

The Tidings

920-467-6202

September 2023

Saron United Church of Christ

W3830 County Road J Sheboygan Falls WI 53085

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“...when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there.” (Matthew 18:20 from The Message)

Welcome Back Sunday is right around the corner. It is a fun-filled Sunday with Sunday School resuming, an outdoor worship service, and a potluck afterward. A time of celebration and joy as the Saron family gathers again after a summer of rest and relaxation (hopefully). I enjoy this Sunday very much but have struggled with the name for a long time. The church and worship didn't stop over the summer. There were still services to participate in and other activities going on. It isn't like we stopped being church for the summer and are now starting up again. So, why Welcome Back?

Welcome is all about hospitality, being glad to be in the presence of another and being glad they are in our presence. I think this fits what Welcome Back Sunday is all about. After a summer of activities that often took us away from gathering on Sunday mornings, we are grateful to be together again. We feel blessed to be in one another's presence. Maybe I don't have to struggle with the term any longer.

On September 3rd we will begin a new worship series from Worship Design Studio called Come to the Table. Aren't our tables places of welcome and hospitality? For Jesus, to dine together was not simply about sharing a meal. The table was the place where he fed people and challenged them to acts of hospitality that reflect God's way. Each week we will explore a different kind of table. The series will end on World Communion Sunday, October 1. The first Sunday in the series we will gather around The Table of Hospitality where Jesus made it clear that the kin-dom of God was for all people. You may have noticed that I often use that term, kin-dom, instead of kingdom. It isn't a typo. Kin-dom is much more reflective of all of us being a part of something, having a place. Kin as related to family. It is a much more inclusive word than kingdom.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I look forward to welcoming all of you back, whether you have been other places this summer or here every week.

Blessings,

Pastor RaeAnn



Welcome Back Sunday

September 10, 2023

8:30 am Sunday School/Parents Meeting

9:30 am Outdoor Worship

with Communion and the Blessing of Backpacks

Special Music by HHT Acapella Barbershop Group

10:30 Food and Fellowship

Saron will be providing: Broasted Chicken and German Potato Salad.

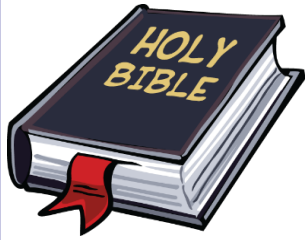
Texas Roadhouse will be donating buns and cinnamon butter.

The Congregation is encouraged to sign up for other potluck dishes, desserts, and bottled water. We are also looking for helpers the day of the picnic. Please sign up on the kiosk or on Sign-up Genius.



Sunday School is the Place to Bee

Children are the church's most valuable resource. Sunday, September 10th, is Saron's annual "Welcome Back" Sunday. This will also be the start of our 8:30 Sunday School; however, we will be calling it "**Welcome Back Sundae**". After their activities, the students (grades K-5) will be treated to an ice cream sundae before joining their families for the outdoor service. While the students are with their classes, **we strongly encourage all parents** to join other parents for an informational meeting. We want to bring parents and children's ministry together with the purpose of building a strong faith in children. This time will be used for announcements and completion of the necessary forms.



Fifth Graders will receive their Bibles on Sunday, September 17th during the worship service.



**Coffee Hour
Before Worship**
**Beginning Sept 17
at 8:30 am**
In the Narthex



All Women and friends are invited to attend the Saron Women's Fall Retreat on Friday, October 20-Saturday, Oct. 21. At the Cedar Valley Retreat Center, 5349 Cty. Rd. D, West Bend, WI.

Pastor RaeAnn Beebe will lead the retreat "Drawn In: Living the Creative Life with God".

The retreat programming will begin at 4pm Friday with dinner at 5pm. Feel free to arrive at 3pm to check in to your room and a little free time to enjoy their beautiful grounds. The retreat will continue through Saturday until 4pm ish.

The central image for the retreat is the heart.

The Saron Women's Guild will be subsidizing \$20.00 for each person for the retreat. The cost of the double occupancy room is \$100.00 per person. The cost of a single occupancy room is \$115.00. Each room has a private bathroom. There is an elevator. The cost includes 3 meals and also includes sheets, blankets, pillow and towels. Special diets can be accommodated (indicate on the signup).

The sign-up sheet is on the kiosk. Sign-up is required by September 20th. Please include a \$40.00 non-refundable deposit (checks to be payable to Saron Women's Guild.) The remainder can be paid at the retreat.

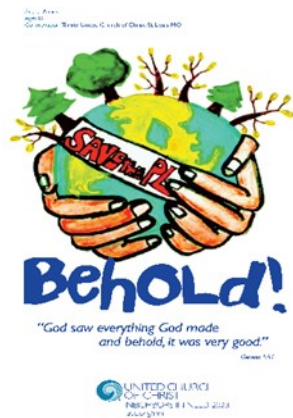
Any questions? Please contact Barb Post 920-207-4513.

May we be filled with joy and delight of creativity and community through the upcoming retreat.

The Women's Guild would like to thank the members of Saron UCC for your generous donations of school supplies and monetary donations. Many children from the Plymouth, Sheboygan Falls and Howards Grove school districts will benefit from your donations this school year.



The Tidings



The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 1, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through our national Justice and Local Church Ministries office, <https://tinyurl.com/2bfyatb>, you can find resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering

supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S. With your assistance, we together can help our Neighbors in Need. Please give generously. NIN envelopes can be found in the pew pockets. Please make checks out to Saron UCC with NIN in the memo line. And remember, contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made online at any time at ucc.org/nin.

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. With September and October being back to school time, breakfast cereal is the suggested food item to donate for these two months.

Habitat for Humanity– Habitat for Humanity will again sponsor the Rock The Block Neighborhood Revitalization Program for the Sheridan Park neighborhood in Sheboygan. This year's dates are September 21-23

Feed My Starving Children–Following the success of last year's work, Saron members will again have the opportunity to assist in mixing ingredients for ready-made meals that are delivered world-wide where there is great need. We have committed to provide 20 volunteers to work on Saturday, October 7 in Sheboygan Falls.

Members of Saron's Mission Team are Darlene Gumm, Jay Grosshuesch, Joan Laack, Kari Mooney, Barb Post and RaeAnn Beebe. Please contact any of these people with your feedback.



Treasurer's Update As of July 31, 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-items budget).

YTD income \$89,770 YTD expenses \$109,300 **YTD Deficit \$19,530**

For the month of July, there was a net deficit of \$270 which increased the year-to-date deficit in our general fund. Although there is a reserve built up in the General Fund, \$19,530 of the reserve has been used for expenses. Please prayerfully consider your support of the daily and weekly vital functions of Saron Church as we go forward 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 \$10,080 YTD expenditures \$7,690 (includes final septic bills)

Total Available Fund Balance \$43,140.

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 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 Offerings.

YTD income \$15,160

Designated Disbursements:

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

OCWM (\$20,500 commitment - \$12,954 designated, = 63% of commitment)

One Great Hour of Sharing - \$1,295.68

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

Strengthen The Church - \$380

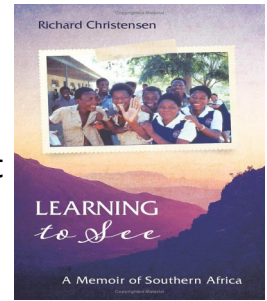
Other pass-throughs for special mission offerings and projects are distributed as they are collected throughout the year.

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 any Consistory member.

Saron's Library Has A New Book!

LEARNING TO SEE: A MEMOIR OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Written by former member Rich Christensen. In the book he writes about his experiences teaching in Botswana in the early 1980's.



Alyce Beeck would like to thank everyone for the birthday wishes, cards and flowers for her 87th birthday.

Dear Saron Members,

Our sincere thanks to all of you for the signed card we received for our 65th Wedding Anniversary. Also for the beautiful miniature red rose plant! Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.



Arlan & Sharon Schlundt

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) **Marilyn Heiden** (at The Waterford) **Alyce Beeck** (at home).....

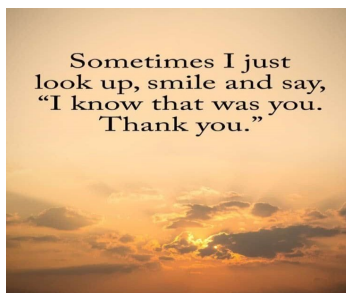


We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of **Amy Kwekkeboom**, daughter of **Kurt & Cindy**, sister to **Luke**, and granddaughter to **Merlin & Shirley Schmidt**, who died on July 15, 2023..... Also to the family of **Daniel Fritz**, brother to **Jim Fritz**, who died on July 31.....



Ben Lenz
(U.S. Air Force)

Christopher Kletzien
(U.S. Army)



New General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ made history Monday, July 3, when it elected the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman, to lead the denomination as General Minister and President. Rev. Thompson is the third woman nominated for the post, after the Revs. Yvonne Delk (in 1989) and Barbara Brown Zikmund (in 1999), but the first to be elected. "Today, United Church of Christ, we created a first together," she said after the vote. "It won't be the last first. As I stand here before you as your newly and duly elected General Minister and President, I stand here as a Jamaican immigrant woman, a mother and a grandmother, a sister and a friend to many," Thompson said. "... The enormity of this moment will be with me for many years to come." Rev. Thompson began her new role on Aug 1. (excerpt from article on ucc.org by Tiffany Vail - <https://www.ucc.org/karen-georgia-thompson-becomes-first-woman-to-lead-ucc-in-historic-vote/>)

Adult Faith Formation

Faith Formation does not stop after Confirmation. In many ways, Confirmation is really the launching point of our journey in living our faith. But all too often we do not nurture our faith in our adult lives. Listed below are several opportunities for you to engage in your own faith formation, engaging those topics most important to you, and in ways that fit your life.

The Damascus Project (formerly Lay Academy): Please see information on this program and what is being offered in a separate article in this Tidings or on the kiosk in the Narthex.

Lakeland University: offers UCC members the opportunity to audit certain classes for \$100. Fall 2023 Semester offerings are Religious Diversity in America, The Christian Heritage of oppression and Liberation, Interpreting Sacred Traditions, and Western Religious Traditions. For more information or to register go to Lakeland.edu.

Convergence: offers many on-line, on-demand courses covering a variety of topics. There is a fee for many of their courses, but there are also free ones. Check out their website for what is offered <https://convergencecolab.org/courses>

Luther Seminary: has free courses specific to the books of the Bible. Check out the options on their website. <https://enterthebible.org/courses>

The Tidings



The Damascus Project offers professional development opportunities for UCC clergy and theological study and leadership training for lay people. Read on to see what's on tap for 2023-2024.

COMING IN FALL 2023

Ministry Studies

Sunday by Sunday: Weekly Preaching and Worship Leadership | Sept. 5-Oct. 31, with Zoom sessions on Sept. 5 and 19 and Oct. 10 and 25

Participants will consider the “Four Pages of the Sermon” and learn a prayerful approach to sermon preparation and worship planning.

Faith Foundations

Introduction to Theology and Introduction to Old Testament | Sept. 11-Dec. 15, with Zoom sessions on Thursday evenings.

Learners will receive a six-week introduction to theology that exposes them to range of thinking and language about God and eight weeks’ instruction in the Old Testament that provides a deep dive into some of its narratives.

*Interested?
Email the Rev. Dr. Stephanie Perdeu,
director of the Damascus Project, at
stephanie@the-damascus-project.org
or go to the-damascus-project.org.*

Leadership Matters Series

Church Post-Doom: The Future of Spirituality and Congregational Life | 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Oct. 3

Many of us grapple today with a sense of foreboding stemming from the climate crisis and other threats to human flourishing. Futurist the Rev. Cameron Trimble will offer practical strategies for congregations seeking to find the Good News beyond these threats as they imagine their role in building a more just world.

Clergy Continuing Education

Exploring Implicit Bias | Oct. 12-Nov. 16, with Zoom sessions on Oct. 19 and Nov. 2 and 16

Participants will learn how to recognize their own implicit biases and transform them in ways that promote healthy relationships and understanding of people with diverse life experiences. The course is open to all authorized ministers who need to meet diversity, equity, and inclusion training requirements.

COMING IN WINTER 2024

Leadership Skills | Jan. 11, 18, and 25 and Feb. 1, all on Zoom

The Pandemic Pivot: What We Learned that Will Lead Us Forward

This discussion-based course aims to develop the leadership identity of pastors and lay leaders by reflecting on the ways churches pivoted and led during the COVID-19 pandemic—and what the church learned from the experience that is important for today.

COMING IN SPRING 2024

Leadership Skills: UCC History and Polity

Ministry Studies: Children's and Youth Ministry

Faith Foundations: Theology and Ecology, Reading Paul

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).

September 1 Don & Danielle Zimmermann

September 8 Pete & Sara Christy
Wade & Abby Sebald

September 10 Randy & Connie Sixel

September 11 Ray & Judy Glander
Eric & Katie Haas

September 12 Scott & Tracy Wilke

September 13 Carl & Joan Laack

September 14 Matt & Julie Dulmes

September 15 Ralph & Barb Sebald

September 16 Tom & Gloria Kanzelberger

September 18 Jody & Steve Biederwolf

September 19 Al & Sue Blasel
Don & Lois Herzog
Eugene & Helen Rautmann— 64 yrs.

September 20 Chuck & Brittany Kaiser

September 21 Claude & Sarah Gonzales

September 23 Lisa & Brian Schneider

September 24 Lloyd & Sharon Feldmann

September 25 Jerry & Marie Henning—58 yrs.

September 27 Bryan & Brittney Mauk



The Tidings

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).

September 1 Lydia Albright
Jacob DeHart

September 3 Devin Gardapee
Teri Strub

September 4 Keith Beeck

September 5 Steve Casadonte

September 8 Gordon Feldmann
Kathy Roehl

September 9 Julie Dulmes

September 10 Derek Kaat

September 12 Dawn Giraldo
Hudson Wagner

September 13 Brittany Kaiser

September 14 Lee Post
Merlin Schmidt
Judy Schmitz

September 15 Joleen Kwekkeboom

September 17 Vicky Verhage

September 18 Sara Dassow
Scott Stache

September 19 Don Herzog
Josh Imig

September 20 Karen Boeldt
Faith Charbonneau
Seth Conery
Isabel Wieck

September 21 Don Coller

September 22 Jayden Mauk
Melissa Reichwald

September 22 Elsa Schuette
Haley Zimmermann

September 23 Marie Henning
Carol Scheinoha

September 25 Tyler Gumm
Scott Milz

September 26 Mike Beeck
Brian Kaat

September 27 Laurel Hahn
Shelly Hollingsworth
Paul Williams

September 29 Jeremy Hanke
Ben Nickel

September 30 Keith Henning
Cameron McGee

