

Heartbeat News

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ,

Prayer. It's one of the most basic elements of Christian life. Prayer is the thing that the Apostle Paul instructs us to do "without ceasing". Perhaps it should come as no surprise then that it is also one of the areas of spiritual life that is in the greatest danger of becoming stagnant and rote. Years ago I noticed how quickly I always said the Lord's Prayer---so much so that it became automatic. Which is why now, you may notice that I tend to say it exceptionally slowly...an attempt to give attention to each word and imbue each phrase with purpose and intention.

Sometimes our prayer lives can feel "stuck" ...we go through the same prayers, the same methods. At times we may wonder what the point of it is. Often our corporate prayers become nothing more than a list of all the people we know who are sick or having surgery. Is naming people who we want to pray for the same as a prayer itself?

Karl Kuhn makes the argument in his book, *Having Words with God*, that scripture is dialogical, a means of conversing with God. I agree, which then leads me to think that reading scripture itself can be prayer. At its most elementary that is what prayer is: talking with God. This has me thinking a lot lately, because as my husband points out "talking *with*" is different than "talking *to*" someone. When someone is displeased with us we might receive a "talking-to". When we talk *to* someone, there is an implicit message that what *we* have to say is the focus, whereas talking *with* someone indicates we are just as willing to listen as we are to talk. I wonder just how much time we spend "listening" in prayer vs "listing" our prayers. Maybe it's time to start listening more so that we might hear what it is God has to say about those things for which we pray. Over the next few months I intend to spend a bit more time exploring this theme of "prayer" that I might enrich my prayer life and hear God more. Some questions to consider: The content or the intent of our prayers. Does repeating or reading the "Jesus Prayer" and other such prescribed prayers accomplish anything or is it more about our attitude as we pray? Is promising to pray for someone or asking others to pray for someone a prayer in itself? What does prayer "do?" I hope to share these insights with you in the coming months, perhaps offering opportunities and resources for us to deepen both our individual and corporate life of prayer. What questions do you have about

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St. John UCC

Pastor: Rev. Tara Tetzlaff

262-251-0640

Pastor's Cell: 262-293-6645

pastor@stjohnuccgermantown.org

office@stjohnuccgermantown.org

org

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SHIFT: Our Unfolding Story

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah: 6:8

June 9 – 11, 2017

WI Conference Annual Meeting at Green Lake Conference Center

DISCRETIONARY FUND

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 has money set aside for this emergency. If you are experiencing a financial hardship, please talk with Pastor Tara. 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.

prayer? How might we, as a community of faith, strengthen one another's prayer life? I look forward to hearing from you as we consider how we might "keep the conversation going" with God and with one another.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tara

Walk for Kids

Join Pastor Tara in creating a team to support literacy and early childhood education in Milwaukee by participating in Next door Milwaukee's 28th annual Walk for Children on Saturday, May 20th. Over 1,000 supporters are anticipated to join this one-mile walk. This year's Walk Leader is Green Bay Packers Wide Receiver, Davante Adams. Registration begins at 9:00 am at Next Door's 29th Street campus and the walk kicks off at 10 am. The Walk for Children is the organization's largest event of the year and promises to be a fun-filled, entertaining day. There will be games, activities, food and a live band for the whole family to enjoy! Registration is \$10 per person with all monies going directly to support Next Door. Want to learn more about Next Door?---visit their website:

www.nextdoormke.org. Please contact Pastor Tara to sign up by May 14th.

Gardening with God

The birds are singing, the grass is growing, and the flowers are blooming; all signs that spring is here and so, too, is another season of "Gardening with God". We invite you to join us on Tuesday mornings 9-11am for a time of gardening and spirituality. Each week, beginning May 16th, we will be gathering in the churchyard (weather permitting) to maintain our Prayer Garden and do other outdoor tasks to create a welcoming environment for our members and the wider community. We conclude each week with a brief time of spiritual reflection and devotion (scripture, poetry, music, etc) and light refreshments. No prior experience necessary. We welcome people of all abilities. Even if you are physically unable to garden we encourage you to join us to simply experience the beauty of our garden and engage in conversation. For questions or more information talk to Pastor Tara or Jeannie Lehmann.

A Summer of Spectacular Events

Look for more information in the June newsletter regarding:

- Vacation Bible School: "Escape from Egypt" July 17-20
- Summer of Service: A series of opportunities throughout the summer to engage in volunteer work for the good of the community. Options include: reading to preschoolers, serving meals to the homeless, creation care, and more. If you are interested or have opportunities to recommend, please talk to Pastor Tara.
- Church Picnic
- "Prayer in the Garden": Mid-week outdoor prayer gatherings

EDUCATIONAL & SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

We are currently exploring a series of "theological dilemmas." So, what's a theological dilemma? Breaking it down: "theological" means it relates to the study or science of God and "dilemma" is a choice or decision to be made when there is more than one reasonable solution available. In our first session we explored the issue of "Christology." We meet on Monday mornings at Our Saviour's 11am-12:30pm. We will continue class through May 22nd with the following topics:

May 1st: Bible; May 8th: God's Presence;

May 15th: Salvation and Human Goodness;

May 22nd: Evil

The Bible Study group will be on Summer Break May 29th resuming Sept. 11th.

MORAL MONDAYS

We are closing out the year with a fascinating look at Immigration and "Becoming a Welcoming Congregation". We will be continuing this study through May 15th, exploring immigration through the lenses of Scripture and of Immigration in Wisconsin over the past 200 years. Session 1 on April 24 was "Sojourn to the Promised Land". We meet in the Education Room at St. John, Monday evenings 5:30-7pm. Remaining topics listed below.

May 1st: Practicing Hospitality

May 8th: New Immigrants Living an Old Story

May 15th: Becoming a Welcoming Nation

At the conclusion of our study we hope to develop some concrete actions we can take as individuals and as a faith community to respond to this pressing issue in our society.

BOOK CLUB

We meet at Latitudes Coffee House (corner of Pilgrim and County Line) on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at **5pm (please note time change)**. Our next meeting will be:

May 17th—Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich

WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

- ◆ Thank you to all that donated items to the Women's Service Project. The Friends of Abused Families greatly appreciated all the items that were donated. Thank you also for all the delicious recipes that were turned in. Thank you to everyone that brought items to stock the kitchen. If you forgot yours, bring them when you can.
- ◆ Shady Lane Coupons are available from Judy Luckow. They are \$10 each and are good through the end of June.
- ◆ The Church kitchen cleaning will be May 13 at the same time as the Weed, Seed and Feed (9am-Noon).

Our next meeting will be May 3rd, at 7pm.

ATTENTION KNITTERS AND CROCHETTERS

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is engaged in knitting and crocheting



prayer shawls and lap blankets for those facing physical challenges, the homebound, newly baptized and others. These gifts are meant as tangible signs of God's love and the prayers of our congregation for that individual.

The group meets at Latitudes Coffee House (corner of Pilgrim & County Line Rd.) on the 2nd Wed of the month from 2-4pm.

Our next meeting is May 10th.

THANK YOU!!!

(excerpt from the program for the benefit held for Tim Roskopf - Karen & Ken Roskopf's son) Saying Thank You will never be enough. I am thankful for the moments I take, the things I have and the life I live. The past 9 months I have had 2 open heart surgeries, countless doctors appointments with 7 different doctors.

The support from my family, friends and strangers, who have become friends since my illness has truly been amazing. Just like you hear tonight, thank you, thank you, thank you!

A very special thank you to my Mom and Dad (Karen & Kenny), my 2 beautiful daughters (Abby & Leah) Katey, Waffles, my second family at the Fire Dept. and all my friends for giving me the strength to keep going when all I really want to do is give up!

Love, Tim



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: April 30th

Dates Committees are serving Fellowship:

May 7th—Council

May 21st—Confirmation, Last Day of Sunday School, Teacher Appreciation and Graduation Recognition—Christian Bd. Of Ed. & Staff Relations

May 28th—Memorial Sunday—Outreach Committee

June 4th—Outreach 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: The next Outreach Committee meeting is June 25th, at 9am in the Fraederich Education room. Contact Caroline Romaine at 262-385-1327 for more information.

NEWS FROM OUTREACH COMMITTEE

On Sunday March 26th, 2017 - One Great Hour of Sharing – Pot luck. We had 38 members in attendance for the Potluck. The Outreach Committee provided Ham and Rolls. Various delicious dishes were served. Thank you to all the members brought in a dish to share.

Weed and Feed ~ Annual church Spring Clean - up ~

Saturday May 13th, 2017 ~ 9:00am – 12:00pm

This is an annual clean – up day for our church. We will need as many members and friends as possible to help with cleaning inside and outside the church. We will be sprucing up our Community Prayer Garden.

The Outreach Committee will provide donuts, coffee, and juice followed by a light lunch after the clean - up. Please sign up on sign-up sheet which will be located on the bulletin boards. We will have a drawing for Scrip for 1 child and one adult will be chosen for those who volunteer at the Weed and Feed.

St. John Fundraiser

Monday May 15th, 2017 3:00pm – 10:00pm

at Robert's Frozen Custard Restaurant

N.112 W.16040 Mequon Rd. Germantown

Invite members , friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives to join you at Robert's Frozen Custard. **St. John U.C.C. will receive 10% of all sales** , dining in or at the drive up window. **No coupon is necessary.** All proceeds from this sale will benefit future Outreach events at St. John U.C.C. See Caroline Romaine for more information on the Robert's Fundraiser.

The Capuchins' Run/Walk For The Hungry

Scheduled this year on **June 16th, 2017 at 7:00pm** – Walk and 5 K run. Held this year at Polish Fest. More information to follow. Interested individuals should see or call Karen Becker 414-759-8123 karenbeck69@gmail.com.

St. John U.C.C. Brat Fry Day - Pick n' Save in Menomonee Falls—Saturday June 24th, 2017 Time: 10:00 am – 3:00pm

*****Note location.** 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 during the summer. Brat Fry proceeds will benefit future Outreach events and 10% of our sales will be donated to Mission Alive

St. John Adult Fellowship

Milwaukee Brewers Outing

Milwaukee Brewers vs Cincinnati Reds . **Sunday, August 13th** (Game Starts at 1:10 pm). \$20.00 & Dish to Pass, Gets You: Game Ticket/Tailgate Party. \$5.00 toward Parking for Cars with 5 or more. Meet at Wick Field (51st Vliet) 10:30am. To order your tickets. **Call Bob Lehmann (262-251-1756).**

Blessing Bags: The Outreach Committee, in conjunction with Mission Alive, has embarked on a project of ministry to the homeless. We put together “Blessing Bags for the Homeless”. These packages, which are the size of a Zip-Lock bag, will contain various items such as energy bars, bottled water, cleansing wipes, mints, etc. The “Blessing Bags” are available in the lobby to church members who may keep them in their cars and have them handy when meeting individual’s in-need while driving throughout the area. To help defray our committee expenses, we are asking members to please place any spare change or cash in the collection can at the back of the church after the service, or you can mail a donation directly to the church earmarked for the “Blessing Bags”. Thank you for generous contribution to this important ministry.

Recipe Corner
Spinach Quiche

Recipe from Caroline Romain
 Served at “One Great Hour of Sharing-

Pot Luck Dinner”
 Preheat oven 425 degrees

Ingredients:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 – 8 inch frozen pie shell | 1/2 cup diced ham |
| 4 eggs | 1/4 tsp. pepper |
| ½ cup milk | 1 cup shredded cheddar or Swiss cheese |
| 2 Tbsp. chopped onions | (1/2 for bottom and 1/2 for top) |
| 1 10oz. Box frozen spinach | |

Directions:

- Thaw spinach and pie shell
 Drain chopped spinach and squeeze excess liquid out of spinach
1. Line pie shell bottom with ½ cup cheese
 2. Sprinkle chopped onions on cheese
 3. Spread chopped spinach evenly in pie shell
 4. Spread diced ham over spinach
 5. Sprinkle pepper over ham & spinach
 6. Beat 4 eggs and milk together, pour over everything
 7. Sprinkle ½ cup cheese on top
- Bake at 425 degrees for 40 – 45 minutes.

32nd ANNUAL FALL ART AND CRAFT FAIR

The Craft Fair Committee is working hard to plan the Craft Fair for Saturday, September 9th. 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. The size is 68” X 74”, 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 either 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 sometime in June. . Any questions contact a committee member.

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. Campbell’s UPC codes are also needed. There is 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.

MAY

LITURGISTS

- 7 Vanessa Tetzlaff
- 14 Rollie Pieper
- 21 Mary Johnson
- 28 Joan Schaetzel

GREETERS

USHERS

- 7 Cherie & Rich Bersch
- 14 Karen Becker & Chris Pickett
- 21 Carol & Greg Schwartz
- 28 Polly & Tom Weber



We are in need of Liturgists and Greeters. If you are interested in either of these, or both, please contact Barb in the church office for more information.

Youth Group News

Noah's Ark Trip: Our third annual Noah's Ark Trip will be on **Monday June 12th**. 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. Registration forms (required for all under 18) can be found on the table in the lobby, on the church website, or from Pastor Tara. Sign up sheet is posted on the landing. We will leave Germantown around 8:45 am with a return time around 7pm.

CAMP: It's Not Just for Kids

Our UCC camps offer a wide variety of fun and engaging options for vacation for children, families, and adults. For our families with young children (ages 5+) there are Mom & Me, Grandparent & Me, as well as general family camps. There are short ½ week camps for grades 1-3. Grades 3-12 have a wide variety of (mostly) week-long camp options including :MADD (music, arts, dance, and drama), Pilgrim Story, PilgrimCon (for those into sci-fi, Harry Potter, Marvel, etc), Adventure camps, Sailing camps, and more. Adults can get in on the action too with Young Adult Adventure Camp, Golf Camp, Stitch in Time quilting Retreat, Sixties Plus, Active Adult Adventure, Quilting and Crafting Retreat. Work and mission camps are also available for those wanting to donate their time to help with projects around the camp and in the wider community. Check out www.ucci.org for more information or talk to Pastor Tara. There are multiple scholarships available for children, adults, and families to help with cost.

PRAYER GARDEN STONES

As we prepare for Memorial Day 2017, our Worship Service on May 28th will include a special memorial tribute to departed to St. John Members and friends. If you would like to purchase a lasting memorial stone for some-



one close to you who has passed away during this past year or before, please contact Bob Lehmann before the May 1st deadline. A contribution of \$50 or more to the Prayer Garden Fund in the individual's name will ensure that their stone will be placed in a location of your choice within the St. John Prayer Garden during the May 28th service.

CELEBRATIONS: BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Mary Ann Toth
Matt Luckow
2 Christine Toth
5 John Delain
9 Jennifer Pickett
12 Joan Schaetzel
14 Connie Ellingson
18 Cherie Bersch
23 Robert Lehmann
31 Jeannie Lehmann
Andrea Thomas



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5 Jay & Christine Toth
16 David & Dawn Taylor
17 Kevin & Jennifer Andrae
18 Ned & Caroline Romaine
31 Gary & Mary Johnson



MAY CALENDAR

1st—11am Bible Study at Our Saviour's
5:30pm Moral Mondays at St. John
3rd—7pm Women's Guild
7th—Noon-3pm Confirmation Class
8th—11am Bible Study at Our Saviour's
5:30pm Moral Monday's
10th—2pm Prayer Shawl Ministry at Latitudes
11th—6:30pm Council Mtg.
13th—9am-Noon Weed 'n Feed & Church Kitchen Cleaning
15th—11am Bible Study at Our Saviour's
15th—3-10pm Robert's Frozen Custard Fundraiser
5:30pm Moral Mondays at St. John

16th—9am Gardening With God

10am Spiritual Life Mtg.
17th—5pm Book Club at Latitudes
20th—Walk for Kids
5:30pm Confirmation Dinner
21st—10:30am Confirmation Service
22nd—11am Bible Study at Our Saviours
23rd—9am Gardening With God
NO Moral Mondays
28th—10:30am Outdoor Service—Blessing of Prayer Garden Stones
30th—9am Gardening With God

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 Tim Roskopf, son of Karen Roskopf
- ◇ Prayers for Stacy C., recovering from injury, daughter of Janet Robinson
- ◇ Prayers for Kathleen DeWall, recovering from surgery
- ◇ Prayers for Serena, sister of Mary Johnson

Our condolences to the family of Virginia Wendt, who passed away on March 29th. Her services were held here, at St. John on April 1st. Please keep the family in your prayers.

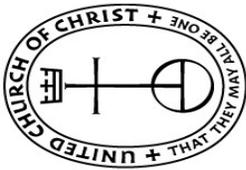
ST. JOHN UCC

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