



The Tidings

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

January—2022

Rev. RaeAnn Beebe, Pastor Phone: 920-467-6202 Cell: 920-838-3172 revraeann@saronucc.org

Judy Knuth—Newsletter Editor Phone: 920-893-0391 jjknuth57@excel.net

Kathy Schwartz—Administrative Assistant Phone: 920-467-6202 adminoffice@saronucc.org

Peter Viesselmann—Financial Secretary finance@saronucc.org

Church Phone: 920-467-6202 Website: saronucc.org

“And Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart.” Luke 2:19

Last year there was the meme floating around Facebook – I am going to stay up until midnight. Not to ring in 2021, but to make sure 2020 leaves.” Well, 2021 didn’t live up to expectations either. This year I have been hearing the song *Next Year* by Macklemore on the radio frequently. It’s opening line is, “Next year’s gonna be better than this year” repeated several times. We sure hope so! We have experienced two years like no other! It has left us pondering many things.

Dr. Karoline Lewis of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN unpacked the word “ponder” from the Greek for an online group. She said “‘Pondering’ literally means things are being thrown together and you’re having to figure out what’s going on.” Doesn’t that sound like the last two years! Lewis continues, “Pondering is an active sorting to find a pattern between circumstances, experience, perceptions, emotions, and events.”

For Mary some things—like angels, shepherds, a star in the East, and a divine birth—were hard enough to make sense of. Put those in the middle of poverty, hunger, the majority of children dying before age five, and an oppressive Roman regime (which Luke takes pains to make clear), and the riddle is more than the human heart can solve.

Like Mary, we might not find the pattern, at least not right away. In fact, it’s possible we’ll never make sense of it all. Yet we continue to ponder. We try to react to the situation and circumstances around us in faithful and loving ways. We believe and trust in God’s promises to us and step out in faith.

I don’t know what 2022 will bring. Hopefully not just a return to what was, but to something better. To a world more in touch with others and their needs as well as our own. To a world where justice matters. To a world that looks more like the kingdom of God. We have a choice in making this happen. As people of faith, it is our calling.

As we move into 2022, may we dedicate ourselves to ponder together and be the people God has called us to be.

Happy New Year and Blessings,

Pastor RaeAnn

Budget Meeting To Field Questions From The Congregation
Sunday, January 16th, 2022
At 9:00 A.M.

Annual Meeting of Saron United Church of Christ
Sunday, January 23th, 2022
At Approximately 11:15 A.M.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

The Church is still in need of candidates for Elder, Deacon, Endowment Committee, and Board of Christian Education. Those that are interested should contact the consistory or the church office.

Nominations for Elected Leaders

*The **Consistory** of Saron Church is made up of three **elders** (who are responsible for the congregation's spiritual life), three **deacons** (who are responsible for the stewardship of finances & property), the **treasurer** (who oversees the financial security of the church), & the pastor.*

The nominees for elder are: Jeff Meinnert

The nominees for deacon are: Barb Post

*The Consistory requests the **trustees** to carry out repair and maintenance projects around the church building and grounds.*

The nominees for trustee are: Keith Beeck & Micah Rautmann

*The **Christian Education Board** chooses the Sunday School curriculum, recruits and trains teachers, and plans Vacation Bible School and the Christmas program.*

The nominees for Christian Education Board are:

*The **Cemetery Board** is responsible for the maintenance of the cemetery and its funds.*

The nominees for the Cemetery Board are: Kurt Mauk, Incumbent & Jay Flegal

*The **Endowment Committee** is responsible for congregational awareness and prudent investing of Saron's Endowment Funds.*

The nominees for Endowment Committee are: Jack Jarvis

*The **Pastor Parish Relations Committee** meets at least quarterly with the pastor to ensure a healthy relationship between the pastor and the congregation.*

The nominees for the Pastor Parish Relations Committee are: Jerry Henning & Judy Knuth

Important Reminder

All financial account reports from any Saron UCC group needs to be to the church office by Sunday, January 9th. They can be delivered to the church office or emailed to adminoffice@saronucc.org. Please use Word Document for your report.

Advent Angel Tree
What a sight to behold!



Thank you all so much for the wonderful gifts and monetary donations we received. Saron Church provide about 200 gifts for the families we sponsored. It was quite an amazing sight to see if you were in church on Sunday December 19th. The generosity of the members of Saron UCC is truly wonderful. We have brightened the lives of so many children and their families in the Sheboygan County Head Start Program. Also thank you to the people who gave cash donations. We used the money to purchase gifts and gift cards. We are so thankful for your kindness during this Christmas season!!!

Sincerely,
The Women's Guild

Sheboygan County Warming Center

The mission of the Sheboygan County Warming Center is to provide a safe, warm, non-judgmental facility for any single adults that find themselves without a safe and overnight shelter from December to March.



You may not be aware, but for the past six years the Sheboygan County Warming Center has been in operation. This has been an interdenominational effort along with many organizations and volunteers joining together to make this happen. Our sister church, St. John's UCC in Sheboygan has been instrumental in the Warming Center's development and implementation. They received a Catalyst Grant from the Conference to help further develop the Center. The Center provides a hot meal in the evening and a bag breakfast for guests to take with them when they leave. A bed and place out of the cold are so needed for many in our community. The Center is housed at Ss Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church on New Jersey Ave and is open 7 days a week from 7 pm – 7:30 am. Currently only 20 guests are served due to COVID restrictions. There are many ways to get involved with this ministry. Financial contributions are always welcome and volunteers to staff the Center is one of their greatest needs. If you would like more information, you can check out their website <https://scwarmingcenter.com/> or contact Stephen Guenther at 920-452-5296.

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 David Weber, brother-in-law to Doug & Jill Daun who died on December 2nd, 2021.....**to the family of Russell Fink**, step dad to Josh Imig who died on December 6, 2021 ... **to the family of James Schwartz**, brother-in-law to Kathy Schwartz, Saron's Office Manager, who died on December 8, 2021.....**to the family of Charles Hollenberbger**, Sue Roettger's father who died on December 14, 2021.....**to the family of Kathy Matzdorf**, mother to Wendy Mauk and grandmother to Heather Jankus & Kim Schasky and sister-in-law to Ron & Diane Matzdorf.....



Ben Lenz
(U.S. Air Force)

Christopher Kletzien
(U.S. Army)



Treasurer's Update

As of November 30, 2021

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 \$166,940

YTD expenses \$152,666

Saron currently has a surplus in our General Fund of \$96,324. This will be used to offset any difference between our income and expenses during the year.

It should be noted that the income above includes \$21,145 from a forgivable loan through the Small Business Administration as part of the CARES Act "Paycheck Protection Program" due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The loan was forgiven and became a grant in June of 2021 upon acceptance of the submitted application supporting the use of the funds for payroll and utilities during the period that Saron was unable to have full services during 2020.

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 \$21,424

Of this total income amount, \$1,625 has been designated to One Great hour of Sharing (OGHS), \$100 to Habitat for Humanity, \$285 to Strengthen the Church (STC), \$309 to Neighbors In Need (NIN), and \$14,601 to OCWM which is 71% of our annual budgeted commitment for OCWM of \$20,500. As of November, we are short \$5,899 of reaching our commitment for 2021.

The funds received for OGHS, STC, and NIN are distributed in the month after they are received. The funds received for OCWM are distributed quarterly. Gifts received toward SPARE sponsorship total \$2,200. So far \$1,800 has been paid out, and the balance will be paid out by the end of the year. In addition to the \$100 for Habitat for Humanity received for benevolence, the Consistory voted to send \$1,000 to Habitat from the Mission Fund in May.

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

YTD income \$33,453

YTD expenditures \$12

Current amount in the fund is \$73,287. Of this amount, \$28,510 has been designated to be applied to the septic system replacement costs in 2021. 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 November 30, 2021

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 11/30/2021	<u>(\$27,510.00)</u>
Balance needed for septic system project	\$11,896.00

If you would like to contribute towards this project, please note in the memo section of your check "Septic System Project". As shown above, we have earmarked \$5,000 plus the \$27,510 of your donations from the total funds currently held in the Improvement Fund (\$73,287) for this project. 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 2021. Therefore, we do not anticipate the need to explore further fundraising options.

Mission Trip Meeting

There will be a Mission Trip meeting on Sunday, January 9th at 4:30 p.m. at Saron. This is for those definitely planning to go on the trip, also please bring your \$50.00 down payment with you. The purpose of this meeting is to get to know the other mission trip participants, and to answer any questions regarding the next steps in the process. If you were unable to come to the previous meeting, please plan to attend this one so that you can be brought up to speed on all the information you will need to know.



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).

January 11 Glenn & Linda Ubbelohde

January 12 Art & Janet Lammers

January 19 Jay & Jill Grosshuesch



January 23 Mark & Linda Shaw

January 24 Doug & Jill Daun

January 26 Don & Judy Ryan

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 9920-467-6202 or email adminoffice@saronucc.org.

January 2 Kris Lenz

January 3 Carrie Nickel

January 5 Jamie Haack

January 6 Elise Casadonte
Craig Grosshuesch

January 7 Matt Meinnert

January 8 Randy Sixel

January 9 Ed Schmidt

January 10 Jill Farnum

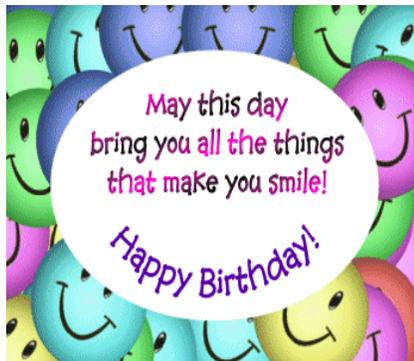
January 11 Dorene Hanke
Waylon Kwekkeboom

January 12 Tim Feldmann
Jay Pike

January 13 Jan Binder
DuWayne Nohl
Emma Pike
Lois Schlichting
Haley Wimmler

January 14 Kari DeHart
Glenn Nohl
Coleson Trumm
Linda Wieck
Kathie Zittel

January 15 Izzy Dassow
John Yellstrom



January 17 Nathan Roehl

January 18 Katie Haas
Laura Rautmann

January 19 Roberta Coppersmith
Russ Reichert

January 20 Dan Roehrborn

January 21 Karla Kletzien
Kendrick Kuzulka
Kalvin Kuzulka
Matt Wilke

January 14 Lisa Bunke
Sarah Gonzales
Shirley Schmidt

January 26 Reid Harper
Brynn Harper

January 27 Jeff Lubach
Marlene Mohr

January 28 Carleigh Milz

January 29 Matt Boedecker
Ryan Herzog
Carl Lindquist

January 30 Virginia Braun
Bill Gardapee
Kurt Mauk
Bentley Schmidt

January 31 Katelyn DeHart
Duane Hitsman