

Heartbeat News



From the Pastor's Desk

How's your prayer life? A colleague of mine posed that question to me at a recent clergy gathering. It's a question that causes us to pause...the usual answers to "how are you?" that most of us typically use as a greeting won't suffice here. "Busy" doesn't seem like a good way to describe one's prayer life, "good" seems generically dishonest. An odd question but the longer I thought about it and we began talking about it the more I realized that this question gets more to the heart of how we are REALLY doing than any generic greeting ever could. So how is my prayer life? Well, despite the fact that I am a pastor (or maybe because of it), my prayer life isn't perfect. It has unexpected twists and turns, there never seems to be enough time, the requests are many. But there are those moments of clarity, moments that we might not define as "prayer" in the traditional sense but are moments when I truly find myself in conversation with God...when I laugh out loud at the flight of a monarch butterfly crossing my path as I make my way into a coffee shop...when I am sitting at the bedside of a dying person and feel the peace of God settling around us as I read the psalms aloud...these moments are prayer just as much (and maybe even more genuine) than any scripted prayer. I find myself praying as an ambulance whizzes past me in traffic, or as I serve food to those in need at St. Ben's.

Prayer comes in many forms and serves a multitude of purposes. As the Thanksgiving holiday rapidly approaches I think more and more about prayers of thanksgiving and am struck by what Barbara Brown Taylor says

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St. John UCC

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR OCTOBER

At its monthly meeting held on October 9th, the St. John Church Council:

- Set the Board of Trustees annual meeting for November 2nd at 6:30 p m.
- Discussed the Donges Bay Road construction project.
- Discussed proposal from Maintenance committee to abandon water well.
- Discussed member comments regarding changes to worship service.

Present: Eric Hillstrom, Andy Boneski, Mary Johnson, Mike Szymik, Cherie Bersch, Judy Luckow, Marilyn Boettcher, Donna Tess, Pastor Tetzlaff

Absent: Sharon Reeder



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about prayer: "My hope is that if I can practice saying thank you now, when I still approve of most of what is happening to me, then perhaps that practice will have become habit by the time I do not like much of anything that is happening to me. The plan is to replace approval with gratitude. The plan is to take what is as God's ongoing answer to me." Wow, I never thought about prayers of thanksgiving that way. She's right, of course; too often my "thanksgiving" prayers are really a litany of things I like. What if we thanked God for everything? How would it change my prayer life (or all of my life) if I gave thanks to God, even when things didn't go well? I can envision this as changing my outlook on things. What if, through giving thanks for the slow driver in front of us, we became more mindful of the need to slow down our own frantically paced lives? I'm not sure if I'm on to something or not, but it certainly might be worth the experiment.

Prayer is a spiritual practice we can all do, anytime, anywhere, anyway. There are no rules to it, except perhaps that it should come from the heart. I'm going to keep working on my prayer life, living into my prayer life. I hope you do, too. And don't be surprised if you hear that question one of these days, "So, how is your prayer life?" I hope it is a great conversation.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tara



EDUCATIONAL & SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Monday Morning Bible Study: Join us for a weekly Bible Study as we journey through the Gospel of Mark using the Interpretation Bible Studies program. Meets at Our Saviour's UCC from **11am-Noon each Monday**. Cost of Book \$10.

Food, Film, and Faith: Simple meal while watching a movie, with discussion to follow. Meets at Our Saviour's UCC at 6pm on 3rd Wednesday of the month. Our next movie will be on **Wed., Nov. 19th**.

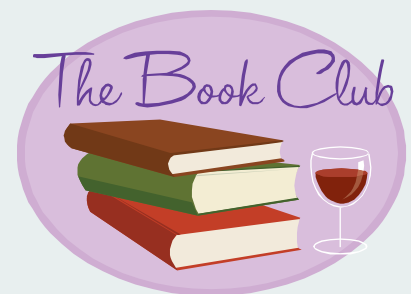
Fresh Looks at Old Stories: More of a traditional Bible study...will focus on passages that are often misunderstood, or that likely are read much differently as adults than how we read them as children. Our next meeting will take place on **Wed., Nov. 26 at 6pm**.

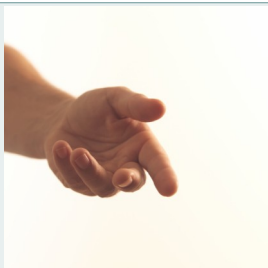
Clips, Coffee, and Conversation: Light refreshments while watching short videos/clips on various topics & themes with discussion to follow. Meets at St. John UCC 1st Wednesday of month. Our next meeting will take place Wed., **Nov. 5th, from 6-7pm**.

Starbucks Book Club: Discuss various books related to issues of faith. Different book each month, discussion guide will be available a month ahead of time. Meets at Starbucks on Mequon Rd. on 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our next meeting will take place **Wed., Nov. 12th, at 6pm**. November's book is **The Year of Living Biblically** by A. J. Jacobs. Books available for \$5 from St. John church office.

Crafters Club: Whether you scrapbook, paint, draw, knit, etc you are welcome to bring whatever you are working on and join with other "crafters" for a day of fun. Drop in for an hour or stay for the day. Light lunch provided. Participants are asked to bring their own beverages and a snack to share. Meets one Saturday a month 10am-3pm, location rotates between St. John UCC and Our Saviour's UCC. Upcoming Date: Due to the busy holiday months, we will have our next Crafters Club on **Sat., Dec. 6th, at OSC**.

Keeping up with the Kids: Look for our table in the fellowship hall for a short, informal conversation after worship to learn a little about what the kids are learning in Sunday School this week. This is a great way to connect with kids about their faith! Begins September 14th-Held in St. John UCC fellowship hall immediately following worship.





Please consider signing up for Fellowship following church services in our Fellowship Hall (a clip board with the sign - up sheet is located near the kitchen). Join us after church. All member and friends are welcome. Any question contact Sharon Reeder at 262-251-5946.

Dates still available for members to sign – up for Fellowship:
November 30th, December 14th, and December 28th 2014.

Volunteers needed:
Volunteers will be needed to provide rides to church members who do not have transportation to - from church. Please contact the church office or Pastor Tara Tetzlaff if interested in volunteering at 262-251-0640.

Outreach Meetings: Any members wishing to join the committee are welcome. The next Outreach Committee meeting date to be announced. We meet in the Fraederich Education room. Contact Caroline Romaine at 262-385-1327 for more information.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Robert's Frozen Custard – Fundraiser was held on Monday 22, 2014 3:00pm – 10:00pm. No coupon was needed. Members enjoyed a meal with friends and family. Total profit from the Fundraiser was \$225.00. 10% of the proceeds will go to Mission Alive and toward future Outreach events. Thank you to all who supported the Fundraiser.

World Communion Sunday – Pot Luck Dinner was held on October 5th, 2014. A pot luck dinner was served in the Fellowship Hall. Tables were set with various fall decorations. Members and Friends attended the pot luck dinner. Thank you to all the members who provided the delicious dishes, salads, bread / rolls, and desserts.

Up Coming Events:

♦ Adult Fellowship – Cooking Class – November 8th, 2014

St. John U.C.C. Adult Fellowship is planning a cooking class. Saturday November 8th, 2014, from 3-6pm. The class will be held at St. John U.C.C. in the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen area. The class is open to 16 adults; ages 18 and over. Invite a friend or family member to join you. All food will be provided. Cost is \$6.00 per person.

♦ November 23rd, 2014 - Christmas tree set – up.

On November 23rd volunteers will be needed to help with setting up Christmas tree in preparation for Advent and the Christmas season. We will be setting up the tree following worship service.

♦ November 30th, 2014 – First Sunday of Advent “Hanging of the Greens” – Service

♦ **December - Christmas Caroling - December 7th, 2014 at 1:30pm**
Join us for Christmas Caroling at Virginia Highlands Health and Rehabilitation Center W.173 N.10915 Bernies Way Germantown. We will be meeting following the service in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30am. Those who wish can join us at Cousin's Subs on County Line Road and Pilgrim Rd. for lunch on your own. We will then car pool to Virginia Highlands 1:30pm to Christmas Carol. A sign – up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board on the landing toward the Fellowship Hall.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS STILL NEEDED

Our Sunday School is on the G-R-O-W and we need your help! We are looking for teachers to teach

- Preschool-K
- Grades 1-4
- Grades 5-7

"I don't know enough to teach Sunday School." ---Then our new curriculum is made just for you! "Feasting on the Word" lays out exactly what you need to do to prepare and teach the class.

"I can't commit to teach every Sunday".---The seasons are split up into 3 sessions so you don't have to commit for the entire year. We always have substitute teachers that can fill in when you cannot be here.

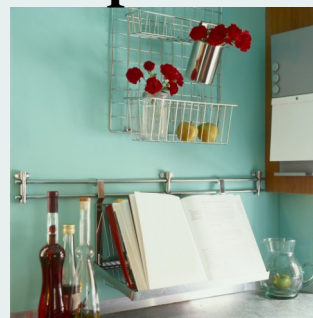
"I love hearing Pastor Tara's sermons. I don't want to miss them."-- Who doesn't love listening to Pastor Tara??? This year we are changing our time for Sunday school. We are moving Sunday School to after the offering (about 11:15) until noon.

If you have any other reservations or questions, please contact Mary Johnson 262-993-4279 or mary.johnson@roundys.com.

CALL YOUR PASTOR!!!

Just a reminder that to protect your privacy federal HIPAA laws prevent doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes from contacting or sharing information with anyone (including your church or pastor!) when you are a patient. If you or a loved one is hospitalized or needs pastoral care PLEASE call the church office or Pastor Tara directly (or request the hospital to do so). If you don't call, we have no way of knowing of your situation. By informing us of these events, you are helping us to provide you with the spiritual care needed in these often difficult times. Business cards with Pastor Tara's contact information are available in the church lobby or can be obtained from the church office, a handy way for you to have the numbers you need in an emergency.

Recipe Corner



SPICED CRANBERRY SAUCE

From The Taste of Home

**8 Servings Prep: 5 min.
Cook: 30 min. + chilling**

Ingredients

**1 package (12 ounces)
fresh or frozen cranber-
ries
1 cups sugar
3/4 cup water
1/2 teaspoon ground cin-
namon
1/2 teaspoon ground all-
spice
1/8 teaspoon ground gin-
ger
1/8 teaspoon ground
cloves**

Directions

**In a large saucepan, com-
bine all ingredients. Bring
to a boil. Reduce
heat; simmer, uncovered,
until the berries pop and
mixture is
thickened, about 30 min-
utes. Cool. Transfer to a
serving bowl; cover
and refrigerate until
chilled. Yield: 2 cups.
ENJOY!!!**

Prayers and Thoughts For Thanksgiving

Gracious God,
for the gifts of life and land
and lake, for entrusting into
our human hands your most
precious creation, we are
more than grateful.

We are humbled by your
trust, by your expectation
that we will tend these gifts
faithfully.

With trepidation we acknowl-
edge your expectation that we
will protect your treasured
gifts from harm.

And with humility we re-
spond with our promise to
preserve them for all people,
for generations yet to be
born, for children whose
names we will never know,
whose faces we will never see.

We pray this day that we
might be claimed anew by
your love and transformed by
your generosity.

Grant us courage.
Instill in us a passion for ten-
derness as we awaken anew
to the demands of Thanks -
Giving. Amen.

(Joan Brown Campbell)

“Eating with the fullest pleas-
ure - pleasure, that is, that
does not depend on ignorance
- is perhaps the profoundest
enactment of our connection
with the world. In this pleas-
ure we experience our depend-
ence and our gratitude, for we
are living in a mystery, from
creatures we did not make and
powers we cannot compre-
hend.”

— Wendell Berry

UCC Identity

Ever have someone ask you about our church and you struggle to describe just what makes the United Church of Christ unique? Or perhaps you, yourself, completed confirmation when we were still the “Evangelical and Reformed Church” and you’re not exactly sure what this whole UCC thing really is. Well then this column is for you! Each month there will be a new article that helps to describe the UCC and what we believe. The following is from the United Church of Christ website “What we Believe” Page (<http://www.ucc.org/about-us/what-we-believe.html>).

We believe in the triune God: Creator, resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.

We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belong to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.

We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey.

We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.

We believe that all of the baptized 'belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.' No matter who – no matter what – no matter where we are on life's journey – notwithstanding race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class or creed – we all belong to God and to one worldwide community of faith. All persons baptized – past, present and future – are connected to each other and to God through the sacrament of baptism. We baptize during worship when the community is present because baptism includes the community's promise of 'love, support and care' for the baptized – and we promise that we won't take it back – no matter where your journey leads you.

We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ's table for the sacrament of Communion. Just as many grains of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread and many grapes are gathered to make one cup of wine, we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ, the church. The breaking of bread and the pouring of wine reminds us of the costliness of Christ's sacrifice and the discipleship to which we are all called. In the breaking of bread, we remember and celebrate Christ's presence among us along with a 'cloud of witnesses' – our ancestors, family and friends who have gone before us. It is a great mystery; we claim it by faith.

We believe the UCC is called to be a united and uniting church. "That they may all be one." (John 17:21) "In essentials–unity, in nonessentials–diversity, in all things–charity," These UCC mottos survive because they touch core values deep within us. The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love. UCC pastors and teachers are known for their commitment to excellence in theological preparation, interpretation of the scripture and justice advocacy. Even so, love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets.

We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others and to be good stewards of the earth's resources. "To believe is to care; to care is to do."

We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor and comfort the afflicted.

We believe in the power of peace, and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.

We are a people of possibility. In the UCC, members, congregations and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all, God is still speaking, ...

CELEBRATIONS: BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Richard Wallander	19 Dana Lemke
8 Marilyn Boettcher	21 Colten Thomas
13 Karen Roskopf	25 Merry Lison
14 Patrick Lemke	28 Audyn Skrober
18 Jim Hansen	30 Kenneth Ramthun

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

13 Ken & Karen Roskopf



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

2nd—All Saints Day
6:30pm -Trustees

Mtg.

3rd— 11am-Noon Bible
Study—OSC

4th—11am-7:30pm—
Election Day—Chili Din-
ner—OSC

3pm— Spiritual Life
Mtg.

5th—6pm Clips, Coffee,
Conversation

7pm Women's Guild
8th—9am-1pm—Blood
Drive at Lutheran Church of
the Living Christ

3-6pm—Adult Cook-
ing Class

9th—Stewardship Sun.

10th—11am-Noon Bible
Study—OSC

4pm St. Ben's
12th—6pm-Bookclub at
Starbucks

13th—7pm Council Mtg.

15th—9am-noon Church
Cleaning Day

16th—Noon-3pm Confir-
mation Class

17th—11am-Noon Bible
Study—OSC

19th—6pm Food, Film &
Fun—OSC

23rd—Christmas Tree Set-
up, following worship

24th—11am-Noon Bible
Study —OSC

25th—Food Pantry

26th—6pm New Takes on
Olds Stories

27th—9am—Thanksgiving
Service at OSC

30th—Hanging of the
Greens



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS**

ST. JOHN UCC

N104W14181 Donges Bay Rd.

Germantown, WI 53022

Our Mission is to Celebrate, Reach
Out, Enrich, and Welcome in the
name of Jesus Christ.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

WORSHIP SERVICES

***Thanksgiving Day Service—9:00am—
Our Saviour's UCC***

*Sunday Worship Service at Our Saviour's UCC—
8:30am*

*Sunday Worship Service at St. John's UCC—
10:30am*

Sunday School at 11:15-Noon at St. John