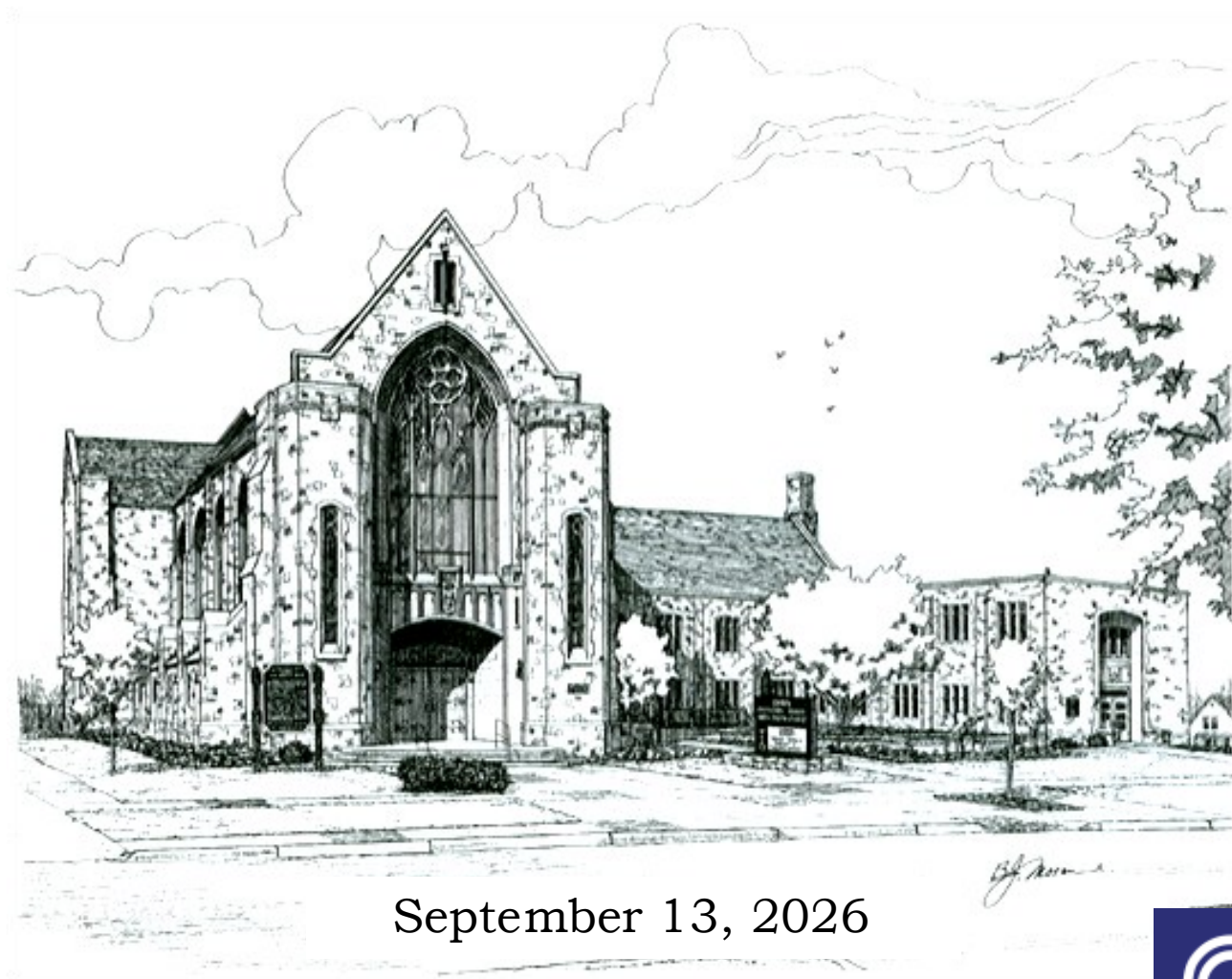


Union Congregational United Church of Christ



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



September 13, 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.

Chancel Choir Rehearsals to Begin in September

Chancel Choir begins on Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Questions? Contact Music Director, Haley Steele, at music@unionucc.com.



GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

(*) invites all who are able to stand

PRELUDE:

"Hyfrydol Fantasy"

arr. James Naigus
Phil Klickman, French horn

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: You welcome us into your holy sanctuary; we delight in our time together.

All: We sing your praises with a cheerful voice.

One: We gather in your presence, sharing our lives with you.

All: You claim us as your own. Your tender care will never fade.

One: You bless all who seek your mercy.

All: Our joy fills the temple walls.

One: Your goodness and mercy forever reign;

All: Your truth firmly stands from age to age.

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

One: As Joseph quarreled with his brothers, they resolved their troubles by dropping him down a well.

All: From the bottom of the well, we humbly seek God's mercies.

One: As Jesus endured the disciples' bickering, he pulled out a towel and a basin.

All: While dipping our toes in the basin's water, we humbly seek God's mercies.

One: We thank God for our many blessings, remembering our good deeds to others and when we missed the mark.

All: Recognizing our sporadic benevolence, we humbly seek God's mercies.

One: We hope and expect God's graciousness to fall on us. Yet we may not recognize God as the biker at the blessing box, the protester painting a victim's name on a sidewalk, immigrants floating to our shores. Help us to courageously heed the calls of the poor. We may shun their shouts, respond in indignation, deny their existence as a threat to public safety. Just as God implored freedom from Pharoah, let us heed the calls for mercy and justice from those suffering lives of indignity and discrimination.

All: As we sit in our pews, we humbly seek God's mercies.

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

One: Jesus told Peter he must forgive others, not just seven times, but seventy times seven. We can rest assured this is merely a trifle compared to what God offers us. Even though we come back week after week seeking mercy when we've fallen short, God assures us of eternal love and forgiveness.

All: We humbly thank God for mercy and forgiveness.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF JESUS CHRIST**

***HYMN NO. 7:**

"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"
(see page 5)

OLD HUNDREDTH
The New Century Hymnal

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

HOLY SCRIPTURE:

Genesis 50:15-21

p. 48

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

"Andante"

F. Mendelssohn
Phil Klickman, French horn

HOLY GOSPEL:

The Towel and the Basin (inspired by John 13:1-17)

Michael Card

In an upstairs room, a parable
Is just about to come alive.
And while they bicker about who's best,
With a painful glance, He'll silently rise.

Their Savior Servant must show them how
Through the will of the water
And the tenderness of the towel.

And the call is to community,
The impoverished power that sets the soul free.
In humility, to take the vow,
That day after day we must take up the basin and the towel.

In any ordinary place,
On any ordinary day,
The parable can live again
When one will kneel and one will yield.

Our Saviour Servant must show us how
Through the will of the water
And the tenderness of the towel.

And the space between ourselves sometimes
Is more than the distance between the stars.
By the fragile bridge of the Servant's bow
We take up the basin and the towel.

And the call is to community,
The impoverished power that sets the soul free.
In humility, to take the vow,
That day after day we must take up the basin and the towel.

THE SERMON:

"The Towel and the Basin"

Lou Ann Norsetter

RESPONDING IN FAITH

HYMN NO. 498:

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"
(see page 6)

CHEREPONI
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:

"Day by Day"

arr. Rachel Trelstad Porter

*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)

Holy Spirit, you inspire us through scripture, divine music, and the messages meant for our children that nourish us adults as well. May we share our inspiration with you now. We've learned ways to bring relief to the poor and suffering. We share what we have to bring justice and comfort to those who lack sustenance, companionship, or hope. Having received your blessings in our times of strife, we now take up the towel and the basin with our offerings this morning. Amen.

SENT INTO ALL THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 539:

"Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant"
(see page 7)

SERVANT SONG
The New Century Hymnal

*THE BENEDICTION (in unison)

**And the space between ourselves sometimes is more than the distance between the stars.
By the fragile bridge of the Servant's bow we take up the basin and the towel.**

And the call is to community, the impoverished power that sets the soul free. In humility, to take the vow, that day after day we must take up the basin and the towel.

POSTLUDE:

"Postludium"

Gordon Young

Thanks to all who helped lead today's service including our reader, **Kathy Baldwin**, **Megan Gleason** who offered our Children's Moments, and **Phil Klickman** for our prelude and special music.

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

7

William Kethe, 1561 Ps. 100
Adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 1992

Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH L.M.
Attrib. to Louis Bourgeois (c. 1510–c. 1561)
Trente quatre Pseaumes, Geneva, 1551

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
2 Know that there is one God, in - deed, who
3 En - ter the sa - cred gates with praise, with
4 Pro - claim a - gain that God is good, whose

out your faith with cheer - ful voice; De - light in God whose
fash - ions us with - out our aid, Who claims us, gives us
joy ap - proach the tem - ple walls. Ex - tol and bless our
mer - cy is for - ev - er sure, Whose truth at all times

praise you tell, whose pres - ence calls you to re - joice.
all we need, whose ten - der care will nev - er fade.
God al - ways as peo - ple whom the Spir - it calls.
firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

John 13:1-20; Gal. 5:13-14

Tune: CHEREPONI Irr. with refrain
Ghanaian folk song; adapt. Tom Colvin, 1969
Arr. Jane Marshall, 1982

Tom Colvin, 1969; rev. 1994

Refrain Unison

F *C7*

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

F *Gm/Bb* *C7* *F* *Last time, end*

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

F *Dm7* *Gm* *C* *C7/E*

1 Knelt at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their
 2 Neigh-bors are rich and poor, var - ied in col - or and
 5 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

F *Dm* *Dm7/C* *Gm/Bb* *C7* *F* *to Refrain*

feet, Je - su, you act - ed as ser - vant to them.
 race, neigh-bors are near and far a - way.
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney through.

(repeat stanza 1)

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The system ends with a repeat sign and the instruction "(repeat stanza 1)".

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

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Living Gift Market is October 4

Heifer International is a program that works with communities to end world hunger and poverty. Through our Heifer Living Gift Market we hope to inspire our church family to get involved in ending hunger and poverty, bringing the commandment to love your neighbor to life year-round. Families who receive our gift not only benefit from the animal, but they also pass on the gift to other families in their community. This allows them to help others as you have helped them.

Our goal is to fill an ark by raising \$5,000 or more. This can be done with your gift of a goat, heifer, water buffalo, alpaca, llama, sheep, pigs, rabbits, honeybees, ducks, chickens, and so much more.

Come out to the courtyard after church on October 4. We will have exhibits, live animals, and treats and enjoy the Living Gift Market.

If you are interested in volunteering or hosting a table at the event, sign up on the sign-up sheets in the church hall or contact Wendy Woodward at (847) 814-5168 or email wwoodward@hotmail.com.

Please join us for our
Food with Friends Potluck
Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 @ 12:30 pm

 • Bring your favorite dish to share
• Joins us for a delicious feast
• Family Friendly event



Union Congregational United Church of Christ



Blessing Box Food Drive!
Sunday, September 20

Thank you for supporting the Blessing Box!

Current needs include:

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

Donations can be placed on the cart at the front of the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 20 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.



TAKE WHAT YOU NEED

LEAVE WHAT YOU CAN

ARQVE

Seminary Secrets: When Scriptures Conflict

Ever notice that various Bible passages sometimes seem to contradict each other? The first step in clearing up the confusion is to understand the historical and political contexts of the individual authors. But then, other questions arise: how do we discern which texts to prioritize? And how does the concept of “inspiration” fit into all of this?

This fall, Seminary Secrets classes will explore some of these contradictory texts and address these 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 insights to our lives as Christians.

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

HYBRID OPTION: Seminary Secrets classes have an in-person and Zoom-in option.

HOMEWORK: Most sessions have a short reading assignment to be completed beforehand.

Specific info about the When Scriptures Conflict series:

DATES AND TIME: Wednesdays, starting September 23 from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE? Chapel Classroom (or Zoom)

HAVE QUESTIONS OR WISH TO SIGN UP: Email Julie at jblackharder@gmail.com.

SOUPER COOKS SHELTER MEALS

Souper Cooks is a group of volunteers who prepare and serve meals at the New Community Shelter, located at 301 Mather Street, Green Bay.

New Season Begins Sept. 24 — We serve on the 4th Thurs. of the month (except in June, July, August and November).

Preparing the Meal: 1:00 p.m.

A team of 6 to 8 volunteers prepares the meal at Union Church.

Serving the Meal: 4:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

A team of 3 to 4 volunteers greets and serves the community at the NEW Community Shelter.

Learn More and Volunteer!

Contact Marty Berry at mjpberry@sbcglobal.net or Achim Seifert at seif904@sbcglobal.net.

Julie Harder, M.D., trained as a Gottman Institute Leader,
presents the Free Online Workshop:

FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP

The Seven Principles

Couples Workshop

BASED ON
NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLER
OVER A MILLION
COPIES SOLD



Are you in a committed relationship,
or considering marriage?



Is your relationship OK, but you'd like
to make it even happier?



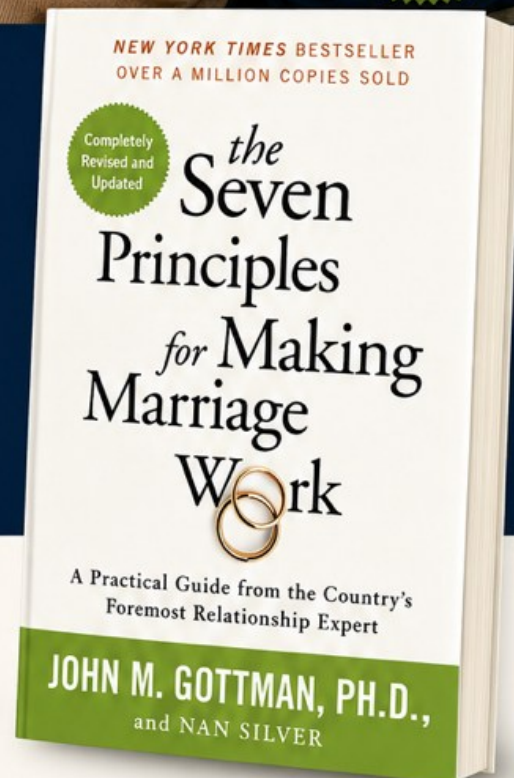
Are you arguing in circles about
the same issues?



Would you like evidence-based
strategies for relationship success?

Dr. John Gottman observed thousands of couples over forty years, analyzing their interactions, then following them for years to see which couples stayed happily together and which split up.

From this data Dr. Gottman developed proven strategies to help couples succeed.



WHEN?
Saturdays,
October 17 & 31 and
November 7 & 14
12–3:15 pm EST



FREE!
+ \$55+ shipping
for the course
materials.



SIGNUP CLOSES
October 1st



Email Dr. Julie Harder at
julie.harder.projects@gmail.com
for more details and to register.

OR, GO TO THESE LINKS:



FAQs:
<https://tinyurl.com/7PWorkshopFAQs>



Logistics and
registration info:
<https://tinyurl.com/7PWorkshopLogistics>



STRONGER CONNECTION. HEALTHIER RELATIONSHIP. A BETTER FUTURE—TOGETHER.

Build the relationship you both deserve. We all can love better.