

Heartbeat News

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Pastor Tara Goes to Washington!

The leadership of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ has organized a bus trip for both lay people and clergy to Washington D.C. Jan. 19-22 (the weekend of the inauguration) as a means of greater engagement in social justice issues. My daughter, Vanessa, and I will be participating in this weekend of listening and witnessing. The schedule is to spend Friday partnering with other faith communities in the DC area for a day of education and reflection on social justice concerns facing our country's religious and ethnic minorities. In the evening we will attend a dinner and interfaith worship service hosted by Emmaus United Church of Christ in Vienna, VA. On Saturday we will participate in the Women's March on Washington demonstrating our faithful commitment to radical love and a vision of a more just and generous world for all people.

For those who are unfamiliar with the Women's March on Washington, here is an excerpt from its statement of mission: "The rhetoric of the past election cycle has insulted, demonized, and threatened many of us - immigrants of all statuses, Muslims and those of diverse religious faiths, people who identify as LGBTQIA, Native people, Black and Brown people, people with disabilities, survivors of sexual assault - and our communities are hurting and scared. We are confronted with the question of how to move forward in the face of national and international concern and fear. In the spirit of democracy and honoring the champions of human rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore. The Women's March on Washington will send a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office, and to the world that women's rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us. We support the advocacy and resistance movements that reflect our multiple and intersecting identities. We call on all defenders of human rights to join us. This march is the first step towards unifying our communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up. We will not rest until women have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all." (Source: <https://www.womensmarch.com/mission/>).

Scripture makes clear that we have a moral, ethical, and religious imperative to care for the vulnerable and Jesus' ministry was one focused on caring for and lifting up those excluded from full participa-

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St. John UCC

Pastor: Rev. Tara Tetzlaff

262-251-0640

pastor@stjohnuccgermantown.org

Pastor's Cell: 262-293-6645

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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

tion in communal life.

I ask for your prayers for safe travels and for our actions to bring awareness to these issues of social justice as we seek to further God's vision of a just world for all. Be sure to check out the February Heartbeat newsletter for an account of our journey.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tara

Got Questions

"How do I know God's will for my life?"

Fifteen years ago, mega-church pastor Rick Warren wrote a book entitled *The Purpose Driven Life*, and soon every church book study and small group seemed to be reading it. The book purported to guide readers into finding God's purpose for their lives. In the years that have followed many have discovered that, though containing some helpful ideas, the book never did solve the question of what God's will is for their lives. Part of the problem may be in the question itself, as it assumes there is one set path for each of us to follow for all time. A good analogy to God's will for us might be in considering the great American road trip. If we are seeking the quickest and most efficient route we would take this country's system of large interstate highways, with the customary profusion of fast food and chain store options at each exit. An experienced road-tripper, however, will tell you the best means is to take the old highways and byways, stretches of Route 66 and of course California's Highway 1 among countless others. We would be instructed to turn off the GPS and reach for a road atlas and stack of old-school maps instead. While the final destination is important, the journey contributes to the value of the trip, with its detours and road-side attractions providing us with a wealth of knowledge, experience, and fullness of life.

The journey of life is no different. For us, as Christians, the best "atlas" for our journey is scripture, which becomes a useful tool to making sense of the journey, especially when used in concert with other study texts. We can quickly gain some general trajectories of God's will for us from passages such as 1 Timothy 2:3-4 which insists that God desires "all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth." Of course that may lead us to wonder what it is to be saved and how we obtain such knowledge, to which Deuteronomy 6 may give us a clue "These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds." If we are having any doubts as to what might be meant on that, the verses that follow could not be more plain: we are to recite them to our children; talking about them while sitting at home, when we are out running our errands or attending an event, when we are lying down, when we are getting up.

(continued on page 3)

EDUCATIONAL & SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

We should tie them onto our hands and attach them to our foreheads. The words of God should be written on our doorways and on the entrances to our cities.” (Deuteronomy 6:7-14). When we make the word of God absolutely central to our lives then we are able to apply its instructions to our lives. We are called not to worship the Bible but to take it to heart and live it out. This becomes clear in reading 1 Thessalonians 5 which describes God’s will for us as participating in the activities of the church which include: rejoicing always, praying continually, comfort the discouraged, pursuing good for one another and being open to Spirit-inspired messages (see 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24). Of course, even the most experienced travelers sometimes need help “making sense of the map”; that’s when our church’s Bible Study classes and your friendly local pastor are there to help! Blessings on the journey!

“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.

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 in February/

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. **Moral Mondays group is on break during January, and will be reconvening in February.**

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: January 28th at Our Saviour’s.**

BOOK CLUB

Reader’s Revolution book discussions of **Wearing God** by Lauren Winner will continue in January. We meet at Latitudes Coffee House (corner of Pilgrim and County Line) on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm.

Next Meeting Date—January 18th

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

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

ATTENTION KNITTERS AND CROCHETTERS

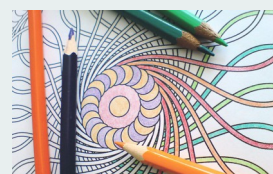
Besides the interest in quilting, another ministry has come out of the Saturday Craft



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 Jan. 11th.**

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 Jan. 4th.**





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

January 15th, 22nd, 29th

Dates Committees are serving Fellowship:
January 8th, 2017 – Spiritual Life Committee

February 5th, 2017 – Worship & Stewardship 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

St. John U.C.C.

Heart Beat Newsletter January 2017

Outreach Committee

On November 27th, 2016 a group of fourteen joyful Christmas carolers, members from St. John U.C.C. went Christmas caroling to sing to church member Dorothy Petersen and residents at Ellen's Home - Germantown, WI; then on to The Cottages at Cedar Lake – West Bend, WI to sing to Virginia Wendt. Our following stop was to Christmas Carol at Mary Ann Toth's in Menomonee Falls, WI. Residents who attended the performances were given a Christmas ornament with a welcome from St. John U.C.C. or a Christmas card with a pin. A special thank you to Karen Roskopf for accompanying us on the piano.

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—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 18th, 2017– 6:00pm

Please join us for the 11th Annual Dart Ball Night on Saturday February 18th, 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.



Grape Salad

recipe donated by Mallory Luckow

2 pounds seedless green grapes
2 pounds seedless purple grapes
One 8-ounce package cream cheese, room temperature
One 8-ounce container sour cream
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup brown sugar, firmly packed
1/2 cup pecans, finely chopped

Wash the grapes and dry thoroughly with paper towels. Put the dry grapes in a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. In a bowl, combine the cream cheese, sour cream, granulated sugar and vanilla. Mix well using an electric mixer. Pour this mixture over the grapes and toss together until all the grapes are coated. Chill in the refrigerator.

Just before serving, sprinkle the top with brown sugar and pecans.

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.

JANUARY

USHERS

1 Ken & Joan Schaetzel
8 S. Reeder & C. Romaine
15 M. Gabrielson & Merry Lison
22 Carol & Greg Schwartz
29 Gary & Mary Johnson

GREETERS

4
11
18
24
25

LITURGISTS

1 Eric Hillstrom
8 Rollie Pieper
15 Caroline Romaine
22 John Schaetzel
29 Eric Hillstrom



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

The next business meeting of Women's Guild is **January 4, 2017** at 7:00 pm. There was no business meeting in December due to our annual Christmas Party. We will be planning the Women's Worship Sunday.

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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—JAN. 29TH, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

ALL Committee reports must be emailed (in a Word Document) to the office by Jan. 15th. Thank you.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Wednesday, January 25, 7 pm: Lakeland University (Sheboygan) Founders' Day Lecture: "Muslims as a Force for Good and Healing in America" presented by Dr. Rami Nashashibi, Executive Director of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN) and a Visiting Professor of Sociology of Religion and Muslim Studies at the Chicago Theological Seminary. Please contact Pastor Tara if interested in attending.

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.

CELEBRATIONS: BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

7 Greg & Chris Pickett



JANUARY CALENDAR

1st—Hymn Sing (No Communion)

4th—6-8pm Adult Color at Latitudes

7pm Women's Guild

8th—Communion Sunday/Remembering our Baptisms

Tree take-down

Noon-3pm Confirmation Class

11th— 2-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry at Latitudes

12th—6:30pm Council Mtg.

15th—9am Outreach Mtg.
Worship Cmtee. Mtg. following worship

18th—6pm Book Club at Latitudes

19th-22nd Pastor Tara traveling to Washington DC to participate in the Women's March on Washington

28th—Crafter's Day at Our Saviour's

29th—ANNUAL MEETING



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 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

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: 11:15-Noon at St. John UCC

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