

THE TIDINGS

Phone
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MAY—2024

Saron United Church of Christ
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Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085

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Dear Members and Friends of Saron United Church of Christ,

Food for thought: From UCC April 20th Daily Devotional

“God, your God, is immense and powerful and awesome. God doesn’t play favorites, takes no bribes, makes sure orphans and widows are treated fairly, takes loving care of foreigners by seeing that they get food and clothing.” - Deuteronomy 10:17-18 (MSG)

The Zulu word for God is *Nkulunkulu*, which roughly translates to “big-big.” Though I’ve known this word my whole life, until recently, I’ve never stopped long enough to recognize the wisdom embedded in that common word.

Deuteronomy, the book of reiterated laws, operates in the power of repetition. It repeatedly recalls the ten laws cast in stone to help people (re)engage them in various real and tangible ways for their current situations.

In this part of the world and at this particular time in history, we could certainly take a page or more from this book of repeats. We are in need of repetitions and reminders that God is not just big, but big-big!

Big-big enough to not be swayed by the privileges and circumstances of one’s birth.

Big-big enough to rule without person gain.

Big-bug enough to fairly treat parentless children and people without economic stability.

Big-big enough to lovingly care for foreigners, making sure they’re fed and clothed.

Big-big enough for *all* of us to have what we need-and more!

Prayer

Keep reminding us that you’re immense, powerful, and awesome, Big-Big God. Help us experience your abundance in all of who we are, so we don’t block others from your blessings. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The Rev. Phiwa Langeni is the Ambassador for Innovation & Engagement of the United Church of Christ.

Let those who have ears to hear, hear!
Easter Blessings,
Pastor Gary

May 2024

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Confirmation, Sunday, May 5th

The following young people will be Confirmed into the membership of Saron during worship on Sunday, May 5th. Please join in congratulating them as they take the next step on their faith journey.



Avia Athorp	Owen Post
Riley Casadonte	Elsa Schuette
Natalie Fitzgerald	Henry Zimbal

Thanks to Saron member Ralph Knuth for making the crosses that the Confirmands received.



Mary's Room Baby Shower– Mary's room help's assist needy families of new-borns. Saron members can donate baby items by placing them in the pack n' play in the narthex. **We will celebrate our donations on Mother's Day–Sunday, May 12.** Members are encouraged to donate any items, but there is a particular need for socks of any size, boys & girls diapers (especially size 5), baby wipes and girls clothing size 3Y & 4T.

Upcoming Mission Opportunities sponsored by Saron's Mission Team

Below are several opportunities for Saron members to serve the community in the name of Jesus. Please consider supporting one or more of these worthwhile projects.

Immanuel UCC Food Pantry– We encourage Saron members to continue to support this food pantry. Peanut butter and jelly are the suggested food items to donate for May and June.

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 4 volunteers for May 9.

Members of Saron's Mission Team are Darlene Gumm, Jay Grosshuesch, Joan Laack, Kari Mooney and Barb Post. **If you are interested in serving on the mission team or have any suggestions or feedback please contact any of these people.**



Milwaukee Bridge Builders– Saturday Serve Day on June 15, 2024 Saron will work on a one-day mission trip in Milwaukee to help revitalize some homes in a challenged neighborhood. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for this project. Confirmands and adults are welcome. People with all levels of skill are welcome to join us. We are committed to provide 10 volunteers for the day.

Announcement From The Endowment Committee

The Endowment Fund Committee is excited to announce that we have received and reviewed three applications for distribution of Endowment Funds. We approved one for funding of Saron's Mission Team's work with Milwaukee Bridge Builders Ministry. It was determined that the two other requests for funds were supported within the church budget, which means they did not qualify for Endowment Fund support. If you have any questions, please contact any Endowment Fund Committee member consisting of Donna Rautmann, Jack Jarvis, Luke Kwekkeboom or Judy Dumke.



Giving To Saron United Church of Christ Using Qualified Charitable Distributions

Do you have a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA)?

Are you age 70-1/2 or older?

If you answered "yes" to both of these questions, then the IRS and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue give you the opportunity to transfer gifts of almost any amount to the charity of your choice (such as Saron United Church of Christ) tax-free each year using what is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (withdrawal) or "QCD".

Normally, withdrawals from a traditional IRA are taxed in the year that you receive them.

When you make a QCD withdrawal from your traditional IRA, the funds that are given to the charity are not taxed to you. An important point to note is that the funds must be made payable directly to the charity – not to you.

Another benefit is that if you are age 73 or older and are subject to Required Minimum Distributions, the QCD also qualifies for satisfying the RMD requirement.

Does the idea of a QCD sound like something that you would like to do as an easy way to support Saron UCC? Then here are the steps you can take to get started:

Contact your financial advisor or tax preparer and ask them to help you set up a QCD, and verify that a QCD will work for your particular situation.

Decide on the amount of the gift you would like to make.

Verify if your IRA provider will allow you to make QCDs in any amount, and allow for withdrawals with frequencies of monthly, quarterly, or annually as you wish.

Be sure to specify that the QCD be made payable directly to Saron United Church of Christ.

Be sure that your IRA provider includes your name on the payment stub so that when it arrives at Saron you are given credit on your giving statement.

When you prepare your tax return at the end of the year, be sure to remember that you had a QCD so that you can record it properly and exclude it from your taxable income.

Thank you for your support of Saron United Church of Christ.

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Saron Cornhole Tournament and Brat Fry

Thank you to all you helped with the recent Cornhole Tournament and Brat fry. It was a very successful day, as we had a large turn out and a great day of fun and fellowship. We also had a wonderful response from Saron members who donated bucket raffles and baked goods, worked the event, donated to the cause and participated in the cornhole tournament. We also appreciate the support of our business sponsors: Plymouth Cabinetry, Albright Again, Neumann Plumbing, LiftX, Feldmann Sales & Service and Otter Creek Garden Center. Also, thank you to D&D Meats for the donation of the hamburger patties. With the help of everyone, we were able to raise \$4,290 for Saron's parking lot project. With the continued support of the members of Saron Church, we look forward to having the event again in the spring of 2025! Please contact any committee member with questions or suggestions: Micah Rautmann, Dave Rautmann, Carl Laack, Jay Grosshuesch or Devin Gardapee.



The Women's Guild would like to thank everyone who purchased flowers to decorate our church for Easter morning. Also thanks to the Worship Enhancement Team who arranged them so beautifully.

ALSO: From Eugene Weiskopf

Thank you for the beautiful hyacinth plant for Easter. Also thank you to Randy and Donna Raultmann for delivering it and visiting with me.



If you or anyone in your family will be graduating this Spring from either High School, College or any other school of higher learning please let the church know by calling Kathy in the church office (920-467-6202). We will want to recognize our graduates when we get closer to that time. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of **Evelyn Post, Lee Post's Mother**, who died on April 16, 2024.....



Directory Corrections

Please make the following corrections to the newly published Saron Directory.

- Randy Rautmann—920-889-3888
- Donna Rautmann—920-889-3889
- Home Phone—920-467-6852

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) **Ruby Feldmann** (Rocky Knoll), **Vernon Reichert** (Magnolia Trails at the Waterford), **Gail Federwisch**



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).

May 2 April & Cody Opitz
Michelle & Scott Stache

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

May 12 Jason & Erin Hanke

May 13 Mike & Jill Adamavich

May 14 Ed & Jessica Schmidt



May 21 Terry Provencher & Diane Kaestner

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

May 25 David & Roberta Coppersmith
Nicole Nohl & Kevin Ress

May 26 Brian & Becky Charbonneau
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 2 Chuck Kaiser
Doug Van Helden

May 5 Scott Greger
Hayden Hanke

May 7 Ben Holzmann

May 8 Connie Sixel
Keith Steiger

May 9 Bryce Hitsman
Michael Leu

May 10 Daniel Leu

May 11 Grace Baumann
Sara Feldmann
Lois Rick (Knowles)
Richard Wagner

May 12 Donna Kaat
Judy Ryan

May 14 Doug Daun
Nathan Doebert

May 15 Jack Hanke

May 15 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

May 21 Abby Charbonneau
Skeeter DeGroff

May 22 Deb Meinnert

May 24 Harper Kaiser
Wendy Mauk

May 25 Ernie Huntzinger

May 26 Nancy Huntzinger
Dave Thomas

May 28 Jay Grosshuesch

May 29 Braxton Mauk

May 30 Ashley Schmidt

May 31 Erlinda Beebe
Art Lammers
Wade Sebald



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Treasurer's Update As of March 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).

YTD income \$47,610 YTD expenses \$49,670 YTD Deficit \$2,060

Please prayerfully consider your support of the daily and weekly vital functions of Saron Church as we go through the 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.

YTD income \$9,080 YTD expenditures \$16

Total Available Fund Balance \$61,940

The parking lot maintenance project has a budgeted amount of \$25,000 which will be paid through the Improvement Fund. Quoting for this project is currently in progress.

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 \$4,650

Designated Disbursements:

OCWM (\$20,500 commitment; \$2,913 designated, = 14% of commitment)

OGHS (\$1,412 received, to be paid out in April)

Souper Bowl of Caring (\$142 received, and sent to the Sheboygan Food Bank)

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.

From the Search Committee

Thank you to all who attend the input sessions sponsored by the search committee. We appreciate the strong attendance, and the valuable direction you gave to our committee. Anyone who was not able to attend, is welcome to give feedback to any of us on the search committee. Also, you can complete the survey (Leadership Expectations: Called Pastor) that was passed out at the meeting. That survey is on the next page of the Tidings. **All surveys from the search committee need to be returned to the church by Sunday, May 12.** There is a box in the narthex for the surveys or they could be mailed to the church.

Jacob Barthels, jacob.barthels15@gmail.com , 920-912-0776

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

Katie Haas, katiebird1818@hotmail.com, 920-980-8288

Marian Jarvis, 920-467-1704

Cindy Knopp, cindy27@charter.net, 920-627-2759

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

Allen Nohl, anoahl@excel.net, 920-201-1196

Thank You For Your Service To Our Country

Ben Lenz (US Air Force)

Christopher Kletzien (US Army)



*Always pray to have
Eyes that see the best in people,
a Heart that forgives the worst
a Mind that forgets the worst
and a Soul that Never
loses faith in God.*

*No act of
kindness,
no matter
how small,
is ever wasted.*

