

November 2017

Newsletter



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>November 2017</h1> | | | 1 1:30 p.m. Women's Guild meeting  6:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice | 2 | 3 | 4 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Session 2  <i>Before you go to bed, set your clock back one hour</i> |
| 5 2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time ends Communion Sunday 9:00 a.m. Bible Study and Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Worship (Children's choir sings) 11:00 a.m. Tailgate party--Turkey Fundraiser for Salvation Army | 6 | 7 | 8  6:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice | 9 | 10 | 11 <i>Thank you to all who served in the US Military.</i>  |
| 12 <i>Christmas Eve Service Surveys deadline</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship (Senior Choir sings) | 13 7:30 p.m. Men's United Dartball St. John's @ Oneida United Methodist | 14  6:30 p.m. Council meeting | 15  6:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:00 a.m. Youth Group, Sunday School, & Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship (Senior Choir sings) (R. Miller preaching) | 20 | 21 | 22  6:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice? NO Thanksgiving Eve Worship | 23 <i>Office is closed</i>  | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Worship | 27 7:30 p.m. Men's United Dartball St. John's @ Cicero Lutheran | 28 | 29  6:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice | 30 | <i>Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God (Colossians 3:16 NRSV).</i> | |

Thank You!

The body of Christ is beautiful! You're dependable, cheerful, and faithful volunteers, and each of you is much appreciated. Thank you to all who volunteer at and through St. John's—your prayers, donations of energy, time, money, and skill—all done in the name of Christ—are much appreciated! From the staff and leadership of St. John's to you and your household, **"Happy Thanksgiving!"** Thank you for all you do to share God's love in our communities. *"By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another"* (John 13:38). To God be the honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.



Tailgate Party

We are planning a tailgate party for our turkey fundraiser, on Sunday, November 5, following worship. Our goal is to raise \$1,500.00 for the purchase of turkeys for the Salvation Army to distribute to those less financially fortunate than most. Plan to join us for fun, food, and fundraising! *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of My family, you did it to Me"* (Jesus Christ).

Could You Be a Saint?

By the time you read this article, another Halloween with have come and gone. The candy will lie around the house for a while, but soon it will be replaced by candy canes. The costumes will be put away, and the broken pumpkins and toilet paper pranks will be cleaned up for another year.

Most of us think of Halloween as a time for dress up and imagination and we enjoy the opportunity to be playful as we think about scaring others. Halloween takes place on October 31st—All Hallows Eve—because November 1st is All Saints Day. October ends with thoughts of monsters and villains, but November begins with thoughts of saints—and not the ones in New Orleans.

What is it that makes a saint? Have you ever aspired to be one? As we move into November, perhaps it would be good to ponder the matter. In the Roman Catholic Church, sainthood is a long and complicated process that is called Canonization. There are well-defined and specific criteria that must be met before someone can be named a saint. Of course, the leading criteria is a tough one—YOU HAVE TO BE DEAD!



Somehow, I think that might act as a deterrent to those who might aspire to sainthood. I think that is unfortunate and misguided. I think that sainthood is something that living persons ought to aspire to, much like children dreaming of what they will be for Halloween. I wonder what the world would be like if for just one day in the year we all decided to act like saints. I think it would be

Continues on page 4

Treasurer's Report - September 2017

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Building Fund | Deposits | \$ 3,022.50 | |
| | Interest | \$.17 | |
| | Disbursements | \$ (7,147.33) | |
| Memorial Fund | Deposits | \$ 70.00 | <i>*for building fund</i> |
| | Disbursements | \$ (1,070.00) | <i>*for building fund</i> |
| Organ Fund | Deposits | \$ - | - |
| | Disbursements | \$ - | - |
| General | Deposits | \$ 6,812.20 | |
| | Disbursements | \$ (9,898.55) | |
| <i>Capital Campaign</i> | Deposits | \$ 200.00 | |
| | Total YTD | \$ 3,214.85 | |
| | Goal for 2017 | \$ 3,500.00 | |
| OCWM | Deposits | \$ 640.00 | |
| | Disbursements | \$ (441.00) | |
| | Total YTD | | \$5,635.50 |
| | Goal for 2017 | | \$7,000.00 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total | Beginning Balance | \$ 29,272.46 | |
| | Deposits | \$ 10,544.70 | |
| | Interest | \$ 0.17 | |
| | Disbursements | \$(18,556.88) | |
| | Ending Balance | \$ 21,260.45 | |
| <hr/> | | | |
| General Fund | | \$ 2,670.63 | |
| Building Fund | | \$ 2,123.17 | |
| Memorial Fund | | \$ 5,492.00 | |
| Organ Fund | | <u>\$ 4,992.00</u> | <u>\$15,277.80</u> |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Building Fund Balance | | \$ 12,137.12 | 9/12 statement |
| Interest YTD | | \$ 1,633.22 | |
| Payments Made YTD | | \$ 41,449.83 | |
| YTD Giving | | \$ 99,051.42 | |
| YTD Expenses | | <u>\$(61,429.73)</u> | <i>excluding building payments</i> |
| Net Amount | | <u>\$ 37,621.69</u> | |

Could You Be... *continued from page 2*

pretty awesome, and who knows, maybe we would like it so much that we would do it for more than one day. It might even become a lifestyle.



So how does one become a saint? Do we dress up in white robes with wings on our backs and haloes on our heads? I don't think so. Being a saint is not about a costume or about outward appearance. Sainthood is a state of mind, a presence that we bring to life.

Yet, I am convinced that sainthood does have outward manifestations, things that can be seen by others. In the Roman tradition, a person must have performed three miracles to become a saint. If we were a Roman Catholic congregation, all of our members would already be one-third of the way there. It is truly a miracle that you allow me to be your interim pastor. You must be saints!!

On a serious note, what is a miracle? I think it is when God's reality of love and grace breaks into our world in some unexpected way. I think that miracles happen when regular folks lend themselves to God; becoming conduits of God's grace and love; pipelines of compassion and hope. That is something that all of us can aspire to—that all of us can do. When we lend ourselves to God, our lives can be used by God to perform miracles.

I am convinced that we lend ourselves to God when we become grateful and generous. Bringing a spirit of gratitude to our lives is the first step toward generosity. When we are grateful, we come to see that we have many gifts to share. Whether we are giving our money, our time, or our talents makes no difference. Any gift of self, however

Christian Education Meeting

October 3, 2017

There were six people present at the meeting.

Current Balance is \$1,549.01

Rally Sunday went well, and everyone had fun. We will not be renting the Bounce House for next year, but we will continue with the Tournament and Fish Pond along with a few other games

The 3rd graders will receive their *Bibles*, date T.B.A.

We will continue with *Campital* Campaign funds with gathering the last Sunday's offering during Sunday School and selling candy bars for \$1.00 each.

Youth Group (grades 5 and up) will continue to meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., in the upstairs Youth Group Room.

Confirmation students met with Pastor Tom for their first Saturday Retreat Day. Everything went well. They made homemade pizzas for lunch. They learned about Covenants. The 8th grade students should have their mentors by the end of October.

Statements of Faith will be April 29th, and Confirmation will be May 6th. Please plan ahead with these dates.

Camp Work Weekend is scheduled for October 13-15, at Moon Beach. Information will be sent home with the students soon. Any questions, please contact Sue Biese.

Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 17, during the worship service, at 10:15 a.m. Please plan to attend. Practices will be announced, so please watch for those dates, so the

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Christian Education Meeting... *continued from page 5*
children attend.

Christmas Bags will be done by Audrey Blake and Connie Wheeler. A sign-up list will be posted soon for donations.

Our next Christian Education meeting will be on Tuesday, November 7, at 6:30 p.m.

Connie Wheeler, Secretary



1 Thessalonians 5:18

Could You Be... *continued from page 4*

small it may seem, has the potential to bring God's love to life; to allow God's grace to break through—and that is when miracles happen.

Our ability to give is directly related to our ability to put others first, to be other-directed rather than self-centered. Folks like Francis of Assisi, Albert Schweitzer, Mother Theresa, and Martin Luther King, Jr., all embodied this capacity. They were saints in their living, and they touched many lives in the process. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Albert Schweitzer will never be named as saints by the Roman Church, but their impact on the world was still miraculous.

To be canonized is merely a complicated way of noting that someone was an example, a very good example of Christian faith and living. That is something all of us can do. Each human being has the capacity to convey God's love to others, to bring it to bear on a particular situation or circumstance.

Another element in sainthood is involvement. One may live a pious life by isolating themselves from others, but no one can become a saint until they interact with others. Miracles happen within the context of relationships and community. One person living alone on a desert island can perform no miracles, since there is no one else to be in relationship with—there is no community where God's love can be shared.

If you aspire to be a saint, you need to get involved in a cause, a movement, or an idea, which brings others together for a common purpose. You need to get involved in

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Could You Be... *continued from page 7*

church. Maybe you can assist with Sunday School; sing in the choir; lead worship; join a committee; attend a Bible Study; go on a mission trip; take on a service project with others; mentor a confirmand; come to a New Members' class to meet those who may join us; attend worship; serve a meal, serve on the Council; help with the newsletter; join a fellowship group; or get involved in any one of the other things we do at St. John's UCC. In such settings, you can become a pipeline of God's love and grace, and you may even perform a miracle or two.

I encourage all of our members and friends to aspire to sainthood this November. Imagine yourself doing saintly things, and then do them! You just may perform a miracle or two, and in the process, someone will be touched by God's love because you aspired to be a saint! *Peace and Joy, Pastor Tom*

Thanksgiving

This year, Thanksgiving is on Thursday, November 23, 2017. Do you know how many times this federal holiday has fallen on November 23?



According to the website, www.timeanddate.com, "George Washington, the first president of the United States, proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day in 1789." However, it appears that before then, it was not always celebrated in November. There have been only eleven out of two hundred twenty-seven National Thanksgiving Days on November 23, since then (<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/thanksgiving-day>).

Church Council Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Menning, with Gary VanderLinden, Judy Samson, Connie Wheeler, and Lisa Waterstradt present.

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Bob Menning.

A motion was made, by Lisa Waterstradt and seconded by Gary Vander Linden, to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed.

A motion was made, by Judy Samson and seconded by Connie Wheeler, to accept the Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's reports. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report (August)

- Conducted 4 Worship Services and 1 funeral
- Attended 2 church meetings, 1 administrative meeting, and 1 group meeting
- Made 7 home visits and 3 other visiting times

Committee Reports

Membership: A date needs to be set for new members to join.

Christian Ed: There was a meeting with confirmation parents and students to discuss the schedule. It was decided to have six Saturday retreats from 9:00 to 3:30. Rally Sunday planning was discussed with games, bounce house, and raffle.

Worship: *Meeting date to be set.*

Minutes are continued on page 10

Church Council Meeting... *continued from page 9*

Music: They are in need of members to join them.
Anyone who is interested, please speak with
Bonnie Vander Linden or a member of the
choir.

House: The tiles in the entrance of the sanctuary and
the elevator need to be fixed.

Campital Campaign/Mission Projects - For the month of
August, we collected \$150.00; YTD total is
\$3014.85



Old Business

- We are getting quotes for the copier, since our contract is up in September.
- Dates for Cottage Nights will be set for the end of November and the beginning of December.

New Business

- An individual was interested in the property by the highlines to purchase from the church, but it is owned by the Railroad.

Prayers and Thanks

- Rohloff Family with the passing of Larry
- Vander Linden family with the new addition of a grandson

A motion was made, by Judy Samson and seconded by Lisa Waterstradt, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Next Council Meeting will be October 10, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

A Letter From the Salvation Army

In response to needs of neighbors, who face poverty, employment and rising expenses, the Salvation Army in Northern Outagamie County has launched its annual campaign, called **"Sharing..., A blessing in Disguise."** A small part of you means the world to them. Locally, the Salvation Army in Outagamie County hopes to raise \$55,000.00 to help sustain the programs and services that help people in need in their daily struggles for survival.

Many families are still finding it very hard to stay afloat, and we've seen it firsthand in the numbers of people coming to us for help. More than 967 people are assisted every month through the food pantry, emergency assistance with rent, utilities, medical, food, transportation, and /or through the six programs that the Salvation Army offers throughout the year. These programs include Thanksgiving, Christmas, League of Mercy, Easter, School Backpack with supplies, and Food Packs for Children" according to Cindy Muelemans, Director. That is why the Salvation Army, Outagamie County Service Extension looks to our community for their generosity; so we can show that same compassion and kindness to the less fortunate.

"Reaching out to those in need by volunteering to ring bells or help with donated food for their meals are wonderful ways to connect with the community, to give back, to share blessings and to be blessed in return." To volunteer this season, contact the Salvation Army Outagamie County Service Extension, at 920-984-9305, and/or send a donation to Salvation Army, Outagamie County Service Extension, 227 East State Street, Black Creek, Wisconsin 54106, or email the director at, Cindy_Meulemans@usc.salvationarmy.org.

Crunch Time!

Do you buy Best Choice brand products? I buy their white popcorn (unpopped). It is delicious and usually pops better than big brand names. It is tender and tasty (*white popcorn is more tender than yellow, in general*). Nevertheless, if you prefer yellow popcorn, you can certainly buy yellow from this brand too. Sal's and Don's grocery stores in Black Creek and Seymour, respectively, sell this brand! If you do, **please cut around the UPC symbol**, on each Best Choice product you have. It's not necessary to send in the whole label. Place your labels in the box between the office doors, and Kim will collect and redeem them for cash, through the program, for St. John's! St. John's needs to submit a minimum of 1,000 labels in order to receive the financial reward. They will add up if we all cut and turn in labels



Women's Guild



WOMENS GUILD

The Women's Guild met on Wednesday, October 5, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. Seven members were present.

Our devotional leader was Lisa Raaths, who shared the movie *South Bound Bus: Touched By an Angel*. It was interesting and touching. The story was of a caseworker being touched by an angel. Love is so strong, and love endures all things.

The business portion of our meeting was called to order by President Roberta Lorenz. The Secretary's Report

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Women's Guild *continued from page 12*

and the Treasurer's Report was read and approved as read. There is a balance of \$4,984.78 in the general fund and \$472.98 in the memorial fund.

The Fall Feast, which was held on Sunday, October 1, 2017, was discussed. Everything was great. There were lots of comments about the food, bake sale, and decorations. We say "Many thanks" to all who prepared and helped in any way. We really appreciate the help you gave. We were in need of more gravy and sugar-free desserts. Plans are to get an earlier start on committees going forward.

Plans are to have a kitchen clean up on October 11, 2017. All are welcome to help.

A motion was made and seconded to get new supplies for the medical equipment supply kit.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday afternoon, November 1, 2017, at 1:30. Jan Boman will lead in devotions, and Esther Meyer will be our November hostess.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer prayed in unison.

The *Doxology* was sung and then, we were served a delicious dessert by Ruth Hanson with help from Marian Zuleger.

God bless all, Audrey Hooyman-Blake, Guild Secretary



Attention Ushers, Greeters, and Readers

If you are planning on being away during January, February, and/or March, please notify Connie Wheeler as soon as possible, so that she does not schedule you for serving while you are away. Connie's phone number is 920-788-5961. Thank you!



November 2017 Schedule

Sunday, November 5 @ 10:15 a.m. - Communion Sunday

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Reader | Bob Menning |
| Greeter / Usher | Bob & Carla Menning |
| Ushers | Ray & Ella Menning |

Sunday, November 12 @ 10:15 a.m.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Reader | Sue Biese |
| Greeter / Usher | Joe & Sue Biese |
| Ushers | George & Kerri Samson |



Sunday, November 19 @ 10:15 a.m.

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Reader | Trudy Koon |
| Greeter / Usher | Trudy Koon & Portia Fenske |
| Ushers | Grant & Brandy Krull |

Sunday, November 26 @ 10:15 a.m. – Christmas in November

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Reader | Vi Brown-Luebke |
| Greeter / Usher | Vi Brown-Luebke & Morgan Vander Linden |
| Ushers | Gary & Bonnie Vander Linden |

December 2017 Schedule

Sunday, December 3 @ 10:15 a.m. - Communion Sunday

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Reader | Connie Wheeler |
| Greeter / Usher | Connie & Cailey Wheeler |
| Ushers | Mark & Kelcie Hooyman |

Sunday, December 10 @ 10:15 a.m.

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Reader | Bryce VanderLinden |
| Greeter / Usher | Bryce VanderLinden & Steve Hanson |
| Ushers | Aron Rasmussen & Darwin Ethington |

Sunday, December 17 @ 10:15 a.m.

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Reader | Lisa St. John |
| Greeter / Usher | Todd & Lisa St. John |
| Ushers | Ryan & Stephanie Julius |

*******Sunday, December 24 @ 10:15 a.m.**

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Reader | Jan Rohloff |
| Greeter / Usher | Jan Rohloff & Brandon Rohloff |
| Ushers | Mike & Connie Rohloff |

******* Dependent upon Christmas Eve service schedule survey results, times will be determined and reader, greeters, and ushers will be scheduled accordingly.**

Sunday, December 31 @ 10:15 a.m.

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Reader | Kent Abel |
| Greeter / Usher | Kent & Valerie Abel |
| Ushers | Dallas & Lisa Waterstradt |



Christmas Eve Service Survey

WE ARE REQUESTING YOUR OPINION!



If you have not submitted your preference, please do so now.
Only one per person please.

*For unto
us a
Child
is born*

For Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 2017, which option best serves you and your family?

_____ 10:15 a.m. worship time only

_____ 10:15 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. worship times

_____ 10:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. worship times

PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE OPTION, and place your survey in the offering plate or mail to PO Box 264 Black Creek, WI 54106 by Sunday, November 12, 2017.

Thank you.

It is Time to Fall Back an Hour

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 5!

So, be sure to **set your clocks back one hour** Saturday, November 4, 2017, before you go to bed! *It is a good time to change batteries in smoke and carbon detectors, as well!*





**Volunteer Need: Do You Have 60 minutes
a Week or Once a Month?**

Mealsite Volunteers and Drivers Needed!

We are in Need of Weekly Volunteers and Substitutes to Assist in Packing
and Serving Meals at the Seymour Mealsite, and for Drivers to Deliver
Meals to the Homebound



**Where: NEW Location! Seymour Municipal Building
328 N. Main Street, Seymour WI 54165**

When: Mondays-Friday 11-Noon

Who: YOU can make a difference!

**Interested in Volunteering? Call 920-968-2414 or
email kari.fischer@outagamie.org**

