

Our

MARCH

2017 Newsletter



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St. John's United Church of Christ
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Rev. Dr. Tom Fritz, Pastor (920)-268-5757

"The purpose of this congregation is to be a faith community promoting the kingdom of God through worship, teaching and action... GET READY!"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2017</h1>			1 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00 p.m. Worship After Worship Senior Choir 	2	3	4
5 <i>Communion Sunday</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship	6	7	8 6:30 p.m. Soup & Sandwich Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship – L.L. After Worship Senior Choir	9 7:00 p.m. Christian Education Board meeting	10	11  <i>Turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed so you're on time for church tomorrow</i>
12 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class, & Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Basement reserved	13	14  7:00 p.m. Council meeting	15 6:30 p.m. Soup & Sandwich Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship – L.L. After Worship Senior Choir	16 9:00 a.m. Newsletter information is due in the church office	17  <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18
19 YOUTH GROUP 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Youth Group, & Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship (<i>youth leading worship</i>) Aft. Worship Youth Group Fundraiser --Soup Lunch— <i>everyone is welcome</i>	20 <i>Spring begins</i>	21	22 6:30 p.m. Soup & Sandwich Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship – L.L. After Worship Senior Choir	23	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. Sunday School, Confirmation Class, & Adult Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship (R. Miller preaching)	27	28	29 6:30 p.m. Soup & Sandwich Supper 7:00 p.m. Worship – L.L. After Worship Senior Choir	30 1:00 p.m. Assemble newsletters— <i>please call around noon to confirm</i>	31	<i>My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth (Ps. 121:2 NRSV).</i>

The Person in the Mirror . . .

Most of us begin our day with a similar ritual. We enter the bathroom, stand before a mirror, and start the tasks of personal grooming that get us ready to face the day. Usually the person looking back at us from that mirror is a bit disheveled. By the time the tasks of personal grooming are over, that person in the mirror looks much better.

Throughout our lives, we look into mirrors thousands of times. We do so in an effort to improve our appearances or to see ourselves more clearly. The mirror can show us when our hair is out of place or when a blemish might need some attention. It gives us a view of ourselves that we cannot find anywhere else in life.

Mirrors are also essential when we drive our cars, trucks, vans, and SUVs. Most vehicles have three “rear view” mirrors that are vital to navigating traffic or parallel parking. Those mirrors help us see what is happening in several directions almost simultaneously. Our brains process all the information that the mirrors provide, allowing us to make the correct move with the steering wheel.

There is another mirror that we use throughout our lives, but it is not mounted on a wall or attached to a vehicle. It is the mirror in our mind’s eye, an inner mirror that reflects how we think and feel about ourselves. This mirror shows us more than our outward appearance; it reflects our “inner” vision of ourselves. Like the mirrors on our wall, this inner mirror shapes how we prepare ourselves to face the world. Like the mirrors on our vehicles, it influences how we “steer” our lives on life’s journey.

When I was a small child, I wet the bed every night. If

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Church Council Special Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Members present: President Randy Miller, Aron Rasmussen, Lisa Waterstradt, Gary Vander Linden, Judy Samson, Bob Menning and Steve Hanson.

Also present: Rev. Tom Fritz and his wife, Diane.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss changes to our 2017 budget and finalize our compensation package to Rev. Fritz. Budget item: Association Dues will be \$4.25 per person up from \$4.00 per person.

Pastor Tom's compensation changes

- St. John's will not be paying \$941.00 for social security.
- Salary will be \$12,000.00 down from \$12,300.00.
- Pastor's financial total will now be \$34,039.00 for 2017.

Pastor Tom Fritz intends to have office hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Discussed some possible changes / issues / opportunities during Pastor Tom's interim time with St. John's UCC.

Meeting ended with Pastor Tom staying to sit in on the Music Committee's meeting.

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade..." (Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*, 1861).

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Randy Miller, with Judy Samson, Gary Vander Linden, Lisa Waterstradt, Bob Menning, and Steve Hanson present. Aron Rasmussen was absent.

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Randy Miller. A motion was made, by Bob Menning and seconded by Judy Samson, to accept both December 2016 Council meetings' minutes; motion passed.

A motion was made, by Steven Hanson and seconded by Bob Menning, to accept the December 2016 financial secretary's and treasurer's reports; motion passed.

We went through the 2017 budget. OCWM increased \$500.00 from 2016. We will be conducting reviews on jobs related to the church. A good way to share information from council to employees and back. Total budget is approximately \$16,000.00 less than 2016. A motion was made, by the budget committee and seconded by Aron Rasmussen, to put forward and accept the 2017 Budget; motion passed.

Lay Pastor's Report

- Conducted 3 traditional Sunday services, one with communion.
- 2 Christmas Eve Services with communion
- One home visit with Arla H; served communion
- One home visit with Mike M.

Committee Reports

Membership: Will be working with Rev. Fritz on how to get members involved with the church. Gary VL gave listing of congregation by age.

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- Christian Ed.:** next meeting is February 9. Christmas program on Sunday morning went well.
- Worship:** meeting planned for February 5th. Need to discuss Easter season agenda.
- Music:** met last Sunday after church. Rev Fritz attended. Everything is going okay.
- House:** most fire upgrades are finished. Hood area still needs some work. Plumber called to fix toilet in women's bathroom downstairs. Not here today, due to weather conditions—ice. Problems with phone messages being accessed. Fireplace at parsonage needs to be looked at.
- Stewardship:** *nothing new at this time.*
- Campital Campaign:** \$636.50 for month of December.

Old Business

- **Need to** send Pastor Mark Schwinn a letter about his mail requesting he contact all senders.
- **Go to post office** to fill out paperwork to get bulk mailing refund.

New Business

- **Names to be collected** to be nominated for council before January 29, 2017.
- **Computer issues**—Kim was able to have (John) Win Haven Computer Services fix the problem. We should have a password on office computer.
- **Keys** to Rev. Fritz—has office, church and parsonage keys.
- **Newsletter articles** not until February. Will be holding annual meeting downstairs. Potluck to follow meeting.

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- **Advertisement** from Advertiser— will do again in fall 2017.

Thanks and Prayers

- **Thank you** to all of the volunteers at St. John's and all the work they do.
- **Thank you** from Randy M. and Steve H. to the council members with whom we have worked.
- **Prayers** for Larry & Jan R.
- **Prayers** for Arla H.
- **Prayers** for Jim & Pam R.
- **Prayers** for Dave H.

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made, by Steve Hanson and seconded by Gary Vander Linden, to adjourn the meeting; motion passed.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

The person in the mirror, continued from page 1

... I fell asleep on a couch while my parents were visiting in the home of a friend, I would also wet their couch— embarrassing for my parents, who would then apologize profusely for my actions. That malady continued until I was twelve. Because of my inability to control my bladder while sleeping, the mirror in my mind told me I was a bad little boy. I was a failure and an embarrassment. That sad reflection remained with me for many years into the future. It was not until I went for counseling in my early twenties that I managed to wipe away the fog that bedwetting had placed on my inner mirror.

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Outside of my Zone

First off, I just want to say how happy I am that Pastor Tom decided to join us. This is my first newsletter contribution, and it is a bit out of my comfort zone. As newly elected



president of the council, I am very excited to see the changes I feel will be coming our way! I have been very happy to see old friends come back and several new friends join us. I truly hope that this is a trend that continues. Seeing Mike Minschmidt and Larry Rohloff in church in the last month has brought a smile to my face.

If you take the time to review the Finance Report, you will see we are not doing too badly. I want to thank everyone for the generous giving. With the old and new friends and fuller pews, I hope this is an ever-improving financial position.

Again, since I am out of my zone, I will keep this short. I feel very strongly that each month of this year will be better than the last. I look forward to seeing what we look like twelve months from now!

Bob Menning, council president

Youth Sunday!

**YOUTH
GROUP**

We, the Youth Group, will be leading worship on Sunday, March 19. Please be sure to join us for worship at 10:15 a.m. We will hold our annual soup lunch fundraiser, following the worship service.

Join us!

Youth Group Recap of February

Friday, February 10, the youth group and family members were out in the community helping the Salvation Army with their volunteer appreciation dinner. Sunday, February 19, our youth, family, and friends had a spaghetti lunch after church, and then, we went to the Tundra Lodge in Green Bay.

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord” (1 Corinthians 12:4-5 NRSV).

Leaders, the Wall Calendar...



Attention (new and returning) leaders: there is a wall calendar in the gathering room. This calendar is to help all of us work together and stay informed.

When you have a meeting/event scheduled, please be sure to write it on

the calendar. Please use only pencil, and please put the entry in chronological order for that day (in other words, a morning event is on top, an afternoon event is in the middle, and an evening event/meeting is near the bottom of the day).

If you have any announcements that you would like in the newsletters, please note that the information is due in the church office sometime around the 15th of the preceding month (For April articles, info is due on the 16th, of March). Please feel free to email announcements and articles to Kim, in the church office, at StJCreek@gmail.com. **Thank you**, in advance, for helping us all stay connected!

The person in the mirror, continued from page 5

Those sessions with my counselor, who was also one of my seminary professors, helped me see the vital role that our faith plays in helping clear the fog that often clouds the reflections on our inner mirrors. God's love in Jesus Christ is the towel that can wipe away that fog and give us new visions of our selves. My counselor/professor helped me see a new reflection in my inner mirror, one that changed my life profoundly and helped me to become the person that I am today.

My struggles with my inner mirror are not unique. All of us struggle from time to time dealing with all the "fog" that can cloud that mirror and complicate our life's journey. In his 1988 song, *The Man In the Mirror*, Michael Jackson sang about the struggle to change the world that begins with that inner mirror. He sang, "I'm starting with the man in the mirror. I'm asking him to change his ways." The lyrics go on to make the case that changing the troubles of the world begins with each of us and the person in our inner mirror.

This month we will once again begin our Lenten journey, starting with Ash Wednesday on March 1st and culminating on Easter Sunday, April 16th. We will look at the life of Christ and His ministry, and hopefully discover new ways to live our faith. Lent is often portrayed as a time of somber and sober "reflection". Somehow, I think that this is all connected to the reflections on our inner mirrors. I am convinced that Jesus comes for one purpose—to wipe away the fog of sin that clouds our inner mirrors and leads us away from God.

The Hebrew word for sin actually translates as "to

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The person in the mirror, continued from page 8

miss the mark". I am convinced that the fog that sin places on our inner mirror causes us to "miss the mark" and contributes to all of our struggles and all of the world's struggles. If we can wipe away that fog, we have the chance to see ourselves more clearly, and then, steer our lives by that cleared-up vision. To do so we need to understand that Jesus is the best mirror available to all of us. He reveals how much God loves each of us, and He shows us how to be more fully human. Jesus reveals that being human is about being compassionate, just, generous, loving, kind, and forgiving. When we let such values influence the reflections on our inner mirror, we become more like Christ, more like the person that God intends each of us to be.

As you journey through this Lenten season, I invite you to spend some time looking at your inner mirror. Is there a fog from the past clouding your vision? Have you allowed harsh judgments to distort how you see yourself? Is it time for you to ask the person in your mirror to make a change? Wiping your inner mirror clean of all the fog will help you envision a new way of living and lead you to become all that God intends you to be. Grab the cloth of God's grace and start wiping. Your future, the world's future, depends on it.

Peace and joy, Pastor Tom

Do You Want to Connect with Pastor?

Pastor Tom is usually in the office Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Feel free to stop in or give him a call.

Office: 920-984-3845 Cell: 920-268-5757

Email: styward@sbcglobal.net (Important, if you email Pastor, be sure to type *St. John's* in the subject line).

Ash Wednesday



March 1, is Ash Wednesday, this year. Please plan to join us for our service at 7:00 p.m. Lent is a season of reflection, commitment, and repentance. Join us, as we begin our journey through Lent.

Lenten Midweek Services

Food for the body and food for the soul! Join us Wednesdays throughout Lent [March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5, 2017] for a soup and sandwich supper at 6:30 p.m., and a round-table-style service, following supper, at 7:00. We anticipate our Wednesday evening services to run about thirty minutes.



<https://baptistspirituality.files.wordpress.com/2013/02/love-lent.jpg?w=350&h=200&crop=1>

Time for the Time Change



It is nearly time to change our clocks again. Daylight Saving Time begins, at 2:00 a.m. Sunday, March 12, 2017! Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 11, before going to bed, so you will not miss all the things we do Sunday morning!

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1 NRSV).

March 2017 Schedule

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 – Ash Wednesday

Reader	Robin Schmidt
Greeter / Usher	Carol & Robin Schmidt
Usher	Steve Hanson & Barry Zuleger

Sunday, March 5—Communion Sunday

Reader	Lisa St. John
Greeter / Usher	Todd & Lisa St. John
Usher	Tanner St. John & Jonathan Tesch

Sunday, March 12

Reader	Marian Zuleger
Greeter / Usher	Marian Zuleger & Marian Goodwin
Usher	Duane Zuleger & Jennifer Sassman

Sunday, March 19

Reader	Jan Rohloff
Greeter / Usher	Mike & Connie Rohloff
Usher	Trevor & Brandon Rohloff

Sunday, March 26

Reader	Jim Rucci
Greeter / Usher	David Holz & Aron Rasmussen
Usher	Jeff & Trevor Rasmussen

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts” (Psalm 139:23 NRSV).

Treasurer's Report - January 2017

Building Fund	Deposits	\$ 2,140.50	
	Interest	\$.14	
	Disbursements	\$(1,969.50)	
Memorial Fund	Deposits	\$ 10.00	
	Disbursements	\$ -	-
Organ Fund	Deposits	\$ -	-
	Disbursements	\$ -	-
General	Deposits	\$ 12,752.55	
	Disbursements	\$(5,875.33)	
<i>Capital Campaign</i>	Deposits	\$ 150.00	
	Total YTD	\$ 150.00	
	<i>Goal for 2017</i>		\$3,500.00
OCWM	Deposits	\$ 436.00	
	Disbursements	\$ -	
	Total YTD		\$ 436.00
	<i>Goal for 2017</i>		\$7,000.00

Total	Beginning Balance	\$ 32,947.79	
	Deposits	\$ 15,339.05	
	Interest	\$ 0.14	
	Disbursements	\$(7,844.83)	
	Ending Balance	\$ 40,442.15	

General Fund	\$ 24,090.15		
Memorial Fund	\$ 11,360.00		
Organ Fund	<u>\$ 4,992.00</u>		<u>\$40,442.15</u>
Building Fund Balance	\$ 51,296.98		
Interest YTD	\$ -		
Payments Made YTD	\$ 1,969.50		
YTD Giving	\$ 15,339.05		
YTD Expenses	<u>\$(7,844.83)</u>		
Net Amount			<u>\$ 7,494.22</u>

Women's Guild



WOMENS GUILD

The Women's Guild met on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., with twelve members and two guests present. We welcomed Pastor Tom and

Diane Fritz to join us.

President Roberta Lorenz called the business meeting to order. The secretary's report and treasurer's report were read and approved. There is a balance of \$462.98 in the memorial fund and a balance of \$2,572.75 in the general fund.

As there was no old business to discuss, we discussed new business. The annual rummage sale was discussed. A motion was made and seconded to hold the rummage sale on June 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, and 24, 2017. Donors may bring their discarded treasures to the yellow room in the lower level of the church.

A big **THANK YOU!** Goes out to someone special for suppling the sink mats in the church kitchen! They are great!

We are in need of a larger can opener for the large cans. Pastor Tom volunteered to check into a large can opener. The small opener is still in good repair.

We briefly discussed the bake sale; the discussion was tabled.

Offering was taken.

We were glad Pastor Tom and Diane joined us with questions regarding the Women's Guild and our activities. He was so kind in offering his help and ideas. We welcome them.

We closed our meeting praying the Lord's Prayer in unison.

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Women's Guild, *continued from page 13*

Our devotional leader, this month, was Ila Mae Jens. She shared a message entitled, *Why Do We Worry*. That is a question. We usually worry about things unnecessarily. Ila Mae placed many vegetable cans on the table and asked each of us to take one or two cans. Once we had the cans, she asked us to extend our arms out to see how long we could hold them out, while holding the cans. Our arms began to get heavy. The lesson of our devotion was keep your faith and strength with God's help; we do not need to worry — God is here, and He will be our Guide, when we ask of Him! She stated, "This is I my Father's world" — a special song. We closed in prayer.

We sang the *Doxology*, and then we were served a delicious dessert by our February hostess, Roberta Lorenz.

Our next meeting is set for Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. Vi Brown Luebke will lead us in devotions, as well as, be our hostess. Come, and join us!

Bless you all, Audrey Hooyman-Blake, Guild Secretary

Updates and You!



If you have a birthday or wedding anniversary and it is not listed, please leave a note for the church office including your full name(s) and contact information, along with the full date of the event and label "birthday" or "anniversary".

Also, if your address or telephone listing is incorrect in the February 2017 Directory, PLEASE email the office, StJCreek@gmail.com, or write to the church office (Kim) and inform us of the changes. Thank you.

One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the U.C.C., which supports disaster, refugee, and development actions.



Sundays in March, we will accept special offerings for One Great Hour of Sharing. You may make your gift, in addition to your regular tithes and offerings to St. John's, by enclosing your OGHS gift, in the enclosed envelope. Please remember, this special offering is not for St. John's, so it is crucial that your OGHS gift is in addition to your regular gifts. **Thank you.**

Answered Pray! Thank You!



Thank you all so much for all the prayers, and good thoughts, and get well wishes during my cancer fight. God heard and answered all our prayers! I'm getting better all the time, and I know all the prayers helped me through this trying time. Jim, Laurie, and I are very grateful to you all. May God bless you all!

Most sincerely, Pam Rucci

Financial Secretary's Report

January 2017

DATE	01/01/2017	01/08/2017	01/15/2017	01/22/2017	01/29/2017	DIRECT DEPOSIT	TOTAL
CHECKING DEPOSIT	\$1,455.00	\$2,977.00	\$3,350.50	\$5,088.00	\$2,268.55	\$200.00	\$15,339.05
GENERAL FUND	\$1,140.00	\$1,637.00	\$1,333.00	\$4,893.00	\$1,415.00	\$75.00	\$10,493.00
OCWM	\$15.00	\$45.00	\$36.00	\$25.00	\$315.00		\$436.00
BUILDING FUND	\$300.00	\$1,265.00	\$30.00	\$170.00	\$300.50	\$75.00	\$2,140.50
CAMPITAL CAMPAIGN					\$100.00	\$50.00	\$150.00
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING							\$0.00
NEIGHBORS IN NEED							\$0.00
STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH							\$0.00
CHRISTMAS FUND							\$0.00
FUEL FUND		\$20.00	\$20.00		\$20.00		\$60.00
							\$0.00
							\$0.00
							\$0.00
							\$0.00
							\$0.00
							\$0.00
							\$0.00
TOTAL MEMB. CONTRIBUTIONS	\$1,455.00	\$2,967.00	\$1,419.00	\$5,088.00	\$2,150.50	\$200.00	
OTHER INCOME							TOTAL
Ester Henry memorial		\$10.00					\$10.00
USPS REFUND FOR bulk mailing					\$118.05		\$118.05
Endowment for Campital Campaign 2016			\$1,931.50				\$1,931.50
							\$0.00
							\$0.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$1,931.50	\$0.00	\$118.05	\$0.00	
TOTAL CHECKING DEPOSIT	\$1,455.00	\$2,977.00	\$3,350.50	\$5,088.00	\$2,268.55	\$200.00	

Our Worship Survey

We are asking each person to complete the following survey. If you have not already done so, would you please take a couple of minutes and answer the following questions and place the completed form in the offering plate, hand it to Pastor Tom after a service, mail it to PO Box 264, Black Creek, WI 54106, or place it in the box between the office doors? You are welcome to email your responses to the church office as well, StJCreek@gmail.com (if you choose email, Kim will be the only one who knows your identity, and your identity will be kept confidential).

1.) What part of our worship services is your favorite part?

2.) What part of our services is your least favorite part?

3.) What are three of your favorite hymns?

Thank you!

February 2017

Mid-Week Lenten Services . . .

Again this year, we will mark the Lenten season with mid-week worship services on Wednesday evenings. On Ash Wednesday, March 1st. we will worship in the sanctuary with the service beginning at 7:00 p.m. That service will feature the Lord's Supper and the marking of ashes.

On the remaining Wednesdays of Lent, our services will be held in the Fellowship Hall. On those nights, we will gather at 6:30 p.m. for a soup and sandwich meal, followed by worship around tables that will feature discussions related to the scripture for the night. For those who wish to skip the meal, the discussion/worship service will begin at 7:00 p.m. The schedule for these Lenten discussion/worship experiences is as follows:

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title
Ash Wednesday March 1	Psalm 51:10 Matthew 4:1-11	<i>Coming Clean on Temptation.</i>
Wed., March 8	Mark 7:5, 14-23	<i>Inner Grime.</i>
Wed., March 15	Matthew 6:25-33	<i>Washing Out Worry</i>
Wed., March 22	Mark 10:17-22 Luke 18:9-15	<i>Purging Pride</i>
Wed., March 29	Luke 12:13-21	<i>Getting Rid of Greed</i>
Wed., April 5	John 15:12-17	<i>Loading Up on Love</i>

Come, and join us!