



PARKSIDE COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Blessed Past ➡ Bold Future

January 2020

Merry Christmas! May the birth of the Christ Child bring joy, hope and peace to all. I pulled this story from the internet on a site called "Christmas Home Page." Give it a read and some thought, there's a message in there for all of us that live in a world filled with disdain for those that are not like us or don't live up to our own standards. The reality is what and who each of us are lies far below the surface. This story could be about someone from our own community here in Saukville, it could be the immigrant looking for hope in a new land for their family. In the few short years that Jesus walked this earth, those were the people that he kept company with; how will we greet those we still don't know this Christmas and the year ahead? The author of this story is unknown according to the web site.

Parkside Community UCC
166 W. Dekora Street
Saukville, WI 53080
Email: saukvilleucc@att.net
Phone: 262-284-0588
Web: parksideucc.com

We were the only family with children in the restaurant. I sat Erik in a high chair and noticed everyone was quietly eating and talking. Suddenly, Erik squealed with glee and said, "Hi there." He pounded his fat baby hands on the high chair tray. His eyes were crinkled in laughter and his mouth was bared in a toothless grin, as he wriggled and giggled with merriment.

I looked around and saw the source of his merriment. It was a man whose pants were baggy with a zipper at half-mast and his toes poked out of would-be shoes. His shirt was dirty and his hair was uncombed and unwashed. His whiskers were too short to be called a beard and his nose was so varicose it looked like a road map. We were too far from him to smell, but I was sure he smelled. His hands waved and flapped on loose wrists.

"Hi there, baby; Hi there, big boy. I see ya, buster," the man said to Erik. My husband and I exchanged looks, "What do we do?" Erik continued to laugh and answer, "Hi, hi there." Everyone in the restaurant noticed and looked at us and then at the man. The old geezer was creating a nuisance with my beautiful baby. Our meal came and the man began shouting from across the room, "Do ya patty cake? Do you know peek-a-boo? Hey, look, he knows peek-a-boo." Nobody thought the old man was cute. He was obviously drunk.

My husband and I were embarrassed. We ate in silence; all except for Erik, who was running through his repertoire for the admiring skidrow bum, who in turn, reciprocated with his cute comments. We finally got through the meal and headed for the door. My husband went to pay the check and told me to meet him in the parking lot. The old man sat poised between me and the door. "Lord, just let me out of here before he speaks to me or Erik," I prayed.

(continued on next page)



(continued from page 1)

As I drew closer to the man, I turned my back trying to sidestep him and avoid any air he might be breathing. As I did, Erik leaned over my arm, reaching with both arms in a baby's "pick-me-up" position. Before I could stop him, Erik had propelled himself from my arms to the man's. Suddenly a very old smelly man and a very young baby consummated their love relationship.

Erik in an act of total trust, love, and submission laid his tiny head upon the man's ragged shoulder. The man's eyes closed, and I saw tears hover beneath his lashes. His aged hands full of grime, pain, and hard labor, cradled my baby's bottom and stroked his back.

No two beings have ever loved so deeply for so short a time. I stood awestruck.

The old man rocked and cradled Erik in his arms and his eyes opened and set squarely on mine. He said in a firm commanding voice, "You take care of this baby." Somehow I managed, "I will," from a throat that contained a stone.

He pried Erik from his chest unwillingly, longingly, as though he were in pain. I received my baby, and the man said, "God bless you, ma'am, you've given me my Christmas gift." I said nothing more than a muttered thanks.

With Erik in my arms, I ran for the car. My husband was wondering why was crying and holding Erik so tightly, and why I was saying, "My God, my God, forgive me." I had just witnessed Christ's love shown through the innocence of a tiny child who saw no sin, who made no judgment; a child who saw a soul, and a mother who saw a suit of clothes.

I was a Christian who was blind, holding a child who was not. I felt it was God asking, "Are you willing to share your son for a moment?" when He shared His for all eternity. The ragged old man, unwittingly, had reminded me, "To enter the Kingdom of God, we must become as little children."

A Blessed New Year to all!
Mark Gierach



CARING MINISTRIES



PRAYER

changes things

Prayer Families for the Month:

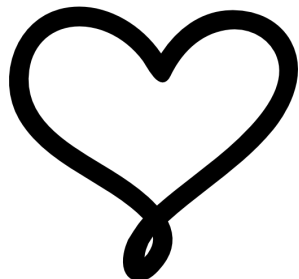
January 5
Ron and Ingrid Newlin

January 12
Donna Koehler

January 19
Herb Muecke

January 26
Ann Murawsky

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, January 5
at the 10:00am 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 request
Please notify
Jean Hamilton
262-284-3734
hamiltonjm@yahoo.com
or
Gail Weigel
dweigel@wi.rr.com

CARING MINISTRIES

Please remember to welcome our visitors, invite them to coffee fellowship, and talk with them.

A thank you note was sent to our Stewardship Team for their entertaining skits.

Thanksgiving cards were sent to homebound members.

Please see Gail if you would like to be a part of the Prayer Team. Our members receive an updated list each month and are asked to pray in their own way for a specific portion of the list.

Upcoming Hospital Stay?

Please let the church office know if you or someone in your family plans to enter the hospital. Due to the HIPAA law, information isn't available when someone is admitted.



Parkside's Soup Ministry



There are times in each of our lives when a light meal is appreciated. Caring Ministries has quarts of homemade soup available. Please see any number of Caring Ministries Team if you know a member who would appreciate a quart.

It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.

— Mother Theresa



Present: Mark Gierach, Kathy Tauben, Sue Sarver, Joan Brecke, Kaitlyn Becke, Henry Rogge

Motion made by Joan Brecke, second by Kaitlyn Beck to approve November minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer report- Motion made by Henry Rogge, second by Kaitlyn Beck to approve November financials. Motion passed.

Pastor Report – Pastor Excused

Committees:

Faith Formation & Youth- Hat and Mitten Tree –Jan. 5th Chloe with the Lighthouse Youth will be introducing herself.

Stewardship- No meeting held

Worship- Dec 29th service by Rev. Jane Anderson from SE Association will mark the closing of Pastor Michelle time with Parkside.

Building & Grounds- Electrician to replace two ceiling fans and the outdoor motion detector above kitchen door. Also looking into change of two thermostats. Checking into Solar NOW program study.

Caring-Please see newsletter

Missions-No meeting held.

Old Business:

Church Steeple –Tabled discussion until after the new year.

New Business:

Discussion and changes to the Church Profile

Motion made by Henry Rogge , second by Joan Brecke to adjourn. Motion passed

Thank you to our Council Members for donating their time!

WISCONSIN DELLS

MARCH 27-29

QUAKE
YOUTH ENCOUNTERING THE GOSPEL

JOIN US!



LIGHTHOUSE
YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Retreat at the Wilderness Resort!

Cost: \$250 per youth

Includes: Registration, transportation, 5 meals, shared room, t-shirt, and waterpark pass wristband! **Scholarships available**

-----Last day to register: JANUARY 15th!-----

Leaving Friday @ 4pm // Returning Sunday @ 5pm

**Parents welcome to chaperone! Carpooling encouraged!*



LIGHTHOUSE

YOUTH MINISTRY

JANUARY

Youth Group/ Sundays Jan 12 & 26

NEW: Middle School 4-5:30/ High School 5-6:30

@ Lighthouse HQ (513 W Grand Ave. Port Washington)

Light Dinner Included , No RSVP Needed

Music Group Wednesdays 6-7pm

January 8, 15, 22, & 29

@ Lighthouse HQ (513 Grand Ave. Port Washington)

5th-12th graders invited, no RSVP needed

Youth Quake/ Wisconsin Dells: March 27-29

\$250/ person; Scholarships available. Details: quakeevent.com/

Bowling Sun Jan 19, Noon –2pm

@ Harbor Hills Bowling Alley (101 N Freeman Dr Port Washington)

5th-12th graders invited** Families and friends invited, too

Visit <https://lighthouseyouth.org/> for more information



Bowling Sunday January 19, 12-2pm

Harbor Hills Bowling Alley (101 N Freeman Dr Port Washington, WI)

Middle and High School youth & friends are invited to join us—please RSVP by Sun Jan 12

Cost: \$5 for bowling & shoes; pizza and snacks extra



Super Bowl Party Sun Feb 2, 5-8pm!



@ Lighthouse HQ (513 W Grand Ave Port Washington)

Bring a snack to share, and join us at Lighthouse HQ to enjoy the game (or the commercials!)

* If you're not a Football person, bring a board game to share!

Youth Quake RSVP due JAN 12

Lighthouse is attending **QUAKE 2020** in **Wisconsin Dells** March 27-29. This is a retreat designed for Christian youth!

Registration is \$250 per person, all inclusive; Scholarships available. Contact chloe@lighthouseyouth.org for more info.



Faith formation

Faith Formation – December 12, 2019 Meeting
Present: Marla Race, Gail Weigel

Opening Prayer: Marla

- Coffee & Conversation: Delightful!
- Children: Children are invited to the lower level following Children's Time during the service.
- All Church Christmas Program: December 22 during service. Heather will develop a program.
- Graduating in spring 2020: Nathan Golownia (college), Henry Rogge (High School), Olivia Metz (High School)

Lighthouse Youth:

Pastor Kelly Anderson will be the Group Program Director, and Chloe Paul works part-time work. Plans are developed through May. There is a Facebook page and a website. A Youth meeting is held two Sundays a month Giving Tuesday fund-raising event was held on December 3 with a spaghetti meal and silent auction. Each church donated six baskets for the silent auction. A January 17th Lock-In is being planned with the high school students at Living Hope and the middle school students at Parkside. Music Group meets on Wednesdays. There will be a Super Bowl party on February 2. Lighthouse adults would like to start an Adult Ministry Group. Gail will attend the January meeting.

Adults: Bible Study Wednesday evenings at 6 pm through December.

Friday Fun Night: 2nd Fridays – gathering at 5:30, potluck at 6:00 – games to follow

January 10 – Game Night

February 14 – Valentine Fun

March 13 – St. Patty Party

April 10 – April Foolin' Around

Libraries: Gail will be gone January 14 – the end of March. Kaitlyn will check on Sundays. Hannah will check on the library several times a week. Gail will talk to the Y people about being extra careful to keep the library organized this winter.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 9, 6:30 pm.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.



No matter, how big or small of an amount you want to give, online giving and text giving is now available at Parkside Community UCC.

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, or click [here](#) to be taken directly to the website. You can choose what fund your donation goes toward & the amount. Payments are made through a deduction from your bank account or with a credit or debit card. If you wish, you can setup automatic monthly deductions from your bank account by calling the church office at 262-284-0588.

For text giving, just text the word "Parkside" to the phone number 73256. You'll receive a reply with a link, then follow the simple instructions.

With online giving and text giving, Parkside Community UCC will incur standard processing fees, but if it's more convenient for you to give this way, please do so!

A New Year's Prayer

*Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again
Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.*



HAPPY NEW YEAR

an excerpt from xavier.edu, author unknown



'TIS THE SEASON TO BE GIVING

HELP FAMILIES EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY BY
MAKING A DONATION TO
FAMILY PROMISE OF OZAUKEE COUNTY.

We could really use:

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper

Deodorant

Body Wash

Shampoo and Conditioner

Laundry Detergent (Pods are great)

Oh and Cash is always nice, too!

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!





PARKSIDE COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
166 W. Dekora St.
PO Box 80304
Saukville, WI 53080-0304

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Please submit newsletter items to the church at
saukvilleucc@att.net by January 27.
for the February 2020 Newsletter.

Contact Us

Parkside Community
United Church of Christ
PO Box 80304
166 W. Dekora Street
Saukville, WI 53080

Phone:
262-284-0588

Email:
saukvilleucc@att.net

Web:
parksideucc.com



PARKSIDE COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST