



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

# The Tidings

March—2021

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***“Lord, who throughout these forty days, for us didst fast and pray, teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, and close by Thee to stay.”***

**Claudia F. Hernaman**

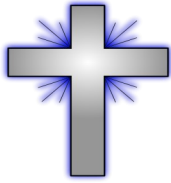
I remember a conversation between two of my fellow students in seminary. One looked forward to Lent every year. He liked the solemnness and the reflective nature of Lent. I would describe him as an introvert (at least at that time in his life) and so this seemed to fit his personality. His conversation partner on the other hand was the definition of an extrovert and she couldn't understand his affinity to the season at all. For her it was a season that one tolerated (or possibly endured) to get to Easter. I tend to think more people would side with her than with him. It isn't really a season we look forward to with anticipation like Christmas or Easter. We associate the season of Lent with giving something up.

But does it have to be just about that? Joan Chittister in her book *The Liturgical Year; The Spiraling Adventure of the Spiritual Life* says that “Lent is a call to renew a commitment grown dull, perhaps, by a life more marked by routine than reflection” (page 111). She goes on to say that Lent requires us to stop what we are doing and to reflect on “who Jesus is for us, to renew our faith from the inside out.” That is where the giving something up comes in. Identifying something that has a hold on us instead of God or gets in the way of our relationship with God. This giving up doesn't have to be a struggle or a negative thing. There is joy in the renewal of our commitment to living our lives in the way of Jesus. Taking a pause, slowing ourselves down is a good thing, a healthy thing. I think that was what was one of the most difficult parts of the past year. Our lives were so scheduled that when we had to slow down, we didn't know what to do with ourselves. It was a great opportunity to reprioritize our lives. That is what the season of Lent is all about. Taking Lent seriously, we pause to reflect, to renew, and to reprioritize our lives of faith.

The season of Lent does not have to be solemn and dour though. My preaching professor said that we know the end of the story. We know that resurrection happens. We don't need to live as if this is all new territory we are traveling through. This is not a journey we go on by ourselves. We travel it together and with Jesus.

Blessings,

Pastor RaeAnn



## Mid-Week Lenten Study

### The Lord's Prayer

**Wednesday Evening 7:00 pm**



So often we pray The Lord's Prayer without thinking about the words we are saying or what it truly means. Join us as we explore portions of this prayer each week.

## Holy Vessels

### A Lenten Season of Recovery

Each of us is created a precious and holy vessel of embodied love. We have been through a harrowing time since last Lent that has shattered our sense of wholeness—body, mind, and spirit—like a glass vessel fractured into pieces. In this Lenten “season of recovery” for our physical, communal, mental, intellectual, and environmental health, we will explore the healing narratives of Jesus that tell of divine solidarity with human suffering and remind us that we can begin a journey toward making something beautiful from that which is seemingly broken. Beach glass offers us a multifaceted symbol of this transformative process.

#### **Lent 3: Stories** (Mental Health) Matthew 9:27-33

Those who collect beach glass often become “archeologists”—seeking out any markings or clues as to the story of the original piece. It often takes much time to bring out the truth behind it. This week we acknowledge the power of truth-telling as a healing property. There are stories that have shaped our lives, leaving us without the ability to see who we truly are in the eyes of God and leaving us without the ability to speak the depth of our stories of struggle. We focus on the importance of recovery of mental health, reclaiming our sense of who we are and being able to proclaim new redemptive stories of divine worth.

#### **Lent 4: Different Pictures** (Intellectual Health) Matthew 9:18-27

Prolonged times of difficulty can impede our ability to stay creative. The picture of our lives is dulled and hope for a brighter future can fade. We need a touch of inspiration to awaken us from our sleep, as we hear in one of this week's healing stories. We also awaken to our agency to seek out the Divine Healer, reaching out to touch the power we know can restore our intellect and imagination. We emerge ready to re-engage with the world, seeking and seeing solutions, creating different pictures of life renewed just as a mosaic artist creates beauty from broken pieces of glass.

**Lent 5: Restoration** (Environmental Health)

Matthew 8:18-27

The demands of following Jesus are great. He shows us that sometimes we must make extraordinary efforts to move in a new direction. As we consider the health of humanity, we cannot ignore the need to heal the very planet that sustains us. We live in increasing chaos of a beleaguered environment and the hoarding of resources. We want to be “saved” by something or someone else, but we discover this week that we are in the boat with the One who shows us our power to turn it around, to calm the storm. We protect the jewel that is our home, making something beautiful from scars of the past.

**Lent 6 (Palm/Passion): Holy, Wholly** (Integrated Health) Matthew 9: 1-8

We have seen that the stories of Jesus’ healing ministry are filled words *and* deeds. Our ability to forgive ourselves and others is the foundation that can transform infirmities and allow us to move on. We integrate our beliefs and actions for the health of the whole. The parade of compassionate power we celebrate today is underscored by a story of transformation, symbolizing our ability to fuel our movement of recovery. We glorify God for beautiful words and works of wholeness and share that treasured beauty with others. We know there will still be pain, but we also know love will win.

**Holy Week: Healed and Still Healing** (Commission of Christ) Matthew 10:1-8

This culminating moment of our worship series invites us to consider a commission from Christ to his disciples: to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons. These are very things his disciples have seen him do and that we have sought to witness for our own lives in this Lenten season of recovery. What will *we* do with this commission? What passion has been piqued in our church that we can offer to our community beyond this moment as we continue to participate in the revival of the spirit of humanity? How will we address ongoing pain, ourselves “healed and yet still healing?”

**April 1      Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:00 pm (communion will be celebrated)**

**April 2      Good Friday Worship at 7:00 pm**

**Easter** resurrection is the ultimate story of healing.

**April 4      Easter Sunday Worship at 8:30 am or 10:15 am. Communion will be celebrated at both services.**





The Women's Guild is selling Easter flowers again this year.

The following flowers will be for sale:

Easter Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils, Begonias, Hyacinths, Hydrangeas, Mums & Martha Washington Geraniums.

**Orders & payments will be taken in the Narthex on  
Sundays: February 28<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>.**

You may also sign up on Signup Genius. Click on the link in the weekly greetings or on our Saron UCC Facebook page. There you will find a list of flowers available for purchase. Online signup will close on Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup>.

The flowers may be taken home after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service on Easter Sunday.

Thank you,  
Saron Women's Guild

## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

*"They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them. He who has compassion on them will guide them and lead them beside springs of water." Isaiah 49:10*

This years One Great Hour of Sharing offering theme is **"Let Love Flow."**



When we participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we provide valuable support. Our church reaches people who suffer from emergencies, chronic poverty, and violence worldwide.

Among the support we give, water, sanitation and adequate nutrition top the list of resources needed. Assets such as irrigation systems, wells, latrines and wash houses change peoples' lives in amazing ways. Clean water and adequate facilities improve health and gives dignity to people at the same time.

What may seem like a small investment to us, yields amazing results worldwide. With water, sanitation and adequate food, children are more likely to attend school, and women, no longer searching for water, are able to earn money to contribute to their families' well-being and overall health.

Together we are co-workers in God's service, thank you on behalf of the individuals and communities who will benefit directly from your support.

The offering will be collected from now through Palm Sunday. You will find envelopes on the table next to the display in the narthex. Make checks payable to Saron UCC with OGHS in the memo line. The Saron Women's Guild is sponsoring this offering.

## Information From The Cemetery Board

The Cemetery Board would like to let the Congregation know that there are **Cemetery Lots for sale**. If you would like further information about this please contact one of the Board members by giving them a call.

Kurt Mauk: 226-0126

Jack Hanke: 838-1415

Steve Bender: 918-4698



**Thank You** to Christine Frazier, Rita Bender, Sarah Mauk, Wendy Mauk, and Donna Rabe for the beautiful Valentine Cards for those celebrating 50+ years of marriage. They were appreciated by those who received them.





**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.....



*Thinking of You*

**Ben Lenz**  
(U.S. Air Force)

**Christopher Kletzien**  
(U.S. Army)



### 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](http://www.saronucc.org)).



## Saron UCC Annual Meeting Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Call to Order

The annual meeting was called to order by Nathan Dassow at 10:27am, with 81 congregational members casting a ballot.

Consistory Members Present: Janine Gardapee, Nathan Dassow, Jay Grosschuesch, Matt Boedecker, Jason Bitter, Ryan Herzog, Tracy Beeck and Pastor RaeAnn Beebe.

### Opening Prayer of Invocation

Pastor RaeAnn opened the meeting with a prayer.

### Appointment of a Moderator and Secretary

Moderator: Nathan Dassow

Secretary: Jason Bitter

### 2021 Nominations and Election of Officers (candidates listed on the screen)

Elder: Doug Van Helden & Judy Glander

Deacon: David Rautmann & Gayle Holzmann

Trustee: Matt Dulmes & Jeremy Hanke

Christian Education Board: Jenna Hahn & Nicol Oppeneer

Cemetery Board: Jack Hanke & Kurt Kwekkeboom

Endowment Committee: Jay Hoogstra & Jennifer Albright

Pastor Parish Relations Committee: Jenny Beltran, Jola Erdy & Deb Rautmann (vote for 2)

The Moderator opened the floor to any additional candidate nominations. No further nominations were made.

A motion was made by Bill Gardapee to close the floor of any additional nominations. The motion was seconded by Jay Hoogstra.

**Review/Approve Minutes from 2020 Congregational Meeting**

Jason asked the congregation if they had any objections to the 2020 Minutes and if so we could address them at this time.

A motion was made by Ray Glander to approve the 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Kevin Fleck.

**Pastor's Report**

Pastor RaeAnn addressed the congregation and thanked them, along with the consistory members, for how we all came together during this difficult year. There were many new challenges this past year and we were able to adapt and overcome everything that came our way.

**Ballots Collected**

All ballots were collected and the 6 ballot counters were as follows:

Michelle Johanning, Kim Hanke, Larry Boedecker, Donna Rautmann, Brian Rautmann, Eric Rabe.

**President's Report**

President Janine Gardapee addressed the congregation and thanked Pastor RaeAnn and the rest of the consistory. She then listed off some of the many highlights from this past year:

- A new Boiler was installed last spring.
- The Pandemic arrived in March.
- The Consistory decided to suspend services for a period of time.
- Services resumed, but at a limited capacity.
- The Thanksgiving and Christmas services were broken into two worship services each.
- A federal PPP loan was taken to keep everyone on the payroll.
- Five new trees replaced the dead ones near the volleyball court.
- Spring flooding caused some damage to the church house basement.
- A new sump pump was installed to prevent any further flooding events in the house.
- 3 new pillars were installed on the church house porches.
- A new timer was also installed on the church house security light.
- New LED lights were installed in the church main parking lot area.
- New LED lights were also installed in the North West corner of the church.
- A summer windstorm caused damage to the shingles and flashing on church steeple, insurance was utilized to cover repairs.
- There were two new hires and Barb Post retired in 2020.
- Rory has been doing an outstanding job at recording and posting the services.
- A special thank you for all of the donations provided by the congregation.
- Fall cleanup was completed but the spring cleanup day was cancelled.

**Review/Approve Treasurer's Report**

A review of the 2020 budget showed that the income for 2020 was above that reported in 2019.

Tracy explained that the Pastoral Leadership and Staff are higher due to the extra pay period in 2020. Financial and Payroll expenses would be higher this year due to Peter reallocating expenses for the annual software updates. Total expenses came to \$188,964.99.

PPP Loan update: There was a deferment on the loan payments until September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We are still waiting on the official loan forgiveness to go through.

A motion was made by Judy Glander to approve the 2020 Budget. The motion was seconded by Jay Hoogstra.

**Review/Approve 2021 Budget**

A motion was made by David Rautmann to approve the 2021 Budget. The motion was seconded by Bill Gardapee.

**Septic System**

Janine addressed the congregation with an update on the Church septic system. A formal letter was sent out earlier this year about the septic system replacement. Schwartz will be the primary installer of the system, with Neumann Plumbing and Heating to do the plumbing work and K W Electric handling the electrical. Install is scheduled for June 2021, at an estimated cost of \$44,000. So far \$10,375 has been collected for the project. A fundraising event will hopefully be scheduled as soon as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. If necessary, it might be possible to borrow from other accounts to meet project costs. No further questions were asked about the septic system project.

**Video System**

Nathan addressed the congregation about the new video system. A camera and laptop have already been purchased. Memorial fund money will be utilized to cover the cost of the new equipment and installation. Nathan opened the floor for discussion on the video system. Current limitations in the church's internet services might need to be addressed. Kevin Fleck had a question about a potential internet upgrade. ViaSat is the current internet provider. Pastor RaeAnn asked for volunteers who would like to learn how to operate the new video equipment. No other discussion were had about the video system.

**Other Business:**

There was no other business to discuss at this time.

**Announcement of New Officers**

Elder: Doug Van Helden

Deacon: David Rautmann

Trustee: Matt Dulmes

Christian Education Board: Jenna Hahn

Cemetery Board: Jack Hanke

Endowment Committee: Jay Hoogstra

Pastor Parish Relations Committee: Jenny Beltran & Deb Rautmann

A motion was made by Jay Hoogstra to destroy the ballots. The motion was seconded by Judy Glander.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Jim Rabe to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by David Rautmann.

Respectfully,  
Jason Bitter



**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 e-mail [adminoffice@saronucc.org](mailto:adminoffice@saronucc.org)).

March 4 Brian & Kelly Kaat

March 20 Cameron & Rachel Peichl-McGee

March 24 Corey & Jennifer Albright



March 24 Karl & Deb Kasse

March 27 Palmer & Ruby Feldmann

March 27 Ralph & Judy Knuth—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 call the church office at (467-6202 or e-mail [adminoffice@saronucc.org](mailto:adminoffice@saronucc.org)).

March 2 Joan Baganz  
Kayla Bender  
Kurt Kwekkeboom  
Courtland Suemnicht

March 3 Alice Glander

March 4 Linda Shaw

March 6 Nancy Coller  
Emily Meinnert  
Linda Ubbelohde

March 7 Ron Roehl

March 8 Claude Gonzales

March 9 Roger Wagner

March 10 Pete Christy  
Jill Daun  
DuWayne Grunewald  
Marilyn Heiden

March 11 Amy Roehl

March 13 Tim De Groff  
Amelia Miles  
Brock Roehrborn  
Robert Theune

March 15 Avia Athorp

March 15 Riley Casadonte

March 16 Mary Albright  
Sean Beitler  
Kelly Grosshuesch  
Tyler Hanke  
David Rautmann

March 17 Joshua Beeck  
Gage Fleck  
Jessica Herzog  
Micah Rautmann  
Cindy Roehrborn

March 18 Russell Schuette

March 19 Andrew Schnicke

March 20 Wyatt Herzog

March 21 Michelle Meinnert  
Mattison Milz

March 23 James Albright

March 24 Morgan Johanning

March 25 Diane Kaestner-Provencher

March 27 Jason Hanke  
Deann Harper  
Cindy Knopp

March 27 Mark Shaw

March 28 Case Schmidt

March 29 Paige Barumann  
Kenjay Fiedler  
Becky Pelnar  
Abby Sebald

March 30 Nicole Nohl  
Richard Specht

