

St. John's U.C.C. April 2017 Newsletter



St. John's United Church of Christ

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Black Creek, Wisconsin 54106

Church Ph. (920)-984-3845








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Rev. Dr. Tom Fritz, Pastor (920)-268-5757

"The purpose of this congregation is to be a faith community promoting the kingdom of God through worship, teaching and action...GET READY!"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2017</h1> <p style="text-align: right;">St. John's United Church of Christ Black Creek, Wisconsin Phone: 920-984-3845</p>						1
2 Communion Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday school, Confirmation class, & Adult Bible study 10:15 a.m. Worship (Senior choir sings) <i>Samantha R's Statement of Faith</i>	3 <i>Order Easter flowers for best selection</i>	4 Election Day  6:30 p.m. Board of Christian Education meeting	5 1:30 p.m. Women's Guild meeting 6:30 p.m. Soup & sandwich supper 7:00 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday school, Confirmation class, & Adult Bible study 10:15 a.m. Worship (R. Miller preaching) Senior choir sings and Children (Palm Parade) <i>Last day to order flowers/plants to be delivered by Kailhofer's Greenhouse or Black Creek Garden & Gifts</i> 	10	11  6:30 p.m. Council meeting	12 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice	13 9:00 a.m. Deadline for INCLUSION of donor names and dedications for Easter décor, in Easter bulletin 9:00 a.m. Newsletter information deadline — <i>please have articles and info to Kim for May newsletter</i>  7:00 p.m. Worship (Senior choir sings)	14 Good Friday 	15 9:00 a.m. Deadline to BRING flowers / plants for Easter altar décor.
16 Easter Sunday! 7:30 a.m. Worship 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 10:15 a.m. Worship Senior choir sings 	17	18	19 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice	20	21	22
23 9:00 a.m. Sunday school, Confirmation class, & Adult Bible study 10:15 a.m. Worship Senior choir sings 11:15 a.m. Worship committee meeting (after worship)	24	25	26 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice	27 1:00 p.m. Assemble newsletters— <i>please call Kim around noon to confirm</i>	28 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Someone will be at church to receive your donation of baked goods / candies.	29 8:00 a.m. Bake Sale!
30 Confirmation Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday school, Confirmation class, & Adult Bible study 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Music committee meeting (after worship)						<p style="text-align: center;">"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8 NIV).</p>

Facing Death, as Resurrection People



On Sunday, April 16, most Christians around the world will celebrate Easter. Great anthems and hymns will be sung. The good news of resurrection will be preached. Joy and gladness will rule the day.

On Monday, April 17, life will return to its usual routine. Commuters on their way to work will find the traffic snarled and tempers may flare. Somewhere along the way a machine may fail, a person may make a mistake, a tragedy will occur, and someone on the way to work will die. In that moment, Easter may be forgotten all together.

While Easter's message is joyfully received, it can be so easily lost in the humdrum of our daily lives. Resurrection overcomes death, yet death is not to be denied. All of us, like Jesus, face the power of death sooner or later. How do we, as Resurrection People, deal with the powers of death still at work in our world?

In many ways, death is a natural part of life. Jesus speaks to this in many of His parables. Seeds die as they give birth to the plant. Fruits die to give birth to the seeds they carry. Life and death are always dancing together. Resurrection is not about denying the reality of the dance. Resurrection is about living free from the power of fear that often accompanies death. Fear is the great barrier that can alienate us, enslave us, and deform us. When we live in fear of death, we lose the power to live life to its fullest. The empty tomb proclaims God's love. It reveals that those who die under the umbrella of God's love have nothing to fear. Resurrection allows us to live boldly and love with reckless abandon, trusting that God's love equips us to face every challenge.

If we are to truly live as Resurrection People, we need to

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Menning, with Aron Rasmussen, Gary Vander Linden, Judy Samson, Connie Wheeler, Lisa Waterstradt and Pastor Tom Fritz present.

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Pastor Tom Fritz.

A motion was made, by Aron Rasmussen and seconded by Lisa Waterstradt, to accept the minutes from January 2017. Motion passed.

A motion was made, by Aron Rasmussen and seconded by Judy Samson, to accept the Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's reports. Motion passed.

Pastors Report

- Conducted 1 traditional Sunday service, one with communion
- Attended 3 traditional Sunday services to get to know the worship
- Attended 2 church meetings, 3 administrative meetings, 2 funerals
- Made 1 home visit with Jim R.



Committee Reports

Membership: Pastor Tom had a few ideas on how to get new members and a welcome committee with orientation.

Christian Ed: Next meeting will be March 9, 2017.

Worship: Pastor Tom is using a worship format similar to the format used by Pastor Don. The Wednesday Lent

Services will be held differently this year.

Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday services will be held in the sanctuary, but the other weeks worship will be in the fellowship hall, following soup and sandwich suppers.

Music:

Nothing at this time.

House:

Pastor Tom has one of the garage door openers, and the church will keep the other one. There are some concerns of the ceiling in the dining room area, and the shower on the main floor needs to be looked at.

Stewardship:

Nothing at this time.

Campital Campaign: We are on target with our goal.



Old Business:

- Letter was sent to Pastor Mark regarding his mail being forwarded. Any mail that the church receives is either solicitor mail or Kim forwards it on at no charge to the church.

New Business:

- Signatures need to be updated for bank account.
- Statement of Faith for Samantha Rasmussen will be April 2, 2017. Confirmation will be April 30, 2017. Rasmussen family has reserved the basement for April 30, 2017.
- Pastor Tom will be absent on Palm Sunday and Randy will be filling in for him.
- A salesman stopped in the church office, and Kim

looked up the copier lease expiration and gave that information to Pastor Tom to bring to council. We need to send a letter to the company whether we want to continue or not. Cost of renting is high, and we may be looking into purchasing a copier.

- We need to start looking at the process and timeline for our Search Committee.
- Looking into getting a copyright license, since we use music in bulletins and other items. Cost is being looked into.
- We discussed the cost of the phones and internet. Connie Wheeler is checking into Verizon and if it would be available at the church.

A motion was made, by Judy Samson and seconded by Aron Rasmussen, to accept Pastor Tom Fritz as Interim Minister at St. John's UCC, as part time for 18 months.

A motion was made, by Gary Vander Linden and seconded by Connie Wheeler, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Connie Wheeler

“He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again’” (Luke 24:6-7 NIV).

Facing death, as resurrection people continued from page 1

face death differently—not with fear, but in confidence. Yes, we will all die, but death is not the end of life. It is merely another transformation wherein the energy of life is passed along to give life to the future. If we can embrace that reality, we are empowered for discipleship, for living as reflections of Christ in our own time and place.

As you move forward from Easter, I invite you to consider some changes that can allow the power of resurrection to live in you on a daily basis. (1.) Let go of your fears and trust that God knows your needs and will provide for you. The time you spend in anger or in worry is better spent on creative thinking that can help you face the cause of your fear. (2.) When faced with challenges that seem beyond your ability, set them aside and reach out to help someone else with his or her challenges. When we help others, we often discover hidden resources within ourselves that not only help others, but help us as well. (3.) Resolve to live from gratitude rather than from dissatisfaction. Be thankful for your problems—they will teach you more than any success. Then be thankful toward God for all that you have been given and all that you have been denied. (4.) Be forgiving of yourself and of others. Holding on to past wrongs and dwelling on failures prevent you from looking forward. Give up name-calling and judgment because they are demeaning. Choose, instead, to be gracious—even towards those who may have wronged you. Forgiveness transforms the wronged even more than the wrongdoer.

If you can master even one of these suggestions in the coming year, you will truly be a Resurrection Person, empowered for vibrant and vital living.

Peace and joy, Pastor Tom

Statement of Faith Sunday



Samantha R. will be sharing her Statement of Faith on Sunday, April 2, 2017, during our worship service. Please plan to join us.

Confirmation Sunday

Samantha R will be confirmed on Sunday, April 30, 2017, during our worship service. Come, celebrate and support Samantha. Please pray for our confirmation student, as she prepares to make her formal affirmation of faith. Congratulations Samantha!



Holy Week

Palm Sunday is April 9, this year. Worship is at 10:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday is April 13. Join us for our traditional Tenebrae service at 7:00

p.m. We observe Maundy Thursday with a solemn worship service, reflecting on the Lord's last meal with His disciples. Holy Communion will be shared. Before worship, we are having a buffet of soups in the fellowship hall, at 6:15 p.m. All are welcome to join us. Come; join us as we remember and reflect on the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will dine in lower level and worship in sanctuary.



Easter Sunday



It is time to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ! Easter Sunday is a joyous and celebratory time around here!

Come; join us for worship at 7:30 and/or 10:15 Sunday morning, April 16. Be sure to make plans to join us for our Easter breakfast as well! Breakfast is at 8:30. See you in church!

April 2017 Schedule

Sunday, April 2 – Communion Sunday

Reader Carla Menning
Greeter / Usher Sadie & Portia Fenske
Usher Keith Kruse & Mark Hooyman

Sunday, April 9 – Palm Sunday

Reader Bob Menning
Greeter / Usher Bob & Carla Menning
Usher Ray Menning & Bryce Vander Linden

Sunday, April 13 – Maundy Thursday

Reader Sue Biese
Greeter / Usher Duane Zuleger & David Tesch
Usher Steve Hanson & Jonathan Tesch

Sunday, April 16 – Easter @ 7:00 a.m.

Reader Kent Abel
Greeter / Usher Randy & Kris Vande Corput
Usher Adrianna Vande Corput & Lisa Raaths

Sunday, April 16 – Easter @ 10:15 a.m.

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeter / Usher Duane & Carol Henke
Usher Karen Arnold & Bev Kruse

Sunday, April 23

Reader Connie Wheeler
Greeter / Usher John & Connie Wheeler
Usher Cailey Wheeler & Ashley Lison

Sunday, April 30

Reader Roberta Lorenz
Greeter / Usher Roberta Lorenz & Esther Meyer
Usher Judy & Kerri Samson

Time to Order Easter Flowers!

Black Creek Garden & Gift, in Black Creek, and **Kailhofer's Greenhouse**, in Seymour, are accepting floral orders for our Easter Sunday décor. Please place your **order directly with the retailer; note Sunday, April 9 is the order deadline**. For best selection, please place your order by Monday, April 3.

In order for your name to be included in the Easter Sunday bulletins, you **must have the information to Kim, in the church office, before 9:00 a.m., Thursday, April 13**. Information is on the form (on page 10); please print legibly, and place it in the box between Pastor's office door and the church office door, or submit information via email.

For your convenience, we have listed some selections and costs of flowers available from two local nurseries. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Schmidt, 920-450-0984, or the respective floral retailer.

Black Creek Garden & Gift—(920) 984-3494

- Lily \$14.95
- Daffodil \$14.95
- Tulip (*assorted colors*) \$14.95

Red, Yellow, Pink, Purple

Kailhofer's Greenhouse—(920) 833-2321

- Single Stem Lily \$15.00--\$18.00
- Double Stem Lily \$30.00
- Triple Stem Lily \$35.00
- L.A. Lily
 - 2 bulbs/6" pot \$25.00
 - 3 bulbs/8" pot \$30.00

Arbatax – pink.

Forza Red – red.

Golden Tycoon – yellow.

Indian Summerset – pink.

Royal Sunset – Orange and rouge.

Easter flowers continued

Kailhofer's Greenhouse, continued

- Mum Plants \$25.00
- Geraniums
 - 4½" in basket \$ 7.25
 - 4½" foil & bow \$ 8.50
 - 8" foil and bow \$22.00
- Bronze Leaf Big Rose Begonia \$10.00--\$10.50

Easter Flower Dedication Information



Fill in the info on page 10, and leave it in the box between Pastor's and the office doors in the box, OR email your information to Kim, StJCreek@gmail.com. Thank you!

Information MUST be submitted to Kim, in the church office, **before 9:00 a.m., Thursday, April 13, 2017**, to be included in Easter Bulletins.

Note: The final day to order, from these listed retailers, for delivery is Sunday, April 9, but for best selection, Kailhofer's recommends ordering by April 3. If you have flowers or plants that you would like to contribute to help decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning, please have them to the church by 9:00, Saturday, April 15. Please leave a note, **before 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 13**, with Kim if you would like to be listed in Easter bulletin,

Please see page 10 for the form.

"Surely, Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" Psalm 23:6 NIV!

Submit to Kim before April 13, please.

Easter Flower Dedication Form

Please print clearly!

Donors' Name(s): _____

Donor's phone, in case Kim has a question regarding bulletin entry: _____

Whom the flowers are in honor / memory of:



Happy Easter!

What an amazing and glorious God we serve! He spared nothing to save us! His is extravagant love! May the Holy Spirit fill you and yours, this Easter, with His amazing power, love, and joy! May you and your family celebrate the risen King with rejoicing and exuberance! Happy Easter, Friends!

Easter blessings, Kim

Women's Guild Meeting

The Women's Guild met on Thursday, March 2, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., with nine members present. (*Our day change was due to inclement weather on the regularly scheduled Wednesday*).



Our devotional leader was Vi Brown Luebke. Vi shared a story from an Irma Bumback book and stories entitled *Who Packed the Garbage?* It was a story of reasons things happen the way they do. Whether a new or old house—big or small—something happens—and it shrinks. The use of Sears's catalogs in outhouses to bathrooms have changed over the decades. Daffodils do not grow because they are planted upside down. Moving to a different home was a different chore, because each box is labeled with a number to correlate with a room in the new home—not just packed. Do not throw baby clothes away at the age of 53-years—just have a rummage sale or give them away. The devotional message brought many memories to our minds and brought about much chuckling!

The business portion of our meeting was called to order by President Roberta Lorenz. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved—the memorial fund balance is \$335.73; the general fund balance is \$2,607.75.

The Black Creek Community Rummage Sale Day is set for April 29, 2017. After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to hold a bake sale coinciding with the village-wide rummage sales. Help is needed for pricing, serving, and baking for this special day. Any of your specialties will be welcomed.

We are still in need of a large can opener. We are still

looking and checking into one.

We are looking forward to the soup and sandwich suppers, on Wednesday evenings, throughout Lent!

We had a brief discussion regarding paper and plastic bag-collection. More details to follow.

We adjourned and closed with the *Lord's Prayer* in unison.

After singing the *Doxology*, we were served a delicious chocolate dessert by our hostess, Vi Brown Luebke.

Our next meeting is set for Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. Audrey Hooyman Blake will lead devotions, and Lisa Raaths will be our April hostess.

Submitted by Audrey Hooyman Blake, Guild secretary

“This is the day the Lord has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24 NKJV)!

Updates and You!



If you have a birthday or wedding anniversary and it is not listed in the printed version of our newsletter, please leave a note for the church office including your full name and contact information, along with the full date of the event and label “birthday” or “anniversary”.

Also, if your address or telephone listing is incorrect in the February 2017 Directory, PLEASE email the office, StJCreek@gmail.com, or write to the church office (Kim) and inform us of the necessary changes. Thank you.

Bake Sale – April 29

Black Creek is holding an All Village Rummage Sale, **Saturday, April 29, 2017**. We will hold a Bake Sale to coincide with it, beginning at 8:00 a.m.



We would greatly appreciate your donations of baked goods and your help with pricing /working for our bake sale. We welcome your baked-good specialties.

Want to make something new? Go-for-it! Cookies, cakes, bars, pies, snacks, torts, donuts, muffins, candies—old or new recipes, easy or complicated—you decide, and we’ll take and sell your treats at our bake sale! Someone will be the church to receive donated items, between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 28.

Questions? Please speak with one of our Women’s Guild members (*Roberta Lorenz is president*).

Thank you!

Greeters, Readers, & Ushers!

With the consideration of the next greeter schedule, including the summer months of (June, July, and August), for which Ila Mae will be scheduling soon, would you please notify her of any vacations you already have scheduled? It will help her with the scheduling process. Ila Mae's telephone number is 920-984-3036. Thank you. Bless you all for your service to our Lord through our church.



Spring has Sprung!

If you are willing and able to help rake the church's cemetery, please give Steve a call. Your help is much appreciated.



Steve Hanson, 920-984-3986

“Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Jesus, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb. But, God raised Him from the dead. He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people (Acts 13:29-31)!”

Treasurer's Report - February 2017

Building Fund	Deposits	\$ 1,076.00	
	Interest	\$.12	
	Disbursements	\$(7,247.00)	
Memorial Fund	Deposits	\$ 1,042.00	
	Disbursements	\$ -	-
Organ Fund	Deposits	\$ -	-
	Disbursements	\$ -	-
General	Deposits	\$ 5,749.21	
	Disbursements	\$(6,009.76)	
<i>Capital Campaign</i>	Deposits	\$ 150.00	
	Total YTD	\$ 300.00	
	<i>Goal for 2017</i>		\$4,171.00
OCWM	Deposits	\$ 551.00	
	Disbursements	\$ -	
	Total YTD		\$ 987.00
	<i>Goal for 2017</i>		\$3,500.00



Total	Beginning Balance	\$ 39,006.15	
	Deposits	\$ 8,418.21	
	Interest	\$ 0.12	
	Disbursements	\$(13,256.76)	
	Ending Balance	\$ 34,167.72	

General Fund	\$ 16,773.72		
Memorial Fund	\$ 12,402.00		
Organ Fund	<u>\$ 4,992.00</u>		<u>\$34,167.72</u>
Building Fund Balance	\$ 44,607.14		
Interest YTD	\$ 279.66		
Payments Made YTD	\$ 9,216.50		
YTD Giving	\$ 23,757.26		
YTD Expenses	<u>\$(21,101.59)</u>		
Net Amount			<u>\$ 2,655.67</u>

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

Feb-17

DATE	02/05/2017	02/12/2017	02/19/2017	02/26/2017	DIRECT DEPOSIT	TOTAL
CHECKING DEPOSIT	\$2,420.21	\$1,584.00	\$1,058.00	\$3,156.00	\$200.00	\$8,418.21
GENERAL FUND	\$1,884.21	\$1,279.00	\$913.00	\$1,348.00	\$75.00	\$5,499.21
OCWM	\$185.00	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$306.00		\$551.00
BUILDING FUND	\$351.00	\$220.00	\$70.00	\$360.00	\$75.00	\$1,076.00
CAMPITAL CAMPAIGN				\$100.00	\$50.00	\$150.00
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING						\$0.00
NEIGHBORS IN NEED						\$0.00
STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH						\$0.00
CHRISTMAS FUND						\$0.00
FUEL FUND		\$60.00	\$40.00			\$100.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
TOTAL MEMB. CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2,420.21	\$1,584.00	\$1,058.00	\$2,114.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
OTHER INCOME						TOTAL
Lyla Schlintz memorial				\$835.00		\$835.00
Ellie Kruse memorial				\$207.00		\$207.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,042.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL CHECKING DEPOSIT	\$2,420.21	\$1,584.00	\$1,058.00	\$3,156.00	\$0.00	\$200.00

Do You Want to Connect with Pastor?

Pastor Tom is usually in the office Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Feel free to stop in or give him a call.

Office: 920-984-3845 Cell: 920-268-5757

Email: styward@sbcglobal.net (*Important, if you email Pastor, be sure to type St. John's in the subject line*).

First Quarter 2017 Funerals at St. John's

† **Lyla Marie Schlintz** died Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at the age of 94. The celebration of Lyla's life was held at St. John's, Friday, January 20, 2017, with Pastor Tom Fritz officiating. May God bless the memory of Lyla Schlintz and comfort those who mourn.

† **Ella Rose Kruse** died Monday, January 23, 2017, at the age of 65. The celebration of Ella's life was held at St. John's, Friday, January 27, 2017, with Pastor Tom Fritz officiating. May God bless the memory of Ella Kruse and comfort those who mourn.

† **Veramae H. Rihm** died Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at the age of 90. The celebration of Vera's life was held at St. John's Monday, March 20, 2017, at St. John's, with Pastor Jill Meyer officiating. May God bless the memory of Vera Rihm and comfort those who mourn.

† **Arla V. Helein** died Saturday, March 25, 2017, at the age of 86. The celebration of Arla's life was held at St. Joh's, Thursday, March 30, 2017, with Pastor Tom Fritz officiating. May God bless the memory of Arla Helein and comfort those who mourn.