



Faith United Church of Christ –January 2019
www.faithslinger.org

Happy New Year!

Did you observe New Year's Eve traditions as 2018 came to a close and 2019 began? Did you do something special to mark the changing of the calendar? Go out to eat? Party with family and friends? Watch movies? Take the Polar Bear Plunge? Stay at home and quietly welcome the New Year?

As a kid, our family always went out to eat early with our neighbors, after which one of the families would host an evening of Sheepshead playing and "lunch" after midnight. When I was old enough, New Year's Eve was all about babysitting—and contemplating.

Back in the day, before there was cable, TV stations went off the air after 2 or 3 in the morning. I wasn't a babysitter who liked to sleep while caring for the kids, so when parents didn't come home before the TV went off the air, I had a lot of time to do some ruminating about the previous year—its highs and lows—and then think about the ways the next twelve months might bring about improvement, growth, blessing for everything from my family to school to the world. . . .

And while TV stations don't go off the air any longer, on New Year's Eve, I still find myself ruminating on the year past, Christ's call to his followers, and the way this coming year might help salve the wounds that all of us, living on this terrestrial ball, suffer.

I confess that the task of being an agent of change for Christ seems a monumental one. After all, you don't have to look long and hard to find problems so large and so complex that it seems next to impossible to address any one of them in a way that brings about any evidence of Christ's Kingdom being built here on earth. How can any one of us help slow the tensions between countries in the Middle East? How can any one of us lend a hand to solving the problem of poverty, food insecurity, homelessness? What can any one of us do to eliminate the hatred of others that resides in the hearts of many, and is expressed openly in an increasing number of instances? These are tasks that seem hopeless at worst—a bit Don Quixotic at best.

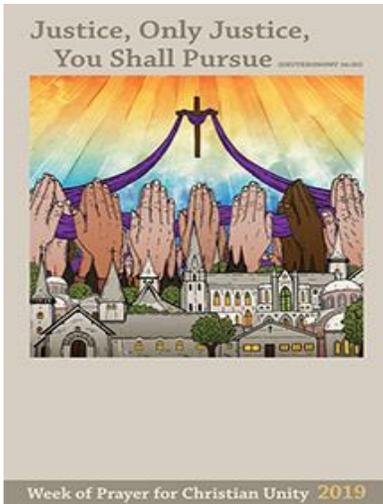
While cogitating on answers to these questions, I ran across this quote in a posting on Clergy Coaching Network's Facebook page, that offered a new line of attack on being an agent of change for Christ. Written by Sheri Eckhart, it reads,

Beginning anew. "Be that one. That one who forgives when deep offense has been committed. That one who loves when no one else does. That one who gives kindness to those who are mean. Be that who looks past the insult, instead seeing the pain that motivated it. That one who shines light on those who sit in utter darkness. Because the impact of being that one runs far and wide. It brings healing to the wounded, joy to the sad, and hope to those in despair. Be that one."

THAT'S IT! We have the blessing and opportunity to bring about change for Christ's sake by living as Christ called each of us to live. That's what will change the world! Christ can and will take care of the broad sweeping changes our world needs, if we but plant the tiny seeds of self-less love, forgiveness, compassion in our families, our communities, this church and beyond. That has to be the way to heal the hurts and divisions, the hatred, suspicions and fears. A more ardent pursuit of our relationship with and devotion to Christ that results in action that reveals Christ to others.

In this New Year, may we all aspire to take additional steps toward living the life exemplified by Christ. May we ask him for the strength to live in love and faith, especially at those moments when we want to lash out, turn away or expand the gulf between one another. May we fan the flames of Christ's love that reside in our hearts, so others might be touched and led by his Light. Because if we do, I know it will truly be one Happy New Year!

Pastor Sharon



Faith to Host Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Worship

The churches of Slinger will gather Wednesday, January 23, at 7 pm, to worship and pray for the unity of Christ's church. The theme for the service finds its origins from scripture in the book of Deuteronomy. "Justice, Only Justice, You Shall Pursue" (Deuteronomy 16:20) because of its powerful message of promoting truth, equality and unity.

Clergy, laity and choir members from St. Luke's, St. John's, St. Peter's and Faith will participate in the service.

As hosts for the service, we'll also prepare refreshments for a fellowship time following worship. You may let Nancy Schilling-Genz (262) 644-9569 know if you'd like to provide refreshments or by signing up on the bulletin board.

It's a Seasonal Wrap

The awe-inspiring seasons Advent and Christmas have drawn to a close. So, it's time to take down and store all of the beautiful decorations that help us prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's birth.

Sunday, January 6, we'll be doing just that following the worship service that day. Please join us to help stow away the tree and greens, wreaths and ribbons that have adorned the church these last seven weeks.



KFC Kids Collecting Socks, Caps & Mittens

When the weather gets cold, we remember that there are children and adults who need caps and mittens and socks to wear when the weather becomes frightful!

Throughout Advent and Christmas-tide, the kids of the congregation will be collecting socks, caps, mittens, scarves for people of any age—newborns through the most aged members of any community. Home made, new or gently-used items will be gladly and gratefully accepted for the tree through January 6.

Items will be shared with area ministries, like Family Promise, that assist the homeless and other low income neighbors.

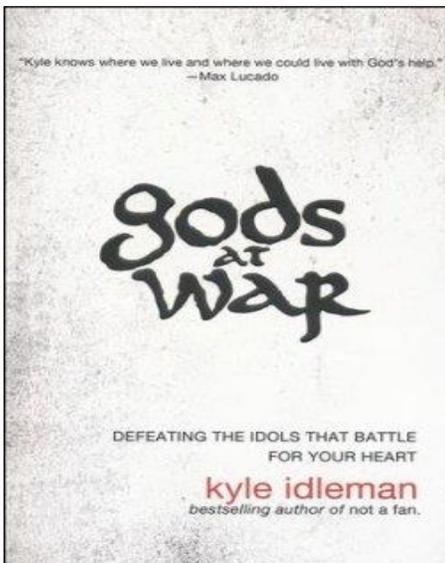
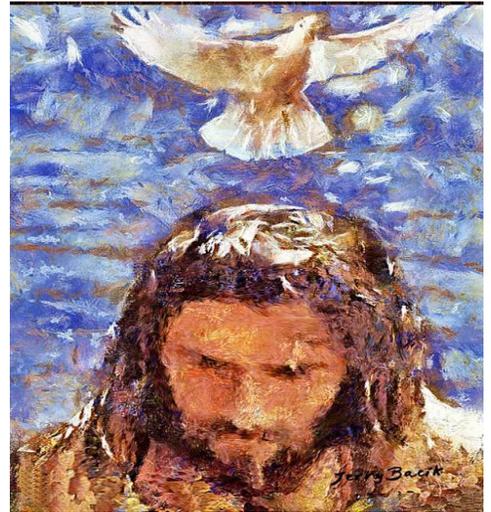
What We're Learning

2019 finds us learning all about Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan River. We want everyone to remember that Jesus is God's Son—that's our Bible point for the unit. The Bible treasure verse is, "And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'" Matthew 3:17.

Our weekly shepherds who will help the leaders during Sundays are assigned to help on the following dates:

January 6: JJ & Emily
January 20: Elizabeth & Aric

January 13: Landon & Wesley
January 27: Aaron & Miley



Winter Bible Study to Take a Look at the gods Who Want to Capture Our Hearts

There may be no wooden or golden idols in your home, such as the ancient Israelites struggled with, but chances are, there are significant idols in your heart. These idols can look like normal, everyday concerns about security, financial stability, desire for attention or affection, but can easily become the ugly reality of anxiety, greed, and seeking approval of other human beings, rather than God.

In *Gods at War*, Kyle Idleman addresses the issue of idolatry in the lives of believers by asking insightful questions that will help you determine which false gods are striving to sit on the throne of your heart. By sharing true and powerful testimonies of those who have struggled with the idols of money, sex, success, food and romance, Idleman clears away the cultural baggage of the 21st century to expose these gods for what they are--rivals to our unhindered devotion to Christ. Discover the freedom that awaits you when you allow the true God to reside unchallenged in your heart and life.

Interested in digging deeper and learning more about God's grace? You can sign up on the narthex bulletin board or let Pastor Sharon know of your plans to attend the class. If you can do so by January 6, that would be fantastic!

As is our practice, you are not required to pay for class materials. However, if you wish to reimburse the church for the class materials, \$20 will cover the cost of the books and \$2 will help defray the shipping expenses. Reimbursement will be gratefully received by the church.

Classes will meet from 6-8 pm on the following Tuesdays:

Tuesday, January 8
Tuesday, February 5

Tuesday, January 22
Tuesday, February 12

Tuesday, January 29
Tuesday, February 26

Classes will meet from 6:30-8 on the following Wednesdays:

Wednesday, January 16 Wednesday, February 20

Supper will be served at each gathering.

Sunday Morning Worship Leadership!

Is God calling you to participate in worship in a new way? Might God be asking you to assist in worship leadership by reading scriptures, ushering and offering a warm welcome to our Sunday morning guests? Perhaps you'd like to call the church to worship by ringing the church bell, or maybe God's asking you to remind us that Christ, the Light of the World, is with us by serving as an acolyte. Could God be asking you to participate in the Altar Guild—the group that sets up communion and coordinates decorations in the sanctuary.



Please know that we have made a change in the Acolyte's group, as adults of all ages are invited to serve in that role, in addition to the kids. No one's ever never too old to acolyte!

Might God be calling you to serve?

If you answer "Yes!" to any of these questions, and wish to begin serving, you're asked to let Pastor Sharon know of your interest or before January 15. You'll then be scheduled to serve in a leadership role for worship at various times throughout the year.

If you're already serving and sense God's call to continue in this ministry, you'll automatically be put on the schedule that begins in February. If you believe you're called to serve elsewhere in ministry, please let Pastor Sharon know on or before January 15 so your name can be removed from the schedule.

Yummy Pearls Pizzas on Sale Beginning January 13

Football parties and pizza go together! During the playoffs, why not pick up some delicious Pearl's Pizzas to serve at your parties. And, if you're too heartbroken over another Packer-less NFL playoffs, it's always good to have a pizza or two in the freezer anyway.



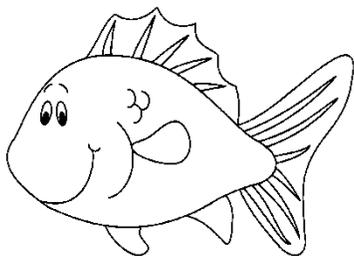
Four varieties of pizzas will be on sale: Cheese; Sausage; Pepperoni, and Supreme. Any pizza is only \$6.

We'll have the freezer upstairs in the elevator room so you can pick up as many as you'd like. We're going to use the honor system when it comes to paying for the pizzas. Just leave the cash or check in the box inside the freezer. Proceeds from the sale will support the congregation's mission.

FISH FRY FRIDAY TO HELP SUPPORT SOME FANTASTIC MINISTRIES!

Help make a difference in the lives of Washington County residents by enjoying a heaping helping of delicious fried fish. Please save two dates: Friday, March 8 and Friday, April 12. Both fish fries will be held from 4-7:30 pm at The Columbian, 3245 Lighthouse Lane, West Bend.

Once again, charities that lend a helping hand to individuals across the county will benefit from this event that we sponsor. Albrecht Free Clinic; Casa Guadalupe; Elevate; Family Promise; Habitat for Humanity of Washington & Dodge County; Interfaith Caregivers of Washington County. The church also benefits from designated, undesignated and "at the door" ticket sales. Those coming to enjoy the meal, prepared by Catering by Bryan, may designate the charity which should receive the proceeds from their ticket.



Tickets will be on sale in February and may be purchased, beginning in February, through: any of the benefiting charities; The Columbian; Faith United Church of Christ, and Nehm's Floral and Greenhouse, Slinger or by calling 262-334-9849 or 262-644-7901. Children's tickets are available for purchase at the door.

YOUR HELPING HANDS ARE NEEDED FOR HELPING HANDS FISH FRY

Can you lend a hand with the Helping Hands Fish Fry? We like to run a couple of shifts of workers. First shift runs from 3:30-6 pm and the second shift runs from 6-8:30 pm.

Help will be needed: bussing tables; serving desserts, serving hot food; greeting people; taking tickets; selling tickets, and baking desserts prior to the fish fry. There's a sign-up sheet posted on the narthex bulletin board, or just let Pastor Sharon know: when you'd like to work; what work you'd like to do, and if you'd like to work one or both of the fish fries. Thanks!

Silent Auction items or baskets are also desired. Proceeds from the sale of these baskets donated by church members will go to the church. If you have a complete basket to donate, please bring it to the Columbian by 3:30 pm on the day of the fish fry, or make arrangements to drop them off with a Mission Team member before the day of the fish fry. If you have individual auction items, please get them to a mission team member on or before March 3 or April 7. Thank you!

Bits and Pieces for Our Life Together. . .

Have an article for the newsletter? That's GREAT! Please send it to Pastor Sharon at [sstier@outlook.com](mailto:ss-tier@outlook.com) on or before the 20th of each month for publication in the next newsletter.

Giving has never been easier with online donations! Simply visit <https://easytithe.com/faithslinger> to set up a free account to begin offering your gifts to the church securely using your checking account or credit card. See Alan Lehman if you have any questions.

In Our Prayers: Prayers are asked for healing for Jed Dolnick, Darlene Endres, Edna Schall, Dianne Wiedmeyer, Greg Ruchi, Bruce Miller, Beth Miller, Judy Schowalter, Elizabeth Melius, Dick Mayer, Jean Happel, Ami Cooper (Dick & Marilyn Mayer's granddaughter), Amy Meyer, Don Jackson, Annette Egan, Kathy Baumgart, (friend of Nancy Mark Cardinal), Julie Stier, (Pastor Sharon's sister-in-law), Abby Fisher member of Bethel UCC, Eden) and Ivan Schall. Prayers for Christ's presence and God's protection for Marine Lance Corporal Josh Zehner who is currently deployed. Please remember the homebound members of the congregation including: Edie Pickhard and Don & Sandy Jackson.



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A Sunday Reminder: Life can get pretty busy for folks. To help remind folks of Sunday morning worship responsibilities, reminder texts and/or emails will go out to those who are scheduled to lend a hand in the coming week. If your schedule has changed and you can't serve as assigned, please find a substitute who will take care of the duties! Thanks!

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism, December 9, were: Marlene Sierra Worby, born on January 30, 2014, and Lewis Gordon Worby, born on January 26, 2018. Marlene and Lewis are the children of Scott and Nina (Zeile) Worby. Their godparents are: Trina Worby; Jelena and Fabian Jonas; Tom & Cary Weber.

We give thanks to God for. . . .



- Bryan Herther for providing many of the Advent/Christmas decorations for the sanctuary and narthex
 - Beth Miller; Gerald Nicholas; Wendy Schauer; Jim Bev, Jamie, Emily and Elizabeth Melius; Paul, Jenni and Wesley Gordon; Christa, Landon and Mylie Wendorf; Tom, Jodi, Aaron, Ashley and Aric Nadelhoffer and Dennis Kittel for their work on the Christmas program.
 - Barb Meyer, Linda Hautala, Marilyn Nadelhoffer and Karen Reinders for hosting coffee fellowship;
- Reuben and Ruth Schowalter for stuffing bulletins
- Marilyn Nadelhoffer for providing the roses for Marlene and Lewis Worby baptisms.
- Laurie Stretz for completing the baptism certificates.
- Jim Sachse, Krista Wendorf & Ruth Schowalter for purchasing, organizing and distributing the Christmas goodie bags
- Judy Nehm for providing the evergreen wreaths and poinsettias for the church
- Rita Melius for organizing the "Hanging of the Greens" liturgy
- Tom & Jodi Nadelhoffer, Aaron, Ashley, Aric; Christa, Landon & Mylie Wendorf & Jim Sachse; Wendy Schauer; JJ Nicholas; Jim & Bev, Jamie, Patrick, Elizabeth, Emily Melius; Paul & Jenni, Wesley & Wyatt Gordon; Beth Miller for leading the Advent Candlelighting Liturgy on Sunday mornings in Advent.
- Cathy Schmidt, Scott & Nina Worby, Trina Worby for serving cupcakes during coffee fellowship, December 9.

Some Housekeeping!

We need to do some cleaning. . . of the church directory!

Beginning in February, and Lent arrives, March 6, we'll have folks in the narthex, armed with the contact information we currently have on file. Would you please be so kind as to check that information, and make any corrections and additions to the information.

With the information you provide, we'll compile a new church directory that we'll distribute to all.

Thanks for the help!

Worship Leadership Responsibilities
Altar Guild: Jim Sachse & Christa Wendorf

Communion Servers January 6: Rob Schowalter, Alan Lehman, Linda Hautala, Wendy Schauer

Date	Reader	Acolyte	Ushers	Bell Ringer
1/6	Ellen Dolnick	Landon Wendorf	Dan Neuburg, Bill Nehm, Joyce Herther	Dick Mayer
1/13	Christa Wendorf	Aaron Nadelhoffer	Carl & Marilyn Schmidt	Dan Neuburg
1/20	Alan Lehman	Patrick Melius	Barb Meyer & Reuben Schowalter	Alan Lehman
1/27	Cathy Schmidt	Landon Wendorf	Karen Nehm, Carol Wagner & Curtis Nehm	Jim Melius

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 	2	3	4 Ruth Schowalter's Birthday	5
6 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellowship; 10 am Worship with Communion; 11 am Coffee Fellowship; Take down of Christmas Decorations	7 3:45 pm Confirmation	8 6-8 pm Bible Study	9 6:30 pm Worship Team 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11	12 9 am Outreach Team meeting at Fussy Feebies, Campbellsport
13 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellow- ship; 10 am Worship; 11 am Coffee Fellow- ship; Consistory Cheryl Asmus, Dick Mayer & Mylie Wendorf's Birthday	14	15 Nancy Cardinal's Birthday	16 6:30 pm Bible Study 8 pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18	19
20 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellow- ship; 10 am Worship; 11 am Coffee Fellow- ship	21	22 6-8 pm Bible Study	23 7 pm Slinger Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service here	24	25	26
27 8:45 am KFC; 9:30 am Coffee Fellow- ship; 10 am Worship; 11 am Coffee Fellow- ship Chris Melius' Birthday	28	29 6-8 pm Bible Study Edie Pickhard's Birthday	30	31		