

Heartbeat News

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"What is truth?" This is the question Pontius Pilate asks before he is crucified. Jesus had testified that he "was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice" (John 18:37-38). Particularly in the gospel of John, Jesus takes a hard line on the importance of truth, and that opposition to the truth is not merely alternative facts but are, in fact, lies. In John 8:31-51 Jesus tells the Jews that were following him that by being faithful to his teaching they will know the truth and "the truth will set you free". But those who fail to do good works are "children of the devil", who is the "father of liars". Harsh words from one who is too often characterized as "meek and mild". In the past few months the ideas of "facts" and "truth" seemed pretty irrefutable; but that is no longer a reality in America today. Oxford English dictionary selected "post-truth" as the 2016 word of the year. It's defined as "relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief."

What is truth? Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran pastor who died in a Nazi prison for his part in resisting Hitler, wrote in his essay "What is meant by 'Telling the Truth'?" in his work *Ethics*, that "If one speaks of God one must not simply disregard the actual given world in which one lives; for if one does that one is not speaking of the God who entered into the world in Jesus Christ but rather of some metaphysical idol." The physical world and how we speak and behave within it matters greatly to God. Bonhoeffer goes on to say that "God's truth judges created things out of love, and Satan's truth judges them out of envy and hatred. God's truth has become flesh in the world and is alive in the real, but Satan's truth is the death of all reality (361). To acknowledge the truth of God is to go beyond how we want things to be as to be personally beneficial and instead look toward the way things are and the way in which they are to be as disclosed in scripture. It is a speaking out in love, not in self-righteousness or self-aggrandizement, but in the righteousness of God which brings glory to God by lifting up all that God created, loved, and declared good. To insist upon "alternative facts" that seek to glorify only ourselves is by definition antithetical to God's Truth and in opposition to the Good News of Jesus Christ. Together may we walk in the footsteps of Christ who is the Way and the Truth and the Life. (John 14:6)

Pastor Tara

(Continued on page 2)



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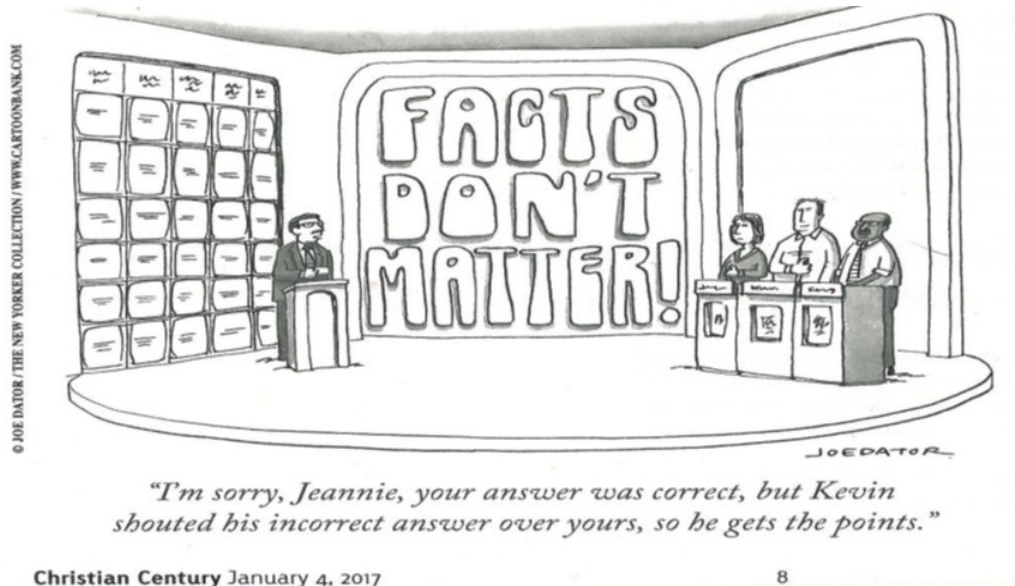
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DISCRETIONARY FUND

St John has started a new Fund at our Church. The newly formed Discretionary Fund is financially supported by the Mission Alive Committee. The purpose of the fund is designed to help church members and their families in cases of unusual or unexpected financial burdens. Pastor Tara has money set aside for this emergency. If you are experiencing a financial hardship, please talk with Pastor Tara. Pastor does not report use of this fund to any committee or church member (this is a private matter). This Fund has been approved by the Church Council and the Mission Alive Committee.

CONFIRMATION

Our Confirmation Class will be traveling to Pilgrim Center, our UCC camp on Green Lake, for a faith formation retreat with other youth **February 24-26.**



GOT QUESTIONS??

Question: "Is there a common thread that runs through all religions? Where can Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists find a common ground that unites rather than divides them?"

This issue has been an ongoing debate for centuries. The Dalai Lama insists that the common thread is "compassion", while others say there is no common thread at all. So let's look at what we do know---Jews, Christians and Muslims share a monotheistic heritage (that means all three faiths believe in one God, the merciful Creator and judge of the world). Jews, Christians and Muslims share a common ancestor, Abraham, who made a covenant with God. We may believe different things about Abraham's God, but it is still the one God of Abraham.

To extend beyond the Abrahamic faiths we might turn to what is commonly referred to as the "Golden Rule" which instructs us to treat others the way you want to be treated. This ethical code has been expressed in ancient wisdom texts and stories in Chinese, Egyptian and Greek cultures and can be found in nearly all of the world's religions.

Another line of thought on this issue is expressed in the philosophy of seeking unity in diversity. This idea is that it is through the knowledge of, and appreciation for the commitment of others in living out their unique faith that we may unite. In this way the differences of others are not to be brushed aside but celebrated and respected as part of the diversity of creation. In the United Church of Christ we lean on a phrase from our tradition (in fact it was the motto at Eden Seminary) that says "In essentials unity, in non-essentials diversity, in all things charity." We can learn to appreciate and even celebrate the differences among us when we seek to see what is "of God" in one another. This idea can speak to our efforts at religious tolerance and embrace of interfaith cooperation; it can also speak to our struggles to be in community with those of the same faith with whom we may not always agree. We seek out those essentials in which we must unite, we embrace the diversity which makes us unique, and in all that we do we seek the well-being and wholeness of 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.

EDUCATIONAL & SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Meets at Our Saviour's UCC, W172 N12533 Division Rd., Germantown, WI, from 11am-12:30pm each Monday. Bible Study will resume on February 6th with an eight week study of the events of Holy Week utilizing the book **The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem** by *Marcus J. Borg & John Dominic Crossan*. Cost of the book is \$8.

MORAL MONDAYS

Through a combination of videos, articles, Bible Study and conversation we explore how these important issues affect our lives and how we can respond as people of faith living out the call to be disciples of Christ.

We meet **weekly on Mondays, 5:30-7:00pm** in the Education Room at St. John UCC. **On Feb. 6th** we will begin a study of the UCC curriculum **"White Privilege Let's Talk; A Resource for Transformational Dialogue"**. We are asking individuals to sign up so we can get an accurate count of material needed.

CRAFTER'S CLUB

Whatever your hobby, bring projects you want to work on and join with other crafters for a day of fun. Drop in for an hour or stay for the day. Coffee, Tea, & Cocoa bar provided. Meets one Saturday a month from 10am-3pm. **Next Craft Day: February 11th at St. John.**

BOOK CLUB

We meet at Latitudes Coffee House (corner of Pilgrim and County Line) on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm.

Feb. 15th—Between the World and Me by *Ta-Nehisi Coates*

March 15th—A Grief Observed by *C.S. Lewis*

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.

MESSY CHURCH—February 12th

During worship on Feb. 12th we will be exploring the theme of "Love" through music, art, prayer, and more.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are focusing our studies on the theme of Epiphany as well as ex-

ATTENTION KNITTERS AND CROCHETTERS

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is engaged in knitting and crocheting prayer shawls and



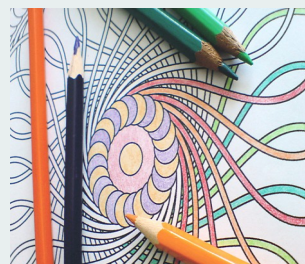
lap blankets for those facing physical challenges, the homebound, newly baptized and others. These gifts are meant as tangible signs of God's love and the prayers of our congregation for that individual.

The group meets at Latitudes Coffee House (corner of Pilgrim & County Line Rd.) on the 2nd Wed of the month from 2-4pm.

Our next meeting is Feb. 8th

ADULT COLORING GROUP

Did you enjoy coloring as a child? Looking for a way to relieve stress or just curious as to what this whole "adult coloring" craze is all about? Whatever your motivation, you are welcome to join us for an evening of coffee, coloring and conversation. We meet on the **first Wednesday of each month from 6-8pm at Latitudes Coffee House** (at the corner of Pilgrim and County Line). Coloring pages and supplies provided or bring your own. **Our next meeting is Feb. 1st.**





Fellowship

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:
February 12th, 19th, 26th.
March 12th, 19th, 26th.

Dates Committees are serving Fellowship:
February 5th, 2017 – Worship & Stewardship Committee
March 5th, 2017 – Women’s Guild

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 is TBA. We meet in the Fraederich Education room. Contact Caroline Romaine at 262-385-1327 for more information.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

St. John U.C.C.

Heart Beat Newsletter February 2017

Thank you to all the members and confirmands who helped take down the Christmas decorations on January 8th, 2017.

Mark your calendars - *Up Coming Events:*

February 2017

Valentine Care Packages

February 5th, 2017

The Outreach Committee and Women’s Guild will be sending out Valentine 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 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 January 29th, 2017. We will be assembling the packages together and sending them out to college students and those in the Armed Forces on February 5th, 2017.

If you are a student or have a child attending college or if you are in the Armed forces or have a child in the Armed forces and would like them to receive a Valentine Care Package, please contact Melissa Luckow at 262-510-1463, or one of the Outreach Committee members. We will need the students name or name of those in the Armed forces and current address we will be sending the package.

11th Annual Dart Ball Night - Saturday February 25th, 2017– 6:00pm

Please join us for the 11th Annual Dart Ball Night on Saturday February 25th, 2017. 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.

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.



Polish Mushroom & Barley Soup

*recipe donated by Ruth Romaine
from the Frugal Gourmet*

Ingredients:

10 cups beef stock	½ cup green beans , cut in ½ inch pieces
2 cups water	1 tbsp. chopped parsley
1 cup barley	¼ cup diced onion (optional)
¼ cup butter	¾ cup Ditalini noodles (optional)
2 carrots diced	Salt & pepper to taste
2 potatoes diced	Sour cream (optional)
1 stalk celery, chopped	

Directions:

Bring 2 cups water to a boil ; add barley and simmer covered until moisture is absorbed (12 – 15 minutes). Stir butter into the cooked barley.

Heat stock and add remaining ingredients (except Ditalini noodles). Bring to a simmer and barley mixture. Cook; covered, until barley is tender about an hour. Add Ditalini noodles; cook an additional 20 minutes.

Add salt & pepper to taste. Garnish with a dollop of sour cream if desired.



WOMEN'S GUILD

Twenty one of us enjoyed our annual Christmas Party with great food, fellowship, Take Away Bingo and door prizes.

We sold 37 boxes of Christmas Cookies and the \$200.00 profit will be sent to the "Wall Fund." Our next meeting will be **February 1st at 7:00 pm** and will be making valentines for the Sunday School children. Women's Worship Sunday will be March 5. Service Project to be announced.

COLLECTION IS EASY!!!

We are collecting UPC's and Boxtops for Crossroad Child & Family Services, Inc., Fort Wayne, Indidana, 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.

UPDATE: On Jan. 24, a total of 237 UPC's and Boxtops were sent to Crossroad Child & Family Services. Thank You

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS UPDATE

- * Baked beans
- * Boxed or bagged potato mix
- * Canned peas
- * Canned pasta
- * Hamburger Helper mixes
- * Chunky soup
- * Mandarin oranges, pineapple, mixed fruit
- * Flavored rice mixes (Rice-a-roni type)
- * Salad dressing/BBQ sauce
- * Cookies/snacks
- * Refried beans
- * Low sodium vegetables
- * Dry soup mixes
- * Sugar and flour
- * Cake frosting
- * Pickles and olives
- * Dish Soap
- * Stuffing
- * Chicken Noodle Soup
- * Lotion, Shampoo, Deodorant

Anything you can donate will be appreciated.

FEBRUARY

USHERS

5 Bob & Jeannie Lehmann
12 Polly & Tom Weber
19 Eric & Sue Hillstrom
26 Andy Boneski & John Schaetzel

GREETERS

LITURGISTS

5 Mary Johnson
12 Joan Schaetzel
19 Eric Hillstrom
26 John Schaetzel



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.

UPCOMING HOCKEY GAME - Sunday February 19th - 3pm

Mark your calendars for our 4th annual Admirals Hockey game outing.

Special promotions that day include:

--Free Children's Hospital Water bottle to the 1st 2,500 fans aged 14 and under

--Salute to Wrestling Day featuring visits from wrestling legends including WWE Hall of Famer Tony Atlas

--Post game skate with Admirals players

We have 41 tickets reserved (note we can only hold tickets until February 5th---any tickets unclaimed at that time will be released back to Admirals for sale to the General Public).

Cost is \$18 per person, due by Sunday February 5th (checks made payable to Our Saviour's UCC). Carpooling will be arranged from both churches.

Call to Synod

I am officially calling all delegates, visitors, and friends of General Synod 31 to join us in Baltimore, **June 30-July 4, 2017.**

As always, Synod promises to be an inspiring and engaging event. Our keynote speakers include Aaron Mair, environmentalist and the first African American president of the Sierra Club, and Glennon Doyle Melton, activist, philanthropist, and author of the best-selling *Carry On, Warrior* and *Love Warrior*.

Preachers in worship include Amy Butler, Sr. Minister at the Riverside Church in New York; David Vasquez-Levy, President of the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley; Kimberly Kendrick, Sr. Co-Pastor at Church of the Living Water in Philadelphia; and myself.

Consistent with our theme, "Make Glad!" - we intend to make the experience one that infuses participants with joy. We will celebrate what it is that makes the UCC one of this nation's most consistent agents for social transformation. We will seek to articulate a vision and a hope for a future in partnership with God's Holy Spirit, a future that engages us in a mission that matters.

We will celebrate in song, dance, art, and worship what it is that our Creator shares with us each day that comes as a blessing.

This will be our first opportunity to gather at Synod with a new Purpose, Mission, and Vision statement. In a spirit of true discipleship and discernment, we will explore together what commitments to love God and neighbor, to welcome all, and to build a just world for all looks like and requires of us.

We are a people who share core values of extravagant welcome, of continuing testament, and of changing lives. My hope is that all who join us in Baltimore will:

- Feel that extravagant welcome
- Open their hearts and minds to hear the new word God is speaking to this people, in this place, at this time
- Discover who it is that we are called to serve and how it is we can partner with them to change lives and change the world.

Bring a spirit of love, of compassion, of openness, and of hope with you. I look forward to seeing you in Baltimore. Until then, let the light of the living Christ shine in and through you, and be known to all whom you meet along the way.

See you in Baltimore, John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President

CELEBRATIONS: BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

7 Davis Lemke
10 Pamela Hansen-Ruben
13 Jay Toth
14 Kate Wallschlaeger



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

No February Anniversaries



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

1st—6-8pm Adult Color at Latitudes

7pm Women's Guild

5th—10:30am Communion Sunday

Valentine Care Packages

6th 11am Bible Study at Our Saviour's

5:30pm Moral Mondays at St. John

8th— 2-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry at Latitudes

9th—6:30pm Council Mtg.

11th—10am-3pm Crafter's Day at St. John

12th Messy Church Day

13th—11 am Bible Study at Our Saviour's

5:30pm Moral Monday's at St. John

15th—6pm Book Club at Latitudes

19th—3pm Admirals Hockey Outing

20th—11am Bible Study at Our Saviour's

5:30pm Moral Monday's at St. John

25th—6pm Dart Ball

27th—11am Bible Study at Our Saviour's

5:30pm Moral Monday's at St. John



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 Ann La-Marre
- ◇ Prayers for Tim Roskopf, son of Karen Roskopf
- ◇ Prayers for Virginia Wendt
- ◇ Prayers for Rodger & Carol
- ◇ Prayers for Henry Dieringer
- ◇ Prayers for Stacy C., recovering from injury, daughter of Janet Robinson
- ◇ Prayers for Lois Cozzuli, recovering from surgery
- ◇ Prayers for Kathleen DeWall, recovering from surgery
- ◇ Prayers for Serena, sister of Mary Johnson

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

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