



The Tidings

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

February—2022

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“For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body ...” 1 Corinthians 12:13a

I love the Facebook Memories feature. For those not familiar with this feature or Facebook, memories you posted on a particular day in the past will pop up. You can reshare them if you wish. I enjoy looking back at the things that were important to me at a particular time. Sometimes I have no idea what I was talking about at the time! But when a picture pops up, I can relive the experience all over again. I find that wonderful.

Recently, memories from a mission trip to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS eight years ago have been popping up. It was an awesome trip with some awesome people. We learned so much and grew closer together as a community of faith on that trip. Now we are all scattered, but a recent get together proved that distance hadn't affected our closeness to one another.

One of the memories Facebook chose to highlight was the day a group of us volunteered at Loaves and Fishes a soup kitchen that served the homeless in the area. Our trip was several years after Hurricane Katrina, but there was still much damage and rebuilding going on. We met some interesting people that day, but none more interesting than Sister Mary. Sister Mary was an elderly nun (I think she was in her 80's) who volunteered at Loaves and Fishes several times a week. She had been doing this for years. We met her on her first day back from an absence caused by a fall. The poor woman's left side of her face was still very black and blue. But she was there, helping out in whatever way was needed. What struck me the most about Sister Mary was the way she interacted with the people who came to the soup kitchen. She called each one of them by name. Asked them how they were doing and was genuinely interested in their answers. She engaged them in their own stories, treating them with dignity and respect. Even when she had to enforce some rule, she did it with love. They all responded so positively to her. Sister Mary was truly an angel on earth. These are the people most would just have tolerated or felt they should be grateful for what was given to them. But Sister Mary treated them as fellow human beings, as the beloved of God.

Sister Mary had an impact on me as well that day. I admit that when we got to the soup kitchen, I was a little apprehensive, unsure of how to interact with the people who would be coming to eat. She taught me to see the image of God in them, to see that they too are a part of the Body of Christ. I don't think much about her these days, so I am grateful that Facebook reminded me of her and the lessons she taught me not by her words, but by her actions.

Who are the Sister Mary's in your life? Give God thanks for them and then go out and emulate them.

Blessings,

Pastor RaeAnn

Saron's Annual Meeting Election Results

Elder: Jeff Meinnert

Deacon: Judy Glander

Trustee: Micha Rautmann

Endowment: Jack Jarvis

Pastor Parish Relations Committee: Judy Knuth & Jerry Henning

Cemetery Board: Jay Flegal

- ♦ If you would like a copy of the Annual Report you can pick one up on the Narthex table..
- ♦ The Minutes of the Annual Report will be included in the March Tidings.



Every day there are young people in our community who face hunger. An estimated one in six teens across the nation are not getting consistent and adequate nutrition for growing strong and healthy. And they won't tell you they are hungry.

This year you can help by taking the TACKLE HUNGER CHALLENGE! What if everyone watching a football game this weekend gave just one dollar or one can of food to a local food charity? With over 90,000 watching just one game, that means a lot of food and cash to help feed hungry families in need that live in our community.

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 13th, members of our Confirmation Class will be in the Narthex after each service with a Soup Pot for you to put in your donations to help the hungry in our community. Our donations will go to the Sheboygan County Food Bank which distributes food to all of the food pantries in the county. Donations of food items will go to Immanuel's Food Pantry.

Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith

Lenten Worship Series



During the season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 2, 2022) we will be using a series by Dr. Marcia McFee both on Sundays and Wednesday nights. The series is based on the work of Kate Bowler and her devotional Good Enough. While it is not necessary, it may be helpful to have your own copy of the devotional. There are a couple of book suppliers that have discounts if this devotional is ordered in quantity. The cost of the book is \$15.00 if we can get enough for the bulk order. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex for ordering the book or you can email the office. More on this series will be available in the March Tidings. The Wednesday evening service will be at 7:00 pm. Consistory has decided to not have the Lenten meal before the service this year. Hopefully next year we can bring the meal back.

Looking Ahead...

Saron is looking forward to three special upcoming events, so mark your calendar to share in a time of **FUN, FOOD, and FELLOWSHIP**. Below you will find a preview of what is to come.

As a fund raiser for the Mission Trip to Knoxville, TN there will be a **SOUP COOK-OFF** held at Laack's Hall on Sunday, March 20th.

If you feel your soup would be the best, sign-up on the kiosk to bring a crockpot of soup to the event. More details to come.



Grilled Smoked Pork Chop Dinner

Forget the planning, buying ingredients, cooking and dishes! Instead, consider a drive-through, pick-up, complete dinner, at Saron. The Senior Choir will serve as hosts to this Saron event on Thursday, March 31st. The dinner will include a large grilled smoked pork chop, potatoes, vegetable and dessert for \$12.00. Pick up will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Reservations will be required to allow more precise planning. To keep this first-time event manageable, we are limiting the number of reservations that will be taken. This event will be open to interested people from Saron as well as the surrounding areas.

We're bringing back an old favorite at Saron by including the traditional Apple Dessert. Using a provided recipe, we are asking people of Saron to sign up if you are willing to make the apple dessert in a 9" x- 13" pan.

Reservations can be made by calling Joan Laack (920) 946-4652 or Judy Glander (920) 980-0748 beginning February 6th. At the same time, people that are willing to assist the choir by making the Apple Dessert, a sign-up sheet will be posted at church or informing Joan or Judy when making reservations.



Bean Bags Anyone?



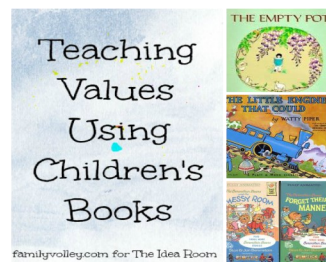
Saron Church is planning to host a cornhole (beanbag) tournament on Saturday, April 9 at Laack's Hall. We are in the beginning stages of organizing the event, and we would welcome additional volunteers to help the committee.



Please also consider supporting the tournament by signing up to play (further details on this are forthcoming) and/or coming to watch and eat. Contact Jay Grosshuesch if you interested in helping in any way. E-mail: jegrossh@gmail.com, Phone: 920-918-2037

New Children's Books

Due to the generosity of the Women's Guild, we were able to purchase several new children's books for the church library. Check them out in the Narthex library and the Church Library in the basement. You can check the books out and take them home or the children can look at them during worship in the sanctuary.



Here is a note from our SPARE Student:

Dear Saron UCC,

December 25, 2021

It is my pleasure to write you this letter. My family and I are doing well in spite of the despair in our country and the gang activity in our neighborhood. It has been sometimes difficult going to school because of the armed conflicts between gangs. Thank you to the SPARE program for always supporting us both financially and psychologically. Those responsible in the program have allowed us to be able to return to our classes. We are remaining confident that we will be able to continue working hard to see good results. I am very proud of you and of your work in our community. This is work that shines a light and gives hope to our youth. Please continue supporting us and may our Savior Jesus Christ continue blessing you. It is our hope that you have a good New Year.

I do not remember ever meeting you in Haiti. One thing is for sure, I am anxious to make your acquaintance. The Haitian people are very likable and hospitable. It is too bad that our leaders have such bad faith. Their bad leadership has not brought us happiness. We pray that our Savior brings us visionary leaders to provide us with another political and economic system so that one day we will finally be able to live in peace and prosperity.

I am going to continue working hard and I hope the results will be sufficient. Thank you for your pride and your contributions to Haiti. Stay protected and out of danger. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 2022.

Love and good health!

Dénilson

WHAT TO DO IF WE ARE HAVING BAD WEATHER

Winter is here! We hate to cancel worship, but if we need to, Tune in to WHBL 1330 AM (Sheboygan), Milwaukee TV Stations 4 (WTMJ), FOX 6, 12 (WISN), 58 (CBS 58) or Green Bay TV Stations 2 (WBAY) or 5 (WFRV); call the church office to listen for a cancellation message (467-6202) or check the church website for a cancellation notice (www.saronucc.org).



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 Saron member Roger Thomas (husband of Alice) who died on January 8, 2022....to the family of Janet Bitter (Grandmother to Jason Bitter)....to the family of Eileen Metz (sister-in-law to Shirley and Merlin Schmidt)....to the family of Scott Curtiss (brother-in-law to Linda and DuWayne Wieck)....



Thank You !!!

Dear Members of Saron Church:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your wonderful support of our Head Start and Early Head Start children and families once again. Your ongoing support over the years has shown that you truly understand and care for the most vulnerable children and families in our community. We appreciate your congregation adopting 7 of our families this year.

Thank for being at our side as our agency

- ♦ Fosters a relationship with the larger community so that families and staff are respected and served by a network of community agencies and individuals working in partnership with one another.
- ♦ Strengthens a continuum of care, education, and services to allow stable, uninterrupted support to families and children during and after their Head Start and/or Early Head Start experience.

Thank you once again for being a part of our success, and thank you for caring for the children and families who need our help the most. We value your partnership now and in the future.

God Bless you all for all of your support throughout the years!

Sincerely,

Brenda Zastow, Head Start/Early Head Start Director

Thank you so much for everything, I wasn't expecting SO much. My kids and I were so happy with everything. I'm still in awe for all that you did. Your kind hearts is what the world needs more of.

Thank you so much for the gifts. We are so thankful and blessed.

*"Giving is not just about making a donation.
It is about making a difference."*

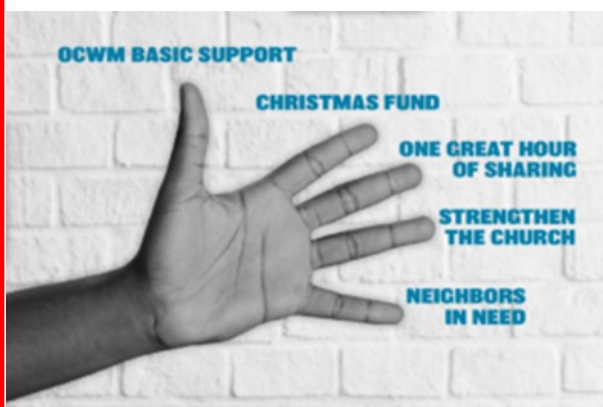
Kathy Calvin



OCWM: Our Church's Wider Mission

At the budget Q & A, a question was raised about our OCWM contribution and what it actually supports. Below is a description of OCWM Basic Support and each of the four Special Offerings. The amount we approve in our budget is for Basic Support only. Each of the four Special Offerings are by individual donation only.

Our Church's Wider Mission is the name we use to describe the work we do as the United Church of Christ beyond the local church – through our Conferences, national ministries, and UCC-related institutions. Our Church's Wider Mission is also the name we give to the financial support given by UCC members and congregations that makes this broader mission possible.



In the United Church of Christ, we affirm that, although the congregation is the fundamental unit of mission, mission is not just local. We are connected to one another, across boundaries of neighborhood, class, race, and national border.

Our Church's Wider Mission, often referred to simply as OCWM, has two parts: Basic Support and Four Special Mission Offerings.

OCWM can be compared to a human hand. Basic Support is like our thumb, crucial to the flexibility and dexterity of our hand. The four special mission offerings are like our fingers, helping us reach out. Together, OCWM Basic Support and the Four Mission Offerings allow us to reach out to impact the lives of our neighbors, near and far.

Our Church's Wider Mission *OCWM Basic Support*

Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support provides funding for the work of UCC Conferences and for the work of the UCC's national ministries. Each congregation decides how much of its members' financial support it will contribute to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support. At Saron UCC, our commitment to OCWM Basic Support comes from the Benevolence Fund.

Congregations send their OCWM gifts to the Conference. Each Conference then decides what percentage of those gifts to keep for the work within that particular Conference, and what percentage it will send to the national setting of the UCC.

Some of the National Basic Support money is used for ministries to Conferences, local churches and members, as well as for ecumenical, prophetic and missionary ministries on behalf of the UCC. Contributions from individuals to their congregations comprise the funds from which OCWM Basic Support is given to the Conferences and national ministries.

In 2020, the Wisconsin Conference allocated 68% of OCWM Basic Support to Conference Ministries and 32% to Wider Church Missional Ministries.

OCWM Special Mission Offerings

Our Church's Wider Mission Special Support comprises gifts to the four Special Mission Offerings in the United Church of Christ, per capita dues, and gifts that are specially designated for the Conference, national setting or UCC-related institutions.

One Great Hour of Sharing (this offering is received during Lent)

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. To learn more about this offering go to www.ucc.org/oghs

Strengthen the Church (STC) (this offering is received on Pentecost Sunday)

Strengthen the Church is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC does not have a strong presence. It also provides support for existing church's new initiatives. To learn more about this offering go to www.ucc.org/stc

Neighbors in Need (this offering is received on First Sunday of October as part of World Communion Sunday)

Neighbors in Need supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Local Church Ministries.

From the National Setting in Cleveland, Ohio, and also from its policy advocacy office in Washington DC, Justice & Local Church Ministries is responsible for supporting local churches with worship and faith forming publications, resources, and education.

The goal of the UCC JWM Washington office; to make a better world possible by addressing the systemic problems that we face as a country and as part of the world. Hunger, poverty, peace and security, racism, care for the earth. These are among the types of justice issues that we work to improve through federal policies. To learn more about this offering go to www.ucc.org/nin.

The Christmas Fund (this offering is received on the Sunday before Christmas)

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks. To find out more about this special offering go to www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home



Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ

Dear friends:

I am thrilled to announce that the Rev. Amy Lunde-Whitler has been called to serve as associate conference minister. Amy's primary responsibility will be to support and resource the congregations, pastors and lay leaders of the Southwest Association and half of the Southeast Association.

Since 2017, Amy has served as pastor of South Acton Church UCC in Acton, Massachusetts, where she learned the strength of small and family-sized congregations bound together by deep relationships. She previously served as pastor at Christian Union Church in West Groton, Massachusetts, and as pastor to children and families at New Life Community Church in Artesia, California. There, she developed a love for intergenerational ministry.

She is a contributor to the "Be Still and Go" podcast, a digital ministry of Riverside Church in New York and "Lady Preacher," a podcast produced by the Rev. Kelsey Beebe, pastor of two Wisconsin Conference congregations.

Amy's spouse, Josh, is a theologian and religious educator. They are parents of a young son, Jojo. The family will move to the Madison area shortly after Easter. Amy enjoys coffee (decaf), and is a knitter and aspiring yogi.

I want to offer my deepest gratitude to a spectacular search team, which worked diligently, collaboratively, prayerfully and joyfully throughout the process. The team comprised the Revs. Eldonna Hazen, Beth Voigt and Christine Wilke and lay members David Mickle, George Adams and Dale Meyer. Thank you all.

Finally, I want to thank the Rev. Ted Drewsen, who has been a solid "bridge" ACM. He is a collegial gift to our staff and a wise and thoughtful servant among us. Thank you, Ted, for your willingness to stay in the saddle until Easter.

Epiphany blessings,

Franz



Ben Lenz (U.S. Air Force)

Christopher Kletzien (U.S. Army)

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).

February 6 Jeff & Kim Hanke

February 11 Glenn & Maureen Schnicke

February 17 Russ & Erlinda Beebe



*Happy
Anniversary*

February 24 Jim & Peggy Leu

February 27 Randy & Verla Peichl

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).

February 1 Jill Imig
Michelle Johanning
Bryan Rick
Arwin Zimbal

February 2 Al Blasel

February 3 Hartley Bell
Haley Post
Rachel Rautmann

February 4 Brandon Gumm
Jada Lorenz

February 5 Lisa Schneider

February 6 Lloyd Feldmann
Mairin Jarvis
Kevin Wieck

February 7 Adam Konz

February 8 Collin Dulmes

February 9 Julie Wieck

February 10 Randy Beebe
Brian Wagner

February 11 Nate Dassow

February 12 Anna Depping-Herzog
Julianna Kuzulka

February 13 Starr Boldt
Tyler Chisholm
Jaiden Haack
Ava Imig
Calob Rautmann

February 15 Ann Boll
Sara Skeris

February 16 Tammy Grunewald
Heather Zimbal

February 17 Eugene Ratumann

February 19 Judy Glander
Max Prange
Jerry Quilling
Mary Jo Quilling

February 20 Judy Dumke
Shaun Haas

February 21 Roy Herzog
Brynn Oppeneer
Barb Sebald

February 22 Kristi Belcher
Bonnie Hanke
George Sommer

February 23 Gretchen Herzog

February 24 Lana Jankus
Peggy Nohl

February 25 Dan Doeberst
Karl Fasse

February 27 Debbie Rautmann

February 28 Gloria Kanzelberger

