



St. John's United Church of Christ

The Lighthouse

March, 2016

Build-A-Book Workshop

Come out and play with color and build your very own book to be used as a journal, memory book, recipe book, or whatever you choose! Gwen Smith Patterson invites you to her Build-A-Book Workshop where you will explore different forms of painting and learn how to hand weave a book back.



Build-A-Book Workshop

Saturday, March 5
1 – 3 pm
Fellowship Hall

Bring scraps of paper, material, anything else to collage

Register by February 13 by contacting [Gwen Smith Patterson](#) (715) 209-6381. Space is limited!

Passionate about mixed media and how to apply mixed media in new and creative ways, Gwen will inspire participants to experience the exhilaration of pushing beyond one's artistic comfort zones. This workshop is made possible by a grant from the La Pointe Center for the Arts and the Wisconsin Arts Board.

Soup Suppers: Nourishment for Body, Mind & Soul



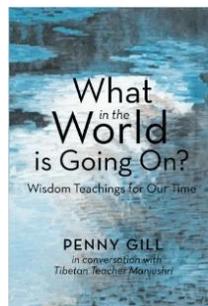
Soup will nourish the body, friendships will nourish the soul, and book discussions will nourish the mind!

Everyone is welcome at Soup Suppers in the

Fellowship Hall where we're serving up sustenance, fellowship and wisdom!

Come! Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring soup or bread to share.

We're reading and discussing Penny Gill's book "*What in the World is Going On? Wisdom Teachings for Our Time.*" Penny Gill, a Madeline Island summer resident for over 25 years, has taught political science for forty years at Mount Holyoke College.



March's Events and Happenings

1	Walking Club, 9:00 am
2	Soup Supper/Discussion, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
3	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am, Parsonage
5	Build-A-Book Workshop, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
5	AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
6	Worship and Communion, 10:00 am
6	Blood Pressure Checks, 11:00 am
8	Walking Club, 9:00 am
9	Woods Hall Board Meeting, 8:30 am
9	Church Council Meeting, 4:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
9	Soup Supper/Discussion, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
10	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am, Parsonage
12	AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
13	Worship, 10:00 am
15	Walking Club, 9:00 am
16	Soup Supper/Discussion, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
17	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am, Parsonage
19	AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
20	Worship – Palm Sunday, 10:00 am
22	Walking Club, 9:00 am
23	Full Moon Circle, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
24	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am, Parsonage
24	Passover Seder Potluck, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
25	Good Friday Service, Noon
26	AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
26	Easter Vigil – Service of Fire, Water, Word, and Communion, 7:00 pm
27	EASTER Services and Celebration: Sunrise Service on Russell Bay, 7:00 am Potluck Breakfast, 8:00 am, Fellowship Hall Festival Worship with Communion, 10:00 am
29	Walking Club, 9:00 am
30	Soup Supper/Discussion, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
31	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am, Parsonage

Summer Wellness Retreat

Breast cancer survivors are invited to a wellness retreat this summer. **Infinite Boundaries Retreat** is coming to Madeline Island, July 28 – 31, 2016 at the Music Camp facility offering healing experiences for body, mind, and spirit. Based on the belief that healing can be found in nature, this wellness retreat will integrate nature experiences into recovery activities.



The Pastoral Column

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last fall, Jews around the world observed their High Holy Days. It began in September with Rosh HaShanah (their New Year), and marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

The last day of the Jewish New Year celebration is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. It is the holiest day in the Jewish year, marked by fasting and prayer, as Jews ask forgiveness from each other and from God.

We have a similar tradition in the Christian journey of faith. Our High Holy Days begin with seeking forgiveness from each other and God in the prayers of Ash Wednesday. We were guided throughout the Lenten season of preparation by meditations created by Regina Laroche. [She is one of our Lay Ministers, a trained Spiritual Director, an organic farmer, and a leader of retreats, worship and workshops through Diaspora Arts.] We listened to the holy words of her images and poem, held the quiet for personal reflection, and wrote simple word responses written on note cards, then placed those words of prayer and intent in a bowl of ashes near the altar. Offerings for the season of return, repentance and renewal. We encountered ***A Season of Ashes and Hope***.

In her words:

*“The universe swells-roaring & hushing: grown,
growing & groaning are planets, solar systems, entire
worlds.*

*Creation orbits & struggles-pushing out, rolling
beneath the stretched skin of God...*

*a world of rejoicing & grieving, birthings & dyings,
hope and ashes, light and darkness.*

*...
In the hush, in the darkness, in the ash ... finally Spirit
dances, flickers—burning away the clutter, death,
and excess which blind and deafen us to something
to believe in.*

We weep. We wait. We hush.”

During our Lenten journey of weeks, we were guided by images of:

- Rising and Settling
- Bearing Witness and Lament
- Sifting
- Bearing Fire
- Healing

As People of Christ’s Way, our High Holy Days culminate in Holy Week.

We remember the story of Christ’s passion, his death, and his journey from death to life.

Wherever you are, on the Island, or with your home church, celebrate these High Holy Days:

March 20 **Palm Sunday** as we remember how triumph can turn to tragedy in a week’s time. Listen to the story here on the Island as a dramatic reading of the Passion story from Luke.

March 24 **Holy Thursday**. On the Island, we celebrate that day where Christ commanded us to love one another with a Passover feast, explained elsewhere in this newsletter.

March 25 **Good Friday** as we remember the hours of Jesus’ agony and death. It is a solemn service and ends in silence as the altar is stripped of paraments, crosses, and candles.

March 26 The **Easter Vigil** begins here on the Island at 7 PM at the fire ring to bless the kindling of a new fire, then proceeds indoors for a service of Light, Word, Water and Communion.

March 27 **Sunrise Service** on Russell Bay is an Island tradition with Alleluia chants around a morning bonfire. We then proceed to the fellowship hall to break bread together, and then to the sanctuary for a **traditional Easter worship service with communion**.

Wherever you are, Come. Listen. Participate.

Celebrate. Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed.

Alleluia. *Pastor Marina*



Passover Seder Traditions

Passover is a festival of freedom, commemorating the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and their transition from slavery to freedom.



The main ritual of Passover is the Seder, a festival meal that involves re-telling stories about the exodus, singing, and consuming of ritual foods.

It is customary for the Seder table to be decorated with flowers, candles, and food and drink that have special historical meaning:

- Shank bone of the lamb – representing the special Paschal sacrifice on the eve of the exodus
- Matzah, unleavened bread – symbolizing the urgency with which the Israelites left Egypt and there being no time to wait for the dough to rise or to enrich it with oil, honey, or other substances
- Bitter herbs such as a grated horseradish, romaine lettuce, endive – bitterness of slavery,
- Hard-boiled egg – representing the holiday offering brought in the days of the Holy Temple and symbolizing the meat of the chicken that constituted the main part of the Passover meal. Often, the egg is chopped and mixed with the saltwater on the Seder table.
- Sweet paste, a mixture of apples, nuts, cinnamon, and wine – representing the mortar and brick made by Jews when they were enslaved and forced to work by the Pharaoh.
- Root vegetable, a non-bitter vegetable such as onion or potato – symbolizing the backbreaking work of the Jews as slaves
- Four cups of wine – to be consumed at specific times during the Seder

Marina's Walking Club



Grab your hats and boots and join Pastor Marina for aerobic walking and fellowship! Meet at St. John's parking lot at 9:00 am each Tuesday! Send an email to [Pastor Marina](#) to get on Marina's Walking Club list! A great way to clear your head, open your heart, and give your body a treat.

Condolences to Family of Joan T. Geiger

Joan T. Geiger passed away on February 24, 2016.

There will be a memorial gathering Monday, August 8, 2016 on Madeline Island, Lake Superior to be held in conjunction with that of her cousin, Robert D. Schaub and his wife Norma. The families will be gathering during the week of August 6th – 13th.

Mom was a teacher, both in Springfield, Illinois, where she taught K-12 art; and in Clemson, South Carolina, where she taught one year of 8th grade science, then multiple years of 7th grade social studies, after many years of substitute teaching. Besides teaching school, she was also a EMT and EMT instructor for the Central, SC Rescue Squad, a PEO sister, Girl Scout, fiber artist, and later a small "green" business owner.

Pictured here aboard Drew Butler's boat, Joan loved her time at Madeline Island. She spent at least part of almost



every summer on Madeline Island from 1939 until this year, surrounded by family and friends at the family cabin

on the Hagen Road. Her memories were of summers with the girls sleeping upstairs in the cabin, the boys in tents in the front yard, convincing the tourists who would visit the Hagen's fish dock that they needed to throw pennies, nickels and dimes in the lake for her brothers to dive for, bicycling into town to take the ferry across to go roller skating in Bayfield.

She was predeceased by her parents Rev W. Wilder Towle and Georgiana Schaub Towle; former husband H. Roland Geiger; brother Kelso Towle and numerous cousins. She leaves behind her brother Dick (Vaughan) Towle and family; nephews; cousins; one daughter; very special son-in-law Davis Tilton and his equally special family (she did so love being an adopted grandmother, great and great great grandmother!); her special friend and cousin Jeannine Schaub; and special friends Dolly (Isabelle) and Phil Schneeberger.

Anyone wanting to make a remembrance in her name, may make one to either their local library (she loved to read, especially mysteries!), or to an organization of your choice based on your knowledge of her.

Theology Class: Foundations of Western Civilization

Join Pastor Marina Lachecki and Reverend Jim Kasperson at 11:00 am on Thursday mornings when everyone is welcome at the Parsonage for coffee, tea, treats, and a



chance to dive into topics that are guaranteed to stretch our spiritual beliefs and understandings.

We are using one of [The Great Courses](#) entitled

[The Foundations of Western Civilization](#), taught by Professor Thomas F. X. Noble, University of Notre Dame. This lecture series helps us understand the rise of three world religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) and relate that understanding to today's political and religious tensions.

Ministry to Mission

Pastor Marina recently shared the following message with St. John's Council for reflection as Council strives to integrate our Strategic Plan into our outreach activities. We are broadening innovative ways to meet the needs of people seeking traditional religious experiences as well as those who feel equally enriched by non-traditional, spiritual experiences.

In the reading assigned from Philippians, Paul presses the "them and us" notion further by saying, "Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me . . . for many live as enemies of the cross." We in the Christian tradition have often been quick to label those whom we assume are against us . . . club sports on Sunday mornings! We have expressed skepticism and felt "turf" jealousy over alternative spiritual practices such as New Age thinking, yoga, integration of Buddhist practices or simply discovering the sacred in nature. Truthfully, these folks are not at all "enemies of the cross" - they just happen to have other interests that conflict with our priorities.

What if we were to think with less polarity and more synergy? The Church of tomorrow will need all sorts of "friends" who partner with us even if they don't confess Christ or enter our doors. The way forward is community based and collaborative - the places where we can connect with others around shared values and mission, such as: homeless shelters, food pantries, farmer markets, child care centers, tutoring programs, refugee resettlements, support group hosting, interfaith dialogues, Habitat builds, intercultural projects, etc.

Rev. Franz Rigert, Wisconsin UCC Conference Minister

Contact St. John's UCC

Reverend Marina Lachecki	lighthouse@cheqnet.net
Parsonage	715-747-3903
Church Office phone	715-747-3945
Church Office email	stjohnsoffice@cheqnet.net

Holy Ground: Madeline Island to the Mystic Isles

2017 is closer than you think – and so is the Holy Ground Pilgrimage led by Pastor Marina Lachecki and Sarah and Nile Norton. Scheduled for June 5 – 16, 2017, this trip is beginning to fill!

Don't miss out on this Celtic Tradition adventure. You'll explore sacred monasteries, historic castles and cultures, hike 3 days along Saint Cuthbert's Way, and learn about Celtic Saints. Travel on a modern day pilgrimage from Madeline Island to the sacred isles of Great Britain.

Click [Holy Ground Pilgrimage](#) for the trip's full itinerary. Sign up today to enjoy two weeks journeying with joy, song, prayer, fellowship, and sacred word along the Pilgrim's Way. For more information, contact [Pastor Marina](#) (715) 747-3903.

St. John's Annual Bazaar – August 4th



There are lots of fun ways to be involved! When you volunteer, you get to preview all the fine treasures that are awaiting a new home. That means that by signing up to volunteer,

you can get a jump on purchasing the perfect item that you've been longing to have! To volunteer, contact Bill Green bill@doublejcourt.com

