



St. John's United Church of Christ

The Lighthouse

November, 2015

Christmas Choir Rehearsals for December 19 Concert

Calling all sopranos, tenors, altos and basses for the all-community Christmas Choir! Everyone who loves to share holiday joy through song and story is welcome! Come join the choir!



Mark your calendar for "A Spirited Christmas" concert and holiday celebration on December 19 at 6:30 pm!

Workshops Exploring Autumnal Transitions

Regina Laroche is presenting 2 workshops exploring the connections between the seasons of the earth and the seasons of our spirit. Integrating her storytelling and dance performance, Regina will guide a creative exploration of how the transitions and transformations of this season are reflected in our lives.



Dancing the Season: Harvest, Ebb, Seed
 Saturday, November 14, 10 am – 4 pm
 Washburn Meditation Center
 325 Washington Avenue, Washburn, WI

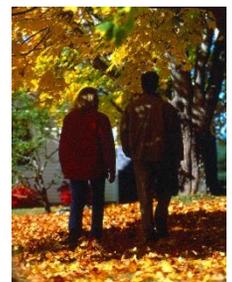
A Retreat in Autumn: Dancing our Endings & Possibilities
 Saturday, November 21, 10:30 am – 6:00 pm
 Yoga Tree Studio
 1323 Broadway St, Ste 220, Superior, WI

November's Events and Happenings

1	Worship and Communion, Special Service lighting candles for all who passed on this year, 10:00 am
1	Blood Pressure Checks, 11:00 am
1	Christmas Choir Rehearsal, 11:15 am
3	Walking Club, 9:00 am
4	Soup Supper, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
5	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am
5	Christmas Choir Rehearsal, 4:30 pm
7	AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
8	Worship, 10:00 am
8	Christmas Choir Rehearsal, 11:15 am
10	Walking Club, 9:00 am
11	Soup Supper, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
12	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am
12	Christmas Choir Rehearsal, 4:30 pm
14	Dancing the Season: Harvest, Ebb, Seed
14	AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
15	Worship, 10:00 am
15	Christmas Choir Rehearsal, 11:15 am
17	Walking Club, 9:00 am
18	Soup Supper, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
19	Theological Discussion, 11:00 am
19	Christmas Choir Rehearsal, 4:30 pm
21	A Retreat in Autumn: Dancing our Endings & Possibilities
21	AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
22	Thanksgiving Sunday Worship, 10:00 am
22	Christmas Choir Rehearsal, 11:15 am
24	Walking Club, 9:00 am
24	Christmas Choir Rehearsal, 4:30 pm
25	Full Moon Circle for Women, 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
26	Thanksgiving
28	AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
29	Worship, 10:00 am, Sunday's of Advent Begin
29	Christmas Choir Rehearsal, 11:15 am

Tuesday Walking Club

Join Pastor Marina for 3 – 4 miles of aerobic walking and fellowship! Meet at St. John's parking lot at 9:00 am each Tuesday! Get on Marina's Walking Club list by sending an email to Pastor Marina!



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

The Pastoral Column

We have passed through the summer season, recognizing the passage of many friends and family members. 12 services in 3 months, with the 13th funeral being my sister Therese in late September. It, like others this summer, was unexpected. It is still hard to accept and deal with. I join others in our community of spirit who have lost sisters. One shared that sisters hold our history in ways no one else can.

On the first Sunday of November each year, we light candles and remember those who have passed back into the world of Spirit, returning to the Source of Life. My sister's candle will be lit with others who are still mourning. There will be more tears touching the deep parts of our souls which are trying to heal, which will heal because we who mourn are held in the hearts and light of those who love us and care for us. These are the gratitudes of any death.

I am grateful for being held and prayed for.

I am grateful that I have other sisters-of-soul who have walked this journey ahead of me. I look to them.

I am grateful for the time I have been given to dwell quietly, on this healing island, and plumb the depths of my soul to listen for ways to heal.

And I am grateful to my surviving sister, Marge, who shared this quote with me.

May it be healing for all who mourn.

Your pastor, Marina



“But no matter the medicinal virtues of being a true friend or sustaining a long close relationship with another, the ultimate touchstone of friendship is not improvement, neither of the other nor of the self, the ultimate touchstone is witness, the privilege of having been seen by someone and the equal privilege of being granted the sight of the essence of another, to have walked with them and to have believed in them, and sometimes just to have accompanied them for however brief a span, on a journey impossible to accomplish alone.”

~David Whyte

Boat Ready to be Launched Next Spring

This handsome cruising boat is very well equipped and has been maintained with TLC. It's a dandy of a deal for



getting out and enjoying Lake Superior! Details are posted in the Fellowship Hall.

Thinking about donating an item or property?

Please contact St. John's office 715-747-3945 or email us at stjohnsoffice@cheqnet.net if you have questions.

Education Class: Intersect of Christianity and the Roman Empire

Every Thursday at 11 AM, coffee and tea (and a few bakery treats) are spread out on the parsonage dining room table to begin the feast of discussion and dive into topics that stretch our spiritual beliefs. What are we discussing? Matters of faith and hope.



Our fall theological discussions will focus on the rise of Christianity within the Roman Empire and its interaction with the Roman government.

Using the DVD series 'The Foundation of Western Civilization' produced by PBS, Pastor Marina Lachecki and her husband, Rev. Jim Kasperon, lead discussions that challenge and inspire! Join us for conversation on Thursday 5, 12, and 19 at 11:00 am at the Parsonage!

Discover Holy Islands in England and Scotland

Travel with Pastor Marina to discover the cultural, historical and holy grounds of England and Scotland, June 5 – 16, 2017.

Pastor Marina Lachecki has partnered with St. John's members, world-travelers and fellow Islanders, [Nile](#) and [Sarah Norton](#), to explore [Lindisfarne](#) in northeastern England and [Iona](#) in northwestern Scotland. Fly into Glasgow, spend time exploring the holy islands of Celtic Christianity, walk along [St. Cuthbert's Way](#), and spend a day in Edinburgh.



The cost of the pilgrimage is estimated to be \$4000/person. If you are interested, contact [Marina](#) or Nile and Sarah Norton. There are spaces for 16 people and a few people are already signed up! A deposit of \$200 will secure your place.

Sign up today to enjoy two weeks journeying with joy, song, prayer, fellowship, and sacred word along the Pilgrim's Way.

Soup Suppers: Nourishment for Body, Mind & Soul

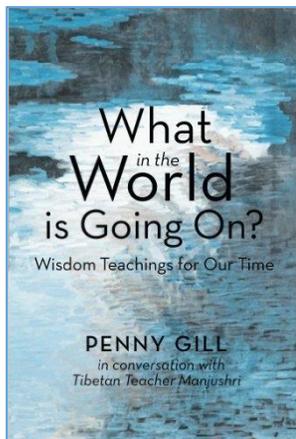
Soup will nourish the body, friendships will nourish the soul, and book discussions will nourish the mind! Everyone is welcome at Soup Suppers in the Fellowship Hall where we're serving up sustenance, fellowship and wisdom!

I LOVE SOUP! Let me count the ways.....

Soup, Bisque, Stew, Goulash, Chowder, Gazpacho, Chioppino, Bouillon, Consommé, Bouillabaisse, Billy Bi, Vichyssoise, Stock, Broth, Borscht, Pepper Pot, Avgolemono..... What's missing?????

SoupSong.com is a fun soup trivia website where you'll find soup songs, soup jokes, soup etiquette, soup customs and traditions, soup tales, as well as fabulous soup recipes!

We'll be 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, is a Mary Lyon Professor of Humanities and has taught political science for forty years at Mount Holyoke College, as well as having served as dean. Long interested in comparative spiritualities, she has recently received teachings from Manjushri, a Tibetan master. She divides her time

between Granby, Massachusetts, and Madeline Island, Wisconsin.

Here's a synopsis of Penny's book that appears on Amazon. "Do you worry about our planet, with its environmental crises, global warming, widespread violence, and global poverty? Do you feel powerless to change your life and impact your world? What in the World Is Going On reframes these crises as an invitation to open our minds and hearts to a new awareness of our fundamental interdependence with all beings. With breathtaking optimism, it offers courage and hope to all who hold the world in their hearts and grieve. Crises bring opportunities. We are poised to vastly expand our consciousness, allowing us to address our deep fears and create communities which embrace and serve all of us."

Join us! November 4, 11, and 18 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Belief: A Spirituality Document for Our Times

For one week in late October, The Oprah Winfrey Network shared a three-year project documenting global stories of faith, love and devotion. The stories of various faith journeys were told through stunning cinematography and personal stories, including Christian, Hindu, Buddhist and Jewish believers. The each of the seven segments (Seekers, Love's Story, Acts of Faith, Change, Tragedy and Illness, Practice, Death) included 3-4 life stories, from 8-year old boys learning aboriginal songs or taking a literal leap of faith in Amazon jungles, young women taking vows as a Jain nun or plunging in the waters of the Ganges River; a mother facing cancer and an older man walking El Camino in search of reconnecting with his family.



Oprah Winfrey grew up in the Baptist church and has deepened her faith, her spirituality through a lifetime of challenges, including child abuse, early pregnancy and the challenges of a media career. In a recent AARP interview, Winfrey spoke to the purpose of this project as a 'come to Jesus' moment, when in prayer with the question, 'What would you have me do, Lord?' "I set out to really build this universe of interfaith connectedness, where people could see that other people in different



parts of the world are very much like them. Although they might have a different word for the yearning of the heart and the yearning of the spirit that is looking for

what I call 'God,' it still is the same thing."

Want to learn more? Read what The Huffington Post says about [Belief: A Spirituality Document for Our Times](#).

Pastor Marina Lachecki comments, "The series is compelling, inclusive, expansive, and worth viewing! My favorite episode was the segment on a devout Catholic woman who was in a coma following a traumatic brain injury. She had a vision of herself dancing as a Sufi mystic. As she recovered, she completed that vision." Click [Today, She Twirls](#) to learn more about this woman's healing and spiritual journey.

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

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