



The Tidings

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

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“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

2 Corinthians 9:8

I always look forward to going to the Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting. Meeting up with friends and colleagues I only see at this meeting. Spending time walking around Green Lake Conference Center property and relaxing by the lake. It always reminds me that the body of Christ is very large. The last two years, the Conference Meeting has not been that kind of experience. Due to the pandemic the meeting has been held virtually and that sense of being part of something larger isn't the same sitting in the living room watching a computer screen all by yourself. I wasn't exactly looking forward to the meeting this year, especially since the Conference decided to spread it out over three evenings and a Saturday morning. But I was pleasantly surprised and found the meeting to be engaging and very worthwhile. With the meeting being virtual, speakers from across the country were able to participate and share their expertise and experiences. The theme this year was *Powered by Generosity* and the key verse of scripture highlighted was 2 Corinthians 9:8.

Each day there were testimonials from local UCC congregations in Wisconsin on ways that they witnessed to God's abundance during the pandemic. They were truly inspiring as none required a lot of expertise, just people willing to share their resources and themselves.

There were also keynote speakers and workshops offered. Rev. William Lamar pastor of Metropolitan AME Church in Washington DC spoke on *Rethinking Generosity*. He used terms like “confrontational generosity” and “dangerous generosity” and “a generosity willing to pay the price of discipleship.” The basis for his talk was Jesus driving out the money changers in the Temple. The practice of purchasing animals was a necessity as was exchanging a Roman coin for a Temple coin, but it became a tool of exploitation and oppression as profits were made off the sale of the animals and the exchange of the coins. The Spirit drove Jesus into confrontation, to showing the people there was another way. Some were spellbound and wanted to hear more. Others plotted to kill him. He asked, “In what direction is the Spirit driving us?”

Melissa Spas, Managing Director of Education and Empowerment for Like Institute on Faith and Giving, spoke on more practical matters. In her talk entitled *Sufficiency and Abundance: A Workshop on Empowering Mission*, she said churches need to lean into God's promise of abundance. Too often, she said, scarcity thinking is the invisible norm.



Pastor's Notes Continued

I attended two workshops on Thursday evening. The first, *10 Best Practices of Financially Healthy Congregations* by Maria Coyne, President and CEO of United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund. I am pleased to report that Saron is doing the majority of the 10 she listed and the ones we are not, we are working on! *The Why of Your Congregation: Making the Case for Financial Support* was presented by Rev. Kent Siladi, Director of Philanthropy for the UCC. He said when the church can answer the "why" they do what they do, it sets parameters. It gives churches permission to say "no" to things that may be good ideas, but don't align with the "why" of the church.

On Saturday, our Conference Minister Rev. Franz Rigert shared a story about two friends who met in the grocery store. They began sharing how the last year had been for them. One of the men said, "This has been the worst year ever!" His friend acknowledged that it had been a very tough year and then replied, "But you are still counting your blessings." Rev. Rigert then listed many of the blessings in the Conference and ways the challenges are being faced. Resilience, he said, is the word he would use to describe the churches and the people of the Wisconsin Conference.

I know that my brief summary here doesn't do the speakers or the workshops justice. It is kind of like a virtual meeting works, but sure isn't as nice as being in person. I just hope that you have gotten some idea of what was shared and how it can be useful to us here at Saron UCC.

Blessings,

Pastor RaeAnn

Outdoor Worship Services

Join us for worship in God's sanctuary – Church House Yard (weather permitting of course) at 9:30 am

June 20

July 18

August 22



Please bring your own chairs. We will live-stream these services as well.

Saron To Honor Its High School & College Graduates on June 6th.

On Sunday, June 6th, 2021 Saron will be honoring this years high school graduates as well as anyone who has received a degree from an institution of higher learning. **Please let the church office know (467-6202) with that information by Sunday, May 30th so that all graduates can receive the proper recognition.**



LARGE PRINT BULLETINS

If you would like a large print bulletins please let the church office know (467-6202) so that we know how many to print each week.





Those who are homebound or in care centers: Marilyn Perronne (at home), Helen Peichl (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 Gloria Flegal, wife of Jay and mother to Deann who passed away on April 21 and whose funeral was held at Saron on April 29..... to the family of Elda Veldboom, mother to Linda Wieck & Janice Curtiss who died on April 28th.....and to the family of Kathryn Mitchell, mother to Warren Mitchell who died on May 10th.....



Ben Holzmann and Emily Radloff were married at Saron on Friday, May 21st.



Ben Lenz
(U.S. Air Force)

Christopher Kletzien
(U.S. Army)



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 (467-6202 or email adminoffice@saronucc.org).

June 2 Kurt & Wendy Mauk

June 4 Dan & Joy Grunewald

June 6 John & Dawn Giraldo
Dennis & Shirley Roehrborn

June 7 Scott & Renee Greger

June 18 Julie & Zeke Firzgerald

June 10 Dave & Lisa Bunke
John & Sonya Yellstrom

June 11 Larry & Patti Boedecker

June 13 David & Laura Rautmann

June 16 Jay & Lexann Hoogstra

June 19 Rory & RaeAnn Beebe
Jim & Bonnie Hanke

June 20 Jim & Virginia Karstaedt
Roger & Alice Wagner



June 21 Justin & Amanda Boedecker
Duane & Lori Knuth Gumm

June 23 Keith & Tracy Beeck
Anthony & Heather Leu
Jim & Donna Rabe

June 24 Kurt & Cindy Kwekkeboom
John & Kathie Zittel

June 25 David & Michelle Johanning
Luke & Tracy Kwekkeboom

June 26 Steve & Deborah Boll

June 27 Chris & Courtney Booth
Steve & Deanna Milz
Andy & Kari Nyhof





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 email [adminoffice @saronucc.org](mailto:adminoffice@saronucc.org)).

June 1 Jody Biederwolf
Lori Knuth Gumm

June 2 John Zittel

June 3 Greg Herzog
Amy Kwekkeboom
Bryak Slaton
Lisa Zak

June 4 Brian Barthels
Avery Beltran
Darlene Gumm

June 5 Gail Federwisch
Jenna Hahn

June 6 Eric Haas

June 8 Jessica Trumm

June 9 Heather Leu

June 10 Heidi Baumann
Mellissa Roth

June 11 Jim Leu
Harrison Miller

June 12 Dylan Bell
Kim Havlinek

June 13 Cole Anhalt
Janine Gardapee
Tate Hollingsworth

June 14 Amanda Boedecker
Ron Matzdorf

June 15 Sadie Beltran

June 16 Bonnie Adamavich
Russ Beebe
Jordan Hanke
Noah Meyer

June 16 Glenn Schnicke

June 17 Nathan Chisholm
John Giraldo
Brian Gumm

June 19 Layton Albright
April Decker
Chris Herzog
Corby Trumm

June 20 Autumn Christy
Hannah Gumm

June 21 Sawyer Gumm

June 22 Mike Holzmann
Sydney Theobald

June 23 Michael Adamavich
Gary Hanke
Judy Knuth

June 24 Michelle Stache

June 26 Matt Nelson
Carter Suemnicht

June 29 Kathleen Salm
Rachel Wilke

June 30 Erika Kaat
Meghan Kallas
Teri Morden-Sengbusch
Terry Provencher
Carl Suemnicht





Treasurer's Update

As of April 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 \$53,690

YTD expenses \$51,189

Saron currently has a surplus in our General Fund of \$105,697. This will be used to offset any difference between our income and expenses during the year.

It should be noted that Saron has received a \$21,145 forgivable loan through the Small Business Administration as part of the CARES Act "Paycheck Protection Program" due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The loan will be forgiven and become a grant upon submission and acceptance of an application with documentation supporting the use of the funds for payroll and utilities during the period that Saron was unable to have full services.

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 \$8,374

Of this total income amount, \$1,625 has been designated to One Great hour of Sharing (OGHS), \$100 to Habitat for Humanity, and \$5,899 to OCWM which is 29% of our annual budgeted commitment for OCWM of \$20,500.

Funds of \$1,525 for OGHS and \$4,303 for OCWM were distributed in April. Gifts received toward SPARE sponsorship total \$750 so far, and these will be paid out at 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 \$13,127

YTD expenditures \$4

Current amount in the fund \$52,970. Of this amount, \$18,420 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 Tracy Beeck, Treasurer or any Consistory member.





Septic System Project Update

As of April 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) (\$5,000 less \$4,000 down payment paid 5/21/20)	(\$1,000.00)
Total member donations as of 4/30/2021	<u>(\$17,420.00)</u>
Balance needed for septic system project	\$26,186.00

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 \$17,420 of your donations from the total funds currently held in the Improvement Fund (\$52,970) for this project and would like to keep the balance for any unforeseen expenses that may arise. However, we will allocate additional funds, if necessary, later in 2021 when the balance comes due for the project. We are exploring a variety of fundraising options, however, in the current environment of COVID-19, we feel it would be best to hold off on any type of event until later.



Rural Church 4 Team Summer Volleyball Odd Year Schedule



All games begin at 6:30pm

June 13, 2021

Immanuel/Bethel @ St. Mark's/St. James

Bethlehem @ Saron

June 20, 2021

St. Mark's/St. James @ Bethlehem

Saron @ Immanuel/Bethel

June 27, 2021

St. Marks/St. James @ Saron

Bethlehem @ Immanuel/Bethel

July 4th -BYE WEEK FOR ALL TEAMS

July 11, 2021

St. Marks/St. James @ Immanuel/Bethel

Saron @ Bethlehem

July 18, 2021

Bethlehem @ St. Marks/St. James

Immanuel/Bethel @ Saron

July 25, 2021

Saron @ St. Marks/St. James

Immanuel/Bethel @ Bethelhem

Tournament August 1, 2021

St. Marks/St. James

