

St John United Church of Christ

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

August 2017



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

Use your imagination! Can you see Paul preaching before the Areopagus in Athens, the center of wisdom and a city "filled with idols"? Acts 17:18 records that in Athens Paul "argued with some Epicureans". Epicurus was a 4th century BC Greek philosopher with a very modern outlook: reality is made up of atoms which come together by chance and unite to form the objects we encounter—and ourselves. When someone dies, the atoms disconnect and the person is no more. Chance governs all. There is no "design" and no "designer."

*I've been reading *The Meaning of Human Existence* by the Harvard biologist and Pulitzer Prize winner Edward O. Wilson. "Humanity," Wilson argues, "arose entirely on its own through an accumulated series of events during evolution. We are not predestined to reach any goal, nor are we answerable to any power but our own." A 21st century re-statement of Epicurus' thought!*

Rather than seeing humanity as a fluke occurrence of evolution, Christianity declares that we are made in the image of God and that God's goal is to see his will done in our lives. Paul realized that there is a yearning for eternity, for the divine, in each of us. But instead of "groping for God," as Paul put it in Acts 17:27, the Gospel declares that in Jesus God has come to his creation, to find us and to make us new creatures who fully reflect God's image.

*What's the purpose of creation?
What's the purpose of your life?
I like the answer given by the
Westminster Catechism (1643):*

*"To glorify God and to
ENJOY God forever"!*

In Christ's love,

Pastor David – 630-747-8181



Alex Wolf

Alex Wolf: Seminary Intern at St John UCC

Alex Wolf, a fourth year student at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS) in Deerfield, will be an "intern" at St John for the academic year, 2017-2018.

Council members held an interview with Alex and were impressed with his responses to our questions, his awareness of both his abilities and his need for more experience and education, and with the ease he interacted with us.

Alex grew up in Stanton, NE, and has been a life-long member of New England UCC in Stanton. After graduating from Nebraska Christian College with a major in Pastoral Ministry, Alex enrolled in TEDS in 2014, and will graduate this May.

This will not be Alex's first internship. Alex has had 5 semesters of intern experience, including 2 semesters at St Paul UCC in Palatine. TEDS requires some type of cross-cultural ministry, and this past semester Alex interned with a Korean Presbyterian congregation in Deerfield.

We want Alex to serve in as many areas of ministry as possible, but we are asking Alex to coordinate our Children's Church program.

Alex returns to Deerfield on August 19, and he will be worshipping with us on August 20! Alex's internship will officially start on September 1st.

Craft Fair / Flea Market

September 16, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Booth applications are coming in, but there are still spaces available. Help spread the word.

All our info is on the our website.

<http://www.stjohnuccpalatine.org/craft-fair-flea-market>

The vendor application form is on that page too. Just click that link or use this one

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/364d60_f00fb-08772e448cd86345e4caf5b77b4.pdf

Please print out copies and post around town or hand out at art fairs and flea markets. Share the info and links to your friends and Facebook.

Lori Neumann is the contact for this event. Please talk to her to help with preparation, organizing, day of help or financial help for our biggest fund raiser.



Start bringing in your flea market contributions

This is your chance! Unload it, pass it along to someone who can use it. You have been hanging onto it while it collects dust. It is just taking up space!

What am I talking about? All that stuff in the basement, attic, garage, back of the closet. The clothes that no longer fit. The gadget you hardly ever use.

That gift you really didn't like. Let someone else find the joy in it.

Give yourself some breathing room in your home and a fresh feel while contributing to the St John flea market booth. All the proceeds go to your very own St John Church. Please be sure to donate gently used items. No stained or torn clothing.

Family Day - *Canceled*

We took a look at the sign up sheet and found August to be a busy month because we had limited sign up participation. Look for a new date in the future and in the mean time enjoy the rest of summer.

Amidst the BBQ's, vacations, family obligations and back to school prep don't forget to spend time with God and your St John family.



GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO ST JOHN FOR A REASON.

by Laura D'Argo

The St John members have a way of coming thru. We plan an event, post a sign up sheet and some sign up. The day of the event the members come to help even if they didn't sign up.

In the end it works. But we are trying to get a handle on how much we can take on and the direction our events and our church should go. Some events like the Craft Fair Flea Market are great fund raisers. Some like the Food Drive are a great way to give to the community and speak to who we are, people who care.

Others still are about letting people know we are a community for Christ and welcome them in our walk in the word. Each of these outreaches are important to our growth and the growth of St John UCC and the Christian faith.

Your participation helps us achieve this. The council appreciates any help you can give to assist in these goals. Do you have a comment, idea or inspiration? Let me know and I will make sure the Council is made aware.

***God has called you to St John for a reason.
What is God calling you to do?***

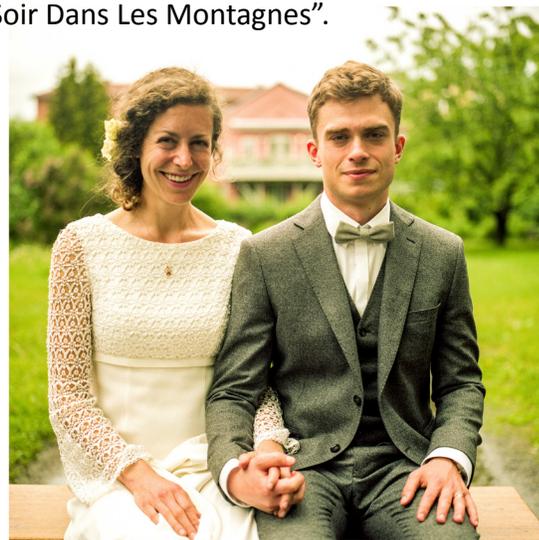
Jayne and Timo Betina are married!



Written by Tim Jaderholm

Timo Betina is from Slovakia. They are now Timo and Jayne Betina! The wedding was on Saturday, June 10th, 2017 at the American Lutheran Church in Oslo, Norway. Timo and Jayne both met when they were studying abroad in Sweden in 2011, and stayed in touch ever since. The wedding service was very classic, with scripture readings, hymns, homily, and the exchanging of vows. Some special parts of the service were the prayers by both of the dads, Mr. Betina (who is a pastor) and our dad, Mr. Jaderholm. Timo's older sister, Debora, also played a beautiful flute solo near the end of the service. She performed Eugene Bozza's "Soir Dans Les Montagnes".

*We Celebrate with
Jayne (Jaderholm) and Timo Betina.*



The reception was in the church basement with coffee and cake. Later, close family and friends were invited to a catered brunch at a charming and rustic former one-room schoolhouse along the banks of the Aker River. We all enjoyed delicious food and lively company. Photos around the schoolhouse courtyard and on the banks of the Aker River followed. It was a wonderful event!

Jayne and Timo honeymooned in Croatia. They will continue to live in Oslo while Jayne attends graduate school at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design for landscape architecture.

– *Special Thanks to Tim Jaderholm for sharing the good news and photos.*



Service 10:30 am – All Year

Children's Church every Sunday, following the Children's Message

Older kids from 9:30 to 10:15 am, before the service

Pastor David has church office hours weekly. Please call 630-747-8181 to make an appointment for a visit.

Calendar Events

August 6th – Family Day

CANCELED

Look for a rescheduled date in the future.

September 16th – Craft Fair/Flea Market

Sign up sheets coming in August!

Please sign up as you are able, so we can better plan the event.

Contact Lori Neumann

October 21st– Ham Supper

Contact Jared Cooley

November 19th– Turkey Pot Luck and Hymn Sing

Christmas Services

December 24th

Christmas Sunday Service 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00 pm.

Weddings at St John

If you know anyone who is newly engaged, mention St John UCC for their wedding.



Our old rugged Cross



Thank you to Lori, Allen, and Gary for cleaning it up.

Have you ever helped organize a St John event?

Laura D'Argo, is putting together info packets on how to do each event. Don't forget to contact her if you haven't done so already.

Give Laura a call at 847-303-5361 and set up a time to sit down with her so she can record the info. OR just send off an email of any info you have to: stjohnuccpalatine@gmail.com.

Your help is greatly appreciated and will help those volunteering to work an event by making the process as simple as possible.



Fellowship

Come to the lower level after worship to enjoy refreshments and conversation. Please bring a dish to share whenever you can.



Last Sunday of the Month

- Communion
- Food Pantry donation pick up.

Did you know you can donate to St. John Church via paypal? Go to stjohnUCCpalatine.org and click on the Donate button on the home page OR click on the link below to go directly to giving <http://stjohnUCCpalatine.org/giving>

St. John Church

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