



The Tidings

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

APRIL—2024

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Dear Members and Friends of Saron United Church of Christ,

I learned something that changed the way I look at life about two years ago!

Richard, my brother-in-law, is a brilliant, retired nuclear engineer who worked for the prestigious nuclear consulting firm of Sargent and Lundy in downtown Chicago. Now Richard was always an incredible technical wizard but when it came to appreciation of human behavior and relationship building, I believed he struggled mightily.

That is, until one day I was lamenting at length to him over Dorry and my move to Colorado. Prior to the move we were living in Door County right on Lake Michigan. We were surrounded by woodland and the woodland was surrounded by corn fields. 75 yards behind our house (not including a 33-stair rise) was my deer stand and we always had corn fed venison in our freezer. Our house was large, had a three-car garage and an approximately 750 square foot workshop and 4 large gardens with a bed of asparagus. About two hundred yards from my front steps ran a stream that Lake Michigan salmon came up to spawn and from which I would routinely catch 15-25 pound salmon. This was my dream home for these and other reasons.

Well, Richard waited patiently for me to finish and said the following major perspective adjusting comment: ***“Gary, you’re looking at this totally the wrong way! You should look back at that time not sadly wishing you were still there, but rather in appreciation and celebration of the time you had there. You were blessed in a wonderful way for that period of time. Be thankful and move on into the future that awaits you.”***

That was a very meaningful and perspective altering message for me and can be for Saron UCC as we face into a changing world with declining membership in mainline churches. Instead of saying, oh my, change is happening and “I don’t even know what to expect,” Is it time to be thankful for the past, be open minded and look for new and different ways to become more relevant to those seeking a spiritual connection in our culture today? With God’s guidance, may it be so.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gary

Grilled Smoked Pork Chop Dinner

Mark your calendars for the Annual Smoked Pork Chop Dinner on Thursday, April 25th. The choir will once again host the drive-through, pick-up dinner. The dinner will include a large grilled smoked pork chop, potatoes, a vegetable, and dessert for \$13.00. Pick-up will be held from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. **Reservations are required** to allow more precise planning while limiting the number of reservations taken to keep things manageable. This event will be open to interested people from Saron as well as the surrounding areas.



We had such an amazing response to our request for the apple dessert, that we are again asking for volunteers to assist the choir by making the apple dessert in a 9" x- 13" pan. A sign-up sheet, with the recipe, will be posted at church, or inform your willingness when making reservations.

Dinner reservations can be made any time before April 14th by:

Purchasing before/after the church service on April 7th or April 14th.

Calling Joan Laack (920) 946-4652, and Judy Glander (920) 980-0748 on or before April 14th.

The profits from 2023 and 2024 will be used to continue redecorating the last two upstairs Sunday School rooms.

We look forward to serving you!



Apple Dessert

The choir would appreciate anyone willing to provide an Apple Dessert for the Smoked Pork Chop Dinner. If you are interested, please add your name to the sign-up sheet found on the Kiosk in the narthex along with the recipe.

Those who are homebound or in care centers: Marilyn Perronne (at home), Eugene Weiskopf (Field of Dreams Assisted Living, Kiel) Shirley Schmidt (at Song Bird Pond), Merlin Schmidt (at home), Sally Nohl (at Rocky Knoll).....





Join us for
SARON FAMILY NIGHT on Wednesday
April 17th at 6:30 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall.

Come and meet owners and therapy dogs from

Cramer Canine Consulting

This group is mainly graduates of Cramer Canine Consulting who have gone through all the courses offered through them and continued into getting their dogs certified as therapy dogs through

Therapy Dogs International.

Refreshments served after and a free will donation will be collected.

Sunday School Spotlight—April 2024

Just a reminder – No Sunday School Easter Sunday, March 31
Sunday, April 7, Communion, No Sunday School
Sunday, April 21, Children sing for the church service
Sunday, April 28, Last day of Sunday School



From The Search Committee

As members of the Saron UCC Search Committee, we want to express our gratitude for the trust you have placed in us. Recently, we concluded our orientation meeting with Rev. Jane Anderson, our Conference/Association Minister who will work closely with us. The purpose of this letter is to share with you a brief summary of the Search and Call process in the United Church of Christ.

1. We will seek your perspectives on our church and its ministry through a questionnaire and a series of small group meetings; as a result of this listening process, we will incorporate your ideas about new pastoral leadership into the "Local Church Profile" that we will develop. **Saron members with last names A-G will meet with the committee on April 7, last names beginning with letters H-N will gather on April 14 and last names beginning with M-Z will meet on April 21.** If you are not able to meet on your assigned date, you are welcome to join us on a different Sunday. All Social Gatherings will begin at **10:45 in the sanctuary.**
2. Our vacancy will then be listed in "UCC Employment Opportunities."
3. Persons who have been authorized to complete a UCC Ministerial Profile will submit profiles for our committee through the Conference/Association office. The Ministerial Profile includes information about the candidate's educational background, experience, a detailed faith statement, eight written references, a background check form, and a criminal background check.
4. While the work on the Local Church Profile requires the input of many in the congregation, the names of candidates are held in strict confidence within our committee; we ask you to respect the essential confidentiality of this process. We will make every effort to keep you informed—on a regular basis—about our progress.
5. We will share our Local Church Profile with candidates, and we will begin to follow up with persons in whom we have particular interest. The follow up will include telephone reference checks, telephone interviews, and requests for sermon recordings. While pursuing these steps, we will also continue to evaluate new Ministerial Profiles.
6. We will select a small number of candidates for personal interviews, following which we will make arrangements for our Search Committee members to worship with them, most often in a church setting arranged by our Conference/Association office.

We are grateful during this time for the excellent interim leadership of Rev. Gary Wilner. We profoundly trust that God will guide both our candidates and the members of our Search Committee. We ask you to pray for us regularly. We are blessed with a wonderful church community; with hard work and God's guidance, we will be blessed with a wonderful pastor to guide us as we minister in the name of Jesus Christ.

Your friends in Christ,

Saron Search Committee

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Upcoming Mission Opportunities sponsored by Saron's Mission Team

Below are several opportunities for Saron members to serve the community in the name of Jesus. Please consider supporting one or more of these worthwhile projects.

Immanuel UCC Food Pantry– We encourage Saron members to continue to support this food pantry. Canned vegetables and fruit is the suggested food item to donate for March and April.

Sheboygan Community Cafe– Check the kiosk in the narthex to sign up to help serve lunch at the Community Cafe in Sheboygan. Volunteers work from 10:30AM-2:00PM. Saron has committed to provide 4 volunteers for April 11 and May 9.

Mary's Room Baby Shower– Mary's room help's assist needy families of newborns. Saron is planning a 'Baby Shower' beginning on Sunday, April 14. We will have a celebration of the contributed items on Mother's Day–Sunday May 12. **Members are encouraged to donate but not limited to girls clothing size 3T and 4T, boys or girls socks of any size, and diapers, especially size 5 and wipes.**

Milwaukee Bridge Builders– on Saturday, June 15, 2024, Saron will work on a one-day mission trip in Milwaukee to help revitalize some homes in a challenged neighborhood.

Members of Saron's Mission Team are Darlene Gumm, Jay Grosshuesch, Joan Laack, Kari Mooney and Barb Post. **If you are interested in serving on the mission team or have any suggestions or feedback please contact any of these people.**

A One Day Mission Opportunity - Saturday, June 15, 2024

We have a chance to make a difference in an area of Milwaukee that needs revitalizing. We are partnering with Bridge Builders, a non-profit neighborhood improvement organization. They offer opportunities called Serve Days on 4 Saturdays during the summer months: working on projects like staining, painting, landscaping and fence building on neighbor's homes in the area of their Hub House located at 4642 North 40th Street, Milwaukee. The day would begin at 8:15 a.m. when we would learn what our project would be. Lunch would be provided and the work day ends at approximately 2:00 p.m. Hopefully you will consider this opportunity to serve others and find it a satisfying and rewarding experience. We are looking for "Confirmation age youth" and adults. Details concerning transportation and the time of departure will be forth coming, please watch for those details. There will be a sign-up sheet on the kiosk as we get closer to the Serve Day.



Treasurer's Update

As of February 29, 2024

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 insurance (the items that are included in our line-item budget).

YTD income \$29,830 YTD expenses \$33,670 YTD Deficit \$3,840

Please prayerfully consider your support of the daily and weekly vital functions of Saron Church as we go through the year.

The **Improvement Fund** supports all maintenance of the buildings and property that is not covered under General Fund expenses. Monies in this fund can be carried over from year to year.

YTD income \$3,090 YTD expenditures \$9

Total Available Fund Balance \$55,960

The parking lot maintenance project has a budgeted amount of \$25,000 which will be paid through the Improvement Fund. Quoting for this project is currently in progress.

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

YTD income \$1,900

Designated Disbursements:

OCWM (\$20,500 commitment; \$1,480 designated, = 7% of commitment)

OGHS (\$180 received to date; campaign runs through March)

Souper Bowl of Caring (\$142 received, and sent to the Sheboygan Food Bank)

Other pass-throughs for special mission offerings and projects are distributed as they are collected throughout the 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 Linda Barthels or any Consistory member.



THANK YOU

To everyone that came out to support us for the

ASP Rural Church Cook-Off

Special thanks for your donations, baskets, baked goods and delicious soups.



Thank You for supporting the ASP Mission

Congratulations

Darlene Gumm

2nd Place

Winner

For her delicious

Green Stuffed Pepper Soup

For the

ASP Rural Soup Cook– Off



Happy Anniversary We hope you keep the following people 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—60 yrs.

April 12 Ryan & Kathy Herzog

April 16 David & Rachel Zeinemann

April 19 Jeff & Peggy Lubach



April 25 Merlin & Shirley Schmidt—71 yrs.

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
Melanie Roehrborn

April 3 Serena Christy

April 4 Kara Jankus
Luke Kwekkeboom

April 5 Cindy Beitler
Gladys Bitter
Natalie Taylor

April 6 Jacob Doebert
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 16 Melissa Fleck

April 18 Carson Anhalt
Janice Morse

April 19 Matt Dulmes
Vicki Imig

April 20 Chase Anhalt
Allen Nohl

April 21 Evritt Abston
Makayla Van Helden

April 23 Owen Post
Ralph Sebald

April 24 Lois Herzog
Jack Jarvis

April 25 Ginny Feldmann
Rylee Reichwald

April 26 Jackson Picard
David Zeinemann

April 27 Kurt Kuzulka
Matt Miles

April 28 Tammy Anhalt
Jonathan Doebert
Taylor Doebert

April 29 Sara Christy
Henry Zimbal

April 30 Anthony Adamavich
Mylee Nickel





Ben Lenz
(U.S. Air Force)

Christopher Kletzien
(U.S. Army)