

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 22, 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.

Blessing Box Food Drive Sunday, March 1

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

Current needs include:

- Granola Bars
- Instant Pasta or Rice Meals
- Peanut Butter (16 oz. plastic jar)
- Pouch Tuna
- Protein Shakes
- Slim Jim Meat Snacks
- Toilet Paper

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 1 or on the blue table inside the Mayflower entrance 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.



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

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE:

"This Little Light of Mine"

arr. Michael Hassell

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.

*GATHERING PRAYER: (in unison)

Spirit of Truth, amidst all manner of temptations you give us the power to choose what is good. Though evil comes with its alluring invitations, your grace companions us even when we falter. Center us in your steadfast love that accompanies us through the complexities of life and the conflicts of the soul as we gather to offer our thanks and praise. Amen.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)

God of abundance, God of plenty, God of enough, too often, imbalances of power distort our relationships. While some hoard, others go hungry. While some are affirmed and amplified, others are silenced and erased. Through the example of Jesus, give us the courage to join all those who are working to restore balance to your creation. In ways bold and ordinary, nurture in us what is needed in these times. Amen.

Perdón, Señor

Refrain

Fine

Per - dón, Se - ñor.

Por to - das nues - tra - s fal - tas:
For weak-ness and trans - gres-sion:
Per - dón, For - give Se - ñor.
us, Lord. Por Re -

nues - tra re - bel - di - a:
sis - tance and re - bel - ion:
Per - dón, For - give Se - ñor.
us, Lord. (to English verse)
us, Lord. (to Refrain)

WORDS: Jorge Lockward; English trans. by Raquel Mora Martínez (Ps. 51:1-3)

CONFESIÓN

4.74.74

MUSIC: Jorge Lockward

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*ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (in unison)

There are no paths to enduring, collective flourishing but through love, truth, and community. Neither legacies of shame nor snares of guilt are God's intentions for us. With the confidence that together we have something vital to contribute to the sacred labors of liberation, let us once again steep ourselves in God's promises of forgiveness, healing, and restoration. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

*HYMN NO. 202:

"O God, How We Have Wandered"
(see page 6)

PASSION CHORALE
The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

p. 2

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:

"Keep Your Lamps!"

arr. André Thomas
Mahri Hodges, percussion

HOLY GOSPEL:

Matthew 4:1-11

p. 3

THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN:

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"
(see page 7)

LONESOME VALLEY

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: *"Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child"* arr. John Carter
*Praise Response: *"Nothing Can Trouble"* NADA TE TURBE

4/4 time, treble and bass staves. The lyrics are:

Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en.
Na - da te tur - be, na - da te es - pan - te.

4/4 time, treble and bass staves. The lyrics are:

Those who seek God shall nev - er go want - ing.
Quien a Dios tie - ne na - da le fal - ta.

4/4 time, treble and bass staves. The lyrics are:

God a - lone fills us.
So - lo Dios bas ta.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (in unison)

May these gifts and all of the ways we live our faith multiply your grace among us. Nourished by your Word and this communal celebration, may we once again be emboldened in our faith. Holy God, you have given us what we need to turn that which was mangled and lifeless into a garden restored. For the sake of all our neighbors, human and creaturely, the Spirit sends us in power, humble with repentance, courageous in hope, to seek the renewal of all creation. Through Jesus Christ, we humbly pray. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 211:

"Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days"
(see page 7)

ST. FLAVIAN

The New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

arr. John Carter

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Pat Shafer**,
Mahri Hodes for playing percussion on our Choral Anthem,
and **Megan Gleason** who offered our Children's Moments.

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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.

O God, How We Have Wandered

Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601
Harm. J. S. Bach, 1729

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Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt. Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D. (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN) Luke 15:11-32; 2 Cor. 5:16-20

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
 Com - pas - sion-ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
 In glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: American Folk Hymn

Tune: LONESOME VALLEY, 8 8 10 8; American folk hymn; harm. by Richard Proulx, b.1937, © 1975, GIA Publications, Inc.

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

1. Je - sus walked this lone - some val - ley;
2. We must walk this lone - some val - ley;
3. You must go and stand your tri - al;

He had to walk it by him - self.
We have to walk it by our - selves.
You have to stand it by your - self.

Oh, no-bod - y else could walk it for him;
Oh, no-bod - y else can walk it for us;
Oh, no-bod - y else can stand it for you;

He had to walk it by him - self.
We have to walk it by our - selves.
You have to stand it by your - self.

Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

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Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.

Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

1 Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion - tide,
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be past,

Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

February 22 – March 15, 2026

Union Church will be collecting new, unused personal hygiene and cleaning products for 91.5FM The Family's Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive. Items collected locally will be distributed to Brown County Homeless & Housing Coalition member agencies. Your donations help these agencies dedicate their financial resources toward critical services such as housing, counseling, education, and food assistance.

You are invited to place your donations in the Hygiene Drive collection box, located in the church coatroom from February 22 through March 15. Thank you for your generosity.

Questions? Contact Barbara McClure-Lukens, mcclureb@uwgb.edu.

Most Needed Items with Suggested Collection Dates

Sunday, February 22

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Laundry Detergent (small bottles)
- Paper Towels
- Disinfectant Wipes

Sunday, March 1

- Body Wash
- Dish Soap
- Facial Tissues
- Menstrual Products

Sunday, March 8

- Anti-Perspirant/Deodorant
- Trash Bags (13 & 30-gallon)
- All-Purpose Cleaners
- Baby Shampoo/Wash

Sunday, March 15

- Diapers (size 4-7) & Pull-Ups
- Toilet Paper
- Baby Wipes
- Disposable Razors & Shaving Cream

It's Almost Rummage Sale Time!

That's right! It's not too early to get dates on your calendar and start setting aside gently used items for sale. Intake day will be Saturday morning, May 9. The actual sale starts bright and early on Saturday, May 16.

Last year we raised just over \$2,000, 100% of which went to feed hungry people through our Souper Cooks program. It takes over 20 people to raise these funds, so please consider signing up at Union Central. We need your gently used items to sell.

Have questions? Call Tim Dantoin at 920-366-3744 or Achim Seifert at 708-822-8998.



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 23—28

Tuesday:

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

Wednesday:

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

Thursday:

1:00 p.m. Souper Cooks (prep meal)
4:45 p.m. Souper Cooks (serve meal)

Friday:

9:00 a.m. Caroll Jones Visitation
12:00 p.m. Caroll Jones Memorial Service
(luncheon in the church hall to follow)

NEXT SUNDAY: March 1 **Second Sunday in Lent**

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion in the sanctuary (or stream it online) followed by Coffee Hour in the church hall

5:00 p.m. Lenten Movie



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

Men's Breakfast Group **Meets March 4**

Join us at 7:00 a.m.
at Perkins on Oneida Street

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