

Heartbeat News



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

'It's the most wonderful time of the year....', except of course when you turn on the news, or read the newspaper, or scan your Facebook or Twitter feeds, at which point it is the continued story of violence, fear, tragedy, racism, hatred, homophobia, xenophobia, and every other "-ism" and "phobia". I read the Hebrew scripture reading for the first Sunday of Advent from the prophet Jeremiah: "The days are surely coming, says God, when I will fulfill the promise I made..." (Jeremiah 33:14a) and I ask "when?" Or at my most sarcastic moments I roll my eyes and mutter 'yeah right', or in my anger and pain I cry out like the psalmist "How long, O Lord?" We live in a time of suffering, and turmoil and dis-ease. At times it is hard to see the hope out there...but it is there. It's there in the volunteers who show up day after day at Next Door Milwaukee to read to hundreds of preschoolers eager to learn. Hope is present in the protesters who are demanding justice for those harmed by police brutality. Hope is present in the people across Europe who are finding ways to open their hearts and their homes to take in Syrian refugees desperate to find safety. Hope is present in Madison where new initiatives are helping homeless veterans find permanent housing. Hope is there in those who work tirelessly at food pantries and homeless shelters, and children's homes. Hope is found as more people make their voices heard and insist that corporations begin paying their employees a living wage that will put food on the table and a roof over their heads.

Advent means "coming" it's a time of anticipation, but it is Frederik Buechner's description of Advent as "an invasion of holiness" that sparks my imagination. An "invasion of holiness" is what is needed right now. The days are coming, says the LORD, when the promises will be fulfilled, when the hungry will be fed, when the sick will be healed, when the homeless housed, the incarcerated will be freed, the broken made whole. And it is us, the people of God, the disciples of Jesus Christ, that are the ones to usher in this new day. To be the "righteous ones" of God, we must care for the least of these, Jesus said. 2,000 years ago a poor family of refugees fled from Israel into Egypt to escape a violent massacre of an entire generation. That family was Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Today we find ourselves facing similar tragedies: millions fleeing violence in their homelands, an entire generation of young people growing up

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR NOV.

At its monthly meeting held on November 12th, the St. John Church Council:

- Approved the recommendation from the Maintenance Committee to hire Hahn Plumbing to abandon well as required by the Village of Germantown.
- Appearance by Wisconsin Conference Agent from Insurance Board to discuss proposal and coverage comparison.
- Presentation by Pastor Tara and Mary Johnson on the Messy Church Workshop they attended on November 8th.
- Approved use of the Fellowship Hall by Youth for Understanding on Saturday, January 23rd, 2016 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Present: Eric Hillstrom, Mary Johnson, Donna Tess, Marilyn Boettcher, Cherie Bersch, Judy Luckow, Andy Boneski, Sharon Reeder, Greg Schwartz, Pastor Tetzlaff

Absent: None



with few opportunities for economic advancement as they are exploited by the wealthy elite.

A new day is dawning, the kingdom of God is at hand, it is up to us to be alert, to pray, to trust in God, and follow in the paths of Christ, that we may stand firm and serve and celebrate in the kingdom of our God. No one can do everything, but everyone can do something. As we await the coming of our Savior into this world, let us show love for God and love for our neighbor. As Mother Teresa wrote, "To show great love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much love we put in the doing that makes our offering something beautiful for God." In all of our preparations and celebrations this Advent and Christmas season, may we remember to "clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience" (Colossians 3:12), so that we are ready to celebrate and share the good news of this holiday season... Emmanuel, God with Us, is coming into the world, and we need not be afraid, for God is with us, God's love encircles us, and it all is going to be alright.

May God's love be an ever-present gift to you and yours this season and always,

Pastor Tara

LITERACY CAMPAIGN SUCCESSES

If you have a great memory, then you might recall around this time last year when we kicked off our Literacy Campaign in conjunction with the United Church of Christ's National Literacy Initiative. Over the past year we have a number of successes to report:

1. BOOK CLUB: We now have a joint book club with Our Saviour's UCC that meets on a monthly basis at Starbucks to discuss various books on faith. Although actual attendance averages only about 4-5, our small group has done a great job of promoting and sharing the books we read with others so our actual reach is much larger. We always welcome new participants--contact the church office for information on the upcoming selections.

2. LITTLE FREE LIBRARY: Thanks to Gary and Erik Johnson and Jeannie Lehmann we now have an attractive "little free library" mounted at the entrance to the prayer garden and registered with the national Little Free Library program. The concept is simple: groups like ours put up these little "libraries" outside in public areas and stock them with books. The public is then welcome to come, peruse the selections, and borrow books. You don't have to return the book to the same library, and you can put books in any library at any time. More information can be found at www.littlefreelibrary.org

3. CHURCH LIBRARY: We have rebooted our own church library. This can be found on the glass shelves in the lobby, just outside the sanctuary. Books, videos, and cds will be rotated for lending periodically. In each book there is a pocket with an index card, we ask that if you would like to borrow a book you simply fill out the card with your name and the date and drop it into the index card box on the library shelves. When you return the book, take the card out of the box and put it back in the book & place on the shelf. We hope to add one or more new selections each month to this collection. Please check it out!

4. BOOK LIST: We have begun assembling a "wish list" of books to add to our church library and to update our nursery book shelf. If you are interested in "sponsoring" one or more books, perhaps in honor of an event/individual or in memory, please contact the church office.

EDUCATIONAL & SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES



Monday Morning Bible Study: The Stories You Don't Hear on Sunday Morning. Join us for a weekly Bible Study as we explore biblical texts that are not included in the Revised Common Lectionary (the 3 yr. cycle of readings we read on Sunday morning). Topics for the fall have included Proverbs, Hebrews and an Advent Study. **Meets at Our Saviour's UCC, W172 N12533 Division Rd., Germantown, WI, on Monday's, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14 & 21 from 11am-12:30pm. NO CLASS on Dec. 28 or Jan. 4**

WOMEN'S GUILD UPDATES

You are invited to the Women's Guild Christmas Party to be held on **Wednesday, December 2** at Markos on Pilgrim Road, beginning at **6:00 p.m.** The cost is \$15.00. The menu is posted on the bulletin board. Please bring a wrapped gift of at least a \$5.00 value for our famous "Christmas Bingo". Tickets available from Judy Luckow until Nov. 29th



The Christmas Cookie Sale will be held **Sunday, Dec. 6** following the worship service. If you could help us fill these boxes with your favorite cookie please have them at church by noon on Saturday, December 5. This would be greatly appreciated! Price for the boxes will be \$7.00.

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped fill the Thanksgiving baskets. We were able to fill seven baskets for our homebound members!

Help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas with the purchase of a poinsettia plant. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. The plants are \$12.00 each and come in a variety of colors. **Deadline is Dec. 13.**

The Christmas Wish Tree

Back by popular demand, the Christmas Wish Tree will again be set up in the fellowship hall. There will be ornaments on it with items "wished for" for the church. If you care to participate in this way of giving to your church, take one of the ornaments, purchase that item and return it to the tree by **Dec. 20**. If you represent one of our committees and know of an item or items that are "wished for", please fill out one of the blank ornaments and place it on the tree. Thanks!



PEW BIBLES

"Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey." (psalm 119:105. Help light the way in our sanctuary by sponsoring a Pew Bible today! We have recently purchased new CEB (Common English Bible) Pew Bibles for the sanctuary. This is the translation that is typically read from during worship. To defray the cost of the Bibles, we are asking for a donation of \$10 per Bible. There are forms in the lobby if you are interested in sponsoring a Bible, or call the office and we can help you out.

BOOK CLUB

Upcoming Books for Book Club at Starbucks:



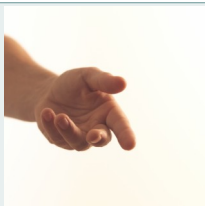
- December 16**-Mudhouse Sabbath by Lauren F. Winner
- January(tba)**-The Shack by Wm. Paul Young

If you would like to reserve a copy of any of these books, please contact the church office.

LITURGISTS NEEDED!!!!

The Worship Committee is looking for a few more people to join our group of Liturgists. If you are interested and wish to learn more about serving your church in this capacity, please see Pastor Tara or Joan Schaezel. Thanks for your consideration!

**WE NEED YOUR
HELP!**



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 members and friends are welcome. Any question contact Sharon Reeder at 262-251-5946.

Dates Committees are serving Fellowship:

December 6th, 2015 – Constitution, Maintenance, & Mission Alive

December 20th, 2015 – Christian Board of Education

January 3rd, 2016 – Spiritual Life Committee

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 Feb. 7th. We meet in the Fraederich Education room. Contact Caroline Romaine at 262-385-1327 for more information.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Report on CROP – Hunger Walk Sunday October 11th, 2015. The CROP Hunger Walk was held on a beautiful sunny day at the Milwaukee Lakefront near the McKinley Park Marina. 5 members / friends of St. John U.C.C. attended the CROP Walk. Along with the walk; CROP held a Food Drive. Food was served to all the participants and music was played by a local band during the walk. \$235.00 was donated to CROP / Church World Services by the sponsored participants. Thank you to all who participated in the walk and the generous friends and members of St. John U.C.C. who sponsored all the walkers.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Upcoming Events:

December 20th - Christmas Caroling

Please join us for Christmas Caroling. We will be meeting following the service in the Fellowship Hall at 11:45am. We will have subs for those who wish to join us. We will car pool and meet at 1:00pm- Ellen's Home W150 N11127 Fond-du-lac Ave. – Germantown to Christmas Carol ; then on Virginia Highlands Health and Rehabilitation Center W.173 N.10915 Bernies Way Germantown at 1:30pm, followed by Christmas caroling at 2:00pm - Ellen's Home N113 W16358 Sylvan Circle – Germantown A sign – up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board on the landing toward the Fellowship Hall.

1:00pm - Ellen's Home W150 N11127 Fond-du-lac Ave. – Germantown

Virginia Highlands Health and Rehabilitation Center W.173 N.10915 Bernies Way Germantown at 1:30pm

2:00pm - Ellen's Home N113 W16358 Sylvan Circle – Germantown

January 3rd, 2016

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

February 2016

College Care / Armed Forces Care Packages – more information to follow. 10th Annual Dart Ball Night - date to be announced in January Heartbeat newsletter.

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.

Buttermilk Pie

Recipe from Ann LaMarre

Ingredients:

1 deep dish pie shell - 9 inch (blind bake at 400 degrees for 6 – 10 minutes)

1 ½ cups sugar
3 tablespoons all- purpose flour
3 large eggs
1 cup Buttermilk
½ cup butter, melted
1 tablespoon lemon zest
3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Whisk together first two ingredients in a large bowl. Whisk eggs and next five ingredients into flour mixture; pour into pre baked pie crust. Cover edges of pie crust with 2 – 3 inches of aluminum foil to prevent excessive browning; remove foil during last 10 minutes of baking.

Bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes; then reduce heat to 300 degrees and bake for 1 hour or until top is golden brown.



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.



DECEMBER

USHERS

6 Andy B. & John S.

13 Donna T. & Carol V.

20 Carol & Gregg
Schwartz

24 Christmas Eve

Jeannie & Bob Lehmann

27 Sharon R. & Caroline
R.

GREETERS

6 Andy Boneski

13 Donna Tess

20 **OPEN** (please let
Barb know if you can
help)

24 The Johnson Family

27 Karen Becker

LITURGISTS

6 Matt Lison

13 Caroline Romaine

20 Merry Lison

24

27 Eric Hillstrom

ADVENT READERS WANTED

Looking for individuals/families to sign up to light the advent wreath and read a short prayer. Dates available: **Dec. 13th, 20th and 24th** (this is an evening service) Please call or email Barb in the church office to sign up.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP WITH CRAFT FAIR PLANNING

Some of the committee members are interested in changing roles so we're looking for people who would be interested in the following areas:

Committee Chair (or Co-Chair if you'd like to share the role)

Advertising (Requires reviewing ad proofs and sending documents as email attachments)

Booth Coordinator (Requires sending documents as email attachments)

Treasurer

If interested in volunteering or nominating someone else for any of these roles, please contact Merry Lison at: merrymatt@sbcglobal.net

THANK YOU FOR ALL WHO DONATED SHOEBOX GIFTS FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



CELEBRATIONS: BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4 Alicia Toth	15 Lisa Graveen
6 Tom Toth	17 Chris Pickett
Tom Weber	21 Chelsea Johnson
8 Amanda Reeder	25 Judy Luckow
9 Jim Koedinger	27 Lillian Sutton
10 Kathy DeWall	28 Lisa Hillstrom
Joy Lehmann	Dawn Taylor
Carol Schwartz	



PRAYER REQUEST FORMS can be found in the lobby of the church. Please fill out the form if you would like to include someone on the Prayer List.



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5 Tom & Alicia Toth



DEC. EVENTS

2nd—9am-Noon—Crafters Day—St John

6pm Women's Guild Christmas Party—Marko's Pizza

5th—Cookie drop-off by Noon

6th—Women's Guild Cookie Sale—following worship

7th—10-11:30am Bible Study (OSC)

10th—6:30pm Church Council

12th—10am-3pm Crafter's Day—here—St. John's

14th—10-11:30am Bible Study (OSC)

4pm St. Ben's

4:30pm Christian Bd. Of Education

16th—6pm Book Club at Starbucks

20th—1:30pm Christmas Caroling

21st—10-11:30am Bible Study (OSC)

CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm—Service at St. John

7pm—Service at OSC

CHRISTMAS DAY

9am—Service at OSC

28th—NO BIBLE STUDY

PRAYER LIST

- ◇ Prayers for Mike Szymik
- ◇ Prayer for our church that it may grow
- ◇ Prayers for Mary Ann Toth
- ◇ Prayers for Erik K.
- ◇ Prayers for Sherry Palmer

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

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

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

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

**Christmas Eve: 5pm St. John's
7pm Our Saviour's UCC**

Christmas Day: 9am Our Saviour's UCC