joy to a world of pain. Come love. Bring us home a - gain.

2
Come joy to a world of pain. Come love. Bring us home a - gain.

3
Come joy. Come love.

Leader: Last week, we lit the candles of Hope and Peace. Today we kindle Joy— not the shallow joy of ignoring the world’s pain, but the fierce, grounded joy that Mary sang into being.

All: Her Magnificat is joy rooted in wonder and resistance.

Leader: Mary’s wonder is not passive; it is a wonder that notices the holy in the ordinary, that believes the lowly are lifted, that trusts God’s delight in those forgotten or dismissed.

All: This is the Preferential Option for the Positive—the spiritual discipline of seeking what is life-giving, healing, and real.

Leader: The Joy of God-With-Us honors complexity: it dances with hope even in uncertainty, it blesses the trembling yes, it grows from paying attention to what is flourishing.

All: Joy widens when we witness wonder in one another.

Leader: We light this candle of Joy—joy that magnifies justice, joy that insists on possibility, joy that remembers the Holy is still turning the world toward love.

All: May Joy be birthed among, within, and through us this Advent. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

All Sing Refrain Again (see previous page)

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

Leader: Holy One, in this season when we speak so much about joy, we confess how often it feels easier to stay focused on what is broken. We notice what’s wrong faster than we notice what is growing. All too often, we protect ourselves with worry. We tell ourselves it’s safer not to expect too much. Yet the Prophet Isaiah offers us a vision of deserts blooming, weak knees steadied, a road cleared for all who are weary. So we confess the ways we have stopped looking for signs of life in places we’ve written off. We confess the ways we’ve forgotten that joy is not a denial of reality, but one of the ways you renew us within it. Let us take a moment to silently offer our prayers of confession to God.

(Silence is kept.)

Let us pray:

All: God of Joy, turn us gently toward what is opening. Help us trust the small beginnings, the quiet greening, the moments of courage that show up unannounced. Lead us back onto your holy path where fear loosens its grip and joy becomes possible again. In Christ we humbly pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (in unison)

Beloved in Christ, hear this good news: God has already met you in every place you confessed. God is already strengthening what feels shaky, already watering the dry ground, already calling you back into life. You are forgiven. You are held. You are freed to walk in the direction of joy—not forced, not rushed, but invited. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

* HYMN:

"Canticle of the Turning"
(see pages 6-7)

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

GOSPEL READING:

Luke 1:46b-55

p. 57

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 with our paid nursery staff. Activity bags with crayons, etc. are available from an usher.

CHORAL ANTHEM: *"I Believe (Quodlibet with the Bach/Gounod Ave Maria)"* arr. Stan Beard and Barry Tucker

Ave Maria, gratia plena

Dominus tecum:

Benedicta tu in mulieribus et benedictus.

Fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,

Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

*I believe for every drop of rain that falls,
a flower grows.*

*I believe that somewhere in the darkest night,
a candle glows.*

*I believe for everyone who goes astray,
someone will come to show the way.*

*I believe above the storm
the smallest prayer will still be heard.*

*I believe that Someone in the great somewhere
hears every word.*

*Every time I hear a newborn baby cry,
or touch a leaf, or see the sky,
then I know why I believe!*

GOSPEL READING:

Matthew 1:18-25

p. 1

THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN:

"Mary, when the angel's voice"
(see page 5)

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

PRAYERS OF CONSECRATION, OF THE PEOPLE, AND OF OUR LORD

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:

"Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus"

arr. Carolyne Taylor

*Praise Response:

"We Give You But Your Own"

***We give you but your own, what-e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours a-lone, we give it grate-ful-ly.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Emmanuel, who makes all things new, take these gifts, and take us too. Use what we offer—our resources, our energy, our hope — to nurture what is trying to bloom in this world. Let our giving clear a path for someone who has forgotten that joy can find them. Let it become encouragement for those who are tired, companionship for those who feel alone, and a sign, even in small ways, that your future is still unfolding.

Bless these gifts, and bless the community that gives them, that together we may reflect the joy you are planting among us. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN:

"No Wind at the Window"
(see page 8)

COLUMCILLE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

"People, Look East"

arr. Wayne Wold

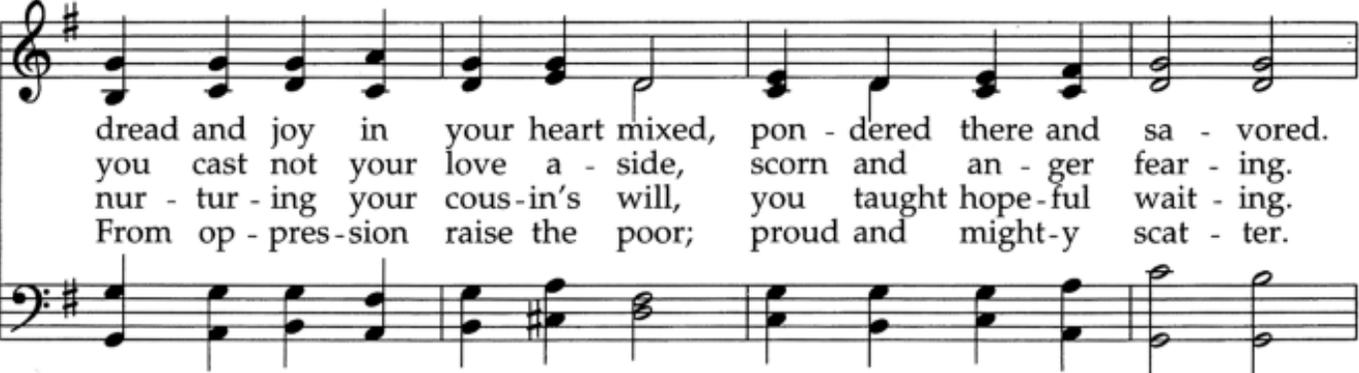
Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Jan Davis**, and **Ed Tucker** who offered our Children's Moments.

Words: Carol Goodwin King © 1997 Carol Goodwin King.
Music: *Tempus adest floridum*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582;
harm. Tom Whittemore © Tom Whittemore.

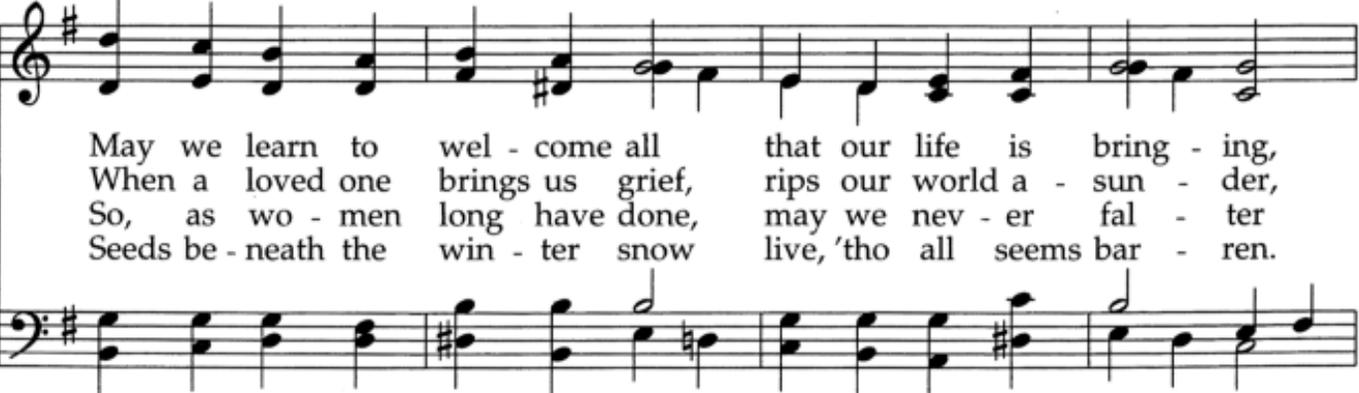
Mary, when the angel's voice



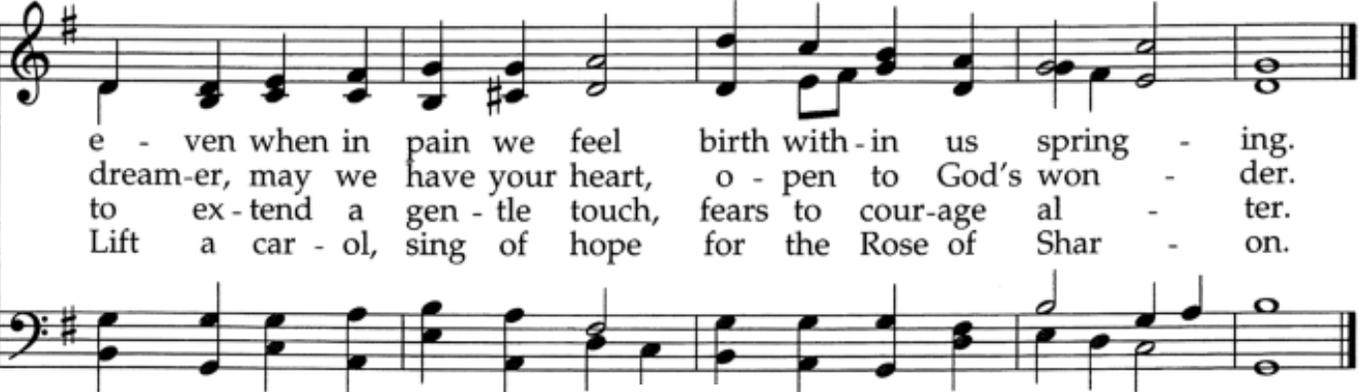
1 Ma - ry, when the an - gel's voice called you high - ly fa - vored,
2 Jo - seph, in your dark - est night, an - gel mes - sage hear - ing,
3 Old and sage E - liz - a - beth, birth an - ti - ci - pat - ing,
4 God whose name we mag - ni - fy, all your child - ren mat - ter.



dread and joy in your heart mixed, pon - dered there and sa - vored.
you cast not your love a - side, scorn and an - ger fear - ing.
nur - tur - ing your cous - in's will, you taught hope - ful wait - ing.
From op - pres - sion raise the poor; proud and might - y scat - ter.



May we learn to wel - come all that our life is bring - ing,
When a loved one brings us grief, rips our world a - sun - der,
So, as wo - men long have done, may we nev - er fal - ter
Seeds be - neath the win - ter snow live, 'tho all seems bar - ren.



e - ven when in pain we feel birth with - in us spring - ing.
dream - er, may we have your heart, o - pen to God's won - der.
to ex - tend a gen - tle touch, fears to cour - age al - ter.
Lift a car - ol, sing of hope for the Rose of Shar - on.

Canticle of the Turning

Verses



1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
3. From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -



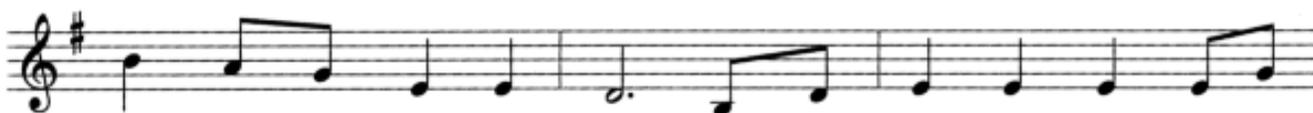
God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my
food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952
Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952
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Our Christmas Party is December 19

Join us on December 19 (5 to 8 p.m.) for a family friendly night of community, kids crafts, movies, dancing, and dinner in the church hall. All are welcome. Please RSVP using the sign-up sheet at Union Central by December 14.

Christmas Day Souper Cooks

Our next Souper Cooks opportunity is December 25 – Christmas Day! Souper Cooks is a group of volunteers that prepares (1:00 p.m.) and serves (4:45 p.m.) at the NEW Community Shelter. 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 needed; simply be ready to lend a helping hand. You will 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 at mjpberry@sbcglobal.net or Achim Seifert at seif904@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.

No Wind at the Window

Text: John L. Bell
Tune: COLUMCILLE, Irregular; Gaelic, arr. by John L. Bell
© 1992, Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

1. No wind at the win - dow, No knock on the door;
2. "O Mar - y, O Mar - y, Don't hide from my face.
3. "This child must be born that The king - dom might come:
4. No pay - ment was prom - ised, No prom - is - es made;

No light from the lamp - stand, No foot on the floor;
Be glad that you're fa - vored And filled with God's grace.
Sal - va - tion for man - y, De - struc - tion for some;
No wed - ding was dat - ed, No blue - print dis - played.

No dream born of tired - ness, No ghost raised by fear:
The time for re - deem - ing The world has be - gun;
Both end and be - gin - ning, Both mes - sage and sign;
Yet Mar - y, con - sent - ing To what none could guess,

Just an an - gel and a wom - an And a voice in her ear.
And you are re - quest - ed To moth - er God's son.
Both vic - tor and vic - tim, Both yours and di - vine."
Re - plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell God I say yes."

Christmas Altar

All are invited to join in contributing toward the poinsettias and other accouterments we will be purchasing to prepare our altar and sanctuary for the Christmas season. The average cost of the poinsettias is \$25; any size gift is greatly appreciated. If you wish to contribute, please fill out this form and return it to the church office **by Monday, December 15.**



Poinsettia Contribution

I/we would like to contribute for the Christmas altar.

Name(s) _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Dedication for the Bulletin

Our Christmas Pageant is December 21



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

Weekly Planner

December 15 — 20

Monday:

11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch

Tuesday:

5:30 p.m. Bell Choir

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Wednesday:

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

5:45 p.m. Dinner

6:15 p.m. Youth Groups

Friday:

2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tree & Wreath Sale

5:00 p.m. Union's Christmas Party

Saturday:

9:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Tree & Wreath Sale

NEXT SUNDAY: December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Pageant

NO FAITH FORMATION

8:30 a.m. Christmas Pageant
Rehearsal

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

11:15 a.m. Tree and Wreath Sale
(until 4:00 p.m.)

Hello  Winter

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

church office: 920-437-9266

website: www.unionucc.com

Ladies Lunch Bunch Meets December 15

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

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

AV Coordinator..... Daniel Hatton

Student Music Interns:

Zeke Fietsch-Huber, Caleb Hale,

Caitlyn Kolter, Ella Hamilton

Nursery Attendants:

Jenna Stevens, London Graham, Katelyn Mertens, Scott Nixon