



St. John's on Madeline Island

St. John's United Church of Christ

Lighthouse Newsletter

February 2020

Woods Hall Welcomes Valentyna Waterhouse

Woods Hall Gallery and Studios announces that it recently hired Tyna Waterhouse as its new Retail Manager. In her new role, Tyna will support Woods Hall in its mission of nurturing creativity and community on Madeline Island by managing retail and gallery operations. Her responsibilities include working closely with the Studio Managers, artists and volunteers to create



and maintain an attractive and well-managed gallery, support classes, workshops and one-to-one mentoring opportunities. Tyna can be reached at woodshallgallery@gmail.com

My name is Valentyna G. Waterhouse. But my family and friends call me Tyna. I was born in Dresden, Germany and raised in Ukraine. A self-proclaimed person of the world, I've been a Madeline islander since 2003.

I graduated from School of Arts in Luhansk, Ukraine. In my early professional career, I worked as a stage artist in a local Puppet Theater. Even though new job opportunities took me on a different career path, I've always wanted to nurture the artist within me.



My preferred creative outlet is making pieces influenced by traditional European rosemaling and embroidery. I love to experiment with new and old techniques. That was something I first discovered during my two-year tailor and textile designer apprenticeship. During that time, I opened my own atelier and worked on commission for 3 years. When I moved to the USA, I had a chance to take a break from my job and explore the country. I've traveled through most of continental U.S., parts of Canada and I enjoy going back to Europe every year.

One day, while I was at the airport, I saw a group of people sketching. I was inspired by the urban sketchers. I immediately purchased a Moleskin sketchbook and a pencil at the nearest airport kiosk. Upon my return home, I was determined to push myself out of my comfort zone and I signed up for the watercolor classes at Madeline Island School of the Arts. I am still working on loosening my brush strokes and washes to break away from my familiar decorative style. I am enjoying Plein Air and learning new techniques.

St. John's is Coming to You.... For a Party

We're having a party! And EVERYONE is invited! Missing friends from Madeline Island? We're celebrating winter with a casual gathering in the Twin Cities.

Friday, February 21, 2020

5:00 – 8:00 pm

Pool and Yacht Club

1600 Lilydale Road

St. Paul, MN 55118



Rachel is coming to the Twin Cities for an evening of fun to catch up with folks. Everyone is invited from near and far. No need to live in the Twin Cities to join the party. No need to have ever attended St. John's. Anyone who calls Madeline Island your spiritual home is welcome!

Heavy appetizers will be served. Cash bar. Donations welcome to help cover the cost of food. Free and convenient parking.

RSVP by February 15 to <http://evite.me/Xhv7GSBRKG> or call Lee Baker (651-470-1317).

Rachel's Schedule

Rachel will be on vacation in California from Wednesday, February 11 to Thursday, February 20. Regina Laroche will be on call during this time for pastoral emergencies (715-292-3157 or 715-747-6611).



Penny Gill will be our guest preacher on Sunday, February 16.

Follow St. John's



Website: www.stjohnsmadelineisland.org



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WOODS HALL

Gallery & Studios

Winter Gallery Hours

Saturdays 11 am - 4 pm

Sunday 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Rachel's Column

Dear friends,

What Are You Reading?

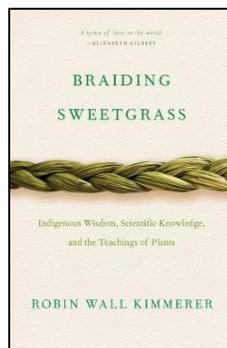


"What are you reading these days?" is a question I am prone to ask at the slightest provocation. I am eager to hear what books call to my friends, both to diversify my "to read" pile but also to gain new insight into people I know. Although I don't totally agree with the adage, "we are what we read" I do enjoy the delightful surprise of learning, for example, that my

erudite and worldly cousin (who usually reads literary or cultural criticism) is currently on a true crime jag. Or that my environmental activist friend chooses People Magazine when on vacation. Or the dire urgency I feel to convince anyone over the age of 13 who has not read Harry Potter how their life will be transformed by the magical world of Hogwarts.

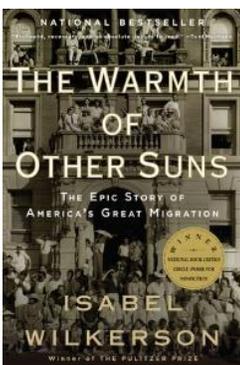
I'm about to leave for vacation and so I'm eagerly looking for suggestions of books to take with me. I already have a stack (of course) but I'd love to add some of your favorites. In exchange, I'll share some of mine.

My top read over the past several years was **Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants** by Robin Wall Kimmerer. A botanist and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Kimmerer's writing is a blend of spiritual reflection, scientific insight, and environmentalism which radically changed my understanding of the gifts, capacities, and wisdom of other-than-human creatures with which we share this world.

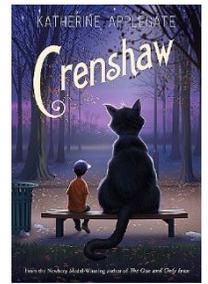


I also loved **The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration** by Isabel Wilkerson. The

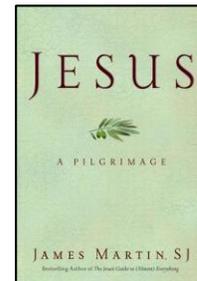
622 pages flow like a novel as Wilkerson tells of this turning point in US history - when six million black citizens fled the South in search of a better life through the lens of three unique people, representing different decades, origins and destinations.



I read a lot of "kids' books" and my latest favorite is **Crenshaw** by Katherine Applegate which addresses the challenges of housing insecurity from the perspective of a boy named Jackson and his imaginary (giant cat) friend, Crenshaw.

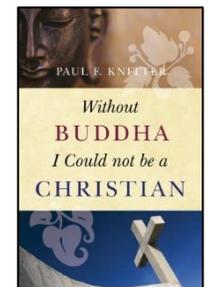


Right now I'm reading two books I highly recommend. **Jesus: A Pilgrimage** by Jesuit priest Father James Martin traces Martin's first trip to the Holy



Land and is part spiritual memoir, part travelogue, part historical documentation. Martin is warm and witty and I think anyone who has even a passing interest in the Gospel stories or curiosity about the historical Jesus would enjoy this read. The second is **Without**

Buddha I Could not be a Christian by Paul F. Knitter which I recommend to anyone who is drawn to the Jesus story or Christian spirituality but struggles with traditional Christian doctrine.

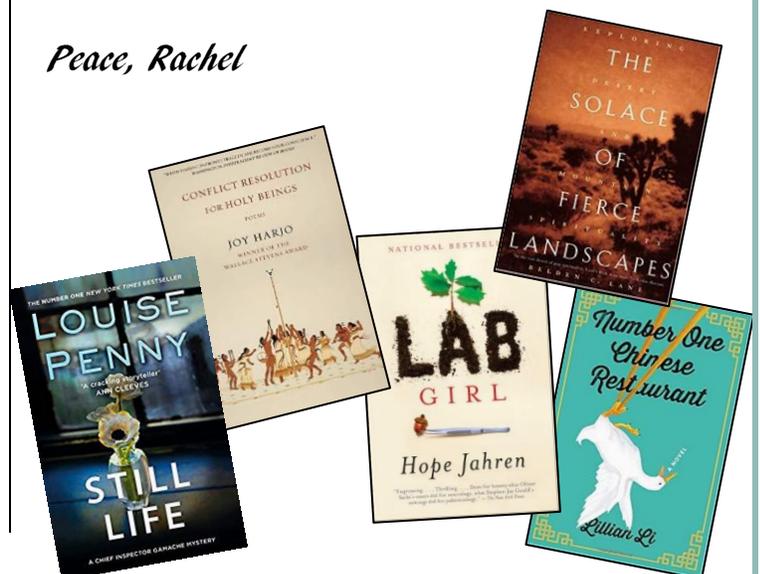


Others in my recent top ten include:

- **Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings: Poems** by Joy Harjo
- All fourteen Louise Penny mysteries
- **The Solace of Fierce Landscapes** by Belden C. Lane
- **Lab Girl** by Hope Jahren
- **Number One Chinese Restaurant** by Lillian Lee

I could go on and on! What about you? What are you reading these days? I'd love to know!

Peace, Rachel



The Heart of Wisdom: Exploring the Contemplative Path - The Season of Lent

By Pastor Rachel

You are invited to participate – four different ways – in activities for spiritual growth at/through/with St. John's in Lent (February 26 – April 12)

Embedded within the teaching of each of the world's religious and spiritual traditions is an invitation into contemplation: learning to let go of the chatter of our mind and drop into a deep, spacious and holy silence. Within that silence, one meets the Divine Mystery and the true nature of one's own soul. Sometimes called mysticism or the wisdom tradition, contemplative spirituality emphasizes practices, such as prayer, silence, and surrender that strengthen our ability to ground and center one's whole life and being in God.

This Lent we will walk together on the contemplative path. We'll draw insights from Jesus' experience in the wilderness as well as the monastic practice and writings of the "desert mothers and fathers" – Christian leaders of the 4th century who, in response to what they saw as society's corrosive influence on one's soul, withdrew to the desert to reclaim and renew a lived experience of God's love.

Because, at its heart, the contemplative path is about transformation, it naturally includes both gifts and challenges and thus one should not embark on such a journey without support. Thus, I hope you will take advantage of one or two (or all!) of these Lent offerings:

Sunday Morning Worship 10 am in St. John's Sanctuary

Although solitude (i.e., being alone with self and God) is an important component of contemplative spirituality, isolation (i.e., being cut off from self, others and God) is not. Being together on the journey is crucial for both



support and accountability. Join us on Sundays (in person or via the livestream/webcast) as we explore wisdom of desert spirituality found within the Hebrew and Christian scriptures as well as writings of the Desert Mothers and Fathers. Come and let the music, spoken word, ritual, and sacrament provide food for your journey.

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5

***Ash Wednesday service, Wednesday, Feb 26, 7 pm**

Thursday Morning Practice in Centering Prayer St. John's Sanctuary

Centering prayer is the simple yet transformative practice at the heart of the Contemplative tradition. Similar to meditation, Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer in which we consent to God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. All are invited to join Rachel in the St. John's Sanctuary Thursday mornings to learn the basics and practice together. No experience necessary.



**8:00 - 8:30 am on Thursdays
February 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2**

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Friday Morning Bible Study St. John's Fellowship Hall

Join us on Fridays for a deep dive into the texts we'll be using for Sunday morning worship. We will explore Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, Abraham's call, the Hebrew people's 40 years of wandering (and lamenting) through the desert, and Ezekiel's Valley of the Dry Bones.



**10:30 - Noon on Fridays
February 28, March 13, 20, 27; April 3**

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The Heart of Wisdom Lent Retreat: An Invitation into Silence

This four-hour retreat will provide an opportunity for deeper reflection and practice in the contemplative journey, i.e. our inner life and relationship with the Holy. The retreat will include periods of silence, readings from sacred texts/poetry, and opportunities for simple artistic expression and gentle movement. Space is limited. RSVP to Rachel (pastor@stjohnsmadelineisland.org) by Wednesday, February 26 (Ash Wednesday).

1 -5 pm on Friday, March 6 at the home of Penny Gill

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Please join us in these activities for spiritual growth at/through/with St. John's in Lent!

NOTE: All these events are listed in the calendar on our website - <https://stjohnsmadelineisland.org/>

HOLY WEEK at ST. JOHN'S

Our Lenten journey culminates April 5 – April 12 as we honor and celebrate Holy Week and Easter. Please save these times and dates:

Palm Sunday, April 5, 10 am

Procession with Palm Branches and telling of the Palm Sunday story



Maundy Thursday, April 9, 6-8 pm

Soup Supper potluck followed by the story of the Last Supper and foot-washing ritual (bring soup, bread or dessert to share)

Good Friday, April 10, 4 pm

Taize Style Worship and Stripping of the Altar

Easter Vigil, April 11, 7 pm

A Service of Light, Water, Word, and Communion

Easter, April 12

Sunrise Service on Russell Bay (Time TBA)

Pot Luck Breakfast at St. John's (Time TBA)

Festival Service with Communion, 10 AM



NOTE: All these events are listed in the calendar on our website - <https://stjohnsmadelineisland.org/>

Stories of Our Hearts

A circle of conversation, Stories of Our Hearts, gathers on Thursdays, 5:00 – 6:00 pm, upstairs in the library. Join facilitator Penny Gill on Thursday afternoons to share stories and conversation about life journeys.



Stories of Our Hearts provides the time and space to reflect on what gives meaning to our lives and how we come to recognize the shape and direction of our lives.

Come! We welcome anyone who wants to learn more about what we are discussing and exploring.

Invitation to Play, Dance, Draw and Explore

By Regina Laroche

This is a life-giving opportunity to support our young families and get touched by the play, curiosity, energy, learning, joy, and tears of Island pre-schoolers. Most Mondays and Wednesdays Island pre-school mom's hold *Mooningwanekaaning Child Care Co-op* for their little ones - often at St. John's Church. We are inviting volunteers to join us and bless us with your presence. You're also invited to gift us with age-appropriate activities you love - music, art, nature...



The co-op is also flexible with volunteers' schedules. Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered. There's room for a few more volunteers! To volunteer or get more info, please contact Regina by email or phone: reginalaroche@hotmail.com or 715.747.6611

Soup Supper

Join us on Wednesday evenings for yummy winter soups and breads and lively discussion on topics that inspire and stimulate us all. Soup Supper and Fellowship is 6 – 7 pm. Discussion is 7 – 8 pm



Balance Exercise Classes

Louise McCray leads Balance Class every Tuesday and Thursday, 10 – 11 am in the Fellowship Hall. She guides exercises to improve your balance, maintain your strength and coordination, and give you confidence to stay active. All are welcome to drop-in!



BAZAAR – Treasures Abound

It's never too early to put this exciting event on your calendar!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 & 7, 2020

And, if you're sorting through closets this winter, make a "pile of treasures" for the annual Bazaar. Your donations are someone else's treasures!

Full Moon Circle for Women

Our Full Moon Circle for Women is on February 9th when it's the Full Snow Moon. Traditionally, the Moon we see in February is called the Snow Moon due to the typically



heavy snowfall of February. On average, February is the nation's snowiest month, according to data from the National Weather Service.

Other February Full Moon names include the "Shoulder to Shoulder Around the Fire Moon" (from the Wishram people of the Pacific Northwest), the "No Snow in the Trails Moon" (Zuni, of the Southwest), and the "Bone Moon" (Cherokee, of the Southeast). The Bone Moon meant that there was so little food that people gnawed on bones and ate bone marrow soup.

The Full Moon Circle for Women is a time when we light candles for all the prayers of women who gather in person and in spirit. The glow of candlelight brings healing and peace. Julie Stryker leads the monthly Full Moon Circle for Women. Contact Julie at strykerjf@yahoo.com for more information.

Winter Theater on Madeline Island: A Staged Reading of *The Last Voyageur*

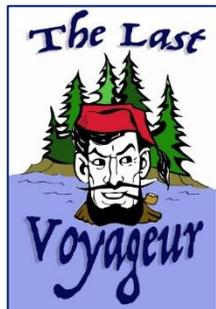
Friday & Saturday, February 28-29, 2020

7 PM

St. John's Church

706 Main Street, La Pointe

Join us for some rollicking winter laughs sure to defrost your funny bone! *The Last Voyageur* is an original musical comedy melodrama by Philip Valle about a small, frozen island in Lake Superior in February. Featuring Greek Gods and Goddesses, passion, real estate, bird



watching and quite possibly the last living Voyageur!

Original music by Barbara With and a cast of island characters sure to melt away your mid-winter blues. Starring Barbara With, Martin Curry, Ivan Curry, Julie Stryker, Kevin Hardie, Andrew Eldred, Sarah Tourdot, Ludlow North and more! Join us for

this hilarious, family-rated fun. For more information call 715.209.5471 or visit lapointecenter.org.



Made possible by a grant from the La Pointe Center and Wisconsin Arts Board.



Save the Date: Celebrate Earth Day with St. John's on Sunday, April 19

by Joe Scarry



April 22nd, 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, which was founded right here in Wisconsin by former governor, U.S. Senator, and advocate for protected wilderness status for the Apostle Islands, Gaylord Nelson. At St. John's, we will be observing Earth Day on April 19, the first Sunday after Easter. We will use this day to celebrate Creation and earthly stewardship.



In 2020, throughout Wisconsin and nationally, the United Church of Christ is emphasizing Creation Care. The theme for the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC (June 5-7 at Green Lake Conference Center) will be "Healing our Earthly Home." (Please speak with Pastor Rachel if you would like to join the St. John's group that will be participating!) And throughout the UCC, people will be encouraged to participate in groups this spring reading *Cathedral on Fire!: A Church Handbook for the Climate Crisis* by Brooks Berndt, UCC Minister for Environmental Justice (available through uccresources.com). Brooks writes with poetic passion but also with an eye toward the practical as every chapter ends with suggested, field-tested actions. Chapter topics include a:



- commitment to care for God's creation as our first calling
- scriptural basis in pursuing justice for a planet and its people
- moral foundation for understanding the climate crisis as an inequality crisis
- powerful, sacred language for articulating what fundamentally motivates people to act
- hope-giving history with the faith leaders who launched the environmental justice movement
- rich tradition of theology in times of crisis
- countercultural ethic of generational justice found in the Bible
- recognition of youth as the climate prophets of today

So please save the date for our April 19 Earth Day observance and get in touch with Pastor Rachel if you would like to be part of the group going to the Wisconsin Conference gathering in June!

Martin Luther King Holiday Events **Encapsulate Community Life**

by Regina Laroche

Last month's Martin Luther King Day activities and events captured the essence and goals of the St. John's Community Life and Spirit pilot project.

MLK Events

As St. John's Community Life and Spirit liaison, I had the privilege of coordinating *Journey to Justice, Journey to Healing*: a collection of efforts to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and many who dedicated their lives to justice and healing in our world. Our endeavors emphasized justice and healing within our neighboring Anishinaabe communities and the collaboration with teachers, area clergy, artists, students, and Red Cliff and Bad River tribal elders was inspiring.

Highlights were the two January 16 Bayfield School assemblies which brought teachings, stories, and music from Anishinaabe, African Heritage, and West African traditions. Featured



artists were Cultural Educator and Elder Rob Goslin, Djembe Drummer Michael McKenna, and Storyteller/Dancer Regina (me!). Additionally, Middle School and High School students worked with traditional artists, teachers, and advisors to prepare and present creative lessons on civil rights and acceptance for the grade school students which they offered January 17th as part of the Freedom Fair. The Fair also featured a drum song from the school-based Wigwam Express traditional drum group, and a lovely rendering of "Dona Nobis Pacem" (Grant Us Peace) by the Middle School Choir.



What a gift to focus on powerful models: Dr. King, Anishinaabe, and other indigenous healers and leaders, our youth, and so many more! There were important reminders...

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." (Dr. King's letter from a Birmingham jail)

"I see a time of Seven Generations when all the colors of mankind will gather under the Sacred Tree of Life and the whole Earth will become one circle again." (Crazy Horse, Lakota, Oglala Sioux)

Sadly the January 18th Community Event, a multi-part collaboration involving Red Cliff service and health agencies, area clergy, and community justice organizations, was canceled due to heavy northland snows. However, the coordinating team is already at work planning next year's celebration, building on the connections made through this year's planning efforts. Additionally, St. John's looks forward to welcoming



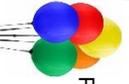
special Red Cliff guests Frank "Anakwad" Montano and Midge Montano to share their artistry and healing teachings during a Sunday service when there is not a snowstorm!

Community Life & Spirit

My work in supporting and leading the collaboration that made *Journey to Justice, Journey to Healing* possible was supported through the St. John's Community Life and Spirit pilot project (with additional funds from Bayfield School, the NEA Social Justice Grant, and Bayfield Churches) and I was grateful for the opportunity to honor Dr. King and many justice heroes through the support of this program. The purpose of St. John's Community Life and Spirit project is to make tangible our vision of being church and spiritual center for the whole community with a particular emphasis on supporting children, youth and parents; building community independence and resilience; strengthening relationships with the surrounding tribal communities; and creating tangible opportunities for connections between the natural environment and spiritual development. This pilot program has been funded the past eight months through a UCC Catalyst grant, a Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation grant and funds from individual donors.

As the first grant-funded period draws to a close, I am excited to continue to flesh out ways of being a church for the wholeness of community. I will be in the Island School classroom to follow up on teacher Kaite Sweval's lessons on segregation and the dream for a just society. I will bring creative experiences on similar themes to the after-school program. I and other volunteers will bring love and support to the childcare co-op pre-schoolers and parents.

Last month Church Council expressed interest in continuing to explore how programs of this nature might help us in living into our vision. We are currently applying for new grants to support this work. I am also excited to invite others into this work of deepening our visioning of what Community Life and Spirit might be at and through St. John's. If you are interested in being part of this conversation, please be in touch with me (reginalaroche@hotmail.com) or Rachel (pastor@stjohnsmadelineisland.org). We invite your prayers as we await responses from grant applications.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 26 Worship, 10 am	27 Young Moms Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm	28 Balance Class, Fellowship Hall, 10 am Al Anon, Fellowship Hall, 3:00 – 4:00 pm	29 Young Moms Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm Soup Supper, Fellowship Hall, 6 – 8 pm	30 Balance Class, Fellowship Hall, 10 am Stories of Our Hearts, Library, 5-6 pm	31 Bible Study, 10:30 -Noon	FEBRUARY 1 AA Meeting, 5:30 pm
Groundhog Day 2  Worship and Communion, 10 am Blood Pressure Check, 11 am	3 Young Moms Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm	4 Balance Class, Fellowship Hall, 10 am Al Anon, Fellowship Hall, 3:00 – 4:00 pm	5 Woods Hall Board Meeting, 8:30 – 10 am Young Moms Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm Council Meeting, 4:30 – 6 pm Soup Supper, Fellowship Hall, 6 – 8 pm	6 Balance Class, Fellowship Hall, 10 am Stories of Our Hearts, Library, 5-6 pm	7 Bible Study, 10:30 -Noon	8 AA Meeting, 5:30 pm
9 Worship, 10 am Full Moon Circle for Women, 7 pm	10 Young Moms Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm	11 Balance Class, Fellowship Hall, 10 am Al Anon, Fellowship Hall, 3:00 – 4:00 pm	12 Young Moms Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm Soup Supper, Fellowship Hall, 6 – 8 pm	13 Balance Class, Fellowship Hall, 10 am Stories of Our Hearts, Library, 5-6 pm	14  VALENTINES DAY Bible Study, 10:30 -Noon	15 AA Meeting, 5:30 pm
16 Worship, Penny Gill guest preacher, 10 am	PRESIDENTS DAY 17  Young Moms Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm	18 Balance Class, Fellowship Hall, 10 am Al Anon, Fellowship Hall, 3:00 – 4:00 pm	19 Young Moms Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm Soup Supper, Fellowship Hall, 6 – 8 pm	20 Balance Class, Fellowship Hall, 10 am Stories of Our Hearts, Library, 5-6 pm	21 Bible Study, 10:30 -Noon  Twin Cities Party Pool & Yacht Club St. Paul, MN 5-8 pm	22 AA Meeting, 5:30 pm
23 Worship, 10 am	24 Young Moms Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm	25 Balance Class, Fellowship Hall, 10 am Al Anon, Fellowship Hall, 3:00 – 4:00 pm	26 ASH WEDNESDAY  Young Moms Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm Soup Supper, Fellowship Hall, 6 – 8 pm	27 Balance Class, Fellowship Hall, 10 am Stories of Our Hearts, Library, 5-6 pm	28 Bible Study, 10:30 -Noon	29  LEAP DAY AA Meeting, 5:30 pm



St. John's United Church of Christ

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St. John's on Madeline Island ~ Celebrating 100 years in 2021



Photo credit: Bill Green

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

St. John's is a Christ-centered church and a spiritual center that welcomes all.