

### Pastor's Column

In my life, spirituality and faith has always been centered around community. When I was growing up, my family would go to church on Sunday mornings, but we wouldn't actually leave until well



after the service was over. My mom was especially the one who wanted to connect with others, to hear how people were doing. At the time, I might have rolled my eyes and beckoned her saying, "Please can we leave now?"

But looking back, I realize now how important connection is in our lives. It is what gives life to our spirit, opening us up. I might even say now that building relationship with others is a central call of what it means to follow Jesus. Indeed, one of our Christian sacraments—communion—has its roots in a small community of disciples, gathering to share a meal together. It is a place where we feel the union of our hearts.



While there are so many ways community happens here on the Island, I want to lift up a couple ways I have seen Spirit moving in community recently. During these winter months, when the wind and snow can easily make you feel like you're out in the wilderness on your own, I have noticed that our gatherings have a certain kind of weight to them.

When we gathered this last week for our Thursday night community dinner and game night, I heard at least one person express how wonderful it was to

get out to be with others. Feeling the warmth of each other's conversations with a good meal was just what we needed in the cold of winter. There were stories told, there was conversation on the state of the world, and there was laughter in the air. It was as if we dropped into a groove that Spirit had created just for this moment, and we had found our place where we belonged. This was the everyday faith and spirituality that comes alive in community.



It happened again this last Sunday after church when our people gathered over food and conversation. When I entered the room, there was the hum of the Spirit in the air, each person alive in their conversation. There were three full tables of people, all looking like they were always meant to be there. And it was as if a great ache for this space had finally been fulfilled. I don't know if I can fully put language to it, but I know deep down that this was Spirit work, this kind of community building.



As we continue in this winter season, may you find spaces to encounter the Spirit through conversation. May you feel the warmth of connection that makes your heart open. May you experience the everyday faith of community.

Blessings, Nathan

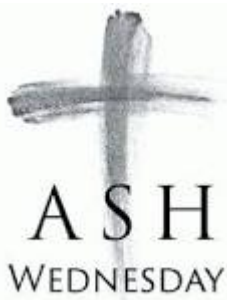
## The Pastor is In and the Doors Are Open

After experimenting with office hours this last month, I'm going back to having a more informal system. I'll typically be in my office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the day. If there's anyone who wants to meet with me, you're welcome to drop by anytime. If you want to make sure I'm here, feel free to email me ([nathan@stjohnsmadelineisland.org](mailto:nathan@stjohnsmadelineisland.org)) or text me (218-390-6444) to set up a time.



## Ash Wednesday Service

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**February 14 at 4:30pm.**



Ash Wednesday is a holy day of prayer. Preceded by Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday falls six and half weeks before Easter and marks the first day of the Lenten season.

## Popular Thursday Community Dinners

We are continuing our Community Dinners this Winter and excited to see new neighbors and friends. Come join us on Thursdays at 5:00 pm. Mark these Community Dinner dates on your calendar and come join us for any or all gatherings in the lower level of St. John's.

**Thursdays at 5:00 pm**  
**February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29,**  
**and March 7**  
**Come hungry!**  
**Dinner will be provided.**



## Bible Study Exploring Peace

Bible Study is diving into conversations around peace. Who inspired your understanding of peace? How does one address conflict with peace and civility? The questions are infinite, the answers complex. We would love for you join us in the lower level of St. John's or on Zoom. Contact Pastor Nathan at [nathan@stjohnsmadelineisland.org](mailto:nathan@stjohnsmadelineisland.org).



*Dove of Peace by Pablo Picasso*

## Serenity on the Rock AIAnon Meetings

Serenity on the Rock AIAnon Meetings are every Tuesday 4:00 – 5:00 pm via Zoom - Meeting ID: 880 1533 6936; Passcode: island. AIAnon is a mutual support organization for the families and friends of alcoholics. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Sarah (612) 730-8422



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## Prayer Requests



Have a prayer request? It's easy – and confidential. Hover over the Contact page on our website to see the link to PRAYER REQUEST.

<https://stjohnsmadelineisland.org/prayer/>

Prayer requests **only** go to Pastor Nathan's private inbox. Please indicate whether you prefer to keep your prayer request private or have it added to the Prayers of the People.

## Online Shopping at Woods Hall

Woods Hall is excited to announce the arrival of online shopping. Rugs, ceramics, jewelry, books, and more made by local artists is available beginning at the end of February.



Woods Hall Gallery items are now available to you anytime and anywhere you may be! Sara Jamison, Woods Hall's new Marketing Communications Coordinator, will help you select the perfect gift for you to give to a friend, neighbor, or family member. Contact Sara at [sara@woodshall.com](mailto:sara@woodshall.com)

## Is My Calendar Wrong?

Nope. 2024 is a Leap Year. Why?

It takes Earth 365.242190 days to orbit the Sun, or 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes and 56 seconds. This "sidereal" year is slightly longer than the calendar year, and that extra 5 hours 48 minutes and 56 seconds needs to be accounted for somehow. If we didn't account for this extra time, the seasons would begin to drift. Eventually, we'd be celebrating our annual Bazaar in December!



## AA Meetings

AA meets every Saturday for one hour at 5:30 pm in St. John's Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Questions? Want to learn more? Contact Larry M at 715-559-7661. This group is not affiliated with St. John's UCC.



## Full Moon Circle for Women

This month's full moon is the Full Snow Moon on February 24, so named because February is typically the month when we receive the most snow.



We will honor the Full Moon by lighting candles and offering prayers at 7pm. Any questions, email or message Julie at [strykerjf@yahoo.com](mailto:strykerjf@yahoo.com). Thank you, Miigwech

## Balance Exercise Continues All Winter

Balance Exercise Group  
Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 am  
Healing Motion Yurt, 900 Big Bay Road

Group led exercises will help improve participants' strength, flexibility, balance, and endurance. They are especially helpful in fall prevention. Please join us. Questions? Contact Becky Hogan at 218-310-6092 or Marnie Sanborn Myhre at 651-308-9829.



R2QT09

Meeting ID: 845 8332 9061

Passcode: Balance

Join Zoom Meeting (at link or scan QR code):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84583329061?pwd=SGVDTDYwbGw5a05LdFZkYUE3UX>





# WOODS HALL

Gallery & Studios

Woods Hall Gallery Hours:

Fridays and Saturdays 11 AM – 3 PM

Sundays 11 AM - 1 PM

## No Need to Wait for Summer!

We are live at [www.woodshall.com/shop](http://www.woodshall.com/shop)! Online sales have officially launched on Woods Hall's website. Gift certificates are now available online. At the end of February, you'll see artist collections going live on the website.



No need to wait for summer shopping. You can shop from anywhere, anytime. Questions? Start selecting gifts for yourself or a friend by contacting Sara Jamison, Woods Hall Marketing Communication Coordinator at [sara@woodshall.com](mailto:sara@woodshall.com).



*Woods Hall Gallery features art created by local artists, all of whom have a connection to Madeline Island. An association of over 80 artisans, Woods Hall is a place of teaching, sharing, and learning, and a haven of creativity for weavers, potters, knitters, writers, soap makers, candle makers, painters, jewelry designers, woodcutters, and metal workers.*



**Janine Dobson**

Woods Hall Gallery & Studios Manager

**Sara Jamison**

Woods Hall Marketing Communications Coordinator

[sara@woodshall.com](mailto:sara@woodshall.com)



Email: [woodshallgallery@gmail.com](mailto:woodshallgallery@gmail.com)



Website: [www.woodshall.com](http://www.woodshall.com)



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WoodsHallGallery>



Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/woodshallgallery/>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
January 28 Worship, 10 am	29	30 Bible Study, Zoom & Fellowship Hall, 1pm Al Anon, 4-5pm	31 Balance Exercise Group, 10:30 am, 900 Big Bay Rd	February 1 Community Dinner, 5 – 7 pm, Fellowship Hall	2 Balance Exercise Group, 10:30 am, 900 Big Bay Rd	3 AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
4 Worship and Communion, 10 am	5	6 Bible Study, Zoom & Fellowship Hall, 1pm Al Anon, 4-5pm	7 Balance Exercise Group, 10:30 am, 900 Big Bay Rd	8 Community Dinner, 5 – 7 pm, Fellowship Hall	9 Balance Exercise Group, 10:30 am, 900 Big Bay Rd	10 AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
11 Worship, 10 am	12	13 Bible Study, Zoom & Fellowship Hall, 1pm Al Anon, 4-5pm	14 Balance Exercise Group, 10:30 am, 900 Big Bay Rd Ash Wednesday Worship Service, 4:30 pm	15 Community Dinner, 5 – 7 pm, Fellowship Hall	16 Balance Exercise Group, 10:30 am, 900 Big Bay Rd	17 AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
18 Worship, 10 am	19	20 Bible Study, Zoom & Fellowship Hall, 1pm Al Anon, 4-5pm	21 Balance Exercise Group, 10:30 am, 900 Big Bay Rd Council Meeting, 4:30 – 6 pm	22 Community Dinner, 5 – 7 pm, Fellowship Hall	23 Balance Exercise Group, 10:30 am, 900 Big Bay Rd	24 AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall Full Moon Circle for Women, 7:00 pm
25 Worship, 10 am	26	27 Bible Study, Zoom & Fellowship Hall, 1pm Al Anon, 4-5pm	28 Balance Exercise Group, 10:30 am, 900 Big Bay Rd Woods Hall Board Meeting, 4 – 5:30 pm	29 Community Dinner, 5 – 7 pm, Fellowship Hall	March 1 Balance Exercise Group, 10:30 am, 900 Big Bay Rd	2 AA Meeting, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
				<b>LEAP DAY</b>		



## St. John's United Church of Christ

P. O. Box 14, 706 Main Street  
Madeline Island  
La Pointe, Wisconsin 54850  
(715) 747-3945  
Tax ID #23-7165228

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*St. John's on Madeline Island ~ Celebrating a Century of Island Spirit*

### Follow St. John's



Website: [www.stjohnsmadelineisland.org](http://www.stjohnsmadelineisland.org)



Instagram: @stjohnschurchmi



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Facebook: [facebook.com/stjohnsonmadelineisland](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsonmadelineisland)

Worship Streaming



<https://www.youtube.com/c/stjohnsucconmadelineisland>



Reverend Nathan Holst

[nathan@stjohnsmadelineisland.org](mailto:nathan@stjohnsmadelineisland.org)



*Photo credit: Bill Green*

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