

# *April 2018 Newsletter*

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



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

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Happy Easter!</i> <b>Communion Sunday</b> 7:30 a.m. <b>Worship</b> 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 10:15 a.m. <b>Worship</b> <i>(Senior Choir sings)</i>	2 	3 6:30 p.m. Christian Education meeting 	4 1:30 p.m. Women's Guild meeting  6:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice 	5	6	7
8 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:15 a.m. <b>Worship</b> <i>After worship Vi Brown Luebke Book Signing</i>	9	10 6:30 p.m. Council meeting 	11 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice 	12	13 <i>Paper recycling dumpster arrives</i>	14
15 Youth Leading Worship 9:00 a.m. Youth Group, S.S. & Bible Study 10:15 a.m. <b>Worship</b> <i>(Children's Choir sings)</i>	16	17 9:00 a.m. Newsletter information due in church office	18 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice 	19	20	21
22 9:00 a.m. S.S. & Bible Study 10:15 a.m. <b>Worship</b> <i>(Senior Choir sings)</i>	23 <i>Paper recycling dumpster picked up</i>	24	25 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir practice 	26	27 3—5 p.m. Receiving bakery donations	28 Confirmation Class practice 8:00 a.m. --? Bake Sale 
29 9:00 a.m. S.S. & Bible Study 10:15 a.m. <b>Worship</b> <i>(Present Confirmation Students &amp; Statements of Faith)</i>	30	<div>April 2018</div>			<div> <i>He lives, He lives, Christ              Jesus lives today! He walks              with me and talks with me              along life's narrow way"</i>              (Alfred Ackley)!           </div>	<div> <b>St. John's UCC</b>              101 S Clark St.              (PO Box 264)              Black Creek, WI              920-984-3845           </div>

## *Pastor's Message...*

### *No One Has Greater Love . . .*

As April dawns upon us this year, we mark two “special” days at the same time. Easter falls on April Fool’s Day this year. Somehow, that seems fitting to me. The resurrection is a foolish notion to those who do not know God. Those of us who believe in resurrection certainly seem foolish to those who do not. So, as we prepare to be foolish once more, perhaps we should reflect on the true meaning of Easter.

There have been nineteen hundred and eighty Easter holidays since Jesus was crucified in 39 A.D. One would think that after so many Easters, we Christians would truly understand what the day is all about. Sadly, that is not always the case. Many of us seem to miss the point all together. Back on Good Friday, there were some Christians who actually had themselves nailed to crosses. They seem to think that by re-enacting the pain and suffering of Jesus’ death they will somehow gain greater insight into the meaning of Easter. At the risk of sounding judgmental, I think that is absurd! While Good Friday and Easter are meant to lead us to reflection and change—so that we might become more like Jesus—it is not about getting nailed to a cross. It is about rising above the powers that continue to crucify the human spirit and thwart the Divine Intentions.

If we want to understand the meaning of Easter, we need only listen to the words of Jesus as He prepares the disciples for the moment. The Gospel of John devotes five chapters to what Jesus does to help His disciples understand

*Pastor’s message continues on page 3*

## ***April 2018 Schedule***

### **Sunday, April 1, 2018 @ 7:30 a.m. - Easter Sunday**

Reader	Kent Abel
Greeter/Usher	Kent & Val Abel
Greeter/Usher	Connie & Cailey Wheeler



### **Sunday, April 1, 2018 @ 10:15 a.m. - Easter Sunday**

Reader	Robin Schmidt
Greeter/Usher	Robin Schmidt & Bev Kruse
Greeter/Usher	Mark Hooyman & Kelcie Hooyman

### **Sunday, April 8, 2018 @ 10:15 a.m.**

Reader	Roberta Lorenz
Greeter/Usher	Roberta Lorenz & Esther Meyer
Greeter/Usher	Lisa Raaths & Judy Samson

### **Sunday, April 15, 2018 @ 10:15 a.m.**

Reader	Randy Miller
Greeter/Usher	Randy Miller & Karen Arnold
Greeter/Usher	David & Brenda Holz

### **Sunday, April 22, 2018 @ 10:15 a.m.**

Reader	Sue Biese
Greeter/Usher	Joe & Sue Biese
Greeter/Usher	Kerrie Samson & Keith Kruse

### **Sunday, April 29, 2018 @ 10:15 a.m.**

Reader	Marian Zuleger
Greeter/Usher	Marian Zuleger & Duane Zuleger
Greeter/Usher	Ryan & Stephanie Julius

*Scheduling continues on page 4*

## ***John 20:12***

*“She saw two angels dressed in white. They were sitting where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and one at the feet” (ICB)!*

## **No One Has Greater Love...***continued from page 1*

what His life, ministry, death, and resurrection are all about. It begins with lessons in servanthood revealed in the washing of the disciples' feet during the Passover meal, and ends with Jesus praying for His disciples: "that they may be one".

Right in the middle of these five chapters lies chapter fifteen, and right in the middle of chapter fifteen we find verse thirteen: **"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."** (NRSV)! Here is the central meaning of Good Friday and Easter. Here is the reason that God raises Jesus from the tomb—Jesus is raised because He is willing to die for those He loves. Jesus is raised by love, for the purpose of spreading love.

As we ponder the meaning of yet another Easter holiday, we need to remember that it is about love—the kind of love that is sacrificial. More often than not, we think of love as a busy two-way street. We love others; they love us back. The love flows back and forth through hugs, kisses, tenderness, encouraging words, gifts, and celebrations of all kinds. We give love. We get love. As long as we do our part to keep the love flowing, the "traffic" keeps moving both ways. Yes, we think that love is a two-way street.

What Jesus offers us is a new way of thinking about love. He reveals that love is sacrificial. He does not love the disciples in order to get love in return. He loves them to save them from themselves. He loves them to reveal a power that

*Christians  
need to  
hang our  
selfishness  
on the  
cross*

*Pastor's message continues on page 5*

## *May 2018 Schedule*

### **Sunday, May 6, 2018 @ 10:15 a.m. — Communion Sunday & Confirmation Sunday**

Reader	Connie Wheeler
Greeter/Usher	Connie & Cailey Wheeler
Greeter/Usher	Gene & Audrey Blake



### **Sunday, May 13, 2018 @ 10:15 a.m. — Mothers' Day**

Reader	Lisa St. John
Greeter/Usher	Todd & Lisa St. John
Greeter/Usher	Tanner St. John & Jonathan Tesch

### **Sunday, May 20, 2018 @ 10:15 a.m.**

Reader	Jan Rohloff
Greeter/Usher	Jan Rohloff & Trevor Rohloff
Greeter/Usher	Mike & Connie Rohloff

### **Sunday, May 27, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m.**

Reader	Vi Brown-Luebke
Greeter/Usher	Vi Brown-Luebke & Gary Vander Linden
Greeter/Usher	Morgan Vander Linden & Bryce Vander Linden

*Scheduling continues on page 6*

## ***Book Signing!***

Have you heard about our most recently published author? Our very own Vi Brown Luebke recently had her poems published! **Congratulations Vi!** She will hold a book signing after worship, Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Come, and get your copy of her book entitled, Real Life Stories, Retold in Verse, copies may be purchased for \$20.00 each.



## **No One Has Greater Love...***continued from page 3*

cannot be seen in “two-way” love. He loves so completely that He dies for them.

Jesus reveals the power of selfless love—love that cares more for the other than for the self. Jesus is willing to endure the pain, suffering, and death because true love will be revealed in the process. Instead of getting nailed to a cross to experience pain, we Christians need to hang our selfishness on the cross. We need to kill all that is mean, greedy, and self-centered within us. Then, and only then, will God’s love be able to “resurrect” the divine within us.

What would happen this Eastertide if all of us decided to love like Jesus? What would happen if Republicans began to love Democrats more than their conservative ideology? What would happen if Democrats did the same? What would happen if President Trump decided to love all those persons who disagree with him instead of vilifying them with derogatory names? What would happen if the NRA decided to truly love victims of gun violence more than assault rifles? What would happen if white supremacists decided to love all people of color? What would happen if the rich started loving the poor enough to let go of political and economic advantage? What would happen if America started loving those nations we consider our enemies?

We live in a complex world, and we have complex problems to face. We may never be able to solve those problems. We may never be able to get back to a *simpler* life. We can, however, make it a little easier. If we put to death our selfishness; if we take on a more selfless way of living; if

*Pastor’s message continues on page 7*

## *June 2018 Schedule*

### **Sunday, June 3, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m. - Communion Sunday**

Reader	Jim Rucci
Greeter/Usher	Jim Rucci & Steve Hanson
Greeter/Usher	Duane & Carol Henke



### **Sunday, June 10, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m.**

Reader	Bob Menning
Greeter/Usher	Bob & Carla Menning
Greeter/Usher	Gary & Carla Lathrop

### **Sunday, June 17, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m. — Fathers' Day**

Reader	Trudy Koon
Greeter/Usher	Trudy Koon &
Greeter/Usher	Ryan & Stephanie Julius

### **Sunday, June 24, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m.**

Reader	Sue Biese
Greeter/Usher	Joe & Sue Biese
Greeter/Usher	Dallas & Lisa Waterstradt

## *Confirmation Project*



Let's help our Confirmation students collect paper and aluminum cans for their Confirmation project.

They have chosen to support the Animal Shelter, with the money raised. A paper recycling dumpster will be in the parsonage driveway from April 13<sup>th</sup>—23<sup>rd</sup>. Aluminum cans can be brought to the west entrance of the church (please be sure the cans are in plastic bags so soda residue doesn't leak out and make the floor slippery or sticky. Please inform your family, co-workers, friends and neighbors that they can help with this project too—all they need to do is contribute paper and/or aluminum cans. Thank you for your support!

## **No One Has Greater Love...***continued from page 5*

we start caring more deeply for our enemies; then the stones blocking our path to the future will be rolled away. Then God's love will overcome the powers of death at work in us, and we shall all be transformed.

May this Eastertide be a time of transformation for all of us. May we hang our selfishness on the cross so that God may raise us as selfless lovers. May we help move the world just a little closer to the kingdom of love and grace that Jesus died to bring to us!

*Peace, Joy, Love, Pastor Tom*

## ***Bake Sale***

**Bake  
Sale!**

Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Black Creek is holding an Village-wide Rummage Sale.

We will hold a Bake Sale to coincide with it beginning at 8 a.m. We would greatly appreciate your donations of your delectable baked goods and your help with pricing/working during our bake sale. We welcome your baked specialties, novelties, and *recipes you've always wanted to try, but haven't yet done so!*

Someone will be at the church to receive donated items, between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m., Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Do you have questions? Please speak with one of the Women's Guild members. Thank you!

## ***Inspirational Quote***

"There is no one who is insignificant in the purpose of God" (Alistair Begg)!

# Treasurer's Report—February 2018

<b>Building Fund</b>	Deposits	\$ 293.00
	Interest	\$ 1.04
	Disbursements	\$ .00

<b>Memorial Fund</b>	Deposits	\$ 665.00
	Disbursements	\$ .00

<b>Organ Fund</b>	Deposits	\$ .00
	Disbursements	\$ .00

<b>General</b>	Deposits	\$ 7,411.00
	Disbursements	\$ (9,548.80)

<b>Campital Campaign</b>	Deposits	\$ 710.00
	Total YTD	\$ 1,220.00
	Goal for 2018	\$3,500.00



<b>Total</b>	Beginning Balance	\$ 36,200.52
	Deposits	\$ 8,369.00
	Interest	\$ 1.04
	Disbursements	\$ (9,548.80)
	Ending Balance	\$ 35,021.76

<b>General Fund</b>	\$ 19,182.84
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<b>Building Fund</b>	\$ 5,319.92
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<b>Memorial Fund</b>	\$ 5,522.00
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<b>Organ Fund</b>	<u>\$ 4,997.00</u>	<u>\$35,021.76</u>
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<b>YTD Membership Giving</b>	\$ 16,133.60
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<b>YTD Expenses **</b>	\$ <u>(19,975.03)</u>
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<b>Net Amount</b>	\$ <u><u>(3,841.43)</u></u>
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# *Church Council “Preliminary” Minutes*

## *March 13, 2018 Meeting*

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 last month. Motion passed.

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

### **Pastors Report (February 2018)**

- Conducted 7 worship services, 1 confirmation retreat class, and 1 funeral
- Attended 2 church meetings, 3 administrative meetings, and 3 group meeting
- Made 2 home visits, 5 counseling visits, and 4 other visiting times

### **Committee Reports**

**Membership:** We had 4 new members join our church on March 4, 2018.

**Christian Ed:** Paper Recycling dumpster will come from April 13-23 with the confirmation class helping with loading on Sundays. Pastor Tom will take the class to the Animal Shelter and Funeral Home.

*Council Preliminary minutes continue on page 10*

## **Council Preliminary minutes... continued from page 9**

**Worship:** *Nothing at this time*

**Music:** *One new member joined*

**House:** The men's urinal, in the basement of the church, is leaking and needs to be looked at. John Wheeler will look at it and see if it needs to be replaced and if so replace it.

**Campital Campaign/Mission Projects:** For the month of February, we collected \$710.00. We have collected \$1,220.00 YTD. Our yearly goal is \$3,500.00.

### **Old Business:**

### **New Business:**

- Trevor Rohloff would like to give the church a quote for snow removal
- Brandon Rohloff would like to reserve the church for his wedding on May 31, 2019.
- Vi Brown-Luebke would like to hold a book signing Sunday, April 8, after service. *She wrote a book of poems.*
- We will be taking a vote on March 18, after church service. The vote will be if the congregation would like to move forward in our conversation with Moira Finley.
- We will be doing a special offering for Kim and Ron.
- Pastor Tom would like to take some time off to head to Texas for a memorial service for his sister on April 7. He would need about 10 days.

### **Prayers and Thanks:**

- Prayers for Kim and Ron;
- Prayers for Judy, Bob Menning's mother;
- Prayers for Marian Goodwin;
- Prayers for Earl Zuleger

*Council Preliminary minutes continue on page 11*

### **Council Preliminary Minutes...** *continued from page 10*

A motion was made, by Lisa Waterstradt and seconded by Aron Rasmussen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

**Next Council Meeting** will be Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

*Minutes recorded by Connie Wheeler, Council Secretary*

## **NEA Annual Assembly**

The NEA has a day of worship, fellowship and business planned, for Saturday, April 28, 2018, at Union Congregational United Church of Christ (716 Madison St., Green Bay). Presenters will highlight the local church and their ministries. Local congregations will share innovative ways to minister to the community, proclaim the gospel, and **"Be the Church"**.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the assembly begins at 9:00 a.m. and is expected to conclude around 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided by Union Congregational UCC. Childcare will be available for infants through sixth grade. Advance registration is \$10.00/person (\$12.00/person at the door). Cost includes refreshments and lunch. Advance registrations must be received in the Conference Office by April 8. Please send registrations along with payment (made payable to: Northeast Wisconsin Association UCC) to: Wisconsin Conference UCC, 4459 Gray Rd., DeForest, WI 53532, or register online—the Conference website is — (<http://www.wcucc.org/associations/northeast-association/resources/2092-2/>).

Questions? Please speak with Rev. Andi Wolf, Moderator, with the NEA, UCC, (608) 846-7880.

## Women's Guild



### WOMENS GUILD

The women's Guild met on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at 1:30 p.m., with ten members present. Our devotional leader was Vi Brown Luebke, who handed out some slips of paper containing beautiful readings, which we each took turns reading. She shared from a story book by Irma Bombach, "The Rise of Parental Smarts". We understood what parents—ours, us, future—need to know about the many changes we come to understand and share with younger ones. We are still learning, so enjoy it—the smarts. Vi, then, shared a prayer in closing.

The Business Meeting was called to order by President Roberta Lorenz. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved, with a balance of \$6,856.11 in the general fund, and \$472.98 in the memorial fund.

The new tiles in the elevator look great! There was discussion on the tile in the church. We think the council has a job, and the Guild plans to help.

A large coffee pot is needed for the church kitchen. A large one is missing or broken. Sally volunteered to check into one. Thank you!

The Black Creek Village Rummage Sale and our Bake Sale is set for Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 8:00 a.m. to we are sold out. Bring your favorite baked goods please.

Our Annual Rummage Sale is set for June 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30, 2018. Will you please help with this sale?

Our next guild meeting is Wednesday, April 4, 2018,

*Guild Minutes continue on page 13*

**Guild minutes...** *continued from page 12*

at 1:30 p.m., with devotions by Audrey Hooyman Blake; our April hostess is Lisa Raaths.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn with the *Lord's Prayer* in unison. We, then, sang the *Doxology* and enjoyed a delicious angel food dessert provided by our March hostess, Vi Brown Luebke.

Come, and join us!

*Submitted by Audrey Hooyman Blake, Guild Secretary*

## ***Thank You***

Thanks to all of you for your thoughts,  
prayers, and cards during my recent illness.

*Vi Brown Luebke*



## ***Real Life Stories, Retold in Verse***

After many years of writing poems,  
To compile them, I did immerse.  
And recently published a book entitled  
"Real Life Stories, Retold in Verse."

If you'd like an autographed copy,  
Wait patiently in the Gathering Room on the  
designated date.

There's a twenty-dollar fee to defray the printing  
costs,

So, I'll see you after church, on Sunday, April  
Eight.

*Thanks, Vi Brown Luebke*

# *Happy Resurrection Sunday!*

## *Happy Easter!*

What an amazing and glorious God we serve! He spared nothing to save us! His is a bountiful and ever-giving love! May our gracious God bless you and yours, this Easter, with His amazing power, peace, love, and joy! May your celebration of our risen King be filled with rejoicing, love, joy, peace, and celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ! Happy Easter, my dear Friends!



*Easter blessings, Kim (and Ron)*

## *A Riddle – Just for Fun*



Question: It grows and blossoms; it dies and wilts; it happens in the beginning, and it happens in the end; it can make you cry; it can make you sad; it can make you smile, and it can make you brave.  
What is it?

*Come to church on Sunday, April 15, 2018, and you'll find the answer in our bulletin!*

## *Good News!*

“In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all” (Colossians 2:11 NRSV)!

## *Ron (Kim) Update*



Ron's journey in this season of trying to recover and heal continues to be difficult. He has had a lot of major complications. You are a **valuable** partner in this trial—it is your loving prayers, your generosity, your love-filled calls, messages, cards, and help that are amazing examples, to us and all who are watching, of Christian living!

Ron suffered another pneumothorax, which was discovered in an Appleton Emergency Room, on Wednesday, March 21. This is the third time his lung collapsed since his initial major surgery at the end of January. After surgery, Ron was taken via ambulance back to Froedtert. We came home Friday; he now is starting all over in the process. He is so fragile; he remains homebound and in need of much care. You are SO AMAZING in your care for us (Ron and me). I cannot begin to tell you how much you mean to us!

We truly covet your prayers and are extremely grateful for each prayer you pray on our behalf—may our generous Lord bless you a 100-fold for all you give, for all you pray, for all you do for us. *Thank you* does not seem enough—but we are so grateful that we will continually say “THANK YOU!”

Thank you for your continued faith-filled prayers for complete healing, for better days and nights for my dear husband, and for your continued care and understanding. *With much gratitude and love, Kim (and Ron) H.*

# Christian Education Meeting

## March 6, 2018

There were four people present at the meeting.

Current Balance is \$1,432.65

Palms have been ordered through Bonnie.

Lenten Boxes will be handed out, and the money will go towards *Capital* Campaign.

Statements of Faith will be April 29<sup>th</sup>; Confirmation will be May 6<sup>th</sup>. Please plan ahead with these dates.

Pastor Tom wants to take the Confirmation Class to the Animal Shelter to show them what the money raised is going to help with. He would also like to visit the Funeral Home in Seymour.

The dumpster will be placed at the parsonage from April 13-23. The confirmation class will help each Sunday to load the dumpster.

Our next Christian Education meeting will be Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. *Connie Wheeler, Secretary*

## Best Choice Save-A-Label



Let's see how many UPC labels from Best Choice products St. John's can collect this year! The more the better. Would you please include the quantity of UPC labels with your bundles, when you give them

to the office? Thank you!

*Detailed guidelines, from Best Choice, are also in last month's newsletter.*

1. Cut UPC symbols from labels or cartons.
2. Products excluded from the Program: aluminum soda **cans**, aerosol **cans**, and **cigarettes**. (UPCs from 12-pk. & 24-pk. soda cardboard cartons are acceptable),

For questions or inquiries: please contact BEST CHOICE SAVE-A-LABEL, at 913-288-1165 or [www.awgbrands.com](http://www.awgbrands.com)

ST.JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT							
Mar-18							
	DATE	03/04/2018	03/11/2018	03/18/2018	03/25/2018		DIRECT DEPOSIT TOTAL
CHECKING DEPOSIT		\$3,831.14	\$2,870.50	\$2,217.00	\$2,235.50		\$300.00 \$11,454.14

GENERAL FUND	\$3,540.00	\$2,509.50	\$1,752.00	\$1,593.00		\$100.00	\$9,494.50
BUILDING FUND	\$101.00	\$211.00	\$35.00	\$80.50		\$100.00	\$527.50
CAMPITAL CAMPAIGN	\$80.00		\$300.00	\$250.00		\$100.00	\$730.00
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING		\$150.00	\$130.00	\$40.00			\$320.00
NEIGHBORS IN NEED							\$0.00
STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH							\$0.00
CHRISTMAS FUND							\$0.00
FUEL FUND							\$0.00
							\$0.00
TOTAL MEMB. CONTRIBUTIONS	\$3,721.00	\$2,870.50	\$2,217.00	\$1,963.50	\$0.00	\$300.00	

OTHER INCOME							TOTAL
refund	\$110.14						\$110.14
vernon kitzinger memorial				\$250.00			\$250.00
mens dartball				\$22.00			\$22.00
							\$0.00
							\$0.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$110.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$272.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	

TOTAL CHECKING DEPOSIT	\$3,831.14	\$2,870.50	\$2,217.00	\$2,235.50	\$0.00	\$300.00
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Inserted page for St. John's UCC-April 2018 Newsletter



### **Pilgrim Center - Dining Hall Renovations**

Norenberg Lodge has a new roof, new HVAC, new windows and siding. The electrical has been upgraded up to code and insulation has been added in the older section for expanded program opportunities and increased energy efficiency. Faville Lodge construction is slated to start after Knock Knock in fall of 2017.



## **Campital Campaign Projects**

### **Moon Beach – Cabin Updates**

Hiawatha and Nokomis have been transformed into Badger and Chickadee! Both cabins have been raised and lower level winterized cabin space has been added. They are ready for a full summer of family camp, youth camp and Camp AweSum. The new Heritage Hall design is being finalized and will be a key part of future development work.



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April 2018 Newsletter