



St. John's United Church of Christ

The Lighthouse

June, 2016

Ground-Breaking Ceremony at Woods Hall

You are invited to the official Ground-breaking Ceremony at Woods Hall on Sunday, June 26, 2016!

10:00 am A Celebration of the Arts Worship Service

A festival worship service at St. John's with music, showcasing the work of artisans throughout the Island.

11:00 am Ground-breaking Ceremony



Woods Hall Manager Barry Sterling, Council President Glenn Carlson, and Pastor Marina Lachecki will welcome participants, and introduce the architect, Miller-Dunwiddie and our contractor, Dahl

Construction. They will recognize the many foundations and individuals who helped make this renovation come true. Michael Collins, Woods Hall Board member, will share his response to the question, "Where To?"

11:30 am Reception

Hosted by the Woods Hall Board and St. John's Church Council

Noon - 2 pm Tour of Associated Galleries

There are many former Woods Hall artisans and Board members that now have their own galleries. Please visit them after the reception...and experience the fruit of our studios.

- Bell Street Gallery
- Deena's Pottery Studio and Gallery
- Fly Away Farms
- Island Carvers
- La Pointe Art Guild and Gallery
- Madeline Island Candles
- Turtle Track Studios



Woods Hall is open during June as follows:
 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday -- 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
 Friday and Saturday -- 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Sunday -- 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
 Monday – closed

June's Events and Happenings

2	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am, Parsonage
4	AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
5	Worship and Communion, 10:00 am
5	Blood Pressure Checks, 11:00 am
7	Walking Club, 9:00 am
7	Balance Exercise, 10:00 am, Fellowship Hall
8	Woods Hall Board Meeting, 8:30 am
9-12	Pastor Marina and Council Team at Annual Meeting of WI Conference UCC
9	Balance Exercise, 10:00 am, Fellowship Hall
9	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am, Parsonage
11	AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
12	Worship, 10:00 am
14	Walking Club, 9:00 am
14	Balance Exercise, 10:00 am, Fellowship Hall
15	St. John's Council Meeting, 4:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
16	Balance Exercise, 10:00 am, Fellowship Hall
16	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am, Parsonage
18	Memorial Service for Carol Irish, 2:00 pm, St. John's
18	AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
19	Worship Celebrating Summer Solstice, 10:00 am, Bell Street Tent in Downtown La Pointe
20	Full Moon Circle, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
21	Walking Club, 9:00 am
21	Balance Exercise, 10:00 am, Fellowship Hall
23	Balance Exercise, 10:00 am, Fellowship Hall
23	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am, Parsonage
25	AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
26	Celebration of the Arts Worship Service, 10:00 am Ground Breaking Ceremony, Woods Hall, 11:00 am Reception, 11:30 am
28	Walking Club, 9:00 am
28	Balance Exercise, 10:00 am, Fellowship Hall
29	Memorial Services for Neil and Barb Anderson, 3:30 pm, Greenwood Cemetery
30	Balance Exercise, 10:00 am, Fellowship Hall
30	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am, Parsonage

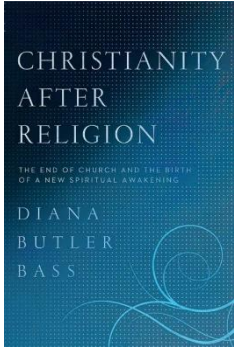
Save These Dates!

July 24	St. John's Annual Community Meeting
August 4	St. John's Community Bazaar
August 6	Labyrinth Concert and Reception
August 14	Northland College Sunday, Penny Gill preaching
August 18 – 19	Madeline Island Radio Hour LIVE!
August 28	Summer's End Church Picnic

The Pastoral Column

Dear Friends in Spirit,

I've been inspired by [*Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*](#), by Diana Butler Bass. In her book, Bass discusses the future of Christianity as a spiritual movement, presenting in-depth research about the current trends in Christianity.



St. John's Council embarked on this same conversation over a year ago, specifically examining the future of St. John's as a church and spiritual center for the entire Madeline Island community. Based on these discussions, Council drafted a Strategic Plan which our congregation adopted at last summer's Annual Meeting.

Since then, Council continues to explore the implications of what it means to be a spiritual center. The question of "membership" arose at a recent meeting. We agreed that we need to refresh our definition of membership to one that aligns with our Strategic Plan and reflects the paradigm shift from a traditional church environment to a spiritual environment. A relationship with St. John's UCC and Spiritual Center is not about membership; rather, about belonging. Below are a few quotes from Bass' book which I included in a recent sermon and which I presented for Council to consider.

"Church is no longer membership in an institution, but a journey toward the possibility of a relationship with people, a community, a tradition, a sacred space, and, of course, God."

"Belonging must be more than membership, a pledge card, the obligation to serve on a board, or occasional attendance at a religious service. This kind of belonging insists that the community must be a dynamic, ongoing love, a passionate romance between the divine and the mundane that seduces us into an intimate relationship with God, our neighbors, and our own deepest self."

"Christianity did not begin with a confession. It began with an invitation into friendship, into creating a new community, into forming relationships based on love and service."

Council members acknowledged that 'being a member' of St. John's is an out-of-date definition that is exclusionary and does not honor a full spectrum of faith and spiritual traditions. In response to wanting to do a deep dive into the topic of 'belonging' to St. John's, Council is gathering in early June for a special meeting to

examine the ways that St. John's makes itself accessible to everyone throughout the Madeline Island community and offers every opportunity to be in relationship with St. John's church and spiritual center. We want to examine our current Constitution as well as the other things we do to make sure our practices mirror our vision to be a Christ-centered church and spiritual center that welcomes all, wherever they are on life's journey, and seeks to:

- provide opportunities for spiritual growth;
- be a church and spiritual center for the entire community on Madeline Island;
- be a church and caring congregation for the whole community through maintaining and improving physical, mental and spiritual health; and
- be a resource in reconciling differences within our community.

Whenever you wish to deepen that walk of Spirit, you are invited to be in relationship with St. John's and belong to a fellowship of Companions on the Way. Just in case the Spirit is calling you ... give me a call 715-747-3903 or e-mail me lighthouse@cheqnet.net. Or just catch me walking by the Lakeshore with Lexi.

In peace, *Pastor Marina*

Madeline Island's Own Tent Revival!

Revive Your Spirits by Coming to Worship under the Tent! On June 19, St. John's UCC will be holding a worship service in downtown La Pointe under the race-weekend tent on Bell Street. We will be part of the Chamber of Commerce weekend event: "Eat, Skate, Stay and Play," which includes the Chef's Expo (Thursday), a community spaghetti feed (Friday), the Apostle Islands Inline Skate Marathon (Saturday) and Welcoming the Light and Summer Solstice (Sunday). Same time: 10 am, Different Venue: Under the Tent!

What's in store for our Worship that day? We'll be honoring Creation and the Gift of Summer and sharing special music. Performances will include St. John's Summer Choir singing "Oh, Happy Day," the Red Cliff *Native Expressions* Dance Troupe, and Gospel storytelling.



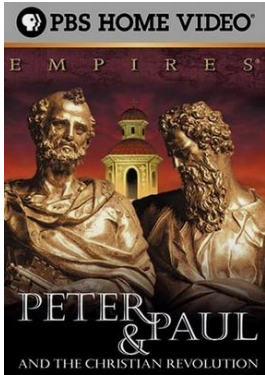
Contact St. John's UCC

Reverend Marina Lachecki
Parsonage
Church Office phone
Church Office email

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715-747-3903
715-747-3945
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INCLUSIVITY and COMPASSION: A Look at Christianity in the First Centuries

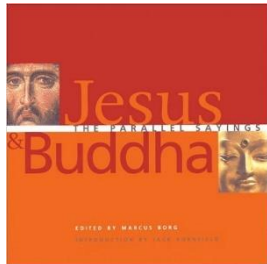
Thursday mornings finds a small group of Islanders gather at the parsonage to sip tea, drink coffee, share a few treats, and watch a DVD lecture followed by



discussion. The topic for June and July is the first centuries of Christianity, focusing on the intersect of Jesus' teachings of justice, compassion and inclusivity and the values of empire of judgment, power and exclusivity. We watch one half hour lecture each week and then discuss the content and share our own knowledge. We are using

two DVD series: A PBS documentary on "Peter, Paul, and the Christian Revolution", and "Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome and the Kingdom of God" which features theologians John Dominic Crossan and the late Marcus Borg.

Upcoming summer discussions: Penny Gill, retired professor from Mt. Holyoke in Massachusetts, and Pastor Marina Lachecki will lead a series of conversations about the companion teachings of Buddha and Christ. Texts will be: "Jesus and Buddha: The Parallel Sayings" edited by Marcus Borg; and "Living Buddha, Living Christ" by Thich Nhat Hanh.



Celebrations on Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday, May 15, brought a lot to celebrate at St. John's. Bella Boone was welcomed to the Communion



Table. She spent the last month in preparation with her mentor, Joan Watts. During worship, they assisted our Lay Minister, Howard

Dallin, as communion ushers. Bella was joined in her celebration by her family, as well as our two newest members at St. John's: Alan Hardie and Ronnie Harrold. The Spirit moved...and then moved us to the Rec Center



where a picnic was held in their honor complete with a gigantic cake, pasta salad, beans and weiners.

Pictures by Jim Noha

Holy Ground: Madeline Island to the Mystic Isles

Honoring the earth is an important aspect of living on Madeline Island. Within the tradition of Celtic Christianity, that value is upheld in prayer and liturgies.

In the summer of 2017, Pastor Marina Lachecki, Nile and Sarah Norton will lead a trip to help fellow travelers connect with this

tradition. The group (limited to 20) will explore the Holy Isles of Iona in western Scotland and Lindisfarne in northeastern



England. A 3-day optional hike along St. Cuthbert's Way is a part of the adventure. If you do not care to walk, arrangements have been made for a stay near Lindisfarne for a quieter retreat setting.

A brochure with the itinerary and costs can be obtained from Pastor Marina Lachecki. Give her a call...715-747-3903. **To date, seven people have signed up. Will you be the next to join the group? Deadline for participation is August 1, 2016.**

Balance Exercise Classes to Begin this Month

Becky Hogan and Marge Smith will co-lead Balance Exercise each Tuesday and Thursday throughout the summer months. The classes begin at 10 am in the Fellowship Hall at St. John's. Join us!

Summer Wellness Retreat

Breast cancer survivors are invited to **Infinite Boundaries Retreat**, July 28 – 31, 2016 at the Music Camp facility offering healing experiences for body, mind, and spirit and integrating nature into recovery activities.



Marina's Walking Club

Summer has arrived! Time to enjoy the days getting longer and the sun getting higher. Time to tend gardens and await the bounty of the earth. Time to breathe in the smells of summer. Time to engage in the spirit of summer. Join Pastor Marina on Tuesdays at 9:00 am in St. John's parking lot for aerobic walking and fellowship!

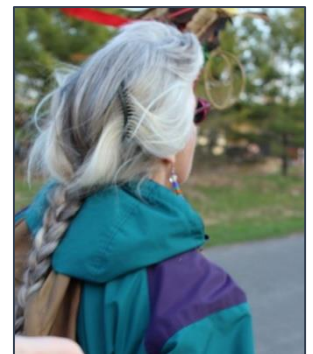


Photo by Barbara With

What Does it Take to be Mentally Healthy?

By Becky Hogan



Mental Wellness Support Your Well-Being

We all have strategies to stay healthy when it comes to our physical health. Unfortunately, many of us don't make a conscious effort to stay mentally healthy. To maintain your mental health, you need to work at it every day. You will find that even taking a few small steps can make a significant difference in your overall health.

- 1. Connect with others-** Develop and maintain strong relationships with people around you who will support and enrich your life.
- 2. Create Joy and Satisfaction-** Set aside time for activities, hobbies and projects you enjoy.
- 3. Get Involved-** Provides feelings of purpose and satisfaction and connections with others who share similar interests and/or values.
- 4. Help Others-** Volunteer your time for a cause or issue that you care about.
- 5. Take care of yourself-** Exercise and eat a healthy diet. It's easier to feel good about life if your body feels good.
- 6. Stay Positive-** Practice gratitude, be optimistic, avoid negative thinking, and change unhealthy self-talk.
- 7. Deal Better with Hard Times-** Identify triggers for your stress and your reactions to it. Have a plan made ahead of time and stick to it.
- 8. Get Enough Sleep-** Make sure your body has time every day to rest and heal.
- 9. Take Care of Your Spirit-** Faith can give you meaning and purpose, provide solace, and give you hope. Bible study, prayer, journaling, etc. keep you focused on God are ways to help you to manage your mental health.
- 10. Get Professional Help-** See your health care provider if you are struggling with a mental illness. You will not "get over it" on your own. It is a physical illness and may require therapy, counseling, and/or medication. Most people who are diagnosed with some kind of mental illness can be successfully treated, especially if help is sought early on.

The Bible talks a lot about mental health. Here are some words of encouragement from Paul to the Philippians that we can rely on:

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7, NLT).

Mental health can be taken for granted until there is a problem. Many pretend that everything is fine and can be reluctant to get help because of the stigma that is attached to mental illness. Remember, you need to plan time each day to take care of yourself so that you can do the things that are important to you. Good mental health will help you to enjoy life and cope with any problems that come along.

For more information, please see the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, or go on-line to National Alliance on Mental Illness at www.nami.org or Mental Health America at <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net>.

St. John's Annual Community Bazaar – August 4th

By Bill Green

What will you donate to the annual St. John's UCC Church Bazaar? What treasures are you seeking? What items are you ready to pass along to another? When you do your spring cleaning, consider setting aside some nice items to bring for the Bazaar.

Scheduled for August 4 and 5, this year's Bazaar promises to be bigger than ever. We are expecting many wonderful items; so many that it requires 2 large tents, a smaller tent, plus the church basement to hold it all! Our Church grounds are transformed into a big party under the tent, with thousands of items, large clothing area, ice cream social, hot dogs and burgers and a great bake sale. We even have a section of real interesting quality items for a Silent Auction. All items should be clean and in good working order. Perhaps you might consider being a worker for the event. Men and women are both needed. If so, contact me as shown below.



The Bazaar is made possible because of the generosity of the island community donating items to be sold. All the proceeds stay right here on the island and benefit a variety of projects.

This event is a huge undertaking. Please step up to volunteer! Contact Bill Green 715-747- 2338 or cell 928-671- 0535, or email bill@DoubleJcourt.com

Spotlight On Pastor Marina Lachecki



Welcome to our second Spotlight column. Although originally intended to highlight people in the St. John's community who you may not know very well, we are featuring Pastor Marina this month. But we're putting her in a *new light*! Get it!

Summer is the season for weddings at St. John's so we are turning the spotlight onto Pastor Marina in her capacity as wedding officiant! Requests for weddings at St. John's are steadily pouring in. We thought you'd enjoy reading Pastor Marina's comments about her involvement in counseling a couple and performing a wedding ceremony.

When asked to officiate, how do you work with a couple?

I first ask the couple if they want a minister as opposed to a justice of the peace or another option. This is important for me because I explain to a couple that I don't 'do weddings;' rather, I support marriages. I help the couple be prepared with tools to get them through the inevitable tough times. And I also ask them if they are comfortable with talk of spirituality. I believe in God even though there may be many words to describe God or Spirit. In good conscience, I can't marry a couple who doesn't have at least some belief in the spiritual component of the wedding ceremony. I'm a pastor after all and it's who I am as an individual.

Once a couple agrees that they want a minister to officiate and I am confident that they have a level of comfort with the ceremony involving discussion spirituality, I engage the couple in 4 conversations. We meet by Skype, email, face-to-face. I have to be flexible since we are an Island church and for many couples, this may be a destination wedding. Couples may have some relationship with Madeline, but may not live here year round.

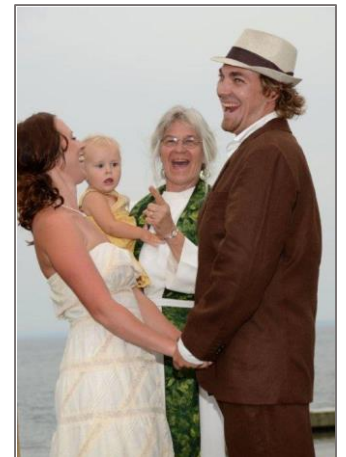
At the first meeting, I ask the couple to tell me their love story. I want them to tell me how they met, how they deepened their relationship, what happened at the proposal. During the second meeting, I ask them to tell me about their understanding of marriage. How do they define marriage? Each person writes a separate statement. I also want to know if either person has been in a previous marriage or long-term relationship. I ask them about what they learned about themselves in previous relationships as well as wanting to know what they learned they couldn't tolerate.



The third meeting is about understanding personality. The couple takes the full version of the [Myers-Briggs assessment](#). After scoring the assessment, we meet again to explore how personality affects stress in a marriage. Together, we map out conflict using a real situation from the couple's history. I believe that marriage success is based on a couple's ability to process conflict. I want the couple to understand their individual personality, their partner's personality, and their relationship's personality. Using the results of the Myers-Briggs conflict, I want the couple to anticipate areas of potential conflict and have language to process disagreement involving perception and judgment. I encourage the couple to laugh at themselves and have fun, and also to figure out which person is more stressed. Where are you on your stress continuum? How close are you to the end of your rope?

From there, we move into a discussion about spirituality. I ask them to tell me about their spiritual backgrounds and faith traditions. And, I want to know where they are now on their spiritual journey.

Then, we design the ceremony. Actually, whether it's a wedding or a funeral, designing the ceremony is one of my favorite things to do. I get to create a representation of a couple's spirituality, or a deceased person's spiritual nature. And, because Madeline Island is a different venue, I am typically doing lots of second marriages or young people who are already in their 30's. The couples I marry want a more relaxed ceremony and usually relate to nature.



Are there any memories that particularly stand out about weddings you've performed?

I've done two weddings when the Lord's Prayer was spoken in the native language of one person's family. Once I did it the Lord's Prayer in French, another time in German. I also find it meaningful for the couple to do something that brings the presence of a deceased parent, grandparent, or sibling into the ceremony. Sometimes the couple might place a rose or a bouquet on a seat in the pew. I performed one wedding ceremony the same afternoon that my mother passed away. She died at dawn on June 21, 2008, and I decided to go ahead and perform the couple's ceremony. It was an honor to preside at this wedding and perform it in remembrance of my mom.

Do you share your own marriage experiences with couples?

Sometimes. If it's a second marriage for one or both people, and I sense there's shame attached to a divorce, I let the couple know that I've been divorced. In that situation, I will tell them I've been divorced and remarried. It's helpful for people to know their pastor is human! And I remind them that this marriage is about new beginnings.

Have you ever counseled a couple not to get married?

No. Although I'm very honest. If I sense there is trouble, I strongly encourage the couple to seriously attend to the issues we have identified as being significant and ask that they explore those issues in depth.

How does a wedding ceremony impact you personally?

When I come home after the wedding, I am more in love with my husband. My hope is that everyone who attends the ceremony comes away feeling stronger goodwill and love. Performing a wedding makes me reflect on my own vows and generates a wonderful warm feeling for me. I feel like marriage is the blessing of growing up and continuing to grow in a relationship. Marriage creates an intimacy with a person's statement of "I will love you." Wedding vows are what ultimately make the difference between living together and being married. When you live together, it's easy to just up and leave when things get tough. When you've taken a vow, it forces you to pause and you are willing to suffer and endure a bit longer.

Have you seen the movie *Shall We Dance* with Richard Gere, Jennifer Lopez and Susan Sarandon? It captures the significance of taking a vow to be someone's partner. The best line from the movie is "We need a witness to our lives. In a marriage...you're saying 'Your life will not go unnoticed because I will notice it. Your life will not go un-witnessed because I will be your witness'."



As we grow up and continue to grow in a relationship, there is an intelligence that can only come from age. I think Kahlil Gibran says it best in *The Prophet*. "Love one another but

make not a bond of love: Let it rather be a moving sea between the shores of your souls."

When did you perform your first wedding?

I married two students in the early 1990's when I was the Campus Minister at Northland College. It was Memorial Day weekend, 20 years ago, when I performed my first

wedding here on the Island and I've done 170 weddings since! I perform 5-8 weddings every summer. Even though working with couples is something that gives me great joy, I can't do more than 8 weddings per summer because it involves a lot of time. I am very intentional about it. The last of my weddings this summer will be my own daughter's ceremony in Bayfield. Rather than officiating, I'll be the mother of the bride. Oh, and yes, the singer!



Interested in having Pastor Marina and Revered Kasperson do a Myers-Briggs personality workshop? Want to learn more about your own personality and explore new strategies to strengthen your relationship? Regardless of how many anniversaries you may have already celebrated, perhaps you're interested in renewing your marriage vows. Contact Pastor Marina.

Water Walk Around Madeline Island

"I shall do it for the Water" "Ningaa izhichige nibi onji"

On Mother's Day weekend, over 25 walkers from Bad River and Red Cliff Indian Reservations, Madeline Island and Thunder Bay, Ontario joined together to walk around Madeline Island, praying for the waters, their protection and health. They began at Ojibwe Memorial Park with prayer and a smudging ceremony. After completing the 28 miles, they were joined by others who prepared a feast, including the traditional foods of wild game and fish, wild rice, berries and corn. The weather was a blessing that day: no rain, cool breeze, sun and our Mother Superior to gaze upon.



Photo by Barbara With

For more information on [Waterwalkers](#), look on-line. They came to Madeline Island last year, bringing water from the Atlantic Ocean and the St. Lawrence Seaway, as they retraced their migration story from the east coast to Mooningwanekaaning Miniss, Madeline Island.