

April—2022

The Tidings

Saron United Church of Christ
W3830 County Road J Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

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“Will you encourage this child to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?” (UCC Book of Worship page 137

“Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?” (UCC Book of Worship page 149)

I have been watching news reports ever since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The images of destruction are terrifying. Homes, apartment complexes, schools, churches, stores, and government buildings uninhabitable. Personal items flapping in the breeze. The worst images are of children's toys left behind and visible in the rubble. The images of people fleeing and the stories we are hearing from those who have reached safety. Children traveling alone. I shared in worship an image of a mother and child I can't get out of my head, sitting on the ground, cradling one another. Another image that haunts me is of several strollers and car seats set up in public square, a memorial with each stroller and car seat representing a child who has lost their life. It breaks my heart. This is all so horrifying and as I see it played out, I want to turn off my TV. And while I can do that, erase it from my vision for a while, those living it cannot.

Rev. Dr. Lisa Cressman, an Episcopal priest and steward of Backstory Preaching, an on-line group I am a part of, wrote an article about our response as people of faith to the evil we see in this situation and in others around us. She goes back to our baptism vows. At the top of this page are the vows parents make at baptism and the vow made at Confirmation. As people baptized into the faith of Jesus Christ, we are called to renounce evil. I am guessing that we all can agree what is happening in Ukraine is evil. So, how can we renounce it? What does that look like?

We can pray for peace. Pray for wisdom of all governmental representatives. Pray they have the courage to act justly. Pray for those who are suffering. When we pray for peace, we don't forget those who have none. It moves us from complacency towards creative acts of peace-making. Also, pray for those who are destroying God's beloved. Pray for a change of heart. Pray for those in Russia who are powerless to change the course their leaders have taken and are suffering too. Pray for peace.

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There are many ways to put these prayers into action as well. Relief agencies are at work all over Ukraine and the counties in which refugees, DeForest, WI 53532. Write "Ukraine" in the memo line. 100% of monies donated through the UCC appeal will be sent to Ukrainian relief efforts have sought safety. The financial burden is overwhelming. Support those seeking to help with your financial contribution. You may have an agency that you prefer to support, and I encourage you to do so. The WI Conference UCC has also set up an emergency relief fund. Gifts to the UCC Ukraine Emergency Appeal will provide shelter, food and other essentials to refugees and internally displaced people. You can give online through the Wisconsin Conference Ukraine Emergency Appeal at this link: <https://bit.ly/3CeAPRZ> or send a check to the Conference office at 4459 Gray Road.

Another question we all answered at our Confirmation is, "Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?" Our response, "I promise, with the help of God." We see these images as well, of people resisting, of people offering assistance, of strollers being left at train stations so mothers who have been carrying their children can use them. May we fulfill this promise by praying for and supporting those who are on the ground in and near Ukraine. As Rev. Dr. Cressman says in her article, "when we are silent, we infer that things are OK as they are." And we all know they are not.

Blessings,

Pastor RaeAnn

Holy Week Schedule

April 10th—Palm Sunday Worship at 8:00 am and 10:15 am.
There will be Sunday School this week.



Wednesday—April 13th NO CONFIRMATION

April 14th—Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00 pm.
Communion will be celebrated, and the Senior Choir will sing.



April 15th—Good Friday Worship at 7:00 pm.



April 17th—Easter Sunday Worship at 8:00 am and 10:15 am.
Communion will be celebrated, and the Senior Choir will sing.
There is NO Sunday School this week.



*Services will be live streamed as well



Easter Flower Orders

Sunday, April 3rd will be the last Sunday to order Easter Flowers after both services. The Women's Guild is offering **Easter Lilies, Hydrangeas,**



Mums, Martha Washington Geraniums, Reiger Begonias, Tulips, Hyacinths and Daffodils. The beautiful flowers will decorate the church on Easter morning. Pick-up of the flowers will be after the 10:15 a.m. Easter worship service and on Monday morning, April 18th at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to call in your order, you can contact Donna Rautmann at 920-889-3889 or Linda Suemnicht at 920-207-2778.

Brat Fry & Cornhole Tournament

A Time Of Fun & Fellowship

Saturday, April 9th Starting at 11:00 A. M. at Laack's Hall

On April 9, Saron will be hosting a brat fry and cornhole tournament at Laack's Hall. We are hoping all members of Saron will attend to enjoy some food and fellowship and perhaps form a team for the tournament. There is also an opportunity to help by volunteering to serve food, work with the raffles or bake some bars or cookies to sell. There are sign up sheets on the kiosk in the narthex for these jobs. We also are asking some members to donate a basket of items to be raffled off. Similar to the advent angel tree, we have placed slips with suggested items for the baskets on the kiosk. Please take a slip and return the items for the basket to the church by Sunday, April 3. We also have a donation jar in the narthex to help offset the costs of the event. All proceeds from the event will go toward Saron's building improvements. Contact Devin Gardapee, Carl Laack, Dave Rautmann, Micah Rautmann or Jay Grosshuesch with any questions or suggestions.



Mission Trip Soup Cook Off Thank You So Much

What an awesome event this was! It was great gathering with other churches, sharing conversation, and food. There was such a variety of soups it was impossible to taste them all. Thank you to those who made soup and bakery items, those who donated raffle baskets, and all who came to eat and support the mission trip. \$2,501 was raised in just one day!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 10th at 9:15 a.m. to consider a bid for the replacement of the shingled roof above the narthex. If you have any questions, please talk to a member of the consistory.

The Rite of Confirmation

**May 1, 2022, at the
10:15 am service**



This year's Confirmands are Kira Athorp, Avery Beltran, Elise Casadonte, Nathan Doeber, Zachary Dulmes, Hayden Hanke, Ereka Kaat, Daniel Leu, Reed Miller, Brennan Nickel, Haley Post, Brody Schmidt, Ethan Schuette, Coleson Trumm, and Levi Wieck.

FAMILY NIGHT IS BACK!

Come one, come all, EVERYONE is welcome!

Mark your calendars for

Wednesday May 18th, 2022

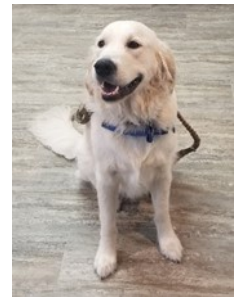
At 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Come learn about Pawsitism, Inc.

Pawsitism, Inc. is an autism assistance dog program for children with autism.

There will be dogs there too!

More information coming next month.



Meet Your Pastor-Parish Relations Committee

The purpose of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee is to provide support for the Pastor and provide a regular channel of communication between the Pastor and the Congregation.

Rita Bender (Chair) 920-980-6801

Jenny Beltran 920-980-8963

Jerry Henning 920-467-4932

Joanne Howe 920-254-5967

Deb Rautmann 920-207-3521

Judy Knuth 920-893-0391

Those who are homebound or in care centers: Marilyn Perronne (at home), Mickey Glander (Sheboygan Senior Community, Rm 404), Eugene Weiskopf (Field of Dreams Assisted Living, Kiel), Merlin & Shirley Schmidt at home.....



We Extend Our Christian Sympathy to the family of Dale Horneck (Dawn William's Father) who died on February

25th, 2022...and to the family of Saron member Bonnie Adamavich who died on March 12th, 2022.....



**Ben Lenz
(U.S. Air Force)**

**Christopher Kletzien
(U.S. Army)**



Treasurer's Update

As of February 28, 2022

First and foremost, the Consistory would like to thank you for your generosity. Without your financial support the mission and ministry of Saron UCC would not be possible. The Consistory would also like to keep you, the congregation, updated on the financial situation at Saron.

The **General Fund** supports the work of the church through salaries, programs, building upkeep, office expenses, utilities, supplies, and of course insurances (the items that are included in our line-item budget).

YTD income \$24,235 YTD expenses \$31,094

Saron currently has a surplus in our General Fund of \$87,904. This will be used to offset any difference between our income and expenses during the year.

The **Benevolence Fund** supports our OCWM commitment, our SPARE student, other mission opportunities and acts as a pass-through account for the UCC Special Mission Offerings.

YTD income \$2,990

Of this total income amount, \$2,200 has been designated to OCWM which is 11% of our annual budgeted commitment for OCWM of \$20,500. Gifts for the Souper Bowl of Caring totaled \$364, and this amount was sent to the Sheboygan County Food Bank.

The funds received for OCWM are distributed quarterly. The funds received later in the year for OGHS, STC, and NIN are distributed in the month after they are received. Gifts received toward SPARE sponsorship total \$350 and will be paid out by the end of the year.

The **Improvement Fund** supports all maintenance of the buildings and property that is not covered under General Fund expenses.

YTD income \$5,804 YTD expenditures \$3

Current amount in the fund is \$83,991. Of this amount, \$34,530 has been designated to be applied to the septic system replacement costs. Monies in this fund can be carried over from year to year.

This update does not include all funds at Saron. An update on these funds is available from the treasurer. If you have any questions about Saron's finances, please contact Treasurer Tracy Beeck or any Consistory member.

Septic System Project Update

As Of February 28, 2022

As you will recall, in May 2020 we provided the congregation with a copy of the accepted bids from Schwartz Septic, Neumann Plumbing & Heating and KW Electric for replacement of the septic system. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$44,406 (which includes an additional \$5,000 above bids for unforeseen expenses). Here is an update to the congregation on the progress that has been made in funding this project.

Estimated Cost of Project	\$44,406.00
Less: Down payment for church & house holding tanks 5/21/20)	<u>(\$4,000.00)</u>
Balance of Estimated Total Cost to be Paid to Vendors	\$40,406.00
 Improvement Fund (earmarked for project from fund balance)	 (\$1,000.00)
(\$5,000 less \$4,000 down payment paid 5/21/20)	
 Total member donations as of 2/28/2022	 <u>(\$33,530.00)</u>
Balance needed for septic system project	\$ 5,876.00

Barring any unforeseen expenses that may arise, we expect to be able to pay the balance of the septic project out of the Improvement Fund balance when the final total comes due later in 2022. Therefore, we do not anticipate the need to explore further fundraising options.



If you or anyone in your family will be graduating this Spring from either High School, College or any other school of higher learning please let the church know by calling Kathy in the church office (920-467-6202). We will want to recognize our graduates when we get closer to that time. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.



Happy Anniversary We hope you keep the following couples in your prayers as they celebrate their Anniversary this month. If we missed your special day or reported a wrong date please let us know by calling the church office at (920-467-6202 or email adminoffice@saronucc.org).

April 7 Brian & Debbie Feider

April 11 Ron & Diane Matzdorf—58 yrs.

April 12 Ryan & Kathy Herzog

April 16 David & Rachel Zeinemann— 56 yrs.

April 19 Jeff & Peggy Lubach



April 25 Merlin & Shirley Schmidt— 69 yrs.
Brian & Emily Wagner

April 26 Paul & Dawn Williams

April 28 Tim & Julie Chisholm

April 29 Terry & Karen Boeldt

Happy Birthday We hope you keep the following people in your prayers as they celebrate their Birthday this month. If we missed your special day or reported a wrong date please let us know by calling the church office at (920-467-6202 or email adminoffice@saronucc.org).

April 1 Ricky Decker
Diane Matzdorf
Hazel Schmidt
Alice Thomas

April 2 Carl Laack
Andy Nyhof
Melanie Roehrborn

April 3 Serena Christy

April 4 Kara Jankus
Luke Kwekkeboom

April 5 Cindy Beitler
Gladys Bitter
Natalie Taylor

April 6 Jacob Doeberth
Bryan Mauk
Chris Reichert

April 7 Don Ryan

April 8 Louis Prange

April 9 Hudson Schmidt

April 11 Tanner Gumm
Ben Lenz

April 12 Levi Albright
Lilly Charbonneau

April 13 Jacob Barthels
Kaden Beltran
Susan Blasel
Kim Hanke

April 14 Jeff Meinnert
Therese Schmidt

April 15 Zach Rick
Scott Wilke

April 16 Melissa Fleck

April 18 Carson Anhalt
Janice Morse

April 19 Matt Dulmes
Vicki Imig

April 20 Chase Anhalt
Allen Nohl
Olivia Rabe
Kelly Rabe

April 21 Evritt Abston
Makayla Van Helden

April 23 Owen Post
Ralph Sebald

April 24 Lois Herzog
Jack Jarvis

April 25 Ginny Feldmann
Eric Rabe
Rylee Reichwald

April 26 Jackson Pickard
David Zeinemann

April 27 Kurt Kuzulka
Matt Miles

April 28 Tammy Anhalt
Jonathan Doeberth
Taylor Doeberth

April 29 Sara Christy
Michael Rick
Henry Zimbal

April 30 Anthony Adamavich
Mylee Nickel

