

Heartbeat News



From the Pastor's Desk

What does the sacrament of communion have to do with Epiphany? And what in the world is Epiphany anyway? If your calendar is like mine you'll notice a special (but usually over-looked holiday) on January 6th. Most frequently known as Epiphany, it has also been called "Three Kings Day" or in Spanish speaking cultures "Dia de Reyes". For those traditionalists out there it signals the end of the "Twelve Days of Christmas". My grandma would tell you it's the day when you are officially to take down the Christmas tree. But what's this day all about? Well, first, a Bible lesson: If you were paying attention at the children's Christmas program you learned that our "traditional" view of the manger scene with angels, and shepherd, and wise men isn't biblically sound. The truth is that the "wise men" didn't actually visit Jesus until he was older, usually estimated around the age of 2 (If you want to read the story for yourself it is found in Matthew 2). Symbolically, the story is the tale of individuals seeking meaning and answers to some unusual sight or experience in their lives. Throughout church history, this story has been used to emphasize outreach and evangelism to non-Jewish and/or non-Christian peoples.

When we listen closely to this story, told on the heels of the birth of Jesus into the world, the question we must ask ourselves is this: What are we seeking? What hopes have we clung to expectantly, what visions have we been waiting to see fulfilled. It was a star that brought the wise men to seek out Jesus. They did not know the stories and prophecies but rather saw something amazing and new in creation and found themselves drawn by this sign to seek out its source, its revelation. The star was for the wise men

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St. John UCC

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER

At its monthly meeting held on December 11th, the St. John Church Council:

- Approved the 2015 budget for final action by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- Approved recommendations from the Constitution Committee for revisions to the church constitution for final action by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- Discussed the status of the Stewardship pledge drive.
- Appointed Andy Boneski, Marilyn Boettcher and Donna Tess to serve as members of this year's audit committee.
- Approved the use of the Fellowship Hall by Youth for Understanding on January 24th from 10 am until 4 pm.

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

Absent: Donna Tess

**Next Council meeting:
January 8, 2014**



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what the sacraments are for us today: tangible evidence into the mystery and wonder of God's revelation to us. Participating in the sacrament of Holy Communion, eating the bread and drinking the cup, offers us a glimpse into the mystery of our faith, a foretaste of salvation. The sacraments themselves are not what we worship, but what point us toward the source---they point us to God. Just as the star was not the focus of the worship of the magi. As a Christian faith community, our experiences of the sacred, the revelation we have in Jesus Christ offers us a unique opportunity for witness. Through our actions, our programs, our outreach, we, as a church, can be that amazing light, that wondrous star that draws others into experiencing the joy and wonder of Jesus in their own lives. What we do, our missions, our giving, our presence in the community is not meant to garner praise for ourselves but rather to serve as that which points others to the source of that love, that grace, that power....we shine so that others may experience God's light through us.

May the light of God shine through you in this Season of Epiphany!

Pastor Tara



EDUCATIONAL & SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Monday Morning Bible Study: TBA—beginning Jan. 26th @ Our Saviour's, from 11am-Noon.

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., **Jan. 14th**, at 6pm. We will discuss Sabbath-Keeping by Donna Schaper.

The Feb. selection is Love Wins by Rob Bell. Cost is \$8 and a limited number of copies will be available in the lobby beginning Jan. 4th. Contact the office to reserve your copy. Feb. discussion on Love Wins will be on **Feb. 11th**.

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., **Jan. 28th** at 6pm.

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 Dates: **Jan. 17th @ St. John's and Feb. 21st @ Our Saviour's.**





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 available for members to sign – up for Fellowship. January 11th, 18th, and 25th. February 8th, 15th, and 22nd.

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 will be Sunday, Jan. 11th, at 9am We meet in the Fraederich Education room. Contact Caroline Romaine at 262-385-1327 for more information.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE



A special thank you to all the members who helped put Christmas decorations for the Christmas season.

On December 7th, 2014 a small group of joyful Christmas carolers, members from St. John U.C.C went Christmas caroling to Virginia Highlands Health and Rehabilitation Center in Germantown. We caroled up and down the halls as well as in some of the resident’s rooms; bringing joy to all.

Mark your calendars - Up Coming Events:

-January 4th, 2015

Tree / decoration take down following the church service. A sign – up sheet will be posted. Please sign – up.



-February 2015

College / Armed Forces - Valentine Care Packages February 8th, 2015

The Outreach Committee and Women’s Guild will be sending out Valentine College Care Packages. This would be for any student of family members or church members who are attending college or graduate school as well as those members in the Armed Forces. In keeping with the theme “Little church with the Big Heart”. The Valentine College Care packages would include items such as snacks items ie: popcorn, granola bars, gum, toiletries to name a few.

We will need items donated and volunteers to help assemble the packages. A list of items needed is posted on the bulletin board on the stairwell landing. We will be needing items donated by February 1st, 2015. We will be assembling the packages together and sending them out to college students on February 8th, 2015.

If you are a student or have a child attending college and would like them to receive a College Care Package , please contact Sharon Reeder at 262-251-5946, Annaliesa Kubosch, or one of the Outreach Committee members. We will need the students name and current address.

9th Annual Dart Ball Night - Saturday February 21st, 2015 – 6:00pm

Please join us for the 9th Annual Dart Ball Night on Saturday February 21st, 2015. This is an event for family and friends. Food, snacks and refreshments will be served. Please sign up on the bulletin board on the stairwell landing. The evening is of no cost and is sponsored by the Outreach Committee. All are Welcome.





TASTEFULLY SIMPLE YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Sunday, Jan. 18th, at 2pm in the fellowship hall. To participate individuals must register and pay for their package by December 30th.

Once payment is received, you

will receive a list for the remainder of supplies (meats, vegetable, etc.). You can order through the church office or by contacting Danielle directly at 414-698-3105 or at gourmetd@earthlink.net. The workshop will be to make the Cozy Dinners Menu (cost for Tastefully Simple package is \$77.20). Over the course of 1-2 hours you will assemble the meals and go home with 10 dinners that will each feed 4-6 adults. (Toss them in your freezer and you are all set). **The list of meals are:**

Irish Stout Slow Cooker Pot Roast, Bacon Wrapped Pork Chops, Bayou Bourbon Beef Bowls, Asiago Alfredo Chicken Casserole, Slow Cookin' Ribs & Scalloped Onion Onion Potatoes, Creamy Asiago Chicken, Irish Stout Stroganoff, Slow Cooker Chicken a la King, Gorgonzola Crustless Quiche, Gorgonzola Stuffed Chicken.

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



Chicken Gnocchi

Soup by Melissa Luckow

Prep time: 15 min., Cook time: 20 min. Serves: 8

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 cup finely diced onion
- 1/2 cup finely diced celery
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 quart half-and-half
- 2 (14-ounce) cans chicken broth
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup finely shredded carrots
- 1 cup coarsely chopped fresh spinach leaves
- 1 cup diced cooked chicken breast
- 1 16-ounce package ready-to-use gnocchi

Instructions

Melt the butter into the oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion, celery, and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion becomes translucent. Whisk in the flour and cook for about 1 minute. Whisk in the half-and-half. Simmer until thickened. Whisk in the chicken broth. Simmer until thickened again. Stir in thyme, parsley, carrots, spinach, chicken, and gnocchi. Salt and pepper to taste. Simmer until the soup is heated through. **ENJOY!!**

WOMEN'S GUILD



We were busy the month of December with our annual Christmas Party with Take Away Bingo and Cookie Sale. Thank you to all who came, baked and bought.

Our next business meeting will be **Feb. 4th, at 7:00 pm**. We will be planning the Women's Sunday Worship for March 1st and preparing Valentines. Judy Lukow will be the hostess. Come and join us.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The Christmas Poinsettias in the church this year were donated by the following people:



NAME

IN MEMORY OF

Ken & Joan Schaezel

Harold & Edith Schaezel

Bonnie Pfeil

Alvin Pfeil

Diane Schaezel

Art Schaezel

Ned & Caroline Romaine

Curt & LaVerne Romaine

Emily & Elliot Romaine

Tony & Delores Miller

Carol & Greg Schwartz

Carl & Lorry Powers

Kim Wisz & Paul Olson

Dick Wallander

Michael Wallendar

Admirals Game Outing

Our Saviour's is once again hosting their annual outing to the Admirals Game. The game will be on Sunday **March 8 at 4pm** against the Oklahoma City Barons. Arrangements will be made to carpool from Our Saviour's with a second pickup at St. John dependent on registrations. Cost is \$13 for kids (14 & under) and \$19 for adults. Sign up sheets will be posted in the stairwell soon, or contact St. John church office to reserve your tickets. Checks to be made out to Our Saviour's UCC.



Youth Group

Youth of all ages, parents of youth, and any individuals interested in helping to develop our new youth room are invited to attend an Organization Meeting on **Jan. 11th at 3:15pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be provided. The goals of this gathering include:

- 1)-Determine interest of youth in programming (what age groups, open format, scheduled events, etc)
- 2)-Set monthly gathering times
- 3)-Determine how to re-design the new youth space (old fellowship hall), as well as developing a list of supplies needed, work needed to be done, etc. Please bring any ideas for painting the walls, furnishing the space, what do YOU want to see & do here?

CELEBRATIONS: BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

5 Dorothy Peterson	17 Annaliesa Kubosch
6 Bryce Thomas	18 Marge Wundrock
8 Eric Hillstrom	Scott Maly
11 Ned Romaine	23 Suzanne Pieper
13 Jeff Wendt	24 Greg Schwartz
14 Caroline Romaine	25 Polly Weber
16 Richard Bersch	31 Gayle Johnson

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

7 Greg & Chris Pickett

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

4th—Tree/Dec. takedown, following service

8th—**7pm** Council Mtg.

11th—**9am** Outreach Committee Mtg.

Noon-3pm Confirmation Class

3:15pm Youth Group Planning Mtg.

12th—**4pm** St. Ben's

4:30pm Christian Bd. Of Ed.

14th—**6pm** Book Club at Starbucks

17th—**10am-3pm** Craft Day at St. John's

18th—Worship Cmtee. Mtg., Following Worship

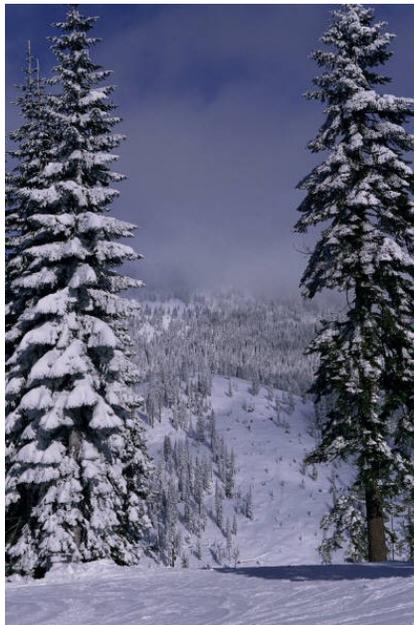
2pm Tastefully Simple Fundraiser

20th—**5:30-7:30pm** Southeastern Association Mission Team at St. John's

26th— **11am-Noon** Bible Study at OSC

27th—**10am** Spiritual Life

28th—**6pm** Fresh Looks at Old Stories



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS**

ST. JOHN UCC

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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

*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's