

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



January 11, 2026

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, particularly if you or someone you live with have health concerns.

Sojourner Circle/Cooks Who Care Meal Prep Event

Sojourner Circle will hold its next Cooks Who Care meal prep in the church kitchen on **Thursday, Feb. 19 at 6 p.m.** We will make paprika chicken (or white bean), polenta, tomato, pepper, and parmesan casseroles, and would appreciate help in gathering the ingredients we'll need. If you're willing/able to contribute, please sign up via the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E44ACA829A2FCC07-61531958-paprika#/>

We ask that **all sign-ups be completed by Sunday, February 15** so that we have time to shop for anything still needed the week of the event, and that all donations be dropped off in the church kitchen in well-labeled bags or packages (with refrigerated items labeled and in the fridge) *no later than Wednesday, February 18.*

If you have any questions, would like to contribute monetarily instead, or are interested in joining us (Sojourner Circle is a group of women supporting each other through career decisions, raising children, personal growth, mid-life reflections, and more, with all who identify as women welcome!) please reach out to me, Beth Lyman Piontek (beth.e.lyman@gmail.com), or Emily Lakatos (emilyclakatos@gmail.com) to coordinate or for details.

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

Baptism of Christ

January 11, 2026

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE:

"The Spruce"

Jean Sibelius

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.

***CALL TO WORSHIP:** (responsive)

One: The Spirit is hovering over the waters—still creating, still calling.

All: We come, eager to see where God is leading next.

One: At the Jordan, Jesus steps into the water and a voice declares, "Beloved."

All: We remember that belovedness is where our future begins.

One: For 190 years, God has inspired this community again and again—

All: and God is not finished with us yet.

One: The God who formed us, individually and communally, continues to shape us.

All: Calling us forward, not backward.

One: Isaiah's promise still speaks: a servant for justice, a light for the nations.

All: Let us offer ourselves for that work.

One: Come, all who yearn for the Spirit more than the status quo.

All: Come, all who dare to be a church shaped by love and courage.

One: Let us worship the God who names us beloved and sends us into the future with hope.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** (in unison)

Holy and Merciful God, you claim us as your own before we have earned it, before we have figured it out, before we have gotten it right.

And still, we confess how often we forget who we are. We confess the times we measure worth by productivity, success by recognition, faithfulness by certainty.

We confess how we resist the slow work of justice, the times we are complicit with unjust power, the times we turn away from suffering when it asks something real of us.

We confess that we fear the waters that change us, the ways we cling to old identities even when your Spirit is hovering, ready to make us new.

Wash away our sin once more, Source of Life. Remind us of our baptismal calling. Return us to the truth of who we are in you. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:** (in unison)

Hear this good news: At the waters of baptism, God did not wait for perfection. God spoke belovedness first. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven before we are finished, claimed before we are certain, loved beyond our fear and failure.

The same Spirit that descended like a dove still rests upon us, still calls us God's own, still sends us out in peace. You are forgiven. You are beloved. You are free to live as such. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

***HYMN:**

“Come to the Water”

John Foley

(see page 5)

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 43:1-7

p. 672

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:

“God Has Work for Us to Do”

Mark Miller

HOLY GOSPEL:

Luke 3:15-17 and 21-22

p. 60

THE SERMON

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN:

"For All the Children"
(see page 8)

David Lohman

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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:

"Steal Away"

arr. L. Larson

*Praise Response:

"We Are Becoming Peace"

Linnea Good



5

We are be - com - ing peace.

13

pa-tience, well of grace, Make our souls a ho - ly place.

17

We are be - com - ing peace.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** (in unison)

God of the waters and the Spirit, you have named us and claimed us, called us out of the shallow and into the deep. As we offer our gifts this day— of time, of treasure, of courage, of compassion— we dedicate them not just to the work of this church, but to the work of your justice in the world.

Use what we bring to open eyes, to lift up those bent low, to loosen the bonds of fear and despair. Send us from this place wet with grace, marked by love, and ready to live our baptism out loud. In the name of our beloved Jesus, in whom you delight. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

***HYMN:**

“For Everyone Born”

FOR EVERYONE BORN

(see pages 6-7)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE:

“Like A River Glorious”

arr. B. Walters

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Ed Tucker**,
Megan Gleason who offered our Children's Moments,
and to **Caleb Hale** and **David Hassel** for their musical contributions.

Oh the Weather Outside Is Frightful!

With how persistently snow has been falling this season, we are looking for some volunteers to call to help shovel and salt the church walkways when it snows. Please contact the church office if you'd be willing to be on a list of people we contact when this need arises. Thank you!

Altar Flowers

Pastor Bridget provided the flowers on the altar today
in gratitude for her 19th Ordination Anniversary.

Text: Isaiah 55:1,2, Matthew 11:28-30; John Foley, SJ, b.1939
Tune: John Foley, SJ, b.1939
© 1978, John B. Foley, SJ, and New Dawn Music

Come to the Water



1. O let all who thirst, let them come to the
2. And let all who seek, let them come to the
3. And let all who toil, let them come to the
4. And let all the poor, let them come to the



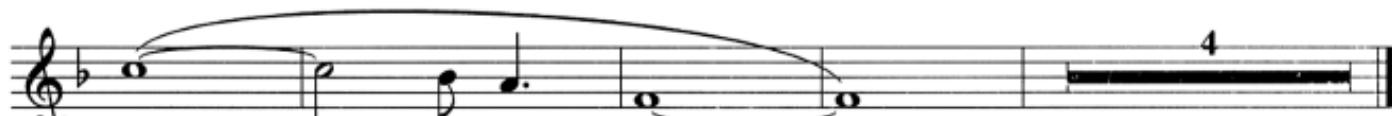
wa-ter. And let all who have noth-ing, let them
wa-ter. And let all who have noth-ing, let them
wa-ter. And let all who are wea-ry, let them
wa-ter. Bring the ones who are lad-en, bring them



come to the Lord: With-out mon-ey, with-out price.
come to the Lord: With-out mon-ey, with-out strife.
come to the Lord: All who la-bor, with-out rest.
all to the Lord: Bring the chil-dren with-out might.



Why should you pay the price, ex-cept for the
Why should you spend your life, ex-cept for the
How can your soul find rest, ex-cept for the
Eas - y the load and light: ' come to the



Lord?
Lord?
Lord?
Lord.

For Everyone Born

TEXT: Shirley Erena Murray, 1998 MUSIC: Brian Mann, 2006
Text © 1998 Hope Publishing Co. Music © 2006 Brian Mann

FOR EVERYONE BORN
11.10.11.10 with refrain

E Leader or All

A2

1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,

E

A2

Bsus B

for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
and all those be - tween, be - yond, and be - sides,
to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,

F♯m7

E/G♯

A2

Bsus

a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
ex - pan-ding our world, dis - man- tl - ing pow - er,
to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,

E

Bsus

E

Bsus

for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver-head,
each val - ued for what their voice can pro - vide.
for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

Refrain



B All E E/G# A2 Bsus B

and God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



E E/G# A2 Bsus B

joy, com-pas - sion and peace: yes,



C#m C#m/B A2

God will de-light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice,



Bsus B (E) Fine A2 E Bsus B

jus-tice and joy!

For All the Children

David Lohman



1. God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a - bove, and we
2. Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be free; and we
3. Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame so a -
5. 4. God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and wide can -



dare to claim the pro - mise of Your love,____ though the day may not yet
sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,____ that they nev - er have a
- afraid of who they are and whom they love.____ May the mess - age now be
10 live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.____ As they grow in strength and



be here, we____ trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
rea - son to____ doubt that they are blest. May they, in Your love, find rest.
ban - ished that Your love is for the few, may our faith in____ You re - new.
sta - ture, may they join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all____ hate we stand.

REFRAIN



16 20 O, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



26 wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.____ For in God there is a



wel - come, in God we all be - long. May that wel - come be our song.____

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Sunday Morning Adult Education Continues

January 18—Our Whole Lives

Gather with the folks Union has trained to facilitate the Our Whole Lives human growth and development curriculum to learn both the philosophy behind offering this meaningful program as well as experience one of the lessons. Plans are to launch this offering this winter for 5th and 6th graders, both from Union families and the wider community. Thanks to Gifts and Memorials Ministry for the seed money to get this started.

Souper Cooks

Our next Souper Cooks opportunity is January 22. Souper Cooks is a group of volunteers that prepares (1:00 p.m.) and serves (4:45 p.m.) at the NEW Community Shelter on Mather Street. 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 is needed; simply be ready to lend a helping hand. You are guaranteed to 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 mjpberry@sbcglobal.net or Achim seif904@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.



Call to the 190th Annual Meeting

The 190th Annual Meeting of Union Congregational United Church of Christ will convene on Sunday, January 25 at 11:30 a.m. We will conduct our business meeting and share a time of fellowship after our agenda is concluded. Reports concerning the ministry of Union Church in 2025 will be presented, outgoing ministry chairs and vice-chairs will be recognized, elections will be held for new leaders, and a budget for the ministry of Union Church in 2026 will be adopted.

Our annual report will be emailed to all households on our mailing list. Contact the church office if you would like a paper copy mailed to you.

Weekly Planner

January 12 — 17

Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

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

Thursday:

6:00 p.m. Sojourner Circle

NEXT SUNDAY: January 18 **Second Sunday after Epiphany**

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Our Whole Lives
10:00 a.m. Worship with in the sanctuary
(or stream it online)
followed by Coffee Hour in
the Church Hall

Priscilla Circle Returns

Priscilla Circle returns at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, in the English Room. Sandy Polarek will lead a discussion centered around books suitable for adults to read and enjoy.

Questions? Contact Helen Krueger at chkrueger@new.rr.com.

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 January 19**

**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