

Heartbeat News



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

The minor prophet, Micah, doesn't get a lot of play in our churches. At a mere seven chapters, the scope of this Old Testament book is surprisingly broad with no unified theme. Like most preachers on Sunday morning, Micah weaves back in forth between visions of judgment and images of hope, addressing the threats from Assyria and Babylon, the failings of Israel and Judah, and urging hearers to learn from the past and repent of their evil while trusting God's steadfast love and faithfulness to bring about hope and renewal. Of course, for most of us the great gift of Micah is this gem and favorite verse of so many, "He has told you, human one, what is good and what the LORD requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8 CEB).

We know what is good, God is good, life is good; but what we struggle with is doing what God requires of us: justice, faithful love, and humble participation in the life of faith. In the United Church of Christ, we do justice. Our predecessor denominations were known for their justice work: from the Christians and Congregationalists we have a rich abolitionist heritage who fought to free the slaves and were the first to ordain women and African Americans as ministers. Our Evangelical and Reformed heritage is filled with social justice work in hospitals and children's homes. Our merger to become the United Church of Christ in 1957 positioned us to take an active role in the Civil Rights movements in the 1960's and we took on the issues of gay rights back in the 70's. Before climate change was "a thing", the UCC was advocating for environmental justice in the 80's and in 2005, we were the first church in America to endorse marriage equality. The United Church of Christ takes "doing justice" seriously.

We do justice, not to be politically correct, but because it is what God has instructed us to do. However, we cannot forget the rest of this mandate; doing justice must include faithful love and humility in relationship with God. This means we need to do more than jump on whatever bandwagon some soundbite urges us toward. We must diligently and prayerfully work to discern how

(Continued on page 2)



St. John UCC

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR JULY

At its monthly meeting held on July 14th, the St. John Church Council:

Accepted the recommendation for repairing the retaining wall from the Maintenance committee as reported by Gary Johnson.

Learned about using Facebook ads as Pastor Tara recapped the Facebook stats from our VBS ad.

Present: Cherie Bersch, Andy Boneski, Mary Johnson, Bob Lehmann, Judy Luckow, Sharon Reeder, Donna Tess, Pastor Tara Tetzlaff

Absent: Eric Hillstrom, Greg Schwartz.

Next Council meeting:
Aug 11th, 2016

the issues and problems of today affect God's people and God's world. With humility we must be ready to have our minds changed by the Spirit of God as experienced through careful reflection upon scripture, experience, and reason. To that end, a new study and discussion group is being offered this year as a joint effort of St. John UCC and Our Saviour's UCC. The purpose of this group will be to delve into some of the 'hot button' issues of the day, examine the facts, study scripture, discuss and pray that we may better understand and address these issues from a faith based perspective. Topics planned include: White Privilege, Immigration, the use of torture by US military and its allies, race relations, hunger, and homosexuality. "Moral Mondays: We Need to Talk" Social Justice Study Group will be held on Monday evenings at 6pm in the Education Room at St. John United Church of Christ (if our group is too large we will move to the lower level). The first session will be held on September 19. All materials for sessions will be provided. Most of the resources being used have been developed by either the National Offices of the United Church of Christ or the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

To help us develop a framework for meaningful and respectful dialogue we will begin the year with Parker Palmer's "Five Habits of the Heart That Help Make Democracy Possible." While not required, participants may find it helpful to read Palmer's book "Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit" (available from most booksellers or contact Pastor Tara to order by August 15th).

All of us have much to learn and to consider on these tough issues facing us today. As Christians it is our responsibility to prayerfully and humbly delve into these issues together so that we may discern how we might work with God in bringing about justice in our world. It's time to go beyond the soundbites and the partisanship to bring about real and lasting change that heals the brokenness of our world and brings us all closer together and nearer to our God. Together may we move forward bringing hope and healing to the world. Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tara

"MESSAGES OF FAITH IN THE MAGIC OF DISNEY"

Sermon Series

We invite you to join us for a special six week sermon series that explores various faith messages found in great family-friendly movies. All ages will enjoy these classic films and the messages they bring. Movies will be shown on **Tuesdays at 6pm at Our Saviour's UCC** on Division Rd and **Sundays at 11:45am at St. John UCC**. Light refreshments will be served. Each Sunday will have a movie tie-in and message at Our Saviour's UCC at 8:30am and St. John UCC at 10:30am. Please check the August Calendar for dates and movies.

EDUCATIONAL & SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Confirmation

With the start of fall comes the start of a new confirmation class. Confirmation is a one year joint class between Our Saviour's and St. John UCC. All youth entering 7th grade and above are welcome to attend (6th graders accepted on a case by case basis). In an effort to maximize participation and in acknowledgement of the busy lives of our youth, classes are held approximately once per month on a Sunday afternoon for three hours. The first class will be on September 11th from 12-3pm. Lunch is included and parents/guardians are asked to join us in this first session as we outline expectations for the year. In addition to the monthly classes there will be a few mission/service projects throughout the year as well as 1-2 mandatory weekend retreats with other UCC youth from across the state.

Families will be receiving a letter in the mail within in the next week with more details. If you know a youth that is interested in attending confirmation and does not receive a letter please contact the church office to be added to the list. In order for us to order the proper amount of supplies and plan a meaningful experience for all we ask all participants to register by September 1st by contacting the St. John church office at 262-251-0640 or email office@stjohnuccgermantown.org. For more information, please contact Pastor Tara at 262-293-6645 or pastor@stjohnuccgermantown.org.

Got Questions?

"Are all the Bible stories true?" Our faith tradition affirms that the Bible is both the sacred word of God AND an imperfect people's account of their experience of God. The Bible is not a history book or a science book, though it certainly contains history and it does speak of the wonder of nature. At the center of this sacred text is the message that God loves us and all of creation and that God desires good for us and offers graces to us. The scriptures were a way for our ancestors of faith to make meaning of their lives and ponder God's activity in that meaning-making. The Bible has no single author and no single style. It can be helpful to understand the Bible as part of an ongoing conversation of people of faith as they strive to understand the events of their lives. The Bible is our common language as we communicate with one another and with God. When read this way the Bible becomes a living thing, with fresh perspectives as we read of the struggles and questions our ancestors faced and contemplate how they are alike and different from today.

It might be helpful to consider that there is a difference between "fact" and "truth". Faith is not science, it is as the apostle Paul writes, "the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see" (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is the leap beyond facts, not the refutation of facts. This is why faith and science can go hand in hand. Faith does not refute science, it simply is a trusting and hoping in that which is beyond what can be measured or defined. Thus, while Bible stories may not be factual, they are, nonetheless, true. Consider the book of Job which is framed in the linguistic style of a fairy tale, yet it is true in the sense that we all know of people who are good upstanding faithful people to whom bad things happen for no apparent reason. One of the prevailing thoughts of the Ancient Near Eastern culture was that all things (good or bad) happened as a direct result of one's actions (thus the notion that people could make it rain by performing the right ritual). The author of Job was challenging this notion by arguing (through story) that life doesn't match this world view and reflects the reality of questioning where God is and what role God fills when bad things happen to us. Though clearly not a factual account of an event, the book of Job, nonetheless reflects the truth of our struggles to understand how and why bad things happen and our relationship with God in the midst of it all.

"Got Questions" is a monthly column written by the pastor which seeks to answer various questions church members may have about the Bible, church history, and church/spiritual practices.

ATTENTION KNITTERS AND CROCHETTERS

Besides the interest in quilting, another ministry has come out of the Saturday Craft Day. Several of us have expressed an interest in making Prayer Shawls. Several shawls have already been made. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Tara or Joan. This is something you can do on your own or as part of a group. This is an exciting ministry. Please give it some thought! The group will be gathering at Latitudes Coffee House (corner of Pilgrim & County Line Rd.) on the 2nd Wed of the month from 2-4pm, beginning **Sept. 14th.**

GARDENERS WANTED:

Gardening With God meets on Wednesday's, from 9-11am. Devotions and refreshments offered.

ENJOY QUILTING OR WANT TO LEARN HOW:

Plans are being made to start a joint quilting group between St. John and Our Saviour's. If interested, please sign up in the lobby.



BINGO BASH is August 17 starting at 12:30 with dessert. Our next meeting is in the fall.



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 Committees are serving Fellowship:

***June 12th – August** - Juice and Coffee served

Outreach Meetings:

Any members wishing to join the committee are welcome. The next Outreach Committee meeting is **August 14 at 9am**. We meet in the Fraederich Education room. Contact Caroline Romaine at **262-385-1327** for more information.

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 COMMITTEE

St. John U.C.C.

Heart Beat Newsletter August 2016

Outreach Committee

Capuchins' Run / Walk for the Hungry held Friday June 17th, 2016 at Lake Shore State Park. 5 members signed up for the event. A group of 3 attended the 5K or 2 mile walk. Madeline Bersch won first place in 14 and under and in all the age groups. Proceeds from the Run / Walk benefit St. Ben's Community meal program and the House of Peace. A special thank you to Karen Becker for organizing the event.

Our first Brat Fry was held Saturday June 25th, 2016. Our Brat Fry sale profit was \$ 259.00. Proceeds from the profit will be used for future Outreach events and 10% of the proceeds will be given to Mission Alive. Thank you to those who came out to enjoy a Brat! Thank you to those who volunteered at the Brat Fry Rich & Cherie Bersch, Karen Becker, Leatha Lee.

Mark your calendars - *Up Coming Events:*

August 2016

Milwaukee Brewer's Game - Milwaukee Brewer's Game is scheduled **Sunday August 28th, 2016**. Brewer's vs Pittsburgh Pirates – 40 tickets are on reserve. **Due to the game time at 1:10pm; there will be NO SUNDY WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN.** St. John U.C.C. members / friends to attend the 8:30 am service at Our Saviour U.C.C. that day and we will carpool from Our Saviour U.C.C. following the service in time to park and have our tail gate party. For those who are not planning to attend the Our Saviour Service at 8:30am can meet with us at Wickfield on 51st and Vliet St. in Milwaukee at 10:00am. Cost of the ticket is \$15.00 which includes tail gate food/snacks and \$ 5.00 toward parking. We will have the sign-up sheet posted for St. John U.C.C.

September 2016

Sunday, September 11th – Fall Celebration Sunday (Rally Day) – We will be decorating cupcakes after the service.

Monday September 19th – Robert's Frozen Custard Fundraiser

October 2016

Sunday October 9th - Crop Walk – more information TBA

Recipe Corner

St. John U.C.C. has some wonderful cooks and bakers and during Fellowship, Potluck Dinners or Vacation Bible School we have had requests for some of the recipes. Each month in the Heart Beat Newsletter the Outreach Committee will enter a new recipe. If you have one you would like to submit, please drop it off in the church office, clearly labeled and we will put it in the Recipe Corner.



Chicken Cordon Bleu Bubble – Up Bake

*Recipe donated by Sharon Reeder
(from General Mills)*

Ingredients:

- 1 container (8 oz.) chives and onion cream cheese
- 1 package (8 oz.) shredded Swiss cheese (2 cups)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk
- 1 can (16.3 oz.) Pillsbury Grands Flaky Layers refrigerated original biscuits (8 biscuits)
- 2 cups chopped deli rotisserie chicken
- 1 cup diced cooked ham (about 8 oz.)
- Sliced green onions if desired

Directions:

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 13" x 9"- inch (3 quart) baking dish with cooking spray.

In large microwavable bowl, mix cream cheese and 1 cup of the Swiss cheese. Microwave uncovered on high 1 minute, stirring after 30 seconds, until softened and cheese is starting to melt; add additional 30 second intervals as needed. Beat in milk with whisk until mostly smooth; mixture may still be slightly lumpy.

Separate dough into 8 biscuits; cut each into sixths. Gently stir into cream cheese mixture; stir in chicken and ham. Spoon into baking dish. Top with remaining 1 cup cheese.

Bake 35 – 40 minutes or until deep golden brown and biscuits are baked through. Sprinkle with green onions.

ENJOY!!!!

HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN?

Do you have a favorite hymn or two you would love to sing in church this summer? Throughout the summer we would like to

highlight "favorite hymns of the congregation" in our worship services.

Simply list the title of the song (or the first line) on the sign-up sheet in the lobby and we will do our best to work it into the service in the coming weeks.



Your Gifts Matter

Throughout the summer we are collecting books for Next Door Milwaukee's Books for Kids Program. Often when we give to organizations we don't really know the difference our gift has made in the lives of others. Over the next few months this column will highlight the value of our gifts. Below is Andrea who just "graduated" from the Next Door Milwaukee program (graduation occurs when they complete kindergarten). When asked "What can you teach someone?" She said "How to read." (Her favorite books are the princess kind!) When we give books to Next Door Milwaukee we are creating a whole new generation of readers who love to learn and want to share their love of reading with others.



COLLECTION IS EASY!!!

We are collecting UPC's and Boxtops for Crossroad Child & Family Services, Inc., Fort Wayne, Indiana, which is a member of CHHSM—the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Campbell's UPC codes are also needed. There will be a collection box in the lobby.

AUGUST

USHERS

7 E. & S. Hillstrom
14 C. Vanderlois & C.
Romaine
21 D. Tess & S. Reeder
28 Andy B. & M. Gabri-
elson

GREETERS

7
14
21
28 Donna Tess

LITURGISTS

7 Joan Schaezel
14 Mary Johnson
21 Caroline Romaine
28 Eric Hillstrom



We are in need of Liturgists and Greeters. If you are interested in either of these, or both, please contact Pastor Tara for more information.

CRAFT FAIR—SEPTEMBER 10

The Craft Fair Committee is busy planning for September. We are praying that the road construction doesn't hinder the Big Day.

There are posters available to promote the fair with potential exhibitors or to post at your favorite businesses or at your place of work. Stop by the office and pick up a few!

Quilt raffle tickets are available for sale at the church office. Please pick up a few packs of tickets and sell, sell, sell! If you'd like a color photo of the quilt to help promote ticket sales, please let Caroline know.

Another one of our big draws at the Fair is the theme basket raffle. We ask that you please help us by signing up to make one. (The sign up sheet is in the Narthex.) It's a fun activity to do as a family or with friends.

Thanks to those of you who have already donated cash or prizes to the Raffle. For those of you still considering it, we need your help! We can use items/cash for both the adult and youth raffles. If you are interested in making a donation, please let one of the craft fair committee members know.

You will be able to pick up your raffle tickets for selling after church or during office hours. Please pick your packets of tickets up in person and save us the cost of postage we'd have to pay if we mail them. Remember, the more tickets that are sold, the more St. John benefits! So please go out and sell as many tickets for both the Quilt and the regular raffle as you can!

If you are attending other craft fairs or know someone who would like to exhibit at our fair, please help spread the word to these crafters. Applications can be picked up or e-mailed from the church office or even downloaded from the St. John web site!

Since the big day of the Fair is not that far away, enclosed is a questionnaire so you can volunteer to help. If you aren't available the day of the Fair, perhaps you can help put out posters the two weeks before the Fair or get the church set up in advance. There are lots of ways to help! You can turn in your completed form to the church office.

CELEBRATIONS: BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

4 Isabella Delain	20 Corrine Szymik
5 Jackson Hintz	21 Stephanie Toth
9 Jim Toth	24 Amy Wallschlaeger
12 Carol Vanderlois	26 Ashley Skrober
16 Kevin Andrae	27 Donna Tess
18 Kathy Maly	28 Elliot Romaine
19 Jay Schaetzel	
David Reeder	



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

2 Jason & Janelle Lietzau
10 David & Sharon Reeder
20 Jeff & Kay Wendt



AUGUST CALENDAR

2nd—6pm “The Incredibles”
Movie—Our Saviour’s UCC
3rd—8am-6:30pm Day trip-
Racine/Kenosha
9-11am Gardening with
God
7th—The Incredibles to follow
Worship
9th—6pm “Pinocchio” Movie—
Our Saviour’s UCC
10th—9-11am Gardening with
God
11th—6:30pm Council Mtg.
14th—9am Outreach Mtg.
- Pinocchio to follow Wor-
ship
15th—5pm Christian Board of
Education at Starbucks
16th—6pm “Zootopia” Movie—
Our Saviour’s UCC

17th—9-11am Gardening with
God
12:30pm Bingo Bash
21st—Zootopia to follow Wor-
ship
22nd—6:30pm Craft Fair
Mtg.
23rd—6pm “Meet the Robin-
sons” Movie—Our Saviour’s
UCC
24th—9-11am Gardening with
God
27th—9am Craft Fair Cleaning
Day
28th—NO SERVICE HERE
**8:30am Service at Our Sav-
iour’s, UCC—with Blessing
of Back Packs**
Brewer Game
Blessing of Back packs????
30th—6pm “Mary Poppins”
Movie— Our Saviour’s UCC
31st—9-11am Gardening with
God

Our Sym-
pathy to
Curt and
the
Witzlib



family on the death of
his wife, Nola Witzlib.



PRAYER LIST

- ◇ Prayers for Mike Szymik
- ◇ Prayers for our church that it may grow
- ◇ Prayers for Mary Ann Toth
- ◇ Prayers for Kirk (Lois Cozzuli's son) and Nicole (Lois Cozzuli's daughter)
- ◇ Prayers for Laura W., as she battles cancer
- ◇ Prayers for James, friend of Donna Tess
- ◇ Prayers for Liz W., sister of Barb W.

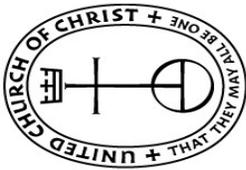
ST. JOHN UCC

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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 St. John UCC—
10:30am*

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