

# St. John's Church and Spiritual Center

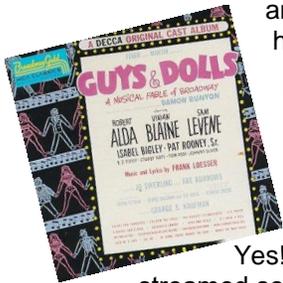
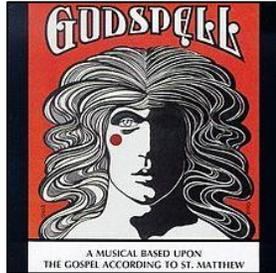
The Lighthouse



September, 2018

## Pastor Marina's Farewell Concert: A Labor of Love

As a gift to her beloved community, Marina is putting together a final concert before she leaves us after 24 years of ministry. The show will include memorable songs from the many musical adventures on which she has taken us [think summer cabarets, Christmas concerts, Godspell, Guys and Dolls]. She has invited her sister from British Columbia, her daughter from New York state, and many of her beloved island merry-makers.



Marina received a La Pointe Center for the Arts grant and hopes to have the Farewell Concert and other songs recorded for a CD.

Yes! The Farewell Concert WILL be streamed so everyone can watch it. Tune in to channel <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/76AxbRFaCf2> where you can watch it live - or watch it later, again and again and again!



Marina and her daughter Carolyn singing "For Good" from Wicked



## Closing Worship Services and Potluck Feasts

Pastor Marina is preaching at 2 worship services in September. There will be a community potluck luncheon following these two services and everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. Special thanks to Cindy Dalzell for coordinating the potlucks!

### **Worship and Potluck Luncheon September 2, 10:00 am**

This worship service marks the close of summer when Pastor Marina bids farewell to seasonal residents who return to year-round homes after Labor Day. Immediately following worship is a dedication of the library bookshelves in memory of Wayne Lindquist and a potluck feast in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Worship and Potluck Luncheon September 30, 10:00 am**

During the September 30 service we will formally say goodbye to Marina as she closes her 24-year career with St. John's. Marina is already planning to weave wonderful music throughout the service. Immediately following the service, we will celebrate Marina's retirement at a potluck feast in the Fellowship Hall.

### **Want to send your well wishes?**

There will be a large basket in the Fellowship Hall for your cards of well wishes. BRING YOUR CARDS to the September 30 Potluck Luncheon – OR – MAIL YOUR CARD it in time to arrive before September 30.

Address your cards to:

Pastor Marina  
St. John's UCC  
PO Box 14  
La Pointe, WI 54850



Opening and reading her cards will be one of the first things Marina does in her retirement. She will enjoy hearing from people across the country!

Pastor Marina and Jim will be on vacation from September 3-14. September 17 – 28, Marina will be attending to administrative work, meeting with committees, completing Worship and Administrative Handbooks, and wrapping up all aspects of church business prior to her retirement at the end of month.



## The Pastoral Column

Dear Beloved Community,



This month, Jim and I will leave this island. We leave this community which has been a part of our lives for the entirety of both our marriage and my ministry of over two decades. Jim and I will move to Ashland, WI and begin another part of our journey: taking care of one another in retirement.

As a community, it is a departure that was talked about logically in the

Church's strategic plan three year ago, but made tangible this past year with Jim's compromised health.

It is a month of many transitions for all of us: returning to work, to schools, to other communities and churches, to the winter Island community of a few hundred people. With September, we shift from the fullness of the summer season into the drawing in and letting go of autumn.

I am writing this last Pastoral Letter under the influence of the Wild Ricing Moon in the Ojibwe calendar. Wild rice, manoomin, was the sacred food they received after traveling over 500 years and over 1000 miles as a community, following a vision to bring them to a new place. Think of our story of Abraham and Sarah traveling to find a place where the land flowed with milk and honey.

We, too, began with a vision:

Your vision to call a pastor to serve the whole community;

Your vision of supporting a ministry of the arts to uplift the people;

Your vision to grow spiritually.

It was that vision that spoke to me from across the water, while working with tribal members on the Bad River reservation, on treaty rights. I camped along the wild rice

beds and listened to the Lake. Our Lake. The One which connects all those who dwell along her shorelines. After four days, the Spirit through the Waters spoke: "The time is now to speak from your heart." And then, out of my silence came the words, "I want to be the pastor on Madeline Island."



I only had a B.A. in biology. But ten years later, with an M.A. in Pastoral Ministries and a year in seminary, I became your Pastor on May 29, 1996, after a search

committee prayed and discerned, and a congregational vote of 24-0 in my favor! The church Council at that time included Bill Nygren, Wayne Lindquist, Joan Nelson, Caroline Brummer, Jack Nelson, Ron Lacy, and Sharon Okonek.

And so I began to be the pastor to the Island.

In this ministry of decades (yes...I now hold the record, she said with spiritual humility!), I have been blessed with amazing church Council and Woods Hall board



leaders, incredible energy of volunteerism within committees, dedicated and abundant church musicians, people who shared a similar passion for liturgy, many to work alongside on issues of justice and mercy, and a community where I could be me...with all my quirks, faults, short-comings, tempers, righteousness, and need.

It seemed that every path I took, every project I completed, or every job I held to this point of becoming your pastor somehow fed the work I was called here to do.

It truly made me a believer in Divine intervention!

I listened to Island elders tell stories of the Island, and tried to find stories in the Bible which connected. I listened to tribal elders and other Islanders talk about how sacred Madeline Island was to the Ojibwe nation. I studied the traditions of this church by reading prior Lighthouses and church bulletins.

And then, I offered places where I could bring my gifts to your needs:



- my sense of call to work with others in this community to care for creation;
- my sense of call to embrace the diversity of spiritualities among us, inclusive of Christian denominations, but mindful of other walks of faith, most especially that of the Anishinaabeg;
- my passion for liturgy, ritual and rites of passage;
- my passion for writing and singing;
- my commitment to seeking pathways of reconciliation;
- my commitment to institutional stability and organizational support.

**I am overwhelmed with gratitude.**

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We have walked together as a people of the Divine One to offer compassion, justice, and mercy to all who are called to these shores.

We have joined with one another to bring love, hope, joy, and laughter amidst the challenges, losses and tragedies we have experienced together. And in that, we have walked with our faith. We have lived the teaching that,



connected to Spirit, All Shall be Well.

It has been such an honor to serve you. It has been an incredible blessing to my life, and to my family's well-being.

So, simply, **THANK YOU.**

**Chi miigwech.**

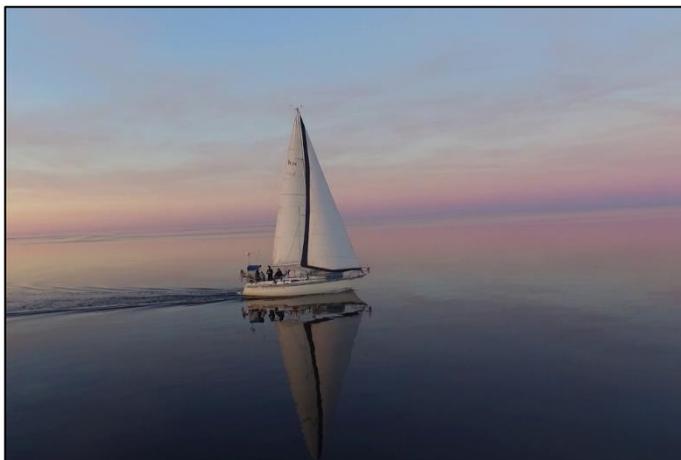
**Dzienkuje.**

*Pastor Marina*

PS - The Sunday, July 15, 2001, edition of the Milwaukee Journal contained an editorial by Dennis McCann with the following final paragraph from his travelogue:

*Finally, after all these years, it hit me that the pastor of the Island's St. John's United Church of Christ is named Marina Lachecki. On an island filled with sailors, a pastor named Marina is better than a surgeon named Cutter, or a bowler named Lane.*

*Any port in a storm, troubled sailor. Any port in a storm.*



## Madeline Island Jingle Dress Dancer Project

*By Barbara With*

On November 8, 2017, 14-year-old Bad River and Red Cliff family member Jason Pero was tragically shot to death by an Ashland County sheriff's deputy in front of his grandfather's house on the Bad River Reservation. Both Native and non-Native communities in Ashland County were shattered. In the aftermath, people began reaching out to each other to find ways to bridge the cultural differences of our two cultures.

Thus began a series of talking circles of Native and non-Native citizens coming together to find ways to move forward to heal our communities, and not just from Jason's tragic death. At the January 23 meeting, after listening to 50 or more people speak their minds and hearts, the community agreed there is a need to find ways to heal this rift between the cultures and start moving towards truth and reconciliation.

Moongwaanikaaning ("Home of the Golden Breasted Woodpecker" in Anishinabe) or Madeline Island is a place of prophecy to the Anishinabe — the Lake Superior Bands of Chippewa. Throughout history, the Island was a central gathering place for tribes from across Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Canada. As a result of the treaties of 1837, 1842 and 1854, Madeline Island is in "ceded territory." The Anishinabe negotiated treaties intending to reserve rights to maintain access to the sustaining resources of their homeland of northern Wisconsin, including Madeline Island. Rights reserved the ability to continue to hunt, fish and gather in order to sustain tribes.



Today, few Natives live on Madeline Island. Bad River still retains 195 acres on the north end, and tribes come here several times a year to celebrate traditions at a small park where Chief Buffalo is buried. We have bilingual signage of both English and Anishinabe.

This year, the La Pointe Center has created an opportunity to help build a bridge for the Anishinabe back to their ancestral homeland. That is how the Madeline Island Jingle Dress Dancer Project was born.



*Jingles designed by Bob Adams, Washburn*

The jingle dress dance is an Anishinabe tradition that emerged around the time of World War I. A young girl grew very sick, and her father received a vision to save her. He saw a dress made with rows of metal cones

(continued next page)

called *ziibaaska'iganan* that jingle as the dancer moves. His daughter recovered, and the jingle dress dancers have continued to practice this custom with purposeful intent to call in the healing spirits through the movements of the dancer. The jingle dress dancer is indeed a medicine of and for the people, and for the healing of indigenous people and spaces surviving assimilation and removal policies imposed upon them.

Using traditional regalia designs and the guidance of Anishinabe kwes and jingle dress dancers Katherine Morrisseau from Red Cliff and Annie Humphrey from Leech Lake, inventor and theater artist Christopher Lutter designed a 10-foot jingle dress dancer. We attended the Red Cliff Pow Wow, the Red Cliff Ojibwe Language Immersion Camp, the Bear River Pow Wow at Lac du



Flambeau, Honor the Earth Pow Wow at Lac Courte Oreilles, Brown Stone Days in Washburn and Big Top Chautauqua Native Cultural Night to collect hand prints of community members to be used on her dress.

*Annie Humphrey, Leech Lake, sewing the dress with collected hand prints*

The dancer, her dress, medicine bag, moccasins, leggings, belt, barrettes, and feather fan are supersized and constructed of natural and recycled materials. We assembled her in a two-week program on Madeline Island at the Rec Center in August. We provided food and transportation to and from the Island for participants, and partnered with the Madeline Island Library and the Madeline Island Rec Center Summer Program to include Madeline Island youth. The beading of the bag and leggings, the making of the many jingles, the crafting of the head, hands, hair and feet of the dancer — each step offered an opportunity for any and all community members to join in.

In all, approximately 65 adults and children helped with her creation, not counting the hundreds of hand prints we collected along the way.



*Shaleena Demirok and Michele MacDaniels, Red Cliff, creating the medicine bag*

To raise money for the project, Mad Island Communications, our local island publishing company, republished *Early Life Among the Indians, the Memoirs of Benjamin Armstrong*. First published in 1892, it tells a detailed history of our area, including Benjamin's trip to Washington DC with Chief Buffalo and other Anishinabe leaders to meet with President Fillmore to ask that he not remove the tribes from the area. This edition, however, has an introduction by Sandy Gokee, Red Cliff tribal

member and 7<sup>th</sup> generation of Chief Buffalo. It is a stunning account of our multi-cultural heritage. The book is available at the Museum, directly from the publisher by calling 715.209.5471, or ordering online:

<https://unitedindefenseofthewater.org/2018/07/02/benjamin-armstrong-early-life-among-the-indians/>

The Madeline Island Jingle Dress Dancer will debut on Treaty Day, September 30, the anniversary of the signing of the 1854 Treaty on Madeline Island. The event will include a dance, a traditional feast and a giveaway. Bad River and Red Cliff drums will be invited along with the other 10 tribes of Wisconsin; Frank

Montano, Red Cliff, Bad River Elder Joe Rose Sr. and Annie Humphrey and Long Hairz Collective will perform music and tell the stories of Anishinabe history and of the Island as the ancestral home.



*Tom Hart, Bayfield, working on her head*

Other human jingle dress dancers are invited to join in a dance of peace and healing. We will also invite Wisconsin teachers to attend and issue an educational challenge to teach Wisconsin Mandatory Act 31, or American Indian Studies in Wisconsin, the requirement that all public school districts provide instruction on the history, culture, and tribal sovereignty of Wisconsin's federally-recognized American Indian nations and tribal communities.

By holding the debut of the Dancer on Treaty Day, we hope to create a welcoming environment for all 12 tribes of Wisconsin to come back to the island for remembrance of the event and to participate in honoring the Anishinabe tradition of the intention of healing of the jingle dress dancers. This will be one more step to honoring our multi-cultural heritage and accomplishing our goal of building community bridges back to Mooningwaanikaaning for our Anishinabe neighbors.

The exact Treaty Day schedule is still being determined but will include her debut at the Rec Center at 2 PM. Winona LaDuke will be hosting lacrosse games there, and all are welcome to come and celebrate the debut of this healing creation.



*The skirt of the dress*

## **Summer Adult Theology**

By Stacy Craig

**Many of you requested more information about Stacy's summer adult theology series. Printed below are Stacy's notes.**



Here is a rough outline of the different themes we explored and the resources/authors I referenced. There were eight sessions, but the first one was an introduction and exploration of themes that we wanted to address.

One resource that I use often to find inspiration is the 'Daily Meditation' sent from the Center for Action and Contemplation. If you would like to subscribe click on 'Email Sign Up' at the top of the page, it is available at: <https://cac.org/living-school/living-school-welcome/>

### **Session I: Original Sin and the Origin of Evil**

I presented St. Augustine's fourth century works where he wrestles with the origin of evil. We then explored interpretation and how his life affected his interpretations, which had a great impact on Christian thought and tradition.

*Where then does evil come from, if God made all things and, because he is good, made them good too? It is true that he is the supreme Good, that he is himself a greater Good than these lesser goods which he created. But the Creator and all his creation are both good. Where then, does evil come from?*

-Saint Augustine, Confessions

Resource: Augustine, *Confessions*. Translated by R S. Pine-Coffin. Penguin, 2003.

### **Session II: Summer Solstice and Creation Spirituality**

I characterized the summer solstice as both the Via Positiva and Via Transformativa based on creation spiritual tradition in Original Blessing, which includes:

Via Positiva, is the path of joy and delight, awe and gratitude

Via Negativa is the path of darkness and silence and also of suffering and of letting go and letting be

Via Creativa is the path of creativity

Via Transformativa is the path of justice and compassion

Resource: Fox, Matthew. *Original Blessing: A Primer of Creation Spirituality*

### **Session III: The Meaning of Life: An Existential Lens**

I started the session summarizing the movie *The Seventh Seal* by Ingmar Bergman as an exploration of the question, *what do we do with God's silences?*

Resources:

Nouwen, Henri. *Life of the Beloved*

Niebuhr, Reinhold. *The Nature and Destiny of Man*

Tillich, Paul. *Dynamics of Faith*

### **Session IV: Freedom**

In honor of the fourth of July, I summarized the many freedoms that are in the Bible:

Freedom from sin

Freedom from fear of death

Freedom from the constraints of the material world

Freedom from meaninglessness

Freedom from evil/darkness

We then explored how Atonement Theory has explained salvation over time.

Resources:

Brock, Rita Nakashima, and Parker, Rebecca Ann. *Proverbs of Ashes: Violence, Redemptive Suffering, and the Search for What Saves Us*. Boston, Mass: Beacon Press, 2005. Print.

### **Session V: Healing Prayer**

I summarized the limitations and opportunities for scientific research that asks, *can prayer heal?*

Resource:

Brown, Candy Gunther. *Testing Prayer: Science and Healing*. Boston, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012.

### **Session VI: I'm Spiritual but not Religious: What does this mean?**

I started with talking about how there is no concrete definition of 'religious' or 'spiritual' and how they are sometimes used interchangeably and other times as two separate things. Spirituality was originally a term in Christianity but today is often used to describe non-Christian practices. We explored this changing landscape and I then summarized the health benefits of religious and spiritual practice.

Resource: Class Notes

### **Session VII: Spirituality and Happiness**

I started by defining happiness as a state of being, which across time and traditions, has been identified as something that one can attain despite life's disappointments. I then compared two of these traditions: Buddhist practice of mindfulness and Christian practice of centering prayer.

Resources:

Hanson, Rick. *Buddha's Brain: The Practical Neuroscience of Happiness, Love, and Wisdom*. Oakland: CA: Harbinger Publications, Inc, 2009.

Bourgeault, Cynthia. *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening*. Lanham, MD: Cowley Publications, 2004

## Bazaar Sets New Records

Another record-breaking year at the Bazaar!!! Bill Green reports that proceeds exceeded \$21,000. That's a lot of treasures! The success of this annual event is because of the hard work of dedicated Bazaar volunteers (Bill Green and his family, Carol Neubauer, Jean Busse, Gwen Smith Patterson, Denise Hardie, Mimi Smith, Dawn Michael, Chris Fritche and many more!)

It is also a testament to the generosity of countless people who donated and set up tents, tended the tents, sorted the donation items, bid and bought treasures, and cleaned up after the event. A special shout out to our ever-faithful youth group from Moundsview, MN Messiah Lutheran who provide hours of labor during set-up!

**THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!**

## Food Shelf Needs Restocking

*By Gwen Smith Patterson*

Thank you to everyone who has donated food this summer. Your donations are greatly appreciated by all who use the Food Shelf. For those of you preparing to leave for the summer, please consider donating any unused food and spices. When making your choices, please keep in mind that we are unable to take any food that has been opened (regardless of whether it is dry goods or perishables.) Also, please limit non-food items to toiletries, light bulbs and the like. We hope you have had a wonderful summer and safe travels.



## Update from Search Committee

*By Henry Harmon*

Following an indoctrination meeting with Rev. Rob MacDougall on July 28, we held our first and organizational meeting. Mark Pass was unanimously elected Chairman of the committee. Since that first meeting, we have met 3 additional times and by the end of the month we are scheduled to have had a total of 5 meetings as a Committee. The Committee has been meeting weekly, usually of Tuesdays.

The first few meetings were occupied with organizational, administrative and procedural issues.

The number of Personal Profiles we have received thus far heartens us. We are just beginning the process of reviewing, evaluating, confirming, verifying and discussing the Profiles and the candidates!

## Commissioning New Leadership

When Pastor Marina announced her retirement plans to Council, it made the decision to rely on the depth of talent, skills, and expertise that we have in our church community during the interim period before welcoming a new pastor to St. John's. During the September 2 worship service, Pastor Marina will formally commission several individuals to serve in leadership roles beginning this month. They include:

Howard Dallin – preaching and adult education  
Regina Laroche – preaching, pastoral care, and Wednesday fellowship

Susan Sabre – managing business office and coordinating bulletins and weekly liturgies

Michael Collins and Mark Hier – guiding Woods Hall

Julie Stryker – leading the Full Moon Circle

Michael and Cindy Dalzell – leading our community Passover

Nile Norton – directing Summer Choir for the community and at worship

Lois Carlson – managing social media ministry

A complete list of church leaders and their responsibilities will be featured in the October Lighthouse.

## Clanging for Bell Ringers

Want to open our call to worship by clanging the bell? Contact Worship Committee Chair Howard Dallin at [hvdallin@gmail.com](mailto:hvdallin@gmail.com)



## Calling all Camera Crews!

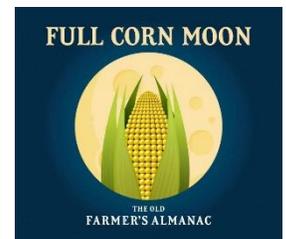


We are still recruiting new "streaming" iPhone operator volunteers throughout the summer. It's VERY easy! Just point and shoot! Glenn Carlson will train you how to set up St. John's iPhone to record a worship service so we can post it online for people who are e-worshipping. Contact Glenn Carlson to sign up [glenncarlson453@gmail.com](mailto:glenncarlson453@gmail.com).

## Full Moon Circle for Women

This month, we are hosting our Full Moon Circle for Women on September 25. September's full moon is named the Corn Moon because it is usually at its full stage at the time of harvesting corn, providing additional light when farmers need it for harvesting.

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. Want more information? Contact Julie Stryker [strykerj@yahoo.com](mailto:strykerj@yahoo.com)



## September Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Plant Walk/Medicine Making at Library, 10 am AA Meeting, 5:30 pm Farewell Concert of Pastor Marina, 7:00 pm
2 Closing Worship Service for the Season & Communion, 10 am Blood Pressure checks, 11 am Dedication of Dr. Wayne Lindquist Library Corner in Fellowship Hall, 11 am Potluck Feast, 11:15 am	3 Young Moms' Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm	4 Balance Class, 10 am	5 Young Moms' Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm Council Meeting, 4:30 pm	6 Balance Class, 10 am	7	8 Visitation in memory of Caroline Brummer, 10 am Memorial Service for Caroline Brummer followed by funeral luncheon, 11 am AA Meeting, 5:30 pm
9 Worship, Virginia Ward preaching, Howard Dallin lay minister, 10 am	10 Young Moms' Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm	11 Balance Class, 10 am	12 Woods Hall Board Meeting, 8:30 am  Young Moms' Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm	13 Balance Class, 10 am	14	15 AA Meeting, 5:30 pm
16 Worship, Penny Gill preaching, Joan Watts lay minister, 10 am	17 Young Moms' Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm	18 Balance Class, 10 am	19 Young Moms' Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm St. John's Council Meeting, 4:30 pm	20 Balance Class, 10 am	21	22 AA Meeting, 5:30 pm
23 Worship, Howard Dallin preaching and presiding, 10 am	24 Young Moms' Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm	25 Balance Class, 10 am Full Moon Circle for Women, 7:00 pm	26 Young Moms' Group, 10 am – 12:30 pm	27 Balance Class, 10 am	28	29 AA Meeting, 5:30 pm
30 Closing Worship Service for Pastor Marina with Liturgy of Farewell and Godspeed, 10 am Potluck Farewell Luncheon, 11:15 am						



## ***St. John's United Church of Christ***

*P. O. Box 14  
Madeline Island  
La Pointe, Wisconsin 54850  
(715) 747-3903*

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*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 campus that welcomes all.*