

*Today be thankful
and think
how rich you are.
Your family is priceless,
your time is gold and
your health is wealth.*



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

November 2023

The Tidings

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“All beautiful the march of days, as seasons come and go...”

Frances W. Wile

It is so easy at this time of year to see the beauty of the changing seasons. The vibrant colors of the leaves. The golden stalks of corn as the sun glistens off of them. The fall flowers whose colors keep our gardens looking alive. Many of us would like this season to last longer. Perhaps even staying just as it is always. But we know that isn't possible. We know that seasons change. Some we like and some not so much. But the seasons change even if we don't want them to and we make it through each one no matter how much we like that season or not. Our lives are like the seasons of the year. There are seasons of our lives we wish we could linger in and others we want to get through as fast as possible.

As I approach my retirement, I have taken some time to reflect on those seasons I have already been through. There sure are far more than the four seasons we experience each year. Mostly, I find myself focusing on the good things and the way those seasons changed me and shaped the person I am today. But there are moments when I wish I had done things differently. Not that I have regrets but rather I see missed opportunities. One of the reasons I made the decision to retire is so I can spend more time with my grandchildren. I don't want to miss those opportunities to be involved in their lives and to experience their growing up. And, of course, Rory and I plan to do more traveling, experiencing the world firsthand.

But moving into that season requires I leave another. I have enjoyed this season of being your pastor and doing ministry with all of you at Saron. You have invited me into your lives and trusted me in your most private struggles and ultimate joys. We have been God's people together and done some very good ministry together. I trust that it will continue and grow under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the next pastor.

Leaving is always hard. As I said on Harvest Home Sunday, singing *We Are a Part of the Land* brought tears to my eyes and I am sure there will be more experiences like that in the weeks ahead. I trust in God's presence in all the seasons of our lives, and I trust in God as we make this transition. Saron will always hold a special place in my heart, and I am grateful to have been a part of this congregation. I am excited about the opportunities God will place before you and before me as we move into the next season of our lives.

Blessings,

Pastor RaeAnn



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

7:00 pm

Communion will be celebrated.

Confirmation will not meet
but are encouraged to attend this service.



SARON UCC BLANKET FUND 2023

Be part of the *miracle*. Blanket the world with *love*.

For over 75 years, Church World Service has been helping people of faith bring God's hope and healing to people in the U.S. and around the world. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That is why the CWS Blankets program was created—to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Through the generosity of CWS partner organizations, congregations and individual supporters, our most vulnerable neighbors around the world can feel safe and keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. When our neighbors are in need, even \$10 for a single blanket goes a long way. When you donate you are touching the hearts of people you will never meet. You are bringing hope to people that are hopeless and bringing hope to people that feel so disenfranchised.

Saron will be collecting for the CWS Blanket Fund through Thanksgiving. There will be envelopes in the pews. Watch the display in the narthex as we receive the offering throughout November. Please make your check payable to Saron UCC to receive credit on your giving statement.





Looking Ahead to Christmas!

Christmas time will soon be upon us! This year the Women's Guild is pleased to be sponsoring Head Start families again.

For the early bird shoppers, look for the Angel display in the Narthex on Sunday, November 19th. The Advent Angel Tree will be decorated with ornaments to pick from beginning on Sunday November 26th.

Please give back to families in need by taking an ornament, purchase the item, wrap it or bag it, attach the ornament to the gift and bring it back to church. **All gifts need to be returned by Sunday December 17th**. The gifts will be delivered on Monday, December 18th.

If you would like to participate in this mission, but do not care to shop, there will be a donation box located next to the display. The Guild will then purchase items still needed.

The Women's Guild wants to thank the members of Saron UCC for your participation in this Christmas project.

Advent Family Night

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

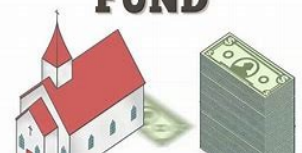
Join us for this intergenerational event. There will be crafts and activities for all ages. This year a group will be baking cookies for inmates at KMCI to bring joy and hope to the inmates at Christmas time. This cookie ministry is organized by the Salvation Army of Sheboygan.



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

The Endowment Fund Committee is excited to announce we have finalized the application process for distribution of funds. We will be accepting applications starting in early 2024 and distributing funds to qualifying applicants. The EC committee will be giving back to Saron in the form of distributions to support Saron UCC programs. Christian Education, Community Services and Wider Missions. More details will be provided in future updates. If you have questions, please contact any member of the Endowment Committee consisting of Teri Strub, Donna Rautmann, Nate Dassow, Jack Jarvis or Luke Kwekkeboom.

**ENDOWMENT
FUND**



Saron UCC

Dear Members of Saron UCC

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As we embark on the important journey of finding a new pastor to lead our congregation, we are seeking your valuable contributions and nominations for the Pastor Search Committee.

The Pastor Search Committee plays a pivotal role in this transition by identifying and selecting the individual whom we believe will lead us with faith, wisdom, and compassion. This committee will be responsible for reviewing applicants, conducting interviews, and ultimately recommending the most qualified candidate to the congregation for prayerful consideration.

We are confident that the success of this search process depends greatly on having a diverse, dedicated, and representative committee. Therefore, we are inviting each of you to nominate individuals who you believe would be a valuable addition to this committee. We are looking for member who:

- * Demonstrate a deep commitment to our faith and our congregation.
- * Posses a range of skills, including but not limited to leadership, discernment, and communications.
- * Reflect the diversity of our congregation in terms of age, gender, backgrounds, and perspectives.

If you have someone in mind who fits these criteria or if you would like to self-nominate, please complete the nomination slip located by the nomination box in the narthex, by reaching out to a consistory member or contacting Kathy in the office. Nominations will be collected through November 30th, shortly thereafter the consistory will use the nominations to create a diverse and dedicated search committee.

We believe that the formation of a well-rounded and faithful committee is critical to ensuring a transparent, prayerful, and successful pastor search process. Your nominations will play a crucial role in helping us find the right person to lead us in the next chapter of our faith journey.

We look forward to your active participation in this process and appreciate your support in making this transition as smooth and spiritually enriching as possible. Thank you for being part of the important endeavor.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In faith and fellowship

Saron Consistory,

Doug VanHelden (President), Jeff Meinnert, Justin Boedecker, David Rautmann, Judy Glander, Barb Post, Linda Barthels.

Daylight Savings Time To End

Daylight Savings time will be ending soon. Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night November 4th.



Thank you everyone for signing my Birthday Card. That was very thoughtful of you. Also I will enjoy the beautiful mum.

Marilyn Perronne



I would like to thank Pastor RaeAnn and my church family for all of the prayers and well wishes that I received before and following my recent hip replacement surgery. It's heart-warming to know that so many people care.

Judy Knuth



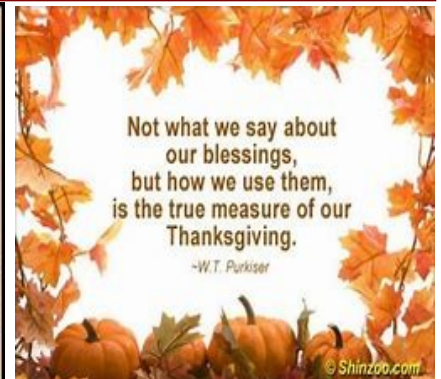
Those who are homebound or in care centers: Marilyn Perronne (at home), Eugene Weiskopf (Field of Dreams Assisted Living, Kiel) Shirley Schmidt (at Song Bird Pond), Merlin Schmidt (at home), Sally Nohl (at Rocky Knoll) Alyce Beeck (at home).....



We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of Wayne Grunewald father of Joan Baganz and grandfather of Sara Christy who died on September 12th....



Ben Lenz
U.S. Air Force)
Christopher Kletzien
(U.S. Army)



Treasurer's Update As of September 30, 2023

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

YTD Income \$112,230

YTD expenses \$138,080

YTD Deficit \$25,850

For the month of September, there was a net deficit of \$4,687 which increased the year-to-date deficit in our general fund to the amount shown above. **Please prayerfully consider your support of the daily and weekly vital functions of Saron Church as we go forward through this 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 \$12,650

YTD expenditures \$7,695 (includes final septic bills)

Total Available Fund Balance \$45,700

The major improvement projects of the new roof and the septic system have been paid in full. Thanks to the generosity of all of you, these costly projects were completed without depleting the Improvement Fund. There are no improvement projects scheduled, so the balance in the fund should cover any emergency issues that might come up.

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 \$17,630

Designated Disbursements:

SPARE (minimum of \$1,250 - \$0 designated)

OCWM (\$20,500 commitment - \$15,153 designated, = 74% of commitment)

One Great Hour of Sharing - \$1,295.68

Neighbors In Need - \$130

Souper Bowl of Caring (distributed to the Sheboygan County Food Bank) \$464

Strengthen The Church - \$380

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 an Consistory member.

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).

November 1 Stan & Teri Strub
Mark & Heather Zimbal

November 2 Scott & Debbie Reichert

November 4 Jenna & Caleb Hahn

November 8 Linda & Carl Suemnicht



November 10 Roy & Chris Herzog—50 yrs.

November 15 Randy & Donna Rautmann

November 19 Jim & Nancy Fritz

November 24 Jack & Dorene Hanke

November 28 Mark & Therese Schmidt

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).

November 3 Kevin Fleck
Rori Mauk
Rayah Mauk

November 4 Quinn Gumm

November 5 Amy Miles
Sarah Schuette

November 6 Marci Post

November 7 Jamie Farnum
Destinee McCraw
Mark Zimbal

November 8 Hudson Stache

November 9 Logan Christy

November 11 Laura Gumm
Debbie Reichert

November 14 Daniel Braun
Brian Charbonneau
Jenna Feldmann
Mark Post

November 15 Marian Jarvis
Shirley Roehrborn

November 17 Natalie Fitzgerald



November 18 Bailey Nickel
Miranda Rautmann
Arlan Schlundt
Betty Steiger

November 19 Palmer Feldmann—98 years young

November 21 Becky Charbonneau

November 22 Debbie Feider

November 23 Corey Albright
Rory Beebe
Vernon Reichert
Roseann Sargent

November 24 Suzi Boedecker
Brynlee Sebald

November 25 Wyatt Haas
Howie Heiden
Helen Rautmann

November 28 Peggy Leu
Vincent Wieck

November 29 Brent DeHart

November 30 Tracy Wilke
Ron Imig
Nicky Oppeneer