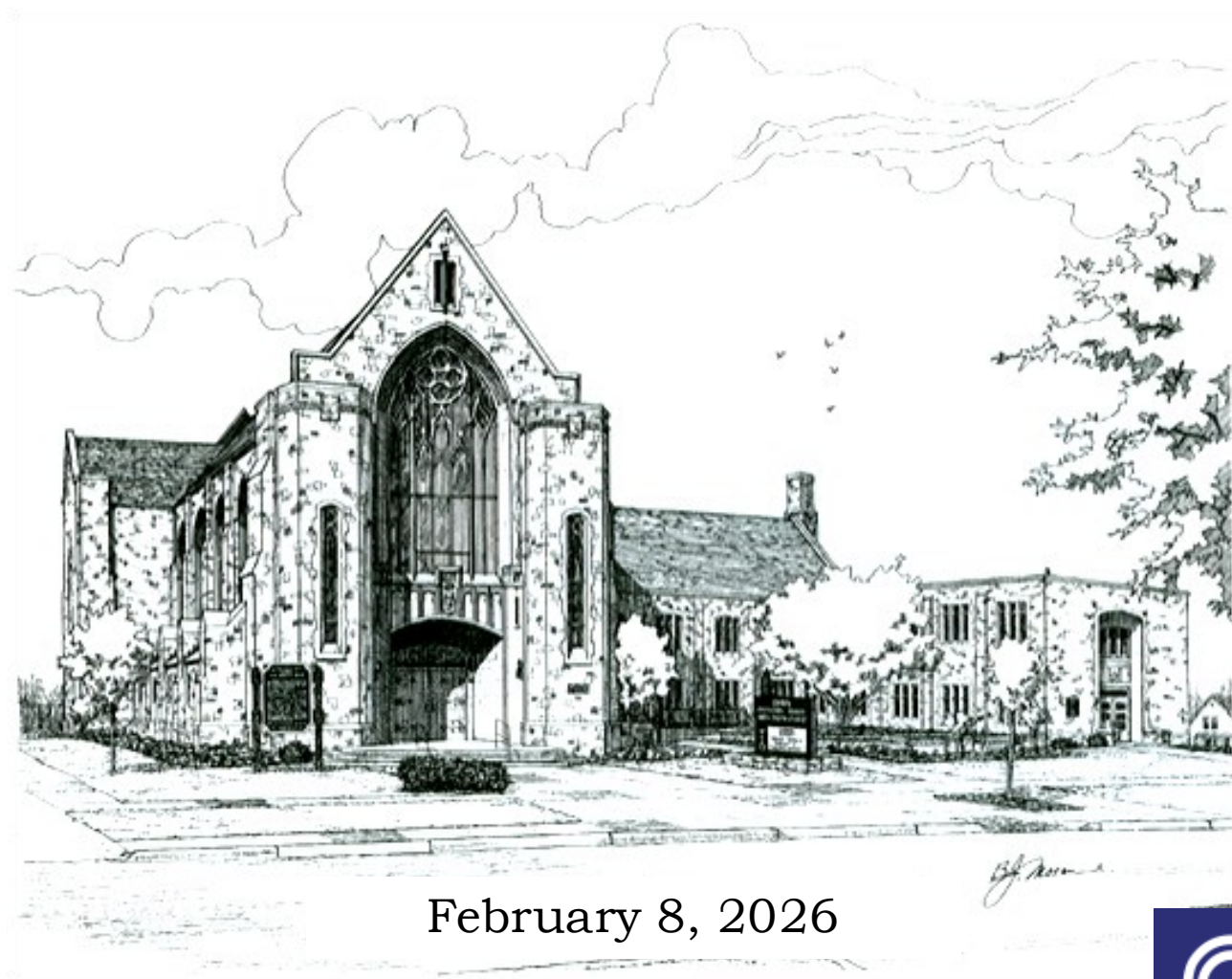


Union Congregational United Church of Christ



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



February 8, 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.

Adult Education

February 15: Know Your Rights

Given the state of the world, we will gather in Bagby Chapel on February 15 at 9 a.m. to continue our discussion of living our faith through civil rights advocacy. On this Sunday we will view and discuss several videos produced by the ACLU that will help us to know our rights and those of others.

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

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

10:00 a.m.

(*) invites all who are able to stand

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

"I Need Thee Every Hour"

arr. Mark Hayes

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)

Leader: We come, beckoned by God, to let our light shine for the sake of a weary world.

**All: We come, beckoned by God, to season the earth with compassion, courage,
and care.**

Leader: We come to worship the God

All: who loosens the bonds of injustice,

Leader: who repairs what has been broken,

All: who calls us into lives that matter.

Leader: Come, Spirit of the Living God.

**All: Shape us as salt and light. Lead us into worship that changes us—and through
us, the world.**

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

Leader: Faithful God, you call us to a faith that is lived, not merely spoken; to devotion that shows up in how we love our neighbors, ourselves, and how we tend to the world.

All: And yet, we confess: too often we cling to comforts that dull our compassion. We avert our eyes from suffering that would require something of us. We speak of justice, but hesitate when it costs us time, privilege, or peace. We speak a harsh word. We avoid a conflict. We judge.

Forgive us, O God. Unmask the ways we substitute ritual for relationship, belief for practice, and good intentions for real transformation. Turn us again toward the fast you choose: lives poured out in love, hands opened in solidarity, and hearts aligned with your healing work. Amen.

* ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (responsive)

Leader: Hear the good news: The God who calls us into account is also the God who restores and renews. Even before we turn toward justice, or choose mercy, or walk in love, God meets us with grace.

All: In Christ, we are forgiven, freed from what binds us, and invited into new life. Thanks be to God—we are healed, restored, and sent forward as people of salt and light. Amen.

* PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

* HYMN NO. 181:

"You Are Salt for the Earth, O People"
(see page 5)

BRING FORTH
The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 58:1-12

p. 688

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.

HOLY GOSPEL:

Matthew 5:13-20

p. 4

THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

CHORAL ANTHEM:

"Shall We Gather at the River"

arr. John Carter

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today it is our joy to celebrate the sacrament of baptism with:

Maverick Dufrane

Maverick's Parents: **Megahn Marie Dufrane and Benjamin James Dufrane**

Maverick's Godparents: **Sarah Vesper and Logan Wright**

WELCOME

- L. Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.
- All. **There is one body, one God, and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.**

QUESTIONS OF PARENTS AND SPONSORS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Maverick, we welcome you with joy into the household of faith. We promise you our friendship, help, and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ.

May you find guidance and encouragement for your journey in the Christian community, and by the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in knowledge and love of God and as witnesses of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

BLESSING THE WATER OF BAPTISM

THE BAPTISM: Maverick Dufrane

THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

PRAYER OF BLESSING

- L. We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for this your beloved child and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all in the household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.
- All. **Give to Maverick the strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life. Through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

HYMN NO. 528:

"You Are the Seed"
(see page 6)

ID Y ENSEÑAD
The New Century Hymnal

RESPONDING IN FAITH

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: *"Give Me Jesus"* arr. John Carter
*Praise Response: *"We Are Becoming Peace"* Linnea Good
***We are be - com - ing peace. We are be - com - ing peace.
A well of pa - tience, well of grace, Make our souls a ho - ly place.
We are be - com - ing peace.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**Generous and Liberating God, receive these gifts—the fruit of our labor, the signs of our gratitude, the seeds of our hope. May these resources, and all of the ways we live our faith, be used to loosen heavy burdens, to shelter the vulnerable, to mend what has been torn, and to shine your light in places long kept in shadow.
Dedicate us as well: our time, our voices, our bodies, our lives. Make us a people whose faith is visible, whose love is tangible, that your justice may flow like a living stream. In the name of Jesus, the light of the world. Amen.**

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 584: *"I Am the Light of the World"* LIGHT OF THE WORLD
(see page 7) The New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: *"Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho"* arr. Mark Hayes

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Clare Ryan**,
and **Megan Gleason** who offered our Children Moments.

The rose on the altar celebrates
the birth of **Ignatius (Iggy) Hartman Waller**, born February 1.
Proud grandparents are **Steve and Betty Hartman**.

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt. Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain Marty Haugen, 1986 Matt. 5:13-15

Unison

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!

Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

528 You Are the Seed

Matt. 13:24-30, 33, 36-43; 5:13-16; 28:18-20

Tune: ID Y ENSEÑAD 10.9.10.8.D. with refrain
Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979 Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987
Copyright © 1979, Cesáreo Gabaraín. Published by OCP Publications.

Unison

1 You are the seed that will grow a new sprout; you're a
You are the dawn that will bring a new day; you're the
star that will shine through the day; You are the yeast and a
wheat that will bear gold - en grain; You are a sting and a
small grain of salt, a bea - con to glow in the night.
soft, gen - tle touch, my wit - ness - es wher - e'er you go.

(Refrain)

Go, my friends, go to the world, pro - claim - ing love to
Be, my friends, a loy - al wit - ness, from the dead I a -
all, mes - sen - gers of my for - giv - ing peace,
rose; "Lo, I'll be with you for - ev - er,
e - ter - nal love.
till the end of the world."

2 You are the flame that will bright-en the way,
send-ing spar-kles of hope, faith, and love;
you are the shep-herds to lead the whole world
through val-leys and pas-tures of peace.
You are the friends that I chose for my-self,
the word that I want to pro-claim.

You are the cit-y that's built on a rock
where jus-tice and truth al-ways reign. *Refrain*

3 You are the life that will nur-ture the plant;
you're the waves in a tur-bu-lent sea;
yes-ter-day's yeast is be-gin-ning to rise,
a new loaf of bread it will yield.
There is no place for a cit-y to hide,
nor a moun-tain can cov-er its might;
may your good deeds show a world in de-spair
a path that will lead all to God. *Refrain*

I Am the Light of the World

Unison Introduction *Refrain*

"I am the light of the world!

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

Last time, end

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

(7)

2 7 To find the lost and lone-ly one, 7 to
3 7 To free the pris-oner from all chains, 7 to
4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, 7 to

heal the bro-ken soul with love, 7 To
make the pow-er-ful care, To re-
dance at a ba-by's new birth, 7 To

feed the hun-gry chil-dren with warmth and good food, To
build the na-tions with strength of good will, to
make mu-sic in . . . an old per-son's heart, and

Return to Refrain

feel the earth be-low, the sky a-bove!
see all God's chil-dren ev-ery-where!
sing to the col-ors of the earth!



Lent is Almost Upon Us!

Ash Wednesday is February 18

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. We will worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. The service offers us the possibility to renew our dedication to the ways of Jesus. We will receive the ashes of repentance and the oil of healing. Join us!

Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth - our high school youth group) invites everyone to a soup supper at 6 p.m. before our Ash Wednesday worship service. Your free-will donations will support our youth group's mission and outreach efforts as we plan to embark on a weekend of service and ministry. All are welcome!

Souper Cooks

Our next Souper Cooks opportunity is February 26. 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.

Contact Marty Berry mjpberry@sbcglobal.net or Achim Seifert seif904@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.

Adult Education: The Psalms

February 22 and March 8 and 22

As ancient Israel's words to their God, the Book of Psalms encompasses the full range of human emotions, from joy and praise to despair and the thirst for vengeance. In this series, we'll put various psalms in their historical context, plus consider how they influenced New Testament authors and continue to be used in Christian worship today.

The Psalms is a "bonus" offering—sessions held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays **in addition** to our usual 1st and 3rd Sunday Adult Education schedule—but **each session can stand alone**, so feel free to attend any of them. Bibles will be provided, but you are certainly invited to bring your own.

Leader: Julie Harder

Questions? Email Julie at jblackharder@gmail.com



Lenten Sunday Movies 2026

This year for Lent, we're once again going to the movies! Gather with your fellow Unionites as we screen and discuss the faith implications of one film every Sunday night of Lent. The discussions promise to be lively.

We'll ask two participants to sign up to bring a big pot of soup every week. Sign up at Union Central or contact the church office. Plan on 5 p.m. until 7:30 or 8 p.m., depending on the length of the movie.

February 22 - The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song, Part I - TV-14 (2021)

Henry Louis Gates Jr., explores the roots of African American religion beginning with the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the extraordinary ways enslaved Africans preserved and adapted their faith practices from the brutality of slavery to emancipation.

March 1 - The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song, Part II - TV-14 (2021)

Henry Louis Gates Jr., explores how the Black church expanded its reach to address social inequality and minister to those in need, from the Jim Crow South to the heroic phase of the civil rights movement and the Black church's role in the present.

March 8 - Will and Harper - R (2024)

A heartwarming Netflix documentary about comedian Will Ferrell and his longtime friend, Harper Steele, a trans woman, as they take a 16-day cross-country road trip to process her recent coming out and explore her reintroduction to America as her authentic self. The film showcases their enduring, decades-long friendship and offers poignant, humorous, and educational insights into trans belonging in the U.S., emphasizing their deep bond through genuine conversations and experiences.

March 15 - Hacksaw Ridge - R (2016)

The true story of Pfc. Desmond T. Doss (Andrew Garfield), who won the Congressional Medal of Honor despite refusing to bear arms during WWII on religious grounds. Doss was drafted and ostracized by fellow soldiers for his pacifist stance but went on to earn respect and adoration for his bravery, selflessness and compassion after he risked his life—without firing a shot—to save 75 men in the Battle of Okinawa.

March 22 - The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks - NR (2017)

Documents the story of Henrietta Lacks, who was diagnosed with cancer in the 1950s. Through her cancer cells, she becomes an unwitting pioneer for medical breakthroughs when her cells are used to create the first immortal human cell line.

Weekly Planner

February 9 —14

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

Wednesday:

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

NEXT SUNDAY: February 15 **Transfiguration**

- 9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
- 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: "Know Your Rights"
- 10:00 a.m. Worship in the sanctuary
(or stream it online)
followed by Coffee Hour



NEW Pride Date Announced

NEW Pride will be Saturday, June 20, and we are in need of some volunteers to organize Union's booth at the festival. Contact Pastor Bridget if you're interested in helping out.

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 February 16**

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