

# Heartbeat News



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings in the name of Christ,

Many of you have heard me talk about the joy I have experienced while volunteering in a program called Books for Kids in Milwaukee's central city. Approximately two afternoons a month I am delighted to read one-on-one with several preschoolers. Over 90% of these 2-6 year olds come from families living below the poverty level. Their enthusiasm and appetite for knowledge is awe-inspiring, as the 3-4 year olds proudly help me with color and number recognition, and many of the 5-6 year olds are able to read along with me.

As a young child growing up in a relatively poor working class family, books were my escape. Though my father only had an 8th grade education and my mother had only a GED they knew the importance of a quality education and made sure I had access to all the books I could read. Not all kids are nearly as lucky. 42 percent of American children (over 31 million) grow up in homes that lack the income to cover even the most basic needs like rent, child care, food, transportation, and healthcare. Studies have shown that success in life is directly linked to education and literacy. The National Institute for Literacy estimates that 43% of adult with very low literacy skills live in poverty.

So what does this have to do with the Church? We are reminded in 1 Corinthians 12, that we are all part of one body through Christ. When any member of our community suffers, we all suffer. Proverbs 22:6 says that we are to train a child in the way they should go and when they are old they will not depart from it. It seems then, that by providing children with the books and caring individuals to share the love of reading and knowledge with them we are "training up" these children in a way that will lead to academic achievement so that they may grow up to be productive and contributing members of society. The great thing about "Books for Kids" is that it is not just about giving books away but doing so in a method that connects these kids to adults who serve as role models who encourage them to do well.

If a child cannot read at a proficient level by the 4th grade, there is a 66% chance that he or she will end up in jail or on welfare. Approximately 85% of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate. In the U.S. 1 in 5 (20%) adults lack reading skills beyond a 4th grade level. If literacy is one of the key indicators to success in life, then it only makes sense to give children the tools to excel, ending the cycle of poverty and illiteracy.

*(Continued on page 2)*



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## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY

Our May meeting was moved to May 19th to accommodate Mary Johnson. Thank you to all council members for understanding.

At its monthly meeting held on May 19th, the St. John Church Council:

- Reviewed Proposal from Johnsons & Son Paving for the bottom of the parking lot.
- Discussed the needs of Vacation Bible School
- Women's Guild is offering \$10 Scholarships for Members
- Discussed the recommendations from the Elder's meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussed distribution of the Heartbeat.
- Discussed publishing the calendar of events in the Heartbeat
- Our mailbox is temporarily on Spaten Ct.

Present: Mary Johnson, Donna Tess, Eric Hillstrom, Cherie Bersch, Judy Luckow, Sharon Reeder, Andy Boneski,

Absent: Bob Lehmann, Greg Schwartz, Pastor Tetzlaff

Next Council meeting:  
**June 9, 2016**

As a summer mission endeavor I am inviting you to join me in collecting books for the Books for Kids Program at Next Door Milwaukee. Next Door's Books for Kids program was established in 1990 with the hope that all children in Milwaukee's central city, regardless of family income or education levels, could have books to call their own. Books for Kids distributes over 70,000 books each year! Each month the children in their early childhood program meet with a volunteer in the Books For Kids Library for 30 minutes of one-on-one reading twice a month, and get to select a book to take home for their very own. Congratulations for reading this newsletter—you have won a special prize—call, email, or stop by the church office to receive. Beginning this summer the program has grown: in addition to their site on 29<sup>th</sup> St., Books for Kids has added a second location on Capitol Drive. This second site will expose even more children to reading but it also will require an even greater outpouring of books. Books are also distributed to neighborhood families and teachers to promote literacy. Placing books into the hands of Milwaukee's central city children is essential because:

- Low-income families have few children's books in their homes.
- The number of books in a child's home correlates significantly with reading achievement.
- The number of books available to a child plays a role in predicting first grade reading achievement

Reading ability is a strong predictor of success and interest in school.

By expanding the number and frequency of reading experiences *Books for Kids* inspires young people to develop an appreciation and love for books. As a result, these children improve reading fundamentals, school preparedness, and their chances of achieving long-term academic success.

To add a fun little twist to our collection we are having a "Battle of the Books" as both Our Saviour's UCC and St. John UCC will be collecting books from now through Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. The church who gathers the most books will receive bragging rights and a special "Trophy." The collection box will be located in the church lobby. New and gently used picture books, board books and other books appropriate for ages 0-6 is greatly appreciated.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Tara

### **Vacation Bible School will be July 18-21, 9am-3pm**

All children aged 3-12 are invited to attend (before/after care may be available) \$20 if registered by June 27th, \$25 after June 27th. Final day of registration is July 5th. Forms for kids and sign ups for volunteers are in the lobby of the church.

Cost includes: lunch and snack, t-shirt; crafts/activities; bus trip and admission to Milw. Public Museum on Thurs.

Forms available online at [www.stjohnuccgermantown.org](http://www.stjohnuccgermantown.org), or call or email the church at 262-251-0640 and [office@stjohnuccgermantown.org](mailto:office@stjohnuccgermantown.org).



### **NOAH'S ARK**

Our 2nd annual Noah's Ark trip is scheduled for **Monday June 13th** (exact times TBD). Cost is \$18 per person which includes your admission and a hot dog lunch (hot dog, chips, pickle & soda). Open to all ages. Youth under 6th grade must have a parent or other adult accompany them.

## EDUCATIONAL & SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

### GARDENERS WANTED:

Gardening with God has resumed!!! Join us on Wednesday's, from 9-11am. Devotions and refreshments will be offered. Please join us for part or all of this activity.



**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.

### 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.



### WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

**THANK YOU TO ALL** for your donations to the Undie 500. We collected 237 items. The women's and children's items were donated to Friends of Abused Families of Washington County and the men's items will go to the Guest House.

**THANK YOU TO ALL** for help cleaning the kitchen, Easter Breakfast, Rummage Sale and Cleaning Day.

Women's Guild is sponsoring a NEW Vacation Bible School Scholarship of \$10.00 for each members child going to VBS. This is along with the \$25.00 Camp Scholarship we already have for a members child going to a Church Camp.

Shady Lane Nursery coupons are again available, see Judy Luckow.

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

### 31st ANNUAL FALL ART AND CRAFT FAIR

The Craft Fair Committee is working hard to plan the Craft Fair for **September 10th**. Posters will be available in June 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 whatever size works best for you! We do have a quilt being donated by Caroline Romaine's sister, Lynn. It is a queen size named "Made in America". Don't forget to organize your theme basket. A sign up will be in the narthex. An envelope is included in this newsletter for the adult raffle. Youth raffle envelopes will be on the bulletin board in the stairwell. Gift cards for gas, restaurants, fast food, grocery stores and bookstores are popular items but we welcome any donations of new items for this raffle. If you opt for gift cards, remember to order them through Script and the church benefits twice! Raffle and quilt tickets are ordered and should be available by Sunday, June 5th. Any questions contact a committee member.

**SHADY LANE COUPONS ARE HERE!!!** These coupons are \$10 each and can be used till the end of June. Please contact Judy Luckow to purchase these.

### 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.

### The Capuchins Run/Walk for the Hungry Come Join Us!!!! June 17 at Polish Fest

5k Run—a certified chip time/scored race. \$25 Adults, \$15 Child (\$30 & \$20 after June 5)

1 Mile Walk—Non-competitive walk on Polish Fest Grounds. Not eligible for scoring or awards. \$20 Adult, \$10 Child (\$25 & \$15 after June 5)

For more information, contact **Karen Becker at 414-759-8123**





**Dates Committees are serving Fellowship:**

**June 5<sup>th</sup>** – Outreach Committee

**\*June 12<sup>th</sup> – August** - Juice and Coffee served

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

**RECIPE.....**

**Karen’s - Chili for Tortilla chips**

**Recipe donated by Karen Becker**

**Ingredients:**

- 1– 1 oz. McCormick Chili seasoning packet
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1- 14.5 oz. can Diced tomatoes (chili ready)
- 1– 15 oz. can Kidney Beans
- 1 1 lb. bag Tortilla chips

**Directions:**

Brown ground beef; drain off excess fat. Stir into browned ground beef; Chili seasoning packet, (chili ready) diced tomatoes, & kidney beans.

Serve with Tortilla chips. Enjoy!!!

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

**St. John U.C.C.  
Heart Beat Newsletter June 2016  
Outreach Committee**

Report on April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Spring Rummage Sale / Bake Sale. The Outreach Committee organized a Spring Rummage and Bake Sale. Thank you to the many members and friends who donated time volunteering to set up or volunteered during the Rummage /Bake Sale. Thank you to members who donated items to sell or donated bakery for our bake sale. Our total profit during the Spring Rummage and Bake sale and after church service sale was \$2800.00. The Outreach Committee decided 10% of the sales would be designated to Mission Alive and toward other future Outreach projects. Items not sold after the rummage sale were donated to the Purple Heart Organization. A special Thank you to Sharon Reeder for organizing the event.

Report on Adult Fellowship outing to Menomonee Falls Patio Players – Performance of “My Fair Lady” May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at 2:00pm. 15 Members and friends from St. John U.C.C. and Our Saviour U.C.C. attended the performance. The performance was wonderful. Following the play members and friends met back at St. John U.C.C. for delicious Roast beef sandwiches, relish tray, beverages, and desserts. Thank you to Bob Lehmann and Jeannie Lehmann for organizing the event.

Thank you to all the members who volunteered to help during the church “Weed and Feed Spring clean – up” on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The weather was wonderful. 8 members were in attendance. We focused our efforts outside in the Community Prayer Garden. The outside flower gardens were cleaned and spruced up, bushes were trimmed. Lucky winners for the Scrip drawing were Chris Pickett and John Schaezel. A light breakfast and lunch was provided by the Outreach Committee.

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

June 2016

**St. John U.C.C. Brat Fry Day’s - Pick n’ Save in Menomonee Falls  
Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 & Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016  
Time: 10:00 am – 3:00pm**

**\*\*\*Note location change.** Located at Pick n’ Save in Menomonee Falls N.77 W.14435 Appleton Ave. (Across from Menomonee Falls High School and North of Lilly Rd.).

**Volunteers needed. A sign – up sheet will be posted for those who would like to volunteer at the Brat Fry’s during the summer. Brat Fry proceeds will benefit future Outreach events and 10% of our sales will be donated to Mission Alive.**

**August 2016 -**

Mark your calendars-

**Milwaukee Brewer’s Game** - Milwaukee Brewer’s Game is scheduled **Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016.** Brewer’s vs Pittsburgh Pirates – 40 tickets are on reserve. Due to the **game time at 1:10pm;** we urge 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 51<sup>st</sup> 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.

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## **Conference Board Adopts New Mission, Values, and Vision Statements**

For the last several years, the Board of Directors has sensed that the mission statement of the Conference, nearly a decade old, was no longer helpful in guiding the work of the Conference staff and developing plans for the future. Having called a new Conference Minister and new field staff, we believed the time was ripe for reexamining not only the Conference's mission but also its vision for the future and the values that would guide it.

Board and staff devoted their September 2015 retreat to these topics, after which a small writing team distilled several hours of conversation and many chart-pad pages into three proposed statements: "mission," "values," and "vision." The Board considered these drafts at its December meeting, shared them with Association leaders in February, and adopted them in the form below at its regular meeting near the end of February.

Going forward, they will be used over the next several years to clarify proposed directions and provide touchstones for decision-making related to the work of Conference staff and the Board. We also hope that they will prove fruitful in Association and local church settings, and so we invite all the people of the United Church of Christ in Wisconsin to consider how these statements can inform the work that we will do together.

With grateful hearts for our shared ministry,

Rev. Franz Rigert, Conference Minister  
Steve Hirby, Chair, Board of Directors  
Rev. Kerri Parker, Vice Chair, Board of Directors

### **Our Mission (what we do)**

The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ equips leaders and congregations to transform lives through innovative ministry for the 21st century.

### **Our Values (how we do our work together)**

Guided by the Great Commandments, Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25, and a commitment to extravagant welcome, we will work together...

- to serve God and our neighbors with compassion
- to encourage and inspire one another with hope
- to make bold and courageous choices with love

### **Our Vision (what will change if we are successful)**

By 2019 the people of the United Church of Christ in Wisconsin will be energized to be the church in their local context, expressed through passionate work toward a more just and generous world.

## **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.

## JUNE

### USHERS

- 5 Joan & Ken Schaetzel
- 12 Rich & Cherie Bersch
- 19 Jean Koedinger & Ashley Skrober
- 26 Carol & Greg Schwartz

### GREETERS

- 5 Andy Boneski
- 12 Andy Boneski
- 19 Andy Boneski
- 26 Donna Tess

### LITURGISTS

- 5 Mary Johnson
- 12 Eric Hillstrom
- 19 Caroline Romaine
- 26 Caroline Romaine



**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.**

### SIX FLAGS DAY TRIP

Historically, St. John Youth have always had a summer trip to Six Flags Great America. We are hoping to re-start this tradition this summer. We are looking at July 6, 7, or 8th (we will go with whatever day fits most people). Cost would be \$36 for admission and option for meal deal at \$14pp (or you can eat on your own). We would need a minimum of 20 people between our two churches in order to get this price break. Trip would be open to all ages (children, youth and adult). Children under 6th grade would need to have a parent or other adult appointed by parent in attendance). If there is enough interest we may be able to get a bus. Friends are welcome to attend as well. Please contact the church office with your name, # interested in attending and what date(s) you are available.

### Got Questions?

What is the role of the Holy Ghost? The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity and is equal and in existence with the Father and the Son. In Christian Doctrine (Revised Edition), Shirley Guthrie describes the Bible's disclosure of the Holy Spirit as "the presence and work of the living God here and now in our individual lives, in the church and in the world." Jesus describe the Spirit as "Advocate" and "teacher of truth". The Spirit is active in both the new and old testaments. The New Testament introduces us to a key word that summarizes the work of the Spirit: "new". The Holy Spirit brings new life, new beginnings, new wisdom and guidance from God. When the Spirit breaks in, old ways are transformed and new ways of thinking and doing begin. While the Spirit is a Comforter to those in distress, it has also been likened to a "wild goose", insisently prodding us into new understandings and new ways of listening for and discerning the Word and Will of God. The Spirit calls us to read and hear God's word in scripture and the world around us and discern what it says to our lives today. Our job is to be open to the work of the Spirit in our lives, our church and our world so that we can work with God in enacting peace and justice.

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

### THANK YOU NOTES .....

•Thank you for your generous contribution to the Germantown High School Post Prom. Because of donors like you, 175 youth were able to enjoy a variety of activities in a safe environment.

Thanks again!!

Germantown High School  
PTA Post Prom Committee

•Thank you to everyone for all of the cards, prayers, food, and flowers. They certainly helped! I am still working to regain my strength but am doing well and am glad to be back at church again  
Pastor Tara

## CELEBRATIONS: BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Hannah Schaetzel  
8 Lucas Schaetzel                      22 Susan Hillstrom  
9 Shirley Fraederich                      Sarah Hillstrom  
14 Griffin Lietzau  
15 Ken Schaetzel  
    John Schaetzel



### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Rich & Cherie Bersch  
10 Gayle and Dennis Johnson  
14 Jim & Jean Koedinger  
17 Bob & Jeannie Lehmann  
20 Mike & Corrine Szymik  
25 Mark & Judy Luckow



### JUNE EVENTS

**1st—9-11am** Gardening with God

**5th**—Worship Cmtee. Mtg.—following worship

**8th—9-11am** Gardening with God

**9th—6:30pm** Church Council

**10th-12th**—UCC WI Annual Mtg. n Green Lake

**13th**—Noah's Ark

**15th—9-11am** Gardening with God

**17th—7pm** Run/Walk for the Hungry—Polish Fest

**22nd—9-11am** Gardening with God

**25th—10am-3pm** Brat Fry at Pick 'n Save (across from Menomonee Falls High School)

**29th—9-11am** Gardening with God

### **Helping Honduras**

Thank you all for your generosity to the "Got Milk" Lenten mission offering. We raised \$173, Mission Alive rounded it to \$175 and matched it so that we could send \$350 to Heifer International. In addition to the match from Mission Alive we have also been informed of a special offer that allows our gift to be matched again, which means that thanks to your initial gift of \$173, a total of \$700 will go to the Helping Honduras project. Heifer International has undertaken a number of projects to help the people of Honduras where nearly two-thirds of children under the age of five are malnourished. The money we have raised will support projects that provide things such as cows, goats, beehives, hens fish, fruit trees, and more to help families survive, become self-sufficient and be able to help their neighbors do the same.

### **APOLOGY.....**

In last week's Heart-beat, we incorrectly put Matthew & Melissa Luckow as the parents of Carter Luckow. It should be Matthew & Mallory Luckow. We're sorry for the error.



### **PRAYER LIST**

- ◇ Prayers for Mike Szymik
- ◇ Prayer for our church that it may grow
- ◇ Prayers for Mary Ann Toth
- ◇ Prayers for Nola Witzlib
- ◇ 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

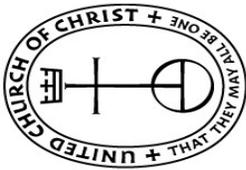
**ST. JOHN UCC**

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