



The Tidings

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

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

Judy Knuth—Newsletter Editor Phone: 920-893-0391 jknuth57@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

“Is that the hope? To go back to being the old Ned?”

Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of a Life Interrupted by Suleika Jaouad, page 234

I love to read. I have a few favorite authors whose books I preorder because I have read everything they have written. Sometimes I run across a book I just pick up because it looks interesting. *Between Two Kingdoms: A Memoir of a Life Interrupted* by Suleika Jaouad is one such book. I saw it on the end cap at Target. It was one of their Book Club selections and it was 20% off. Saving money is always a good thing. I can't believe how this random pick has had such an impact on me. I know I have talked about it in sermons and on Wednesday nights. At 22 years old, Suleika was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia, with a survival rate of 35%. She endured numerous rounds of chemotherapy, a clinical trial, and a bone marrow transplant. All over a four-year span. Her descriptions of what was happening to her and how it affected those around her are vivid. She holds nothing back. One way she coped was by writing a blog. Her words connected with others who felt their lives were interrupted as well, who felt like they were living between two worlds. Not all of them had cancer, but their experiences mirrored hers in many ways. After she was cured, she set out on a cross country trip to meet up with some of the people whose stories affected her. One of the people she visits is a teacher named Ned, who is also a cancer survivor. She observes that Ned refers to himself as pre-diagnosis Ned, sick Ned, and recovering Ned.

I wonder if the disciples ever thought of themselves as pre-Jesus, with Jesus, post-Jesus. I wonder if they ever hoped that they could go back to being the old Peter, James, John, Andrew, etc. Their lives had been interrupted and everything changed for them. There was no way to go back to who or what they had been before they left to follow Jesus around the Sea of Galilee and to Jerusalem. They could only move forward and figure out how to be Christ's witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

Our lives get interrupted as well. Some of us with an illness. Some of us with a loss. Events that seem to define different stages of our lives. All of our lives were interrupted in some way by COVID 19. I know I sometimes talk about life pre-pandemic, pandemic, and post-pandemic (hopefully). At another point in the book, Suleika talks about being angry at someone who wrote to her about how hard it is transitioning back into the “real world.” She says, *“What could possibly be so hard about transitioning back to normality? All I want is normality”* (page 225). She finds on her journey that the world is not the same as it was prior to her illness. What was normal before is no longer normal. I think we are discovering that as well. We want to go back to the way things were prior to shutdowns and restrictions, but the world is a different place now. People have gotten into new routines. What worked before may not work now. We grieve those things we have lost and will probably never be again. But like the disciples we figure out a way to move forward. We figure it out together no matter how hard or scary it is.

We are in the season of Eastertide, 50 days of resurrection celebration. Resurrection was not a one and done event. Resurrection happens in our lives and in our church daily. Let's bear witness to it together.

Blessings,

Pastor RaeAnn



Spring Clean-Up Day Saturday, April 30th at 8:00 A.M.

Due to limited supplies please bring rakes, gloves, and other cleaning supplies to make our church sparkle. The rain date is Saturday, May 7th.



Special Thanks From The Women's Guild

Thank you to all that ordered Easter flowers. The Church on Easter morning was beautiful!



Trouble With Subscription

We are presently having issues with our Upper Room subscription and Kathy is working to correct the problem. Currently the Large Print copies are the only ones available. As soon as the rest arrive she will put them out. Thanks for your patience.

SPECIAL THANKS

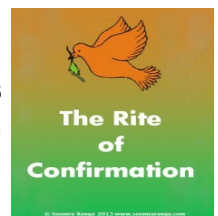
Thank you to all who helped make Saron's Cornhole Tournament and Brat Fry a success. A big thank you to the business sponsors: Albright Again, Cobblestone Landscaping, Feldmann Sales and Service, Joan and Carl Laack, Lift-X Lift Services, Neumann Plumbing, Plymouth Cabinetry and The Wreath Factory. Also thanks to Susan Radtke and the Hub for allowing us to use the Laack's Hall, and the Johnsonville Fire Department for frying the brats and burgers. The Cornhole boards and bags were secured by Keith Beeck; thanks to him and Plymouth Rock Campground. We greatly appreciate the donations of meat from Chris Reichert, Janine and Bill Gardapee and Dennis, Shirley and Danny Roerhborn. We would also like to thank Saron members and friends who donated raffle prizes and provided baked goods. Lastly thank you for your support of the event, as so many of you worked, ate and threw bags. It was so good to have a large contingent of Saron members enjoying the day together!! The event netted \$4,800 for Saron's Improvement Fund.

Cornhole Tournament Committee

Devin Gardapee, Jay Grosshuesch, Carl Laack, Dave Rautmann, Micah Rautmann

Our Confirmation Students

The Rite of Confirmation was held on Sunday, May 1st at the 10:15 a.m. worship service. This years Confirmands are Kara Athorp, Avery Beltran, Elise Casadonte, Nathan Doeber, Zachary Dulmes, Hayden Hanke, Ereka Kaat, Daniel Leu, Reed Miller, Brennan Nickel, Haley Post, Brody Schmidt, Ethan Schuette, Coleson Trumm, and Levi Wieck.



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.....



Ben Lenz
(U.S. Air Force)

Christopher Kletzien
(U.S. Army)



PAWSITISM, INC.

Service dogs for those with Autism

SARON FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesday May 18th, 2022

at 6:00 p.m. in the

Fellowship Hall

Everyone is welcome! Bring your friends too.



Come meet the dogs!

Pawsitism, Inc. is a non-profit in the Sheboygan area that is training service dogs for children with autism by partnering with client families on fundraising to provide the autism service dog their child needs.

Refreshments served after

A free will donation will be collected



Worship Time To Change

Starting with Sunday, May 29th (Memorial Day Sunday) we will transition back to ONE Worship Service which will start at 9:30 A.M. through Labor Day Sunday. Please make note of the upcoming change.



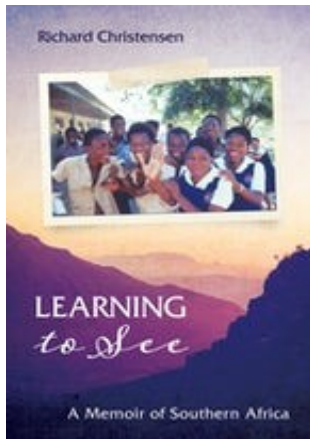
Thank You So Much

The Women's Guild would like to thank everyone who donated to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that they sponsor every year. The total to date of this years donations is \$1,877.22.



Former Saron Member Rich Christensen has book published

Learning to See: A Memoir of Southern Africa



Teaching in the southern African nation of Botswana in the early 1980's, Richard Christensen faced a new world, one endlessly fascinating and challenging. Experiencing warm hospitality from many people, sharing both joyful celebrations and painful struggles with students, he and his family encountered a deeper sense of the true meaning of community. Travel in apartheid South Africa and war-weary Zimbabwe gave him a fuller understanding of the reality of oppression and how people of faith endured their plight and kept hope alive. In this experience, so surprising in many ways, he came to a deepened realization of the genuine freedom of the gospel and the hope it affords us. He saw that relationships are what save us, that the salvation of God in Christ is not merely personal and individual, but communal, and that we are thus more dependent upon one another than we realize. Learning to see the world with new eyes, he discovered not only a more expansive vision of the church and the world, but also a more honest and complete understanding of himself as a product of an affluent and segregated society.

The book is for sale on: Amazon and WIPF and STOCK PUBLISHERS



Treasurer's Update

As of March 31, 2022

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 \$35,819 YTD expenses \$46,174

Saron currently has a surplus in our General Fund of \$84,408. This will be used to offset any difference between our income and expenses during the year.

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 \$6,249

Of this total income amount, \$4,138 has been designated to OCWM which is 20% of our annual budgeted commitment for OCWM of \$20,500. Gifts for OGHS total \$1,145 so far. Gifts for the Souper Bowl of Caring totaled \$364, and this amount was sent to the Sheboygan County Food Bank.

The funds received for OCWM are distributed quarterly. The funds received later in the year for OGHS, STC, and NIN are distributed in the month after they are received. Gifts received toward SPARE sponsorship total \$500 and will be paid out by 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 \$8,752 YTD expenditures \$7

Current amount in the fund is \$86,935. Of this amount, \$35,455 has been designated to be applied to the septic system replacement costs. 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.





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).

May 1 Tyler & Nicole Pike

May 2 April & Cody Opitz
Michelle & Scott Stache

May 10 Heide & Dave Baumann
Ricky & Nancy Decker
Josh & Jill Imig

May 12 Jason & Erin Hanke

May 13 Mike & Jill Adamavich

May 14 Ed & Jessica Schmidt

May 19 Tom & Melissa Roth



May 21 Terry Provencher & Diane Kaestner

May 24 Larry & Darlene Gumm
Ron & Lois Roehl
Ted & Lisa Zak

May 25 Dave & Roberta Coppersmith
Karla & Chris Kletzien
Nicole Nohl & Kevin Ress

May 26 Brian & Becky Charbonneau
Ryan & Deann Harper
Richard & Sandy Herzog

May 30 Dan & Mary Albright

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).

May 1 Lauren Rabe
May 2 Chuck Kaiser
Doug Van Helden

May 3 Royce Booth

May 4 Lola Kober

May 5 Scott Greger
Hayden Hanke
Jason Schnicke

May 6 Chris Booth

May 7 Ben Holzmann

May 8 Connie sixel
Keith Steiger

May 9 Bryce Hitsman
Michael Leu

May 10 Daniel Leu

May 11 Grace Baumann

May 11 Sara Feldmann
Lois Rick Knowles
Richard Wagner

May 12 Donna Kaat
Judy Ryan

May 13 Shar Meyer

May 14 Doug Daun
Nathan Deobert
Jeremy Guell

May 15 Jack Hanke
Jim Hanke

May 16 Terry Boeldt
Koralyn Kuzulka
Jim Rabe

May 17 Brandon Beeck
Jackson Imig
Wally Knopp

May 18 Mitchell Schmidt

May 20 Paxton Fleck
Lisa Wagner

May 21 Abby Charbonneau
Skeeter De Groff

May 22 Debbie Meinnert

May 24 Harper Kaiser
Wendy Mauk

May 25 Ernie Huntszinger

May 26 Nancy Huntzinger
Deanna Milz
Steve Milz
David Thomas

May 27 Alex Nyhof

May 28 Jay Grosshuesch
Braxton Mauk

May 29 Tyler Kober

May 30 Ashley Schmidt

May 31 Erlinda Beebe
Art Lammers
Wade Sebald

