

Heartbeat News

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



‘It’s the most wonderful time of the year...’ crooned the voice on the radio as I drove into church this morning, until I switched it off. It wasn’t even Thanksgiving yet and already the commercialism and forced cheerfulness was grating on my nerves...and I genuinely enjoy this season of the church year. But, if we’re honest with ourselves, it’s all a bit too much to bear sometimes. The recent election, indications of rapid climate change, the preponderance of suffering and inequality, the bills, the to-do list, the loss of loved ones, and the increased prevalence of acts of hatred can weigh us down so much that it feels more like a “Blue Christmas” than a “Holly Jolly Holiday”. At moments like these it can be a great help to turn to the psalms where we find the psalmist has already given voice to our sorrows, our fears, our frustrations...and it is from the psalms that we can also come to develop a vocabulary of hopeful waiting. The psalms of the Advent season voice our deepest desires “peace to the people, justice to the poor, salvation for the children of the needy” (Psalm 72), “Bread to the starving, justice to the oppressed, freeing the prisoner, the blind made to see, lifting up those bent low” (Psalm 146).

Perhaps the hardest part is that we WANT to be happy and joyful, but the reality in which we find ourselves feels anything but. As one who is grieving the loss of a loved one, I know this time of year can be especially hard, and many are facing struggles that others know nothing about. At times all of the gaiety of the season can feel cruel. If you find yourself in that place, know that you are not alone. If you are hurting, or feeling less than joyful this holiday season, its ok. (And know that you can reach out, if just to have someone who will listen).

The season of Advent is not a pre-Christmas party, but a time of quiet reflection and waiting, a time in which we are invited to give voice to our hopes for a better tomorrow, for our desire for a savior to come and restore all that is broken, to bring back that which has been lost.

By focusing our attention on this season of Advent, living into these weeks of expectant waiting we can find the vocabulary to voice our inner-most longings for God, our deepest desires for the true gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. As we work our way through these themes of Advent we may find that in the waiting God prepares our

(Continued on page 2)



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DISCRETIONARY FUND

Dear Church Family,

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 will have money (\$500) set aside for this emergency. Pastor can use this money, at her discretion, to help relieve some or all of this financial situation. 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. If the Fund gets depleted, the Mission Alive Committee will restore the Fund back to original amount (\$500). Pastor will keep records of amounts used for audit purposes. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Tara.

Sincerely,
Rich Bersch
Mission Alive Chairperson

hearts to receive the gift of Christmas- the light of the World, the Word made flesh in the infant Jesus of Nazareth. This Advent season, participants in our Monday Morning Bible Study are reading *Silence and Other Surprising Invitations of Advent* by Enuma Okoro. The text takes us through daily meditations on the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Through their story of sorrow and longing we will be exploring our own experiences of waiting, longing, and grief along with the joys and blessings we receive. This is what the season of Advent is all about, so go ahead and turn off that Christmas music (at least until Dec. 24th) and allow yourself to ponder just what it is you are longing for as together we explore our need and desire for the living God to enter into our hearts and our lives, transforming our sorrowful expectations into joy-filled acceptance of God's love for us all.

May the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Christ Jesus fill your hearts this holiday season and remain with you always.

Pastor Tara

2016 Christmas Fund Offering

Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other.

– John 13:34 (Common English Bible)

Grace to you and peace in the name of God, who is Love! For 115 years, the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a tangible expression of God's love. One of the four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ, the Christmas Fund provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in loving compassion, providing assistance to those who have so faithfully served our Church and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs. In 2015, UCC congregations and members generously contributed \$1,528,481 to the Offering (St. John UCC contributed \$95). This enabled the Pension

Boards' Ministerial Assistance program to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks to individuals and families in need.

The theme of the 2016 Christmas Fund Offering is **God's Love Colors Everything**, and our goal is to raise \$1.7 million to help support these ministries of love and care. In the spirit of love, we invite and encourage you to prayerfully consider and support this year's appeal. On behalf of the hundreds of clergy and lay employees and their families whose lives were touched by your support of last year's Christmas Fund Offering, we offer our sincere thanks to you for your generosity and for the love that colors everything in God's name!

--from The Pension Boards--United Church of Christ, Inc. and United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance

(We will be collecting the Christmas Fund Offering throughout the month of December. For your convenience a special giving envelope is included in this newsletter. Additional envelopes will be available in the Sunday bulletins and/or on the table in the church lobby.)

EDUCATIONAL & SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our Advent Study begins on Nov. 28th, using Enuma Okor's book "Silence and Other Surprising Invitations of Advent". Cost of the book is \$8 and checks can be made out to Our Saviour's UCC. The Advent Study will conclude on Dec. 19 and resume in January

Meets at Our Saviour's UCC, W172 N12533 Division Rd., Germantown, WI, from 11am-12:30pm each Monday.

MORAL MONDAYS

The purpose of this group is to study and discuss various topics of social justice that are informed by our faith and are recent or ongoing issues of national and/or international concern. We are currently working through a study published by the Wisconsin Council of Churches entitled "On Behalf of Our Children: Wisconsin's Racial Disparities and the Call of the Gospel." 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.

CRAFTER'S CLUB

Whatever your hobby, bring projects you want to work on and join with other crafters for a day of fun. New this year: materials and training provided if you would like to help with various "crafty things" to be distributed to area hospitals and nursing homes. 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: Dec. 10th at St. John.**

Got Questions

"What do the different colored candles on the Advent wreath mean?"

Advent wreaths have been used by churches for many years to count the weeks leading up to Christmas. Historically, churches have used 3 purple candles and one pink candle with a larger white candle in the center. Purple was used in Advent (as well as during Lent) to signify penitence as the time of Advent was viewed as a time of repentance in preparation for the coming of Christ. In recent years many churches have adopted the use of blue candles as the emphasis during Advent has shifted to a more hopeful anticipation. Coincidentally both purple and blue are colors used to signify royalty. The use of the pink candle goes back to older lectionary practices in which the third Sunday of Advent was called "Gaudete Sunday" from the Latin word for "rejoice!" At that time the traditional text for the third Sunday of Advent was Philippians 4:4-6 which includes the phrase "rejoice in the Lord always". Today, with the use of the Revised Common Lectionary, this reading is only heard on the 3rd Sunday in Year C. The center white candle is lit on Christmas Eve/Day to signify the birth of Christ.

"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. **Our next meeting is Dec. 14th.**

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 will be meeting 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 Dec. 7th.**





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:

Dec. 11, 2016

Jan. 1, 2017 – Cookie Donation – any left over Christmas cookies, bring in to share during Fellowship.

Dates Committees are serving Fellowship:

Dec. 4, 2016 – Constitution, Maintenance, & Mission Alive

Dec. 18, 2016 – Christian Board of Education

Dec. 25, 2016 – No Fellowship

Jan. 8, 2017 – 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 COMMITTEE

Report on World Communion Sunday – “Neighbors in Need” - Messy church October 2nd, 2016 – Tables were set with fall decorations. Members signed up and shared several delicious dishes, salads, and desserts. Outreach donated ham and rolls toward the potluck. There were 25 members in attendance. A large box was placed in the entry way to encourage members to donate canned food items to Menomonee Fall Food Pantry.

At the October 25th, 2016 Outreach Committee meeting it was decided that the Outreach Committee would donate \$4,500.00 to St. John U.C.C. for the Retaining wall – side walk area. The Outreach Committee also donated \$ 440.00 to Mission Alive for 10% of the proceeds from Rummage Sale, Brat Fry’s, & Robert’s Frozen Custard. Thank you to all the members who support St. John U.C.C. and the Outreach Committee by attending the Brat Fry’s, Robert’s Frozen Custard Fundraisers, & donated toward the Rummage Sale to make events a success.

Report on Team Trivia Night November 5th, 2016. Team Trivia night was held at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall, there were four teams with five to six players on each team. Team Donna, Team D&D, Team Quiznos , Team Too Smart. There were 6 rounds of games; simple questions were asked each team. The teams worked together as a group to decide on an answer. Team D&D won. Snacks and refreshments were served. Fun was had by all.

Thank you to all the members who helped with setting up the Christmas tree on November 21st, 2016 in preparation for Advent and the Christmas season.

Mark your calendars - Up Coming Events:

January 8th, 2017

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

February 2017

Valentine Care Packages – College students / Armed Forces– February 5th, 2017. More information in the January Heartbeat Newsletter.

11th Annual Dart Ball Night – Saturday February 18th, 2017

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 Broccoli Casserole *recipe donated by Lisa Graveen*

Ingredients:

- 2 cups cooked rice
- 3 cups cooked chopped broccoli
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 10 - oz. can condensed cream of chicken soup
- 10 ounces Cheddar cheese, grated
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 4 chicken breast, cooked and shredded

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9" x 13" x 2" - inch baking dish with butter or nonstick cooking spray.

Spread the rice in an even layer in the baking dish. Make a second layer with the broccoli.

In a large bowl, mix the sour cream, salt, pepper, mayonnaise, lemon juice, condensed soup, half of the grated cheese, and chicken. Pour this mixture over the broccoli and top with the remaining grated cheese.

Bake for 40 minutes. Enjoy with family & friends

Outreach Meetings: Any members wishing to join the committee are welcome. The next Outreach Committee meeting is **Jan. 15, 2017 at 9:00am.** We meet in the Fraederich Education room. Contact Caroline Romaine at 262-385-1327 for more information.

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.

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.

DECEMBER

USHERS

- 4 Andy B. & John Schaetzel
- 11 Polly & Tom Weber
- 18 B. & J. Lehmann
- 24 E. & S. Hillstrom
- 25 C. & R. Bersch

GREETERS

- 4
- 11
- 18
- 24
- 25

LITURGISTS

- 4 John Schaetzel
- 11 Mary Johnson
- 18 Joan Schaetzel
- 24 Mary Johnson
- 25 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.

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

Thank you to all for your donations for the Thanksgiving Baskets. Your response was wonderful and the baskets were overflowing.

We are collecting items for the 2017 Fall Theme Basket. Communion Bread is set thru February.

Our Christmas Party is December 7 starting at 6:00 pm at DeMarinis on Main Street in Menomonee Falls. Tickets are \$15.00 (deadline is November 30), see Judy Luckow or call the church office. The menu is Chicken Fettuccini Alfredo, salad, garlic bread and dessert. Don't forget your wrapped gift (of at least a \$5.00 vaule) for Take Away Bingo.

Christmas Cookie Sale is December 11 after the church service. They are \$7.00 a box. Proceeds of the sale are going toward "The Wall Fund." All cookies should be at church by noon on December 10 and please no refrigerator cookies.



Our next business meeting is January 4, 2017.

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.

THE CHRISTMAS SHOP

SAVE THE DATE!---This year's Christmas program is entitled "The Christmas Shoppe" and is scheduled for **Sunday December 18th, at 10:30am**. Come hear from the Candy Man, an astrologer, a baker, and more about the special message God has for you! In addition, after the service the children and youth will be selling special holiday decorations and treats with all monies going to support the UCC camps in Wisconsin. The kids look forward to sharing this beautiful message with you as we enter the season of Christmas.

POINSETTIAS

Please help beautify our sanctuary for Christmas by providing a poinsettia plant in memory of someone or in honor of someone or just because! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board on the landing. Thanks for your help!

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	28 Lisa Hillstrom
10 Kathy DeWall	Dawn Taylor
Joy Lehmann	
Carol Schwartz	



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 Liz W., sister of Barb W.
- ◇ Prayers for Ann La-Marre
- ◇ Prayers for Diann Schaezel
- ◇ 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

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5th Tom & Alice Toth



DECEMBER CALENDAR

5th—11am-12:30pm Bible Study at Our Saviour's
5:30pm Moral Mondays at St. John
7th—6pm Women's Guild Christmas Party at DeMarinis
6-8pm Adult Color at Latitudes
8th—6:30pm Council Mtg.
10th—10am-3pm Crafter's Day (St. John)
11th—Women's Guild Cookie Sale
Noon-3pm Confirmation Class
12th—11am-12:30pm Bible Study at Our Saviour's
5:30pm Moral Mondays at St. John
14th— 2-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
18th—Christmas Program
19th—11am-12:30pm Bible Study at Our Saviour's
5:30pm Moral Mondays at St. John

24th—CHRISTMAS EVE
5pm Service at St. John
7pm Service at Our Saviour's

25th—CHRISTMAS DAY
8:30am Service at Our Saviour's UCC

There will be NO Service at St. John on Christmas Day

Jan. 1st—Hymn Sing Sunday (No Communion) Holy Communion will be celebrated on Jan. 8th

BOOK CLUB

There will be **NO** Book Club Mtg. in Dec.

Jan. 18th—6pm Wearing God by Lauren F. Winner
We will be meeting at Latitudes Coffee House

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

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

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

**Christmas Day: 8:30am—Our Saviour's
NO Service at St. John on Christmas Day**