

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



April 19, 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.



Union WESLEYAN
CONGREGATIONAL
**Celebrating
190 Years!**

Did you know.....?

Union Church history is shared weekly!

Weekly history topics will be posted on the Did You Know bulletin board, located across from the church office.

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

Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: "Dunlap's Creek" arr. James Biery
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: Like the disciples we will read about shortly, we come, some with hearts still heavy from the journey,

All: some carrying questions we cannot yet name.

Leader: We come, walking roads marked by loss and longing,

All: wondering if hope is still possible.

Leader: And still—Christ meets us on the way,

All: in conversation, in companionship, in the breaking of bread.

Leader: Our eyes may be slow to see, our hearts slow to trust,

All: yet the Spirit is already at work among us.

Leader: Come, let us gather as travelers together,

All: ready to recognize the Risen One in our midst.

***GATHERING PRAYER:** (in unison)

God of the road and the table, we gather as people who are still on the way: still sorting through what has been lost, still trying to make sense of what has changed, still wondering where you are to be found. Like those disciples long ago, we carry stories of grief and confusion, rehearsing what has happened, turning it over and over in our minds, hoping for clarity, yet bracing for disappointment.

And yet, you draw near. Not with force, not with certainty, but with presence. You listen. You walk beside us. You open the story wider than we imagined.

Stay with us, O Christ, even when we do not recognize you. Warm our hearts when hope feels distant. Open our eyes in moments both ordinary and sacred, that we might see you in one another, in the sharing of bread, in the quiet work of love and justice.

And when we are ready, send us back into the world, not as those who have it all figured out, but as those whose hearts are burning with your life. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON:** (responsive)

Leader: Even when we fail to recognize Christ among us, even when we turn away in fear or despair, even when our actions are not Christlike, God does not turn away from us.

All: God meets us on the road, again and again.

Leader: In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and invited back into the story of grace.

All: Our hearts are rekindled, our lives made new.

Leader: This is the good news:

All: We are forgiven, and new life abounds. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

***HYMN NO. 238:**

“Now the Green Blade Rises”
(see page 5)

NOËL NOUVELET
The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD’S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 16

p. 495

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 “praground” in the south transept to play and pray quietly or to drop them off downstairs to play in the nursery.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: "All Glory, Laud and Honor" arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 24:13-35 p. 90

THE SERMON: Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN NO. 242: "The Strife Is O'er" VICTORY
(see page 6) The New Century Hymnal

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: "St. Columbia" arr. Charles Callahan

*Praise Response "We Come With Gifts" ELLACOMBE
text by Amanda Udis-Kessler

***Oh, grant that we may come to know each gift we have to give,
To cul-ti-vate them grate-ful-ly to help each o-ther live
and may the gifts that o-thers bring be wel-comed and em-braced
to make this fear-ful, ang-ry world a just and joy-ful place.***

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

God of unfolding presence, we offer these gifts as travelers who are still learning to see, still learning to recognize you in the faces of fellow travelers, in the breaking of bread, in the quiet, persistent work of love. Take what we bring—our resources, our compassion, our longing for a better world— and use it all to kindle hope where despair has settled, to nourish community where isolation has taken root, to accompany those who walk difficult roads.

May all that we offer be part of your work of healing, justice, and resurrection life. In the name of Christ, who is ever among us, we pray. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 526:

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"
(see page 6)

SIYAHAMBA
The New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

"This is the Feast"

arr. Thomas Keesecker

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

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Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar today are provided by Sharon and Gary Hassel in loving memory of Sharon's son, Randy Mott.

AV Team In Need of Volunteers

Our AV team is in deep need of folks who are tech-minded and looking to volunteer for Union in a fun way. Duties include operating the video broadcast board during Sunday service that we livestream to Facebook and YouTube (this is a lot easier than it sounds, and we've got great trainers!) or running sound. Rotation is generally one Sunday a month.

Please contact Daniel Hatton at dhatton@outlook.com or Pastor Bridget if interested. Thank you!

Now the Green Blade Rises

Tune: NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.10.11.

238

French noel, 15th century

John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt. Matt. 27:57-28:7; Luke 23:50-24:12

Harm. Martin F. Shaw, 1928

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain
Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

The Strife Is O'er

Latin, c. 1695

Transl. Francis Pott, 1861; alt.

Refrain (before st. 1 and after st. 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es
 4 Christ, by your wounds on Cal - va - ry from death's dread

ry of life is won; The song of tri - umph
 le - gions has dis - persed: Let shouts of ho - ly
 glo - rious from the dead: All glo - ry to our
 sting your ser - vants free, That we may live e -

has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia! *to Refrain*

526

Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'

(We Are Marching in the Light of God)

Tune: SIYAHAMBA Irr.
Ps. 89:15 South African song

South African freedom song; transl. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

G D7 G C

Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen-khos', si - ya -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are

1 D G 2 D

hamb' e - ku - kha-nyen' kwen-khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
march-ing in the light of God. We are march-ing in the

G G7 C

nyen' kwen - khos', Si - ya - ham - ba,
kha - nyen' kwen-khos', ham - ba, si - ya -
light of God. We are march-ing,
the light of God. march-ing, we are

G C D G

Last time, end

Oo, si - ya - hamb' e - ku-kha-nyen' kwen-khos'.
ham - ba, ham - ba,
Oo, we are march-ing in the light of God.
march-ing, march-ing,

Interested in Learning More About Union Church?

Interested in learning more about Union Congregational UCC and discerning whether this is the right church home for you? Our Membership Ministry will be hosting two classes to help people get to know Union, our community, and each other on **Thursday, April 30 (6 to 7:30 p.m.)** and on **Wednesday, May 6 (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.—includes dinner)**. It's helpful to participate in both sessions.

After those two sessions, people who would like to join the church will be received into membership during worship on Sunday, May 17.

Please contact the church office at office@unionucc.com or 920-437-9266, to register.

Used Book Sale

The church library will hold its used book sale in the church hall on Sundays, May 3 and May 10, before and after church. Most books are \$1 and mass market paperbacks 2 for 1.

For a successful sale, we need donations. Thank you to those who have already brought books. Please bring books to the church library.

Anyone wishing to help sort and set up, contact Cathy Putman at 920-435-1540 or cputman@new.rr.com. Cathy is planning to do most sorting on the Thursday or Friday before the sale on May 3.

Blessing Box Food Drive Sunday, May 3


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

Current needs include:

- Bottled Water or Juice (*plastic pkg. single serve*)
- Canned Chicken, Chili or Tuna
- Granola Bars / Protein Bars
- Meat Snacks (*individually-wrapped*)
- Peanut Butter (*16 oz. plastic jar*)
- Toilet Paper

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 3 or on the blue table inside the Mayflower entrance at any time.

Monetary donations are also welcome!
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.



April 26 Adult Education: Two Offerings

Next Sunday in Bagby Chapel

9:00 a.m. — Listen across the millennia to Ancient Israel's relationship with their God: hear their understanding of who God is, their trust in God's help, their homage to God as King. Not to mention their understanding of what it means to be wise, or to make a pilgrimage to the Lord's house in Jerusalem. Join Julie Harder as she leads the last of four sessions on the Book of Psalms. 9 a.m. in Bagby Chapel.

11:15 a.m. — Mark Smith of the Lauren Faith Smith Ministry for Nonviolence will lead a discussion entitled "Earth Day vs. D-Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day et al: What Are Our Priorities?" Violence comes in many devastating forms and we will discuss the size and scope of our ongoing self-destruction and "What Would Jesus Do?" in our shoes in 2026?

Killoran Scholarship Fund

Thanks to Bernie and Sally Killoran, a wonderful gift is available to the youth of the church. The Killoran Scholarship provides up to \$1,500 scholarships renewable for four years of undergraduate study.

If you are a high school senior or graduate and a member of Union Church, you are eligible to apply. Applicants must enroll in a full-time undergraduate program at Lakeland University or any four-year school in the University of Wisconsin system.

If interested in applying, contact the church office for an application. Applications must be received by May 22. Questions? Please contact scholarship committee chair, Sandy Polarek at smpolarek@aol.com.

Our Housing Offering is May 10

This congregation is generous and it recognizes that our gifts are meant to be shared.

We will extend that generosity through our Housing Offering on May 10. This offering supports the work of the Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH). EPH brings together diverse congregations to partner in ways that provide people who are housing insecure with solid, decent housing, along with the opportunity to gain skills to thrive. Jubilee House, in Union's backyard, is part of EPH and it is Union's responsibility to maintain this property.

As we continue our Easter celebration of new life, let's continue Union's legacy of generosity through this special offering.

Weekly Planner

April 20—25

Monday:

11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch

Tuesday:

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Wednesday:

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

6:15 p.m. Seminary Secrets

NEXT SUNDAY: April 26 **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation

9:00 a.m. Adult Ed: Book of Psalms

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

11:15 a.m. Adult Ed: Environmental
Justice

It's Almost Rummage Sale Time

Union's rummage sale is Saturday, May 16.

We need help on the following mornings:

May 9 (intake)

May 12, 13 and 14 (organizing/pricing)

May 16 (day of the sale)

There is a sign-up sheet at Union Central.

We can't do this without you. Thank you!

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 April 20

**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