

August—2018



# The Tidings

Saron United Church of Christ

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***“The Holy Spirit be upon you, (child’s name), child of God, disciple of Christ,  
member of the church.” (from the UCC Book of Worship)***

We have had so many baptisms this summer. Each time I lay my hands on the one baptized along with their family and members of the Consistory we repeat the words above. It is a very significant moment not only for the one being baptized (most of them will have no recollection of it), but for me as the pastor of this congregation and for you as the community of faith – the church. These words bestowing an identity – child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church. I have been thinking a lot about the connection between all three of these things – can you be one without the other two?

At the Congregational Meeting on May 6, 2018 there was discussion about membership, how do we define active and inactive members, and what are the responsibilities of membership at Saron UCC. I guess the question we tried to answer is what does it mean to be a member of Saron UCC?

A similar question was asked on a UCC Clergy Facebook page. “What would the church look like without membership requirements? Could we still be the church?” This post was one of the most commented on in this group. Some were ready to throw out all requirements believing they were archaic and didn’t mean anything anymore. They were throwbacks to an era that is past and do not reflect society, culture, the world today. Others weren’t so quick to throw requirements out but were very interested in looking at the reasons behind the requirements or at new ways of thinking about membership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Were the requirements about maintaining an institution or about making disciples? Maybe things like worship attendance, participation, support (including financial support), and community outreach were more important to the life of the church than being a member. Some very interesting alternatives to membership were offered – an annual covenant that all those who attended the church would recommit to, a ceremony for those wishing to join the congregation that was much more like a baptism or wedding ceremony. Lots of ideas to think about and consider.

So, what does it mean to be a member of Saron UCC? Or maybe a better question is what should it mean? On the next page is what our Constitution and By-Laws say about membership. Read it over. Think and pray about it. Where do you see yourself in this definition? Is this where you would like to be? If not, how can the leadership of the church (pastor, consistory, committees) help you to get to the place you would like to be?

Membership has its benefits even in churches. It is being a part of something that is bigger than ourselves, a covenanted community where we are all a valued part. This covenanted community that reaches out into our community in ways we could not do as individuals.

Consistory will be taking a closer look at our membership lists in light of the By-Law definitions and the Spirit of covenant relationship in the next few months. I invite you to prayerfully reflect on your role as members of Saron UCC.

Blessings,

Pastor RaeAnn

## Article 2 – Membership

1. Baptized persons may be received into membership through Confirmation, confession of faith, or by letter of transfer from another church, with approval of Consistory (ART. V-Constitution).
2. All members are entitled to share fully in the fellowship and spiritual blessings of the church, to the service of the Pastor(s), officers and other workers. They shall be privileged to have the Christian support and sympathy of all members.
3. **ACTIVE MEMBERS** shall be determined and defined as follows: Active members are expected to participate regularly in the functions of the church for the glory of God and the uplift of humankind. This includes regular attendance at divine worship; participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion; personal and family devotions; prayer for all people; careful attention to the religious training of youth; liberal financial support toward the maintenance and benevolent work of the church; obedience to its established law and authorities; untiring zeal in bringing others to Christ and his Church; and a spirit of Christian fellowship toward all. Active members are entitled to the privileges of voice, vote and office.
4. **INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP** shall be determined and defined as follows: Periodically the Consistory will review the membership and designate as potentially “inactive” those members who have not availed themselves of the privileges of active membership over the preceding year. These persons will be notified of their pending inactive status and encouraged to renew their participation. After reasonable attempts have been exhausted and no effort is made to become active again, the member’s status will be transferred to “inactive”. Inactive members are not eligible to vote, or to receive benefits such as member fees for weddings. Members on the “inactive” list for two or more consecutive years, as well as members whose mailing addresses are no longer known, may be removed from membership rolls by the Consistory.
5. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS** shall be determined and defined as follows: Associate members are those who (a.) temporarily reside in our area and who are members of another church, but wish to covenant with Saron UCC without severing membership in their home church; or (b.) temporarily reside away from Saron UCC (such as college students or military service personnel), but wish to maintain covenant with Saron UCC. Associate members shall be eligible to vote and receive benefits such as member fees for weddings, but may not hold elective office.
6. The numerical strength of the Congregation shall be based on a count of Active and Associate Members.
7. Any member may be granted a letter of transfer to another Christian church on his or her own request through the church to which he or she seeks transfer. Such request shall be approved by the Consistory, and the Pastor shall issue the appropriate letter of release.

## SARON FAMILY CAMP 2019

**Saron Family Camp 2018 will be held August 9-12<sup>th</sup>** at Shawano County Park, Shawano, WI. This is a beautiful campground (each site has electric and water hookups) with amenities galore. Saron family campers have been getting together for over 25 years. We enjoy great Christian Fellowship and fun family activities. Reservations for the following year need to be made one year in advance; therefore, if you are interested in joining other Saron families at Shawano County Park, **August 8-11, 2019**, please contact Wendy Mauk (207-9471) prior to August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. We will be making our reservations on August 8<sup>th</sup> of this year for 2019 camping.

**Note:** Family campers in 2018 – please also let Wendy know if you intend to camp again in 2019.



## ***Pastor RaeAnn's Social Media Policy***

I enjoy Facebook. It is a great way to stay in contact with folks, to see what is happening in their lives and share what is happening in mine. It is also a way to keep up with things that are happening in our world. But Facebook is also a place where people can voice opinions about a variety of topics, ones they know something about and ones they don't. It is a place where they can share memes without thought to what the meme is actually saying or who it might be hurting.

I feel that it is really important for you to understand how I personally use Facebook, how our church Facebook page will be used, and what you can expect if you and I are "friends" on Facebook.

First, Saron's church Facebook page has a couple of different administrators. I am not the only one who can post to the page or manage the page. The page is intended to highlight things that are happening here at Saron UCC. Pictures of events, news about worship, and information about upcoming events may be shared on our page. Comments are always welcome and encouraged as long as they are respectful. You can find our Facebook page at Saron UCC – Sheboygan Falls WI and I encourage all Saron folk who are Facebook users to like and follow the page. Please invite your friends and family to like and follow as well.

There may be the possibility in the future for different uses for our church Facebook page such as closed groups for specific interests or bible studies or even just thought-provoking discussions. The closed group option allows us to monitor who is a part of the group better and this makes it a safer place to share. More information will be provided when and if that happens.

My personal page is just that, my personal page. While I am careful about what I post, you may encounter something that you disagree with. As with the church page, I welcome comments as long as they are respectful and show basic courtesy. Commenters may include friends and family of mine and I am not responsible for what they say. If you prefer to avoid that window on your pastor's personal opinions and thought processes, you may prefer to follow only the official church page.

I will accept, but not initiate, friend requests from church members. If anyone under the age of 18 requests to be my friend on Facebook, I will only accept the request after talking to a parent. This is for the youth's protection as well as my own.

One of the quirks of Facebook is that it does not show you everything someone posts. If I have not commented or liked something you post, it is not a reflection on my pastoral relationship with you. I may not have seen it. I also do not like or comment on everything I see. Please be aware, that I am not bound by confidentiality if you have posted something on Facebook as it is a public forum. I will continue to respect your privacy and will never share additional information I may be aware of.

If you have questions about this, please do not hesitate to ask. Facebook connects us in ways that are not possible otherwise. I want our interactions on Facebook to be positive and a reflection of faithful living.

Pastor RaeAnn

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

# Confirmation Gathering

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and Parents

Church House Yard

Flame and Water are two important symbols in our faith. You are invited to an evening where you will get to experience both!

**Flames** around the campfire as we share hot dogs, smores, and important information about the Confirmation Program.

**Water** in the form of GAMES!!!!

Food and beverages will be provided.

Please bring lawn chairs.

If you are unable to join us for this cookout, it is your responsibility to contact Pastor RaeAnn and make an appointment to discuss what you missed.

See You on August 22!



Back by popular demand.....

## Saron's 2<sup>nd</sup> Pave the Way Benefit

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 7th to join your Saron family for a delicious buffet dinner at Laacks!

Memories of Pave the Way 2017.....

Food – Delicious

Prizes – Amazing

Fund Raising - Successful

**Comradery with Family and Friends – Priceless!**

“Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”

Mattie Stepanek

Plan to attend the dinner and invite friends, family and neighbors! Advanced tickets will be available for several Sunday services prior to the event or contact one of the committee members listed below. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

One of the reasons that the 2017 Benefit was so successful is because of the generous contributions made by Saron members and friends! Last year we were fortunate to offer over 65 outstanding baskets for the raffle. We were absolutely overwhelmed with the variety of items. Once again, this year we are asking Saron members to consider contributing to our raffle selection.

To help us prepare for the basket raffle, we will have information cards available in the narthex or from a committee member. The cards will provide us with the details of your contribution. Please return the completed card in the box also found in the narthex on or before October 28<sup>th</sup>.

We rely on the members to continue to be **Saron Strong** as we work on this together.

Committee members,

Rita and Steve Bender

Patti and Larry Boedecker

Janine and Bill Gardapee

Joan and Carl Laack

Donna and Jim Rabe

Barb and Ralph Sebald

**Those who are homebound or in care centers:** Janice Hartmann (Pine Haven, Haven Drive Campus), Norb Meyer (Pine Haven, Haven Drive Campus), Janet Klemme (Pine Haven Assisted Living, Giddings Ave. Campus), Ilene Struve (Rocky Knoll), Marilyn Perronne (at home), Mae Schmidt (at home), Beverly Kleinhans (at home).....



**We Celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism of:** Oscar David Hansen, who was baptized on July 1st, 2018. Oscar is the son of Spencer & Katie (Curtiss) Hansen .....



## LOOKING AHEAD TO.....



**Sunday, September 9th, 2018**

**Sunday School resumes at 9:05** (parent orientation meeting also at that time)

**8:00 A.M. Indoor Traditional Worship Service with Communion**

**10:15 A.M. Outdoor Worship Service with Music (weather permitting)**

**Holy Communion will be served.**

**Bring a lawn chair!**

Sunday School teachers will be dedicated at the 10:15 A.M. Service

5th Graders will receive their Bibles at the 10:15 A.M. Service

Social picnic immediately following worship (11:15 A.M.—1:00 P.M.)

**Sign-up sheets for food donations and helpers will be on the kiosk**



**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 (467-6202 or e-mail [barb@saronucc.org](mailto:barb@saronucc.org)).

August 1 Eric & Lori Albsmeier  
Roger & Alice  
Thomas

August 3 Lee & Barb Post

August 4 Brian & Debbie Rautmann

August 5 Heather & Adam Jankus  
Dave & Janice Morse

August 6 Steve & Amber Casadonte

August 7 Ron & Penny Nicolaus

August 10 Dale & Vicky Verhage

August 10 Katie & Travis Christenson  
Amy & Tyler Kober  
Brian & Lois Rick

August 14 Mike & Cheryl Walsh



August 17 Bill & Janine Gardapee

August 18 John & Katchen Ringelstetter

August 19 Mitchell & Ashley Schmidt

August 21 Brian & Laura Gumm  
Mark & Marci Post  
Eugene & Vickie Schaap

August 22 Allen & Alyce Beeck  
Ashley & Jeremy Guell—10 yrs.

August 26 Ron & Vickie Imig

August 27 Nate & Sara Dassow

August 28 Gary & Jane Hanke

August 29 Amber & Jacob Meyer

August 31 Adam & Stephanie Konz  
Warren & Shirley Mitchell—50 yrs.

**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 (467-6202 or e-mail [barb@saronucc.org](mailto:barb@saronucc.org)).

August 1 Cody Pike

August 2 Andrew Boll  
Ruby Feldmann  
Cindy Schuler

August 3 Dan Albright  
Verla Peichl  
Sharon Schlundt

August 4 Vern Boedecker  
Gloria Flegal  
Sandy Herzog  
Mitchell Nelson  
Kari Nyhof  
Cheryl Walsh

August 5 Miranda Boll  
Lou Meinnert  
Roger Thomas

August 6 Janice Curtiss  
Chris Frazier

August 7 Nancy Fritz

August 9 David Johanning  
Brian Rautmann  
Eric Roehl

August 10 Julie Fitzgerald  
Peral McCraw

August 11 Jenny Beltran  
Amber Meyer

August 12 Tim Chisholm  
Myka Roethel

August 13 Sharon Feldmann  
Peggy Lubach  
Ann Mitchell

August 14 Liam Kober

August 15 Harrison Miller  
Bonnie Post

August 15 Heath Taylor

August 16 Don Klemme  
August 17 Max Post  
Walter Zimbal

August 19 Jill Adamavich  
Tom Beitler

August 21 Elizabeth Barthels  
Kyle Pennell  
Linda Schuler

August 23 Linda Barthels  
Tracy Beeck  
Marvin Boedecker  
Miles Hanke  
Kaedin Roethel

August 25 Kyle Mauk  
Ben Nyhof  
Justin Schneider

August 25 Cole Suemnicht

August 27 Donna Rautmann

August 28 Xander Dassow  
Jeff Hanke  
Sally Nohl

August 29 Bryce Holzmann

August 30 Eric Albsmeier  
Justin Boedecker  
Tom Kanzelberger  
Diane Voelker

August 31 Joan Laack  
Scott Reichert

