

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 26, 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.

An Adult Education Bonus Offering: Today at 11:15 a.m. in Bagby Chapel

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?

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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: "Shepherd Me, O God" 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: Beloved of God, the earth is alive with praise—

All: lakes lapping their shores, trees swaying in testimony, birdsong rising like alleluia.

Leader: Christ is risen—

All: not only in empty tombs, but in greening fields, in thawing soil, in every place life pushes back against death.

Leader: So come

All: not as owners of creation, but as kin.

Leader: Not as rulers of the earth,

All: but as participants in its healing.

Leader: Come, let us worship the God

All: who is making all things new, even now.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)

God of resurrection and renewal, you breathe life into dust and call it good. In this season of Easter, we see your love written in blossoms and rain, in lengthening days and warming earth, in the quiet, stubborn persistence of life.

And still, we confess we have forgotten our place. We have taken more than we need, turned away from harm we have caused, and related to creation with domination when you tasked us to steward.

So gather us in again, not above creation, but within it. Not as masters, but as partners in your unfolding dream. Teach us to live as resurrection people: tending what is broken, restoring what has been depleted, and joining Christ in the sacred work of healing this world, for the earth is yours, and we belong to it as we belong to you. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON: (responsive)

Leader: Hear the good news: God's mercy is as wide as the sky and as near as the soil beneath our feet.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and set free, not only to begin again, but to live differently. The God who raises life from the grave is already at work in us restoring, repairing, renewing. So receive this grace: you are forgiven and you are invited into the healing of the world. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST

*HYMN NO. 247:

"My Shepherd Is the Living God"
(see page 5)

CONSOLATION
The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Acts 2:42-47

p. 120

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:

"What a Wonderful World
(with *This Is My Father's World*)"

John D. Miller

HOLY GOSPEL:

John 10:1-10

p. 103

THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN NO. 28:

“For the Beauty of the Earth”
(see page 6)

DIX
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:

*Praise Response

“Beach Spring”
“We Come With Gifts”

arr. Wayne L. Wold
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)

Generous God, from the richness of the earth and the work of our hands, we bring these gifts. They are small, and they are sacred, seeds scattered in hope.

Bless what we offer: our money, our time, our energy, our commitment to justice, our longing to live differently on this earth.

May these gifts take root where healing is needed most— in weary communities, in wounded ecosystems, in systems longing for transformation.

Use us, and what we give, to nurture life, to restore balance, and to embody the resurrection we proclaim. In the name of Christ, who makes all things new. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 556:

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”
(see page 7)

HOLY MANNA
The New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE:

“This is My Father’s World”

arr. Franklin Sheppard

Thanks to all who helped lead today’s service including our reader, **Janet Roberts**,
and **Megan Gleason** who offered our Children’s Moments.

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Upcoming Adult Education

May 3 — Salt and Light - Citizen Based Immigration Advocacy

Gather with our Salt and Light Immigrant Advocacy team and guest speaker Sly Chou of Soul Purpose at 9 a.m. in Bagby Chapel as we continue exploring what we as a church and as individuals are called to be and do. Our focus will be citizen-based immigration advocacy in Green Bay.

May 17 — Salt and Light - Know Your Rights

Given the state of the world, we will gather at 9 a.m. in Bagby Chapel to continue our discussion of living our faith through civil rights advocacy. 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. If we have time, we’ll also start learning about de-escalation practices.

My Shepherd Is the Living God

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549,
and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27-30

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;
2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.
A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.
No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 Conrad Kocher, 1838
 Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.
 St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens 556

Catherine Cameron, 1967

Tune: HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D. William Moore, 1825

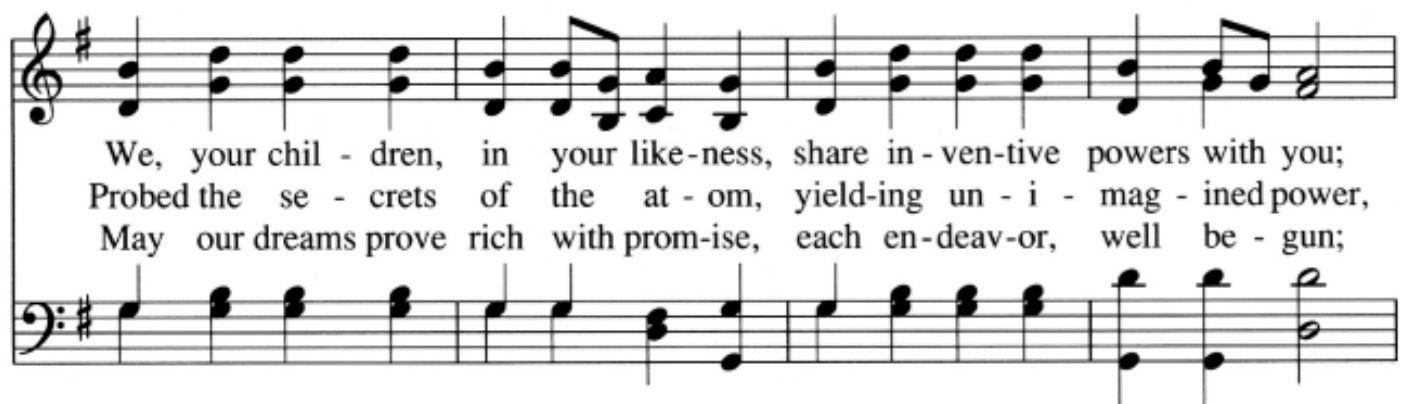
Gen. 5:1-2; Isa. 42:5-9



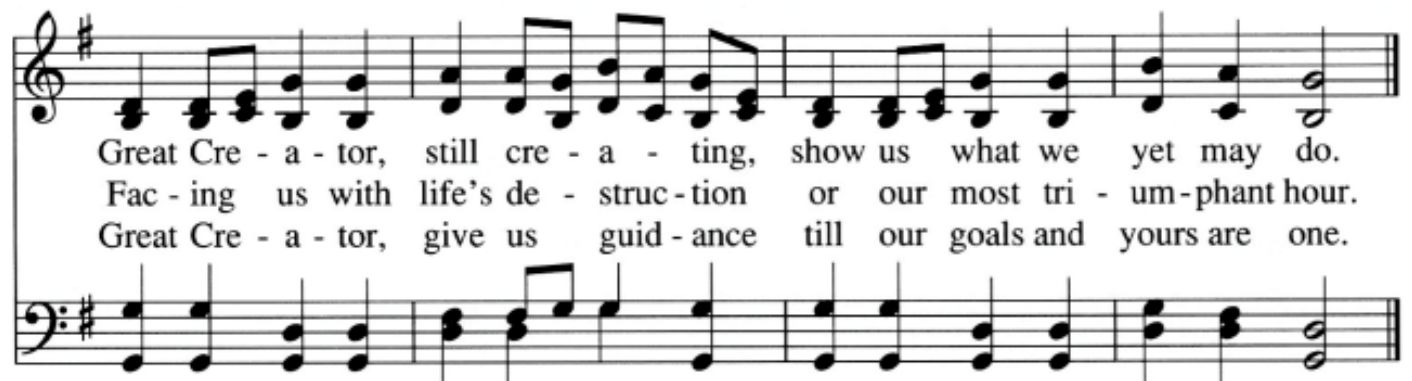
1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far hor - i - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new,



Flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
Known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
Chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.



We, your chil - dren, in your like-ness, share in - ven-tive powers with you;
Probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined power,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise, each en-deav-or, well be - gun;



Great Cre - a - tor, still cre - a - ting, show us what we yet may do.
Fac - ing us with life's de - struc-tion or our most tri - um-phiant hour.
Great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Interested in Learning More About Union Church?

Like to learn more about Union Church and discerning whether this is the church home for you? Our Membership Ministry will host 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.

AV Team In Need of Volunteers

Our AV team needs tech-minded folks looking to volunteer in a fun way. Duties include operating the video broadcast board during Sunday service that we livestream to Facebook and YouTube (this is easier than it sounds, and we have great trainers!) or running sound. Rotation is generally one Sunday a month.

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

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.



Killoran Scholarship Fund

Thanks to Bemie 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.

Used Book Sale May 3 and 10

Time is getting short to get your books to the church for our Used Book Sale taking place before and after church on Sundays, May 3 and 10 in the church hall. Most books will sell for \$1 and mass market paperbacks 2 for \$1. Proceeds benefit the library and outreach projects. It's a nice social time to talk about what you're reading and liking.

Thank you to those who have already brought books. Since we are running a little behind normal volume, I did put in a plea on Sunday. Please bring books to the church library.

Those wishing to help, please contact Cathy Putman at (920) 435-1540 or cputman@new.rr.com. Cathy is planning set up on Friday morning, May 1, from 8:30 a.m. to about noon. Join us if you can. That way you get first dibs.

Our Housing Offering is May 10

This congregation is generous and it recognizes that 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 27 — May 2

Tuesday:

1:00 p.m. Priscilla Circle

6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Wednesday:

1:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday:

6:00 p.m. New Member Class

NEXT SUNDAY: May 3 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation

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

Used Book Sale

before and after worship
in the church hall

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

Men's Breakfast Group Meets May 6

Join us at 7:00 a.m.
at Denny's 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