

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



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

Fun in the Sun: Union's All-Church Retreat!



September 11-13 at Moon Beach

Our All-Church Retreat is a weekend of fun, fellowship, and reflection. Cost for the retreat is \$200 per adult and \$35 per child. Financial aid is available (talk to Pastor Bridget). You can sign up to attend by contacting the church office, or by filling out a form at Union Central.

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

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: *"It Is Well with My Soul"* 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)

One: There are treasures hidden in ordinary fields. There is yeast quietly transforming the dough. There are tiny seeds becoming shelter for the birds.

All: God's kingdom is closer than we imagine.

One: Sometimes we catch a glimpse of grace that changes everything. Sometimes love invites us to see the world with new eyes.

All: We come longing for hearts open to wonder.

One: Come, whether your faith feels bold or fragile. Come, whether you've been searching for years or stumbled here by surprise.

All: God is already at work among us. Let us worship the One whose love transforms ordinary lives into extraordinary stories.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

One: Holy Mystery, you scatter signs of your reign all around us, yet we are often too distracted to notice. Let us take some time in silence to call to mind the times we have become captivated by what is urgent instead of what is eternal, the times we have clung tightly to possessions, opinions, old hurts, and familiar routines, even when they no longer bring life.
(Silence is kept.)

One: Let us pray.

All: Forgive us when we settle for comfort instead of courage, for certainty instead of curiosity, for the ways of scarcity instead of abundance. Open our eyes to the hidden treasures already present in our lives. Give us hearts willing to be changed by beauty, by compassion, by justice, by grace. When we glimpse your kingdom, give us the courage to follow where it leads. We pray in the spirit of Christ. Amen.

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

One: Friends, the good news is this: God invites us into abundant life. Again and again, God comes looking for us, planting seeds of hope, kneading grace into our lives, revealing treasures where we least expect them.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and invited to begin again. May these truths inspire us to leave behind whatever keeps us from love, and embrace the life God is already unfolding within us. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

***HYMN:**

"Come and Find the Quiet Center"
(see pages 6-7)

BEACH SPRING
Caleb Hale, piano

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Psalms 119:129-136

p. 569

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.

HOLY GOSPEL:

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

p. 14

THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

SPECIAL MUSIC:

"Prelude in G"

Rachmaninoff
Caleb Hale, piano

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN NO. 521:

"In Solitude"
(see page 5)

LAND OF REST
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:

"Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service"

arr. John Leavitt

*Praise Response:

"For the Weaving of our Lives"

Amanda Udis-Kessler

For the thread that each of us of - fers to the

world's de - sign, fa - bric of a thou - sand hues,

heart and hands and soul and mind: All cre - a - tion

hears our prayer as we weave a world of care.

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

Generous God, you have entrusted us with gifts of every kind - our lives, our loves, our resources, our abilities, our compassion, our time.

Receive these offerings, and receive us as well. May what we share today become seeds of hope, yeast for your justice, and signs of your kingdom growing in this community and throughout the world. Rearrange our hearts so that what we value reflects what you value. Use these gifts, and use our lives, to bear witness to the transforming love of Christ. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

***HYMN NO. 76:**

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"
(see page 8)

THE ASH GROVE
The New Century Hymnal

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE:

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

arr. John Leavitt

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Jean Hamersky**, **Caleb Hale** for our special music, and **Meagan Gleason** who offered our Children's Moments.

Sunday Morning Faith Formation Needs You!

Education Ministry is currently seeking teachers and aides for our 2nd-4th grade classroom. Are you interested in passing on the faith and can you commit to 2 to 3 hours a month on a Sunday morning during the school year? If so, please reach out to a member of the Education Ministry. We have a great curriculum and even greater kids and colleagues—what we're missing is YOU!

Beth Lyman Piontek, Education Ministry Chair,
at beth.e.lyman@gmail.com or (920) 217-3564

Amy Heusterberg-Richards, Education Ministry Vice Chair,
at amyheus@gmail.com (920) 627-0033

Tune: LAND OF REST C.M.

Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 5:18-20

Traditional U.S. melody

Harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

Ruth Duck, 1983

1 In sol - i - tude, in sol - i - tude, I come to God in prayer.
 2 When-e'er the world is troub-ling me, and stress is all a - round,
 3 In sea - sons of per - plex - i - ty, in times of deep de - spair,
 4 And when my heart is bur - dened down with cares for those I love,
 5 With psalms and hymns and songs of praise be - fore my God I'll come,

In si - lence and sim - plic - i - ty, my spir - it blos - soms there.
 I seek the pres - ence of my God, and heal - ing light is found.
 I light a can - dle in the night and turn to God in prayer.
 too deep for words, with groans and sighs, de - scends the ho - ly dove.
 till death it - self is past and gone, and I ar - rive at home.

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Come and Find the Quiet Center

BEACH SPRING
87.87 D

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray MUSIC: Attr. to B. F. White; harm. by Ronald A. Nelson
Words © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.; harm. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*

1. Come and find the quiet cen - ter in the
2. Si - lence is a friend who claims us, cools the
3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen

crowd - ed life we lead, find the room for hope to
heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and
to each oth - er's pain, let our loves and fears un -

en - ter, find the frame where we are freed: Clear the
names us, knows our be - ing, touch - es base, mak - ing
rav - el, cel - e - brate the space we gain: There's a

cha - os and the clut - ter, clear our eyes that we can
space with - in our think - ing, lift - ing shades to show the
place for deep - est dream - ing, there's a time for heart to

see all the things that real - ly
sun, rais - ing cour - age when we're
care, in the Spir - it's live - ly

mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.
shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare.

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Omer Westendorf, 1964

Unison



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er

end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

Blessing Box Food Drive!

August 2

Thank you for supporting the Blessing Box!

Current needs include:

- Bottled Water (*plastic pkg. single serve*)
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Tuna
- Peanut Butter (16 oz.)
- Pouch Tuna
- Cereal
- Granola Bars
- Toilet Paper

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, August 2 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.



Blessing Box City Band Concert Food Drives

The Blessing Box team will collect canned food on Wednesday evenings, during the Green Bay City Band Concert season.

If you'd like to participate, you're welcome to drop off donations at the Mayflower Entrance on your way to the City Band concert. Thank you!

Concert details available at <https://greenbaycityband.com>.

Weekly Planner

July 27 — August 1

Saturday:

12:00 p.m. Really Free Teen Market

NEXT SUNDAY: August 2 **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost** **Blessing Box Food Drive**

10:00 a.m.

Worship with Holy Communion
in the sanctuary
(or stream it online)
followed by Coffee Hour
in the church hall

Seeking Cooks for Wednesday Nights

Membership and Inreach Ministry is looking to schedule cooks for our Youth Group and Adult Education activities on Wednesday nights. Meals can be customized to your liking. Cooks sign up for 4 to 6 Wednesdays throughout the school year. Guidelines are:

1. Stay within the allotted budget.
2. Be able to estimate amount of food for about 25 to 30 people.
3. Can volunteer every week, once a month, or as often as you like.

Contact Pastor Bridget to learn more.

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 August 5

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, Ella Hamilton

Nursery Attendants:

Jenna Stevens, London Graham, Katelyn Mertens, Scott Nixon