

# ST. PETER'S NEWS



St. Peter's United Church of Christ

December 2017

## A Message from Pastor Craig

The following description of Advent can be found on the UCC.org website (enter "Advent" in the search box at the top of the site). The origin of the description is a bit puzzling since there is no attribution and it appears to have been written long before 2017:

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
166 W. Dekora Street  
Saukville, WI 53080  
Email: [saukvilleucc@att.net](mailto:saukvilleucc@att.net)  
Phone: 262-284-0588  
Web: [stpetersuccsaukville.org](http://stpetersuccsaukville.org)

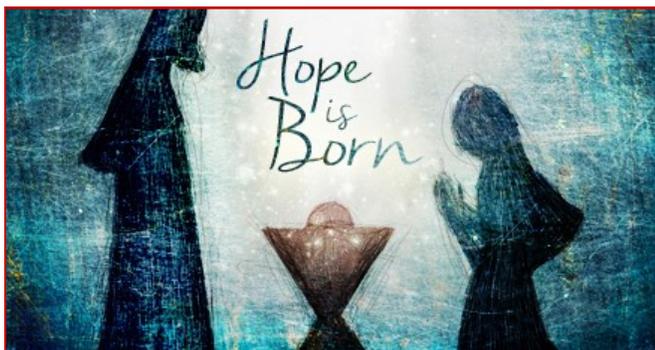
Advent (from Latin, *adventus*, meaning "coming towards") is a four-week season of preparation for Christmas. The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the church's year. Advent and Christmas focus both on the past--the coming of Jesus as an infant born into poverty in Bethlehem, and the future--the coming of Christ in glory to fulfill God's loving purposes for humanity.

The description of Advent as a time when past and future are especially and equally significant is quite appropriate for St. Peter's UCC at the end of 2017. We are possibly more aware of the important history of our little church now than we may have been in a long time. As we approach the 150th anniversary of the founding of this church, we recognize the profound impact it has had on the lives and faith of countless people – from those in the pews on Sunday morning to those who come to be fed at the community meal; from those who have celebrated baptisms into faith to those who have been memorialized with love beyond measure.

And as we look to the future, we see countless opportunities to share love and joy and sorrow and healing and worship and music and . . . so much more, as we begin the next 150 years. We are "coming toward" a new time in the life of this church. The definition of Advent from the UCC website continues:

Advent this year comes at a time of anxiety and hope. Many of us are struggling and are afraid for our future. It's not easy to hope when times are bad. Mary, as she waited for the birth of her child into an uncertain world, knew how to live with hope--to believe the promises of God. So Advent is a time when we wait, with Mary, for the birth of new life into a world living in the shadows of death.

While I wouldn't use the phrase "times are bad" when describing our church, I would say that times are challenging and changing as they are for many small churches. We find ourselves however, "struggling and afraid for our future" while striving "to live with hope" as we "wait . . . for the birth of new life" during this season and far beyond.



Let's build on the strength and solid foundation of the past while we embrace with excitement and wonder all that awaits us in the future. And always, always live with hope for the birth of new life that is to come.

Peace . . . always!

*Pastor Craig*

# CARING MINISTRIES



# PRAYER

Prayer Families for the Month: *changes things*

December 3  
Eric, Sara, Aiden, Leah and  
Jenna Schmitz

December 10  
Roger Geib

December 17  
Dan and Patty Gilbert

December 24  
Fred, Kathleen, and  
Meghan Learned

December 31  
Frank and Kathy Parsons



**Please sign the card in the Narthex for the weekly prayer family on Sunday and keep the family in your prayers. Your additional cards are appreciated by our prayer families.**

*Please join us for Holy Communion  
Served on Sunday, December 3  
at the 10am Worship Service*



**Gluten free**

Gluten-free wafers are available for communion. These wafers are free not only of gluten, but also free of wheat, casein, dairy, nut, egg, corn, yeast, and soy, and are low protein. If you need to avoid any of the above, please request a gluten-free wafer from an usher. They are in a screw-top container on a separate plate.



## **Prayer Chain Information**

To call in a prayer chain request please notify

Jean Hamilton at 262-284-3734 or  
Gail Weigel at [dweigel@wi.rr.com](mailto:dweigel@wi.rr.com).



## Meeting Notes

Thank you notes were sent to:

The Search Committee Members: Bethel Metz, Sue Sarver, Joan Brecke, Mark Gierach, and Alex Fuentes, and to Nancy Gierach for the meal.

Soup Preparation: On November 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be making soup for our soup mission. Special thanks to Nancy Gierach for her help. This is the second year of our soup mission. The soup has been a welcome gift for visitations and for those who need an occasional light meal.



## Library



### Children's Library

Our Children's Library has been getting a lot of use from the YMCA After School Program. It is a wonderful resource, and we are so happy to see it used.

### Adult Library

Our adult library is located in the Council Room. You are always free to browse there and check out books. There are Bibles, devotionals, religious literature, non-fiction, and fiction selections.

## Caring Cuisine

There are times in each of our lives when a meal is very much appreciated. It may be after recovery from serious surgery, the birth of a child, a death in the immediate family, or another event. Caring Ministries is looking for people who would be willing to be called upon to provide an occasional meal. If you prefer, providing a scrip for a pizza would be welcome. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact Jean Hamilton at [jeanmhamilton1943@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanmhamilton1943@yahoo.com) (new email address!) or any member of Caring Ministries.



# Leadership Council Meeting Minutes



**October 10, 2017**

Present: Alex Fuentes, Rev. Craig Modahl, Heather Rogge, Ginny Brown, Sandy Smith, Mark Gierach, Gail Weigel, Wally Quade, Sue Sarver, Bethel Metz

Absent: Kaitlyn Beck, Diane Heimerl

Fuentes called meeting to order at 6:30pm. Modahl opened with a prayer.

Weigel motioned, Quade seconded to approve September minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

September Treasurer's Report presented by Smith. Motion Quade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brown to approve financials as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Maintenance Trust Fund – Fund transfer completed to Annex. \$3,075 pledges/donations received from congregation for outdoor sign. Smith needs a copy of the Y contract.

Pastor's Report – 2 baptisms planned (1 in October and 1 in November). Vacation Oct 22. Fireside service moved to following week (need to check Packer schedule for conflicts because we can't compete). Book study on-going. Worship committee to set Advent/Christmas worship schedule. Another \$500 received for hurricane relief. Rainbow doors will be displayed November and December. 'Be the Church' banner purchased for outside. Living Hope is hosting Trunk or Treat we're invited. Working on collaboration with 2 other UCC churches – discussions on-going.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES:

**Faith Formation** – Rogge, Beck, Fuentes, Race teachers/leaders. No confirmation. Family Fun Night potluck this Friday. Inter-generational Christmas program Dec 17. Looking at lectionary for Faith Formation. Heifer Project being looked at.

**Stewardship** – Turn in pledge cards. Rogge to move to Stewardship from Faith Formation. Budget missing some items.

**Worship** – No report

**Building & Grounds** – No report

**Caring** – Pizza scrips for college kids. More soup being made Nov 14.

**Search Committee** – Conversations have been happening. Encourage folks to attend that weekend. Thanks to the committee. Michelle should present moving cost quotes.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Name Change** – Will work on costs associated with name change. Big deal. Opportunity to promote changes. Exciting times.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- **Budget** – Sandy is working on budget.

Motion to adjourn Brown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Beck at 7:40pm Adjournment with Lord's Prayer

## Faith Formation – November Meeting

Save the dates:

December 3: First Sunday of Advent; Intergeneration Activity  
@ 9:00 AM

December 8: Family Fun Night – Christmas Party with White  
Elephant gift exchange. 5:30 PM, Potluck at 6:00 PM.

December 17: Christmas Program – Intergenerational!

We will have a Hat and Mitten Tree again this year during the holidays. Please add to the tree and help to warm the hands and heads of children in need of these items.

Coffee & Conversation is held at 9:00 in the Conference Room. Youth may start here and then move to the lower level to work with Marla Race. Adults continue in the Conference Room.

The Faith Formation Team is in charge of the Family Fun Nights. They take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday evening of the month. Watch for details each month.

Youth Leader: We are working with area churches about sharing a youth leader.

The bake sale in October raised about \$130 for the Heifer Project. Thanks to all who contributed or purchased baked goods.

YMCA: We are going to plan some future events to which we can invite the children and families who participate in the YMCA After School Program. We will possibly start with a pizza and movie evening after the holidays.



**Friday, December 8 at 5:30pm  
Potluck and White Elephant Gift Exchange**

# *Ladies' Yankee Swap Christmas Party*

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13  
6:30PM**

**Please sign up to attend  
in the Fireside Room  
or call the church office  
at 262-284-0588.**

**Please plan to bring  
an appetizer to pass and  
a white elephant gift —  
value of \$5 or less!**

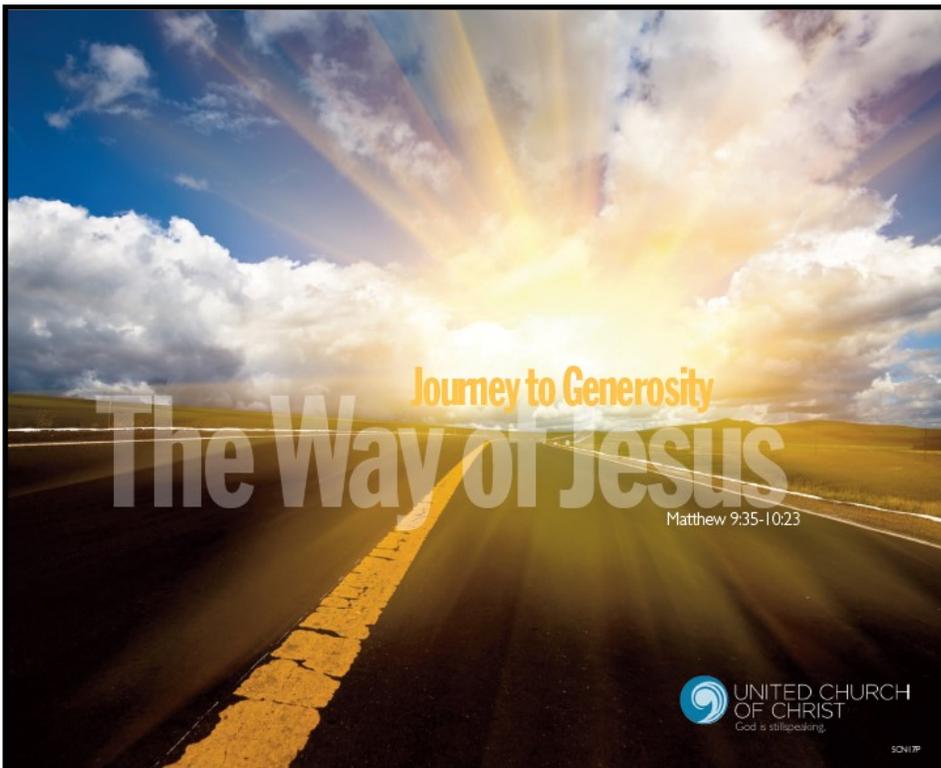
*Bring a friend,  
the more the merrier!*



## NEW DIGITAL STREET SIGN

The new digital sign... At the congregational meeting on July 9, the motion to move forward with the purchase of a digital color street sign was approved. This will help us to be much more visible to the community. We have so many good things happening in our church and the new sign will help us invite the community in. We will need an additional \$5,000 to add to the donations already in the Memorial Fund, to date we have collected \$3,425 towards that goal. Continue to check the colorful puzzle that is displayed outside the sanctuary that will help us track how close we are to our goal.

***Grab a piece to the puzzle  
and make a  
prayerful donation  
to this important addition!***



### Stewardship Committee

We invite you all to help us reach our goal of increasing participation in the community as well as providing and expanding spiritual growth.

Help us meet these goals by attending Sunday services, becoming active in our church and ministries, and helping us meet our 2018 budget. Please turn in your pledge cards to the collection basket on Sunday or mail it to the church office.

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day you add an item to the box and on Christmas Eve you donate the contents to a foodbank



This year, make *someone else's* Christmas a little bit brighter.

Grab a box, and every day leading up to Christmas, add something useful to the box (canned food, cereal, or toiletry items, whatever you think would be welcome).

Then, on Christmas Eve bring the box to church and donate all the contents to the Saukville Food Pantry.

## FAMILY PROMISE

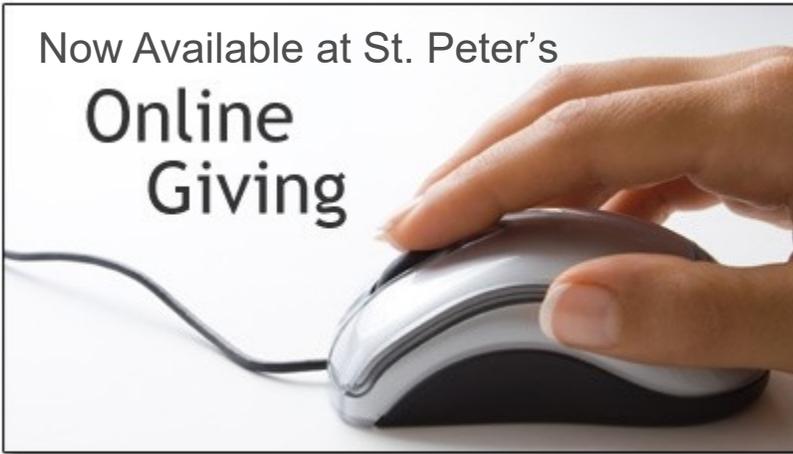


# Volunteers Needed!

As most of you are aware, it's St. Peter's turn to host Family Promise the week of December 3rd through 9th. We presently have 3 families in the program with children ages ranging from preschool thru middle school. The days we need meals, evening fellowship and overnight supervisors are Monday, December 4, Tuesday, December 5, and Friday, December 8 (we thankfully already have volunteers for Saturday's meal and overnight). In addition to this, we also will need help with setup (cots, partitions, bedding, etc.) on Sunday, December 3 right after church service, and take down on Sunday, December 10 after church service.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to help out with this Mission, we will be more than happy to train you and help you fill out the volunteer paperwork (takes about 1/2 hour total). If you can help or have any questions regarding what this involves, please don't hesitate to contact Joan Brecke at (262) 483-6795 or Sandy Dickmann (262) 707-5493 .

Now Available at St. Peter's  
**Online  
Giving**



Online Giving and Text Giving is now available at St. Peter's.

Did you forget to bring your checkbook to service? Is it more convenient for you to use your credit card? Were you not able to make it to service on Sunday? Now you can make your donation from home in your pj's. Just visit

our website and click "donate" from the top menu. You can choose what fund you would like your donation to go into. Payments are made through a deduction from your bank account or with a credit or debit card.

For text giving, just text the words "Parkside General \$50" (or any amount you wish to give) to the phone number 73256. They will reply with a link and you just follow the instructions.

With online giving and text giving, St. Peter's will incur standard processing fees, but if it is more convenient for you to give this way, we encourage you to do so.

**Scrip makes great Christmas gifts!**



**Scrip is  
fundraising  
while you  
shop!**

**shopwithscrip.com**

Now you can purchase scrip online!

Register online by going to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) and click "join a program". Enter this enrollment code: 644FL18L11748 for St. Peter's.

Why shop online?

- Save yourself the trouble of only purchasing what we have in inventory. Just place your order online and pick it up and pay at church.
- You don't have to write a check, you can have the purchase securely deducted from your bank account.
- You can purchase scrip online and receive it instantly via email and you can also get reloadable cards!



## FROM YOUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Search Committee, I would like to thank all of you who took the time to come and meet Michelle Freeman, as well as her wife Georgia, over the course of the Candidating Weekend. We were confident going into the weekend that we had found the next pastor to help us revitalize our faith community, and we were pleased with the affirmative vote that the members agree. We are excited for Pastor Michelle to join us in January as she makes the big move from Houston to Saukville. We are eager to see what God is calling us to do as we begin 2018 and move toward our 150th anniversary.

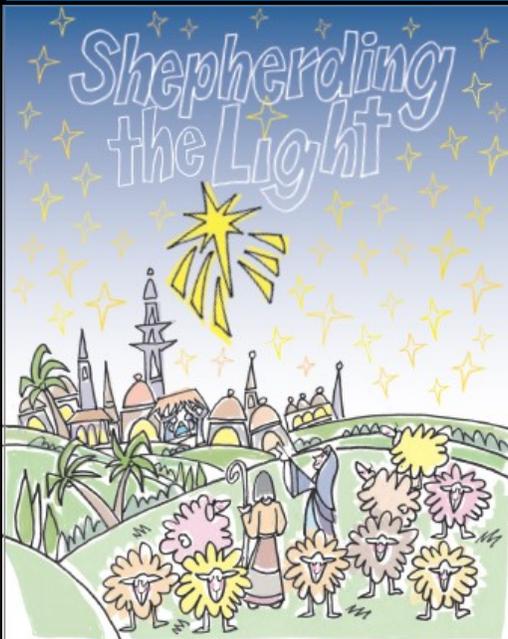
We also want to thank Pastor Craig for his leadership and friendship the past two years. He has done a tremendous job serving our congregation and its members. We wish you, Sandy Eli, Sara and Aaron nothing but the best!

*Candlelight Christmas Eve Service*

*6:00pm*



# DECEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH:



## THE PENSION BOARD'S CHRISTMAS FUND

"A call is about recognizing your gifts with other people and for other people on behalf of the Gospel. I could listen to people, for their emotions, for what they were really saying...ironic for hearing-impaired person."

That's how the Rev. Jeanne Tyler describes here call to ministry in the 1960s while living in Germany with her husband, John. The Tylers attended Chicago Theological Seminary together, were ordained together, and spent the next 33 years jointly serving congregations in Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Iowa.

But Jeanne's service the UCC found another essential expression. Born with cerebral palsy and diagnosed with moderate to severe hearing loss in the 3rd grade, Jeanne became a fierce advocate for the church's awareness of, and response to, those with disabilities, especially those in authorized ministry. "There is a hidden cost of disability of which many are unaware," she explains. "The financial cost—speech therapy, hearing aids, motorized wheelchairs, specialized computers — all expensive. Without these, isolation and depression can set in."

Jeanne served with the UCC's Disabilities Ministries for two six-year terms, as well as with Local Church Ministries and Wider Church Ministries, and served a term on the UCC Board of Directors. She was instrumental in the conception and funding of the Virginia Kreyer Endowed Scholarship Fund, which provides tuition and assistive technology for authorized ministers with disabilities. "I'm grateful for the UCC being with me on my journey, and it's essential that the church continue its commitment to clergy who have disabilities."

Hearing aids have been a godsend to Jeanne, from the first ones she used while still in college. "They worked well for the time—I could hear the fire crackle for the first time and it was just thrilling." When Jeanne and John retired in 2011, they were mostly prepared financially, but the high cost newer technology hearing aids was problematic. Last year, a grant from the Christmas Fund filled in the gap left by her insurance allowance, allowing Jeanne to have hearing aids that make all the difference. As she is a member of five different reading groups, the hearing aids have enabled Jeanne to participate more fully in those conversation that mean so much. She also praises the efforts at accessibility put forth by her home congregation, First Congregational UCC of Madison, WI, as a model for others.

"As a pastor, I always asked people to support the Christmas Fund, to support those whose life work has been serving and empowering others, but I never thought I would be on the receiving end. I am humbled and grateful for this acknowledgment by my church that hearing aids are life-giving."



St. Peter's UCC  
166 W. Dekora St.  
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Saukville, WI 53080-0304

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Return Service Requested

**Please submit newsletter items to the church at  
[saukvilleucc@att.net](mailto:saukvilleucc@att.net) by December 19th  
for the January 2017 Newsletter.**

## Contact Us

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