

# Heartbeat News



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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

By the time you read this letter, Christmas 2015 will be but a distant memory, but as I am writing this in my favorite coffee shop, folks stream in and out as they hurriedly purchase gifts for the “Big day” that is fast approaching. It seems like just yesterday I was writing the January 2015 newsletter and here we are at the cusp of 2016. If you are anything like me you secretly harbor hopes for a new year that features a slimmer, well-organized, fiscally responsible, generous, kinder and more patient new you. But even as we day-dream the “new and improved” resolution-promised self we hope to transform into we know that we fail more often than we succeed. So what if we changed our perspective? One of the scripture passages that I have been sitting with a lot lately is Isaiah 43 (go ahead, look it up-I’ll wait). It’s this beautifully intriguing passage written from the perspective of God. I find comfort in its opening promises: “Don’t fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.” There are no conditions in these words, we BELONG to God. And this love note from God continues: “you are precious in my eyes, you are honored and I love you” (vs 4). We are then reminded of God’s power and might, that none can compare to our God who saves us. Verse 19 is reminiscent of the Advent season as it proclaims “Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it? I’m making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.”

(Continued on page 2)



St. John UCC

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## COUNCIL HIGH-LIGHTS FOR DEC.

At its monthly meeting held on December 10th, the St. John Church Council:

- Set the Annual Congregational Meeting for February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- Approved the proposal from Insurance Board to provide property and liability insurance.
- Discussed the proposed 2016 budget.

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

Absent: Cherie Bersch, Greg Schwartz

Next Council meeting:  
January 14, 2016



At the dawn of this New Year that is what we are hoping for isn't it: a new way, a new path in the wilderness of life? We long for instruction and vision, hope for a good year, a good life. But like my New Year's resolutions, reality strikes, beginning at verse 22 as we are reminded of how we have failed. And yet, the new thing still exists! The Hope is not lost for even as our shortcomings are recalled pure Grace is given. The next chapter (44) continues in reassuring us of the promises of God, our maker, our king, our redeemer.

We can go ahead and make those resolutions, or abstain from them altogether...because what is made clear in Isaiah 43-44 is that this "new thing" is coming whether or not we are ready. Throughout the Advent season we were reminded over and over to be ready, that the birth of Jesus would be soon. And Christmas came whether or not our houses were cleaned, our gifts were wrapped, cookies decorated, or hearts were opened. That is the most wonderful good news about our God. God comes into our lives whether we are ready or not. God sees us for who we are and loves us anyway. This year let's stop relying solely on ourselves to do the new thing and instead seek to see the new thing which God is doing in our lives, in our church, in our community and in the world. It is when we see, acknowledge, and embrace all that is already coming into being that we can then join in this wondrous new thing as all the world is renewed by God's love.

May God's grace and peace fill your new year with all hope and joy,

Pastor Tara



## 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, 11 and 18.**

### LITERACY CAMPAIGN SUCCESSES

Over the past year we have a number of successes to report:

**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.

### 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. We have a mission relationship through our church. The mission is to help troubled children and families.



It's easy to find Box Tops. Clip box tops from your favorite products, such as GM Cereals, Betty Crocker Mixes, Ziploc Bags, etc. Box tops are each worth 10 cents and they add up fast.

Campbell's UPC codes are also needed. There will be a collection box in the lobby.



## 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:



**January 20**—The Shack by Wm. Paul Young

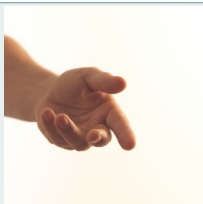
**February (tba)** - Being Mortal by Atul Gawunde

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 Schaetzel. 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:**

**Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 – Spiritual Life Committee**

**Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Worship and Stewardship**

**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

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

### **Mark your calendars - *Up Coming Events:***

#### **January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**

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

#### **February 2016**

##### **College / Armed Forces - Valentine Care Packages**

##### **February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

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 January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. We will be assembling the packages together and sending them out to college students on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

If you are a student or have a child attending college and would like them to receive a College Care Package, please contact Melissa Luckow at 262-510-1463, or one of the Outreach Committee members. We will need the students name and current address.

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Dart Ball Night - Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – 6:00pm**

Please join us for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Dart Ball Night on Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. 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.

#### **April 2016 – Rummage Sale –**

Start cleaning out closets, basements, garages for the 2016 Rummage Sale. Rummage Sale~~Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016. More info. TBA.

#### **May 2016**

**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016** - Play outing – Menomonee Falls Patio Players presents "Hello Dolly". 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.

### **Caramel Pretzel Bites** Skrober

Recipe donated by Ashley

*Served during Fellowship on October 18th, 2015*

2tsp. Butter softened  
4cups pretzel sticks  
2 1/2 cups pecans halves toasted. Optional  
2 1/4 packed Brown sugar  
1 cup butter cubed  
1 cup corn syrup  
1 can 14ounces sweetened condensed milk  
1/8 tsp. Salt  
1 tsp. Vanilla extract  
1 11ounce bag of milk chocolate chips  
1 tbsp. Plus 1 tsp shortening divided  
1/3 cup white baking chips  
Candy thermometer



1. Line a 9x1 pan with foil grease foil with butter. Spread pretzels and pecans if using pecans on bottom of prepared pan.
2. In a large heavy saucepan combine brown sugar cubed butter corn syrup milk and salt. Cook and stir over medium heat until a candy thermometer reads 240 degrees or soft ball stage. Remove from heat. Stir in vanilla. Pour over pretzel mixture.
3. In a microwave melt chocolate chips and 1 tbsp shortening stir until smooth. Spread over caramel layer. In microwave melt white baking chips and remaining shortening stir until smooth. Drizzle over top. Let stand until set.
4. Using foil lift candy out of pan remove foil. Using buttered knife cut candy into 72 pieces

## **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.



## **JANUARY**

### **USHERS**

- 3 K. & J. Schaetzel
- 10 J. Koedinger & A. Skrober
- 17 Polly & Tom Weber
- 24 A. Boneski & Dick Wallander
- 31 M. Boettcher & M. Gabrielson

### **GREETERS**

- 3 Andy Boneski
- 10 Sharon Reeder
- 17 Donna Tess
- 24
- 31

### **LITURGISTS**

- 3 Caroline Romaine
- 10 Rollie Pieper
- 17
- 24 Joan Schaetzel
- 31

**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.**

## **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](mailto:merrymatt@sbcglobal.net)

## **VBS SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

**Vacation Bible School will be July 18-**

**21.** The theme this year is "Journey to Egypt" and will incorporate stories of Joseph and/or Moses. There will be a field trip on the final day to Milwaukee Public Museum to see the Ancient Egypt exhibit. We will need volunteers beginning in February to begin working on plans/preparations in the following areas: set design (to make different areas and rooms reflect Ancient Egyptian themes), arts and crafts, games, music, etc. Please contact the office by Feb. 1st if you are able to help in any of these areas.



## **WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS**

December's Meeting was our annual Christmas Party with Take Away Bingo. This year we went out to eat so there was no set up or clean up. A nice and relaxing evening for all. There was no Business Meeting.

The next meeting is **January 6, 2016 at 7:00 pm**. We will be planning Women's Worship Sunday. Come and Join Us.

## CELEBRATIONS: BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



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

**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.



### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

7 Greg & Chris Pickett



### JAN. EVENTS

**3rd—Tree Take Down**  
**4th—NO Bible Study**  
**6th—10am** SpiritualLife  
7pm Women's Guild  
**11th—NO Bible Study**  
4pm—St. Ben's  
**14th—6:30pm** Church Council  
**16th—10am-3pm**—Crafter's Day (OSC)  
**18th—NO Bible Study**  
**20th—6pm** Bock Club at Starbucks  
**25th—10-11:30pm** Bible Study (OSC)



### 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

### PRAYERS FOR....

Virginia Wendt & Jeff & Kay Wendt, who lost their son/brother, John Wendt.

Pastor Tara's family for the loss of her great-uncle Paul Stegeman.

Merry Lison for the sudden loss of her husband, Eric. There will be a memorial service at a later date.

## 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*