

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

March 2024

# The Tidings

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Dear Members and Friends of Saron Uniced Church of Christ,

2/16/24

As I read this morning's devotional, I realized that many of us suffer from an incredible diversity of challenges. Many of which, we are just not able to get a grip on by ourselves or with mechanical or medical help. Her devotional points out for us how the author found her way to a solution. Consider, if you will, how that solution might help you with your challenge(s). Her 2/16/24 devotional:

*"You desire truth in the inward being: therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. - Psalm 51:6 (NRSVue)*

After years of disrupted nights, a sleep study revealed just how dire my situation had become. I was resisting sleep and then waking up anxious because my body was forgetting to breathe. In those years, I had developed the kinds of habits we do when we are trying to avoid something we fear. I hate to think how many hours I spent running a finger over my phone: gleefreshing was no better for me than doomscrolling. Even after I put the phone down, I would lie awake, caught in a dread I did not understand.

Prescribed a CPAP, which covered so much of my face that I couldn't wear my glasses, I was left to my own non-devices, and it won't surprise you to hear that after years of avoidance, I did not know how to go to sleep. The machine that was supposed to help me breathe made me feel like I suffocating. I told myself stories about the noise it made and the disturbance it must be causing for others.

I had forgotten how to let go of the day because I was so afraid of the night.

Medicine and mechanics could not resolve that predicament. I had to practice lying quietly, to invite God (and not social media) into that space with me, to tell the truth about my fear and give it space with God and let it subside. It was the work of many, many months. I began to trust: that I would sleep, that I would breathe, that I would wake up again. And I learned that *I could not do it by myself*.

## Prayer

Holy One, teach us to rest in you. Amen.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Martha Spong is a UCC pastor, [a clergy coach](#), and editor of [The Words of her Mouth: Psalms for the Struggle](#), from The Pilgrim Press."

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Gary



### Worship Schedule

**Palm Sunday, March 24th— Worship at 9:30 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday, March 28th— Worship at 7:00 p.m.**

**Good Friday, March 29th— Worship at 7:00 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday, March 31st— Worship at 9:30 a.m.**



THE NORTHEAST WISCONSIN PASSION PLAY

There is an opportunity to attend the **Passion Play in Appleton on Wednesday, March 20th. Confirmants and children are encouraged to attend.** We have enough tickets and room on the bus for 56 people. The bus will leave Saron parking lot at 4:45 p.m. and return about 9:30 p.m. Tickets are free but there will be a \$10.00 charge for adults to help defray the cost of transportation. Please sign up on the kiosk as soon as possible.



### One Great Hour of Sharing Offering—Share The Light

*You're here to be light, bring out the God—colors in the world.  
Matthew 5:14-15 (The Message)*

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.." If Jesus had a playlist of music, surely this familiar hymn would be among the Top Five. Jesus teaches that faith calls for action, sharing our light, as the diverse and colorful expressions of God's love here on earth, leads to making blankets, staffing food pantries, cooking meals, building houses and schools, signing petitions for worthy causes, and protesting injustices. A simple song with a simple message—our light is on a light stand, for all to see—shine and share. On any given day, light is shining because we are there through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. When making a contribution by check, please make it out to Saron UCC and put OGHS in the memo line.



**Lenten Suppers will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be collecting a free will offering.**

**Church Service to follow at 7:00 p.m.  
They will not be Livestreamed.**

Here is the Lenten supper schedule:

February 28<sup>th</sup>: Confirmation Class

March 6<sup>th</sup>: Sunday School

March 13<sup>th</sup>: Women's Guild

March 20<sup>th</sup>: No meal or Worship Service (Passion Play)

**Please join us for good food, fellowship, and delicious Saron desserts.**



## **Last chance to get your Easter Flowers on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>!**

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.

The flowers may be taken home after the service on  
Easter Sunday.



### **Cornhole/Brat fry**

Saturday, March 9, Saron will be hosting the third annual brat fry and cornhole tournament at Laack's Hall. There are numerous ways to support this effort: Donating a raffle basket, forming a cornhole team, baking some treats, and volunteering your time. It is also a great way to enjoy some food and fellowship with your fellow Saron members. Proceeds from the fund-raiser will be used to offset the cost of the parking lot maintenance work. Contact Devin Gardapee, Carl Laack, Dave Rautmann, Micah Rautmann or Jay Grosshuesch with any questions or suggestions.

## A Message From The Search Committee

Greetings from the Pastor Search Committee. We will be hosting 3 meetings with the congregation in April. Meetings will be on Sundays after church (10:45 a.m.) Childcare will be provided. We have divided the congregation into 3 groups by last name.....

A to G is group 1 and meet on April 7

H to M is group 2 and will meet on April 14th

N to Z is group 3 and will meet on April 21st

Please watch your mail 2 weeks before your scheduled meeting as we will be mailing you an invite and information. If you are not available for your meeting, please plan to attend one of the other meeting dates.

If you have any questions, please reach out to a committee member.....

Jay Grosshuesch, jegrossh@gmail.com, 920-918-2037

Carl Laack, jville@excel.net, 920-946-6461

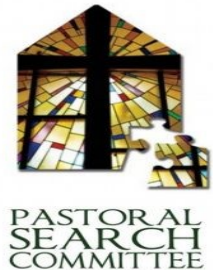
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## Mission Team Notes

### Warming Shelter Meal

On Tuesday, March 12 Saron is providing the evening meal for the Sheboygan Warming Shelter. Please check the kiosk to sign up to help with this project either by donating ingredients or helping to make the meal on Monday, March 11.

### Hygiene For the Homeless

There is a collection box by the main entrance doors for members to drop off hygiene items for the homeless. Needed items include tissues, cleaning supplies, dental care, soaps, shampoo, deodorant, trash bags, disposable razors, paper towels, diapers, feminine care and laundry detergent. The collection drive will end on March 3.

### Immanuel Church Food Pantry

Thank you for your continued support for the food pantry. The suggested items to donate for the months of March and April are canned fruit and vegetables.

### Sheboygan Community Cafe

Check the kiosk in the narthex to sign up to help serve lunch at the Community Cafe in Sheboygan. Volunteers work from 10:30AM-2:00PM. Saron has committed to provide four volunteers on March 14, April 11 and May 9.







Each month the "Saron Spotlight" will highlight a different committee or group at Saron. This month it will be the Saron Endowment Fund.

The Saron Endowment Fund was established in the year 2000 to enhance the mission and outreach of Saron UCC and that the principal amounts of the gifts to this Fund will be retained and preserved and only funds in excess of the original gifts may be expended. Saron has reached its goal of principal and is ready to expend the excess funds through an application process. Applications are available on the narthex table. The funds may be used for Christian Education, Community Services and Wider Missions, and Saron UCC programs. Please refer to the Announcement article in this month's Tidings for more information about the fund distributions.

The committee has a vacancy and is looking for a member that has a financial/banking/accounting background. If interested in filling the remaining 2 years of a term or want more information, please contact Donna Rautmann at 920-467-6852.

### Announcement From The Endowment Committee

Applications for Distribution of Endowment Funds are now available in the church office or on the table in the Narthex. These funds are to benefit and support Saron UCC programs, Christian Education, an example would be a UCC church camp, Community Services, such as Habitat for Humanity and Wider Missions, Appalachia Mission trip. If you feel you, as an individual, or your organization, program or project would benefit from the Endowment funds, please take an application, complete it and turn it into the church office or an

Endowment Fund committee member by **March 31, 2004**. If you have any questions, please contact any Endowment Fund Committee member consisting of Donna Rautmann, Jack Jarvis, Luke Kwekkeboom or Judy Dumke.



### Sunday School Spotlight

Children aren't the church of tomorrow; they're the church of today. To keep the congregation informed, a monthly update will be included in the Tidings during the Sunday School season. Working together will help the children grow in their faith.

- While we continue to work on adjustments to our new schedule, we ask that you wait for your child in the narthex, following the church service.
- Wednesday, March 6, Sunday School will host the Lenten meal.
- Sunday, March 17, invite a friend to Sunday School, more details will be coming.



## Treasurer's Update As of January 31, 2024

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 insurance (the items that are included in our line-item budget).

January income	\$17,340	January expenses	\$21,280	Deficit \$3,940
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**Please prayerfully consider your support of the daily and weekly vital functions of Saron Church as we begin the new year.**

The **Improvement Fund** supports all maintenance of the buildings and property that is not covered under General Fund expenses. Monies in this fund can be carried over from year to year.

January income	\$1,380	January expenditures	\$6
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Total Available Fund Balance \$54,250

The **Benevolence Fund** supports our OCWM commitment and other mission opportunities, and acts as a pass-through account for the UCC Special Mission Offerings.

YTD income \$600

Designated Disbursements:

OCWM (\$20,500 commitment; \$600 designated, = 4% of commitment)

Other pass-throughs for special mission offerings and projects are distributed as they are collected throughout the 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 Linda Barthels or any Consistory member.

**Those who are homebound or in care centers: Marilyn Perronne (at home), Eugene Weiskopf (Field of Dreams Assisted Living, Kiel) Shirley Schmidt (at Song Bird Pond), Merlin Schmidt (at home), Sally Nohl (at Rocky Knoll)**



**We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Kathy Keyes, sister to Judy Knuth who passed away on January 28th, 2024....AND to the family of Richard Hemb, Grandfather of Nate Dassow who passed away on February 2nd, 2024....**



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

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

## Thank you letters from families we sponsored at Christmas!



Dear Saron UCC Congregation:

The children, families and staff of Sheboygan County Head Start and Early Head Start thank you for your generosity; Your donation in the Christmas assistance for our children and their families was greatly appreciated. Contributions such as yours reflect our shared values and have been important throughout the history of our agency.

Head Start began in Sheboygan in 1966, with a summer program for 60 children. Now, we serve close to 200 children and their families, including Early Head Start families with newborn children to age 3.

Care and respect for families and children are at the center of our agency's core values expressed in a comprehensive family development program that offers:

- Research based Early Head Start services in the home to prepare young children for research-based Head Start Kindergarten readiness education.
- Support for family strengths and needs
- Access to community resources providing medical, dental, and vision care as well as services for special needs.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated by each and every one of the families. Thank you once again for being part of our success and thank you for caring for the children and families who need our help the most.

Thank you,  
Michelle Stauber Soik  
Family/Coordinator for SCHS and EHS

### **Thank you's from the families Sheboygan County Head Start & Early Head Start:**

Thank you so much for the gifts you sent to our family. God bless you and your family!

Thank you so much for these gifts. My entire family is super grateful. May God bless all the members of your church.

Merry Christmas! I want to thank you for the nice gifts and nice gestures. I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! God bless you.

Thank you so much for the wonderful gifts. My family and I are so grateful for your kindness. May you all have a blessed Christmas!

Thank you so much for the generous gifts to make my 2 year old's Christmas even more special. Merry Christmas!

I feel very grateful for all the gifts. Thank you all for the beautiful gesture, may God bless you all!

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for all the gifts we received. May God continue to bless you with great success in your jobs, companies, organizations and mainly in your homes. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Much love and happiness to your family.

Thank you so much. (was said by 2 different families)



**Join us for  
SARON FAMILY NIGHT on Wednesday  
April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
in the Fellowship Hall.**

Come and meet owners and therapy dogs from

**Cramer Canine Consulting**

This group is mainly graduates of Cramer Canine Consulting who have gone through all the courses offered through them and continued into getting their dogs certified as therapy dogs through Therapy Dogs International.

Refreshments served after and a free will donation will be collected.

**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 (920-467-6202 or email [adminoffice@saronucc.org](mailto:adminoffice@saronucc.org)).

March 4 Brian & Kelly Kaat

March 20 Cameron & Rachel Peichl-McGee

March 24 Corey & Jennifer Albright  
Karl & Deb Fasse

March 27 Ralph & Judy Knuth  
Palmer & Ruby Feldmann—76 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 (920-467-6202 or email [adminoffice@saronucc.org](mailto:adminoffice@saronucc.org)).

March 2 Kayla Ann Bender  
Kurt Kwekkeboom  
Courtland Suemnicht

March 6 Emily Birenbaum  
Nancy Coller  
Linda Ubbelohde

March 7 Ron Roehl

March 9 Roger Wagner

March 10 Pete Christy  
Jill Daun  
DuWayne Grunewald

March 11 Amy Roehl

March 13 Tim DeGross  
Amelia Miles  
Brock Roehrborn

March 15 Avia Athorp  
Riley Casadonte

March 16 Mary Albright  
Sean Beitler  
Tyler Hanke  
David Rautmann

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

March 18 Russell Schuette

March 20 Wyatt Herzog

March 23 James Albright

March 24 Morgan Johanning

March 25 Diane Kaestner

March 27 Jason Hanke  
Cindy Knopp

March 28 Case Schmidt

March 29 Paige Baumann  
KenJay Fiedler  
Becky Pelnar  
Abby Sebald

March 30 Nicole Nohl  
Rich Specht

