

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



August 16, 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 one, 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.



Time to Reflect at Moon Beach September 11-13

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). Sign up to attend by contacting the church office or by filling out a form at Union Central.

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

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 2026

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE: *"I Will Enter His Gates/This Is the Day"* 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: We come before the God who calls us to tell the truth.

All: We come with open hearts and willing spirits.

One: We come knowing that we do not always see clearly, that our assumptions are not always right.

All: Give us the courage to listen when we are challenged.

One: We come to worship a God whose love crosses boundaries, boundaries of race, nationality, religion, status, and belonging.

All: Teach us to recognize the sacred image in those we have been taught to overlook.

One: We gather in community where no one is an outsider, and where truth can transform us.

All: May we be humble enough to be corrected, brave enough to change, and faithful enough to love more deeply.

One: Come, let us worship the God whose justice makes room for mercy, whose mercy calls us toward justice, and whose love keeps widening the circle.

All: We are here. Make us ready to listen, to learn, and to become more loving.

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)**

One: Holy God, we confess that we do not always recognize the ways our own assumptions have been shaped by prejudice. We confess the times we have drawn lines between “us” and “them,” between those who belong and those who do not, between people we consider worthy of our compassion and people whose pain we have been willing to overlook. We confess that sometimes we would rather defend ourselves than listen to someone who tells us we have caused harm. For the times we would rather explain our intentions than attend to the impact of our actions, forgive. For the times we would rather believe that because we are loving people, we could not possibly be part of a harmful system, forgive. Thank you, O God, for calling us to something more honest. Let us take a moment to call to mind all that we would lay at the feet of the Lord.
(Silence is kept.)

One: Let us pray.

All: Give us the humility to hear hard truths. Give us the courage to admit when we are wrong. Give us the grace to change not merely our words, but our hearts, our habits, and our ways of living together. And when we have been harmed, give us wisdom about what reconciliation requires. Remind us that forgiveness is not the same as forgetting, and that reconciliation cannot be demanded of those who have been hurt. Make us people who do not merely speak of your expansive love, but practice it. We pray in the name of the God who is always calling us into deeper love. Amen.

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

One: Hear this good news: The grace of God does not depend upon our getting everything right. We are called to be people who are willing to recognize our mistakes, to listen when we have caused harm, to make amends where we can, and to keep growing into the people God calls us to be. God's grace meets us not at the point of perfection, but at the point of honesty.

**All: Thanks be to God. We are forgiven and we are beloved as we are still becoming.
Thanks be to God.**

*** PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

*** HYMN:**

“Change Our Hearts”
(see page 5)

Rory Cooney

PROCLAIMING GOD’S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 45:1-15

p. 42

SPECIAL MUSIC:

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Harry Rowe Shelley
Aygul Garryeva and
Emily Lakatos, duettists

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 15:21-18

p. 17

THE SERMON:

Rev. Bridget Flad Daniels

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN:

"In boldness, look to God"
(see page 6)

MORNING SONG

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:

"The Lord's Prayer"

Albert Hay Malotte
Aygul Garryeva and
Emily Lakatos, duettists
Amanda Udis-Kessler

*Praise Response:

"For the Weaving of our Lives"

***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 and boundary-breaking God, we offer these gifts in gratitude. May they become more than money in an offering plate. May they become food for those who are hungry, shelter for those who are vulnerable, welcome for those who have been excluded, and hope for those who have been told they do not belong. Use what we give to widen the circle of your love. And use us, too. May our generosity reflect the world we long to see: a world in which dignity is not earned, belonging is not rationed, and the table is wide enough for everyone. Receive these gifts, O God, and transform them, and us, for the work of Christ's love, justice, and reconciliation. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

***HYMN NO. 416:**

"I Will Trust in the Lord"
(see page 7)

TRUST IN THE LORD
The New Century Hymnal

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE:

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

arr. Mark Hayes

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including **Christie Reese** (reader and Children Moments), **Aygul Garryeva and Emily Lakatos** (special music and offertory), and **Elaine Moss** (piano).

ReUnion Sunday is September 20

8:45 a.m. Nursery Opens

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

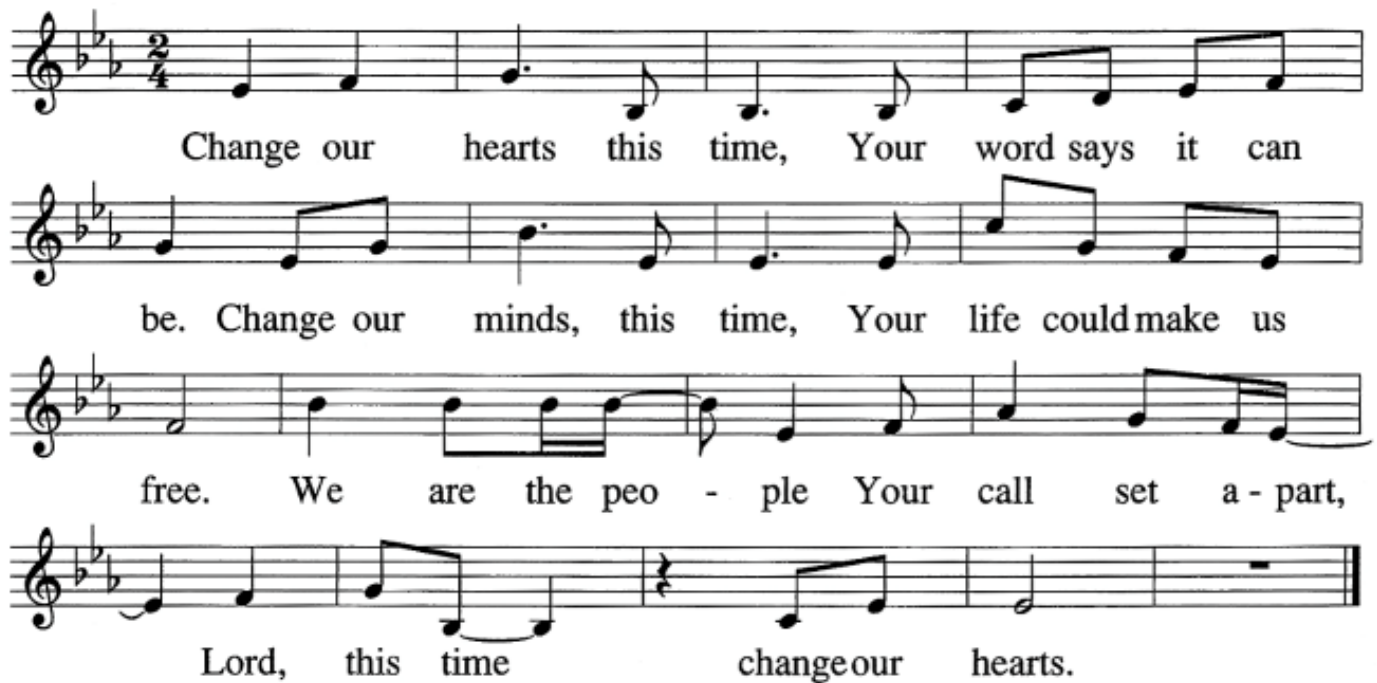
9:00 a.m. Faith Formation Open House
Mayflower I and II and Fellowship Room

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion
Potluck in the church hall following Worship

Change Our Hearts

Text: Rory Cooney, b.1952
Tune: Rory Cooney, b.1952
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Refrain



Change our hearts this time, Your word says it can
be. Change our minds, this time, Your life could make us
free. We are the peo - ple Your call set a - part,
Lord, this time change our hearts.

Verses



2. Now as we watch you stretch out your hands,
3. Show us the way that leads to your side,
of - 'fring a - bun - dan - ces, full - ness of joy.
o - ver the moun - tains and sands of the soul.
Your milk and hon - ey seem dis - tant, un -
Be for us man - na, wa - ter from
D.C.
real, when we have bread and wa - ter in our hands. But
stone, 7 light which says we nev - er walk a - lone. And

In boldness, look to God



1 In bold-ness, look to God for help, like wo - men folk who
3 In bold-ness, learn of God the truth of Ma - ry's bet - ter
4 In bold-ness, love, nor count the cost. Con - front the world's harsh



dared: to ask that Je - sus heal a child, that
part: by fear and cen - sure un - de - terred, de -
stare: like one who washed the feet of Christ, and



crumbs of grace be shared, that out - cast ones be
ter - mined in her heart to kneel at Je - sus'
wiped them with her hair, poured per - fume to a -



wel - comed to the feast God has pre - pared.
feet and learn the wis - dom he im - parts.
noint her Lord, and left love's fra - grance there.

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Music: *Morning Song*, melody att. Elkanah Kelsay Dare (1782-1826); harm. Thomas Foster © 1984 Thomas Foster. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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I Will Trust in the Lord

African-American traditional

Tune: TRUST IN THE LORD Irr.
African-American traditional
Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

416

Ps. 37:3

1 I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the
2 I'm gon-na treat ev - ery-bod - y right, I'm gon-na treat ev - ery-bod - y

3
Lord, I will trust in the Lord, till I die.
right, I'm gon-na treat ev - ery-bod - y right, till I die.

I will trust in the Lord, I will trust in the
I'm gon-na treat ev - ery-bod - y right, I'm gon-na treat ev - ery-bod - y

3
Lord, I will trust in the Lord, till I die.
right, I'm gon-na treat ev - ery-bod - y right, till I die.

Sunday Morning Faith Formation Needs You!



Education Ministry is 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

Salt & Light Back-to-School Gift Card Drive

This August, Union's Salt & Light Immigrant Advocacy Team invites you to help immigrant families prepare for the new school year by donating gift cards of any amount to Walmart, Target, Meijer, or similar stores. Gift cards allow parents to choose the supplies and other essentials their children need most, offering both practical support and the dignity of choice.

As a congregation, we know there are many worthy opportunities to give this season—respond to what tugs at your heart. Place gift cards in the offering plate, bring them to the church office, or use the office night drop throughout August. Together, we can help children begin the school year with confidence, hope, and the reminder that people care.

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.

Seminary Secrets: When Scriptures Conflict

Ever notice some Bible passages seem to contradict others? We see this not only in “what happened,” but also in how God is portrayed and what God wants from us. This can be confusing for those who look to the Bible as the foundation of Christian tradition! The first step in clearing up the confusion is to understand the historical and political contexts of the individual authors. Seminary Secrets will explore some of these contradictory texts and address some thorny questions.

General info about Seminary Secrets classes:

WHAT? We learn about the tools that biblical and theological scholars employ in their interpretations and arguments. We apply these new insights to our lives as Christians.

LEADER? Julie Harder. Julie holds a master’s degree in theology/biblical studies.

FOR WHOM? Adults curious and willing to do a little reading to prepare for the sessions.

HYBRID OPTION: These classes have both an in-person and Zoom-in option.

“HOMEWORK”: Most sessions have a short reading assignment to complete beforehand.

Specific info about the When Scriptures Conflict series:

DATES: Wednesdays, starting September 23. We will probably continue throughout the fall, but if you can’t come to all sessions, see below.

TIME AND WHERE? 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel Classroom (or via Zoom)

HOW TO SIGN UP; GET READING ASSIGNMENTS: Email Julie at jblackharder@gmail.com.

WHAT IF I CAN’T ATTEND ALL SESSIONS? Each session is recorded, so you can view/listen to any you miss. Also, our main topic will be divided into several smaller topics, so you might attend some mini-topics and miss others. (An exact schedule will be sent to all who sign up.)

QUESTIONS? Email Julie at jblackharder@gmail.com.

Love Learning — Birth to Three Years Old

Between August 30 and September 20, Union Church will collect donations for “Love Learning.” In the past, Union Church has collected diapers for Love Life Ministries. Love Learning is a part of LLM, but instead of providing diapers, Love Learning provide books for young children, newborn to 3 years old.

We’d love new books, but gently used work too! Board books can handle the excitement of this age group as they learn eye-hand coordination and the patience to turn a page. Love Learning serves Latino families and bilingual books are popular. Finding Spanish/English books can be a challenge, but we can order them online. If you would like us to do the shopping, a monetary donation is welcome. Simply mark your donation “Love Learning” when you place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. Thank You for considering Love Learning with your donation!

—Toni Champeau and Jean Smithback

Weekly Planner

August 17 — 22

Monday:

11:30 a.m. Ladies Lunch Bunch

NEXT SUNDAY: August 23 **13th Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00 a.m.

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

WOW! Priscilla Circle!

We warmly invite all senior women of our congregation or, as we like to say, **WOW (Wise Older Women)**, to join us for Priscilla Circle! This special women's circle has been a part of Union for more than **90 years**.

We meet on the **fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m.** in the cozy English Room. Our meetings are a wonderful opportunity to nurture meaningful connections as we share fellowship, enjoy light refreshments, and engage in interesting presentations on a variety of topics.

Our next gathering is September 22 at 1 p.m. We hope you'll join us!

If you have questions or would like to be added to our reminder email list, please contact **Julie Thiel** at mjthiel@hotmail.com.

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 August 17

**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, Ella Hamilton

Nursery Attendants:

Jenna Stevens, London Graham, Katelyn Mertens, Scott Nixon