

St. John's United Church of Christ August 2018 Newsletter



“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

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
August 2018		St. John's UCC 101 S Clark St. (PO Box 264) Black Creek, Wisconsin 920-984-3845	1 1:30 p.m. Women's Guild Annual Planning meeting	2	3	4 <i>Fellowship hall reserved</i>
5 Communion Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship	6	7	8	9 6:30 p.m. Christian Education meeting	10	11
12 9:00 a.m. Worship	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:00 a.m. Worship	20	21 9:00 a.m. Newsletter info due in office  6:00 p.m. Council meeting 	22	23	24	25
26 9:00 a.m. Worship (<i>farewell to Pastor Tom</i>) Potluck meal for Farewell Celebration	27	28	29 <i>Target: Assemble newsletters</i>	30	31	<i>"Now, faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1 NRSV)!</i>

Pastor's Message...

New Wine Skins...



"And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins"
(Jesus of Nazareth, recorded in Mark 2:22)

The people of Biblical times often used animal skins to make wine. The skin was sewn together to create a kind of bag into which the ingredients for wine were placed. The skins were pliant and could stretch as the fermentation process took place. After the first use, the skin lost its ability to stretch, but it could still be used to store and transport wine that had completed the fermentation process.

When Jesus spoke this little parable, the folks who heard it understood. God's unfolding Word is like new wine. It has to ferment in the spirit of the listener, and when heard and heeded, becomes like fine wine that refreshes the soul, informs the mind, and feeds the heart. Jesus told this parable because many who heard His words had become inflexible. The scribes and the Pharisees were certain that they knew everything there was to know about God, so they were unwilling and unable to hear the new things that Jesus had to say. They were entrenched, and their hearts and minds had grown stiff and unyielding. Those who followed Jesus had hungry minds and hungry hearts. They heard what Jesus had to say with ears that were open—so the words of Jesus were transformational.

While we do not make wine in wineskins, the lesson that Jesus taught so long ago still has meaning in our time.

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You are Warmly Invited

To celebrate

Mike (LeRoy) Minlschmidt's

102ND BIRTHDAY!

Date: Saturday, August 11, 2018

Time: 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Brookdale Assisted Living
2nd Floor Activity Room
5800 Pennsylvania Avenue, Appleton.
*(Located where College Avenue and Mayflower
Drive intersect, on the southeast corner; parking
lot faces Pennsylvania Avenue)*

Food will be provided.

Please come, and celebrate the life of Mike!

Questions? Call Eric Minlschmidt (Mike's) son, at
661-549-2648.

Happy Birthday Mike!!!

Pastor Tom's Farewell

A Potluck is Planned

Please be sure to join us Sunday, August
26, 2018, for worship and a potluck meal
afterward, in honor and celebration of Pastor
Tom's Interim Ministry, here.

***Farewell
Potluck***



Pastor's message... *continued from page 1*

Ministry is always a mixing of old and new. Old members are joined by new members. Old truths sometimes need to be “repackaged” in new methods, so that those hearing the Word for the first time can be transformed. New truths sometimes emerge, and old truths must be set aside. New ways of being the church must be blended with old ways, so that more people can be touched by the love that renews and transforms us all.

St. John's UCC is about to open a new chapter in ministry. Soon this old retired guy will go back to being retired, and a new, more energetic pastor will join you on the faith journey. Moira Finley is an amazing woman of God. She has many gifts and talents for ministry. She has a faith that runs deep and a love for people that is boundless. She will bring into your midst her own history—a life story different from any other pastor that has ever served you. She also brings new ideas and insights, new ways of seeing how the church can be the church in this age and time.



In the months ahead, you will be contemplating how to move into the future with this special servant of God, whom the Holy Spirit has sent to you. You will be taking inventory of your old wineskins and making new ones to become part of the new wine that you will make together. As the process unfolds, some may feel threatened by the new things that are proposed or embraced. Someone will say, “We’ve never done that before.” Others may say, “We tried that once and it didn’t work, so let’s keep things the way they are.” We humans tend to get comfortable with things

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Women's Guild



WOMENS GUILD

The Women's Guild met on Thursday, July 5, 2018, at 1:30 p.m., with twelve members present. Our devotional leader was Ruth Hanson, who shared a beautiful video entitled *How Great Thou Art*. There were such beautiful pictures--sceneries of flowers of every color possible, birds singing, and deer in the woods, squirrels jumping up into trees, butterflies of many kinds, rain, snow and waterfalls— so peaceful! Beautiful songs played during the movie. We even sang some. With no piano, we sang *This is My Father's World*. It sounded great with our combined voices. Ruth also shared several readings— *Creator of the World* and a *Children's Prayer*.

The business-meeting portion of our meeting was called to order by President Roberta Lorenz. The Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were read and approved. There was \$9,377.14, in the General Fund and \$472.98 in the Memorial Fund.

The Rummage Sale went very well, with many thanks to workers and items brought for sale. Several plans may change for 2019.

The quantity of *Our Daily Bread* devotional books, of which we receive 25 copies, will be changed to 20 copies. Very nice daily readings—pick one up, and see for yourself!

Our Annual Ice Cream Social, is set for Thursday, July 19, 2018, from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. Those willing to help were asked to contact Committee Chairperson Roberta Lorenz.

Our Annual Fall Feast is set for October—the exact date is pending. Watch for the *Women's Guild Congregational Activity Book September 2018—August 2019* publication!

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Women's Guild...*continued from previous page*

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 1, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. This meeting is our annual planning meeting. Come, and join us!

The offering was taken, and a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. We, then, sang the *Doxology* and enjoyed a pistachio dessert made by Audrey Hooyman-Blake. We closed with the Lord's Prayer prayed in unison.

Blessings to all,

Guild Secretary Audrey Hooyman-Blake

Pastor's message... *continued from page 3*

that are familiar and uncomfortable with things that are new and strange. It was true in Jesus' day. It is true today.

The first months or years of a pastorate are often called the "honeymoon". It is a time when the new pastor and the new congregation are so happy to have each other that neither sees anything wrong in the other. Love flows freely. There is rejoicing and harmony. Then as time passes, both pastor and parish begin to notice that the other is sometimes a challenge. Each begins to see the failings of the other. Sometimes there is a feeling of uneasiness. Sometimes there is even rebellion and each challenges the other to make changes.

*God loves
us all!!!*

The truth is that the "honeymoon" can last forever — provided we remember what Jesus had to say. New ways and old ways must find their place. Each must be balanced

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Pastor's message... *continued from page 5*

for the one unfailing truth behind everything we do in the church—**God loves us all!** That is the real wine of the Spirit. It is what we must savor again and again. To ensure that there will be wine for the future, we are always making new batches, trying new things, engaging in new ministries. The old wine, of past success, is blended with the new wine of innovation and experiment, and in the process new ways of sharing God's love come forth.



I pray that all of you will welcome this new time of 'making wine'—that God's love will refresh you in new ways, while you continue to savor the old wine that has gotten you this far. Welcome your new pastor with all the love you can muster. Know that she loves you more deeply than you may realize. Be open to new ideas and new insights. Try new things together. Be flexible and imaginative, as you ponder new programs and new ministries. Stretch and grow together as the Spirit moves among you. Do these things and your "honeymoon" can last forever!

*Peace, joy, and love in all of your tomorrows,
Pastor Tom*

Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Keep the words of the Lord in your hearts and souls; bind them as a sign on your hands, and fix them as emblems on your foreheads. Teach them to your children; talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise (NRSV).

My Thanks . . .



As we prepare to close just over nineteen months of working together for the Lord, I want to thank all the members of St. John's UCC for the warm welcome and loving support that you gave me, as we walked the journey of faith together. You have given me joy and encouragement, and I will always cherish the time we had together. **Thank you so much!**

As we prepare to say our good-byes, remember that I will soon be part of your past—not your future. While I will continue to hold all of you dear in my heart, I will not be coming back to do weddings, baptisms, funerals, hospital calls, or any other pastoral function. Such things will become part of Moira's ministry among you. Once you see how much better she is at such things, you probably would not want me to return.

Blessings to all of you as you move into the unfolding future.

Peace and joy, Pastor Tom

Special Music



Are you interested in providing special music, at a church service, during August?

If so, please sign up on the appropriate sheet on the gathering room bulletin board, and let

Pastor know (*so the selection is included in our bulletin and the worship schedule*).

Flowers for the Altar

Summer flowers are so lovely. If you would like to place flowers on a given Sunday in honor or in memory of someone (*and would like his/her name and yours in the bulletin*), please let Kim know the preceding Tuesday (or Wednesday, no later than 9:00 a.m.). Thank you for helping to beautify our place of worship!



Best Choice Save-A-Label Program



Do you buy Best Choice brand products? Sal's and Don's grocery stores in Black Creek and Seymour, respectively, sell this brand! If you do, **please cut around the UPC symbol**, on each Best Choice product you have. It's not necessary to send in the whole label. Place your labels in the box between the office doors, and Kim will collect and redeem them for cash, through the program, for St. John's! They will add up if we all cut and turn in labels. Please mark, on your submission, how many are in your bundle, and please be sure the labels you submit are dry. Questions? Please feel free to ask Kim, or go online to <https://bestchoicebrand.com/save-a-label/>.

Expressions of Gratitude



Your prayers and care are sustaining! Ron continues to struggle to be well, but there is good news. He started pulmonary rehabilitation at ThedaCare Medical Regional Center the week of July 18—it is twice/week therapy appointments. **Thanks be to God!**

He has another health concern of late—his TSH level is higher than what is considered normal. Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) tells the thyroid gland how much T4 and T3 to produce. “The function of the thyroid gland is to take iodine and convert it into thyroid hormones. Thyroid cells are the only cells in the body that can absorb iodine. These cells combine iodine and the amino acid tyrosine to make T3 and T4” (www.endocrineweb.com retrieved July 25, 2018).

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Expressions of Gratitude...*continued from previous page*

Ron is so very tired all of the time, which is a symptom of hypothyroidism. Thankfully, there are medications to help with this—we just need to a doctor to get him on the right treatment.

Unfortunately, he continues to be in a great deal of pain, too. As of Thursday, the 26th of July, the pain medication prescriber is confusing issues—please pray the nurse practitioners, doctors, nurses, and all his medical team help him better. He is not medically cleared to drive yet, either. This and other compounding factors are huge sources of frustration and anxiety for him. The SSD appointment was stress inducing, but we made it through—I say “we”, because the psychologist conducting the evaluation asked questions of me, as well. We have not heard from them at the time of printing this update; prayers that he will be granted SSD are still needed and greatly appreciated.

His sinus infection seems to have cleared up after two rounds of antibiotics. However, he had his second Nucala injection and had an allergic reaction to it within twenty minutes. He wound up in the ER, for hours, following the injection, in July. Thankfully, he is okay now, but most likely will not be able to receive that medication any more—that is too bad, as it was seeming to help him after the first injection in June.

You are such blessings to Ron and me—your hugs, your love, your prayers, your notes, your gifts (*some anonymously given*) are **such helps** in these very trying times. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! I cannot tell you enough how grateful we are for your Christ-like care.

With love and gratitude, K and R

Treasurer's Report—June 2018

Building Fund	Deposits	\$ 225.00
	Interest	\$ 1.10
	Disbursements	\$ 0
Memorial Fund	Deposits	\$ 0
	Disbursements	\$ 0
Organ Fund	Deposits	\$ 0
	Disbursements	\$ 0
General	Deposits	\$ 8,967.75
	Disbursements	\$ (6,233.99)



<i>Capital Campaign</i>	\$ 800.00
Total YTD	\$4,300.00
Goal for 2018	\$7,000.00

Total	Beginning Balance	\$ 39,843.13
	Deposits	\$ 9,192.75
	Interest	\$ 1.10
	Disbursements	\$ (6,233.99)
	Ending Balance	\$ 42,802.99

General Fund	\$25,207.10
Building Fund	\$ 6,899.42
Memorial Fund	\$ 5,699.47
Organ Fund	<u>\$ 4,997.00</u>
<u>\$42,802.99</u>	

YTD Membership Giving	\$54,661.85	
YTD Expenses	\$ (52,338.68)	
Net Amount		\$2,323.17

The Financial Secretary's Report

The report, containing July 2018 data, will be in our next newsletter.

A Riddle – Just for Fun



Question: What is greater than God, more evil than the devil is, the poor have it, the rich need it, and if you eat it, you'll die?

Come to church on August 5, 2018, and you'll find the answer in your bulletin!

Pastor Tom's Contact Information



The office telephone number is 920-984-3845. His cell phone number is 920-268-5757, and his email address is styward@sbcglobal.net (**be sure** to put in subject line "St. John's"). Pastor Tom usually will be in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays up to Sunday, August 26, when we say "Farewell Beloved Pastor Tom". *Please call ahead if you want to be sure he is in the office at a specific time.*

The Lord is...

The Lord is my strength and my might, and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him (Exodus 15:2 NRSV)!

Thank You Letter from FVHA

Thank you for your generous donation of \$290.00 to the Fox Valley Humane Association. Your gift goes above and beyond! With friends and supporters like you, we are able to have an amazing organization that can help the animals in our community and their families.

Our goal at FVHA is to make sure that no animal need goes unmet. With our Positive Placement Programs and your support, we were able to save 6,887 animals in 2017.

With Gratitude, Kathryn Carlson, President FVHA Board of Directors

Church Council “Preliminary”

July 10, 2018

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Menning, with Gary VanderLinden, 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 Lisa Waterstradt and seconded by Gary Vander Linden, to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed.

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

Pastors Report (June 2018)

- Conducted 4 Worship Services and taught 4 classes
- Attended 1 church meeting, 2 administrative meetings, and 2 group meetings
- Made 1 home visit, 2 hospital visits, and 1 other visiting time

Committee Reports

Membership: We will wait to set up a date for any new members until Pastor Moira is in place as our pastor.

Christian Ed: Our next meeting will be Thursday, August 9th, at 6:30 p.m. Please note the date change.

Worship: *Nothing at this time.*

Minutes continue on the next page

Council Minutes... *continued from previous page*

Music: Anyone who would like to provide special music during the summer services can contact Bonnie Vander Linden.

House: We received an estimate of \$1,200.00 to have the bricks repaired/replaced (we have extra bricks here to use) and the concrete repaired on the porch of the parsonage. We have agreed to go ahead and have this done.

Stewardship: *Nothing at this time.*

Parish/Transition: There is a meeting on August 2nd with two of our members attending.

Campital Campaign/Mission Projects - For the month of June, we collected \$800.00. We have collected \$4,300.00 YTD. Our yearly goal is \$7,000.00.

Old Business: *Nothing at this time.*

New Business:

- There will be a baptism either August 12th or 19th.
- Connie Wheeler is updating the nametags so they are all the same. This will be done before Pastor Moira comes. Please wear your nametags!
- We are going to use one of the directory booklets to give to Pastor Moira to help her with information on who is who in our church (related, family, siblings).

Prayers and Thanks: Prayers to all the families that are traveling this summer season. May you have safe travels and fun times!

A motion was made, by Connie Wheeler and seconded by

Minutes continue on the next page

Council Minutes... *continued from previous page*
Gary Vander Linden, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Next Council Meeting will be **August 21, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.**

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Connie Wheeler, Council Secretary

Council Meeting Time



Please notice that the council meeting this month is Tuesday, **August 21, at 6:00 p.m.**

Gospel Music Fest

August 17 & 18, Voices of Peace Gospel Fest, at Hilbert Civic Park, Hwy 57, in Hilbert, Wisconsin

Friday 1 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Voices of Peace 14th Annual Gospel Music Fest!
Go, and enjoy live music—country, southern gospel, and bluegrass bands, and fun. Hilbert Civic Park is located at 304 North 8th Street, in Hilbert.

Admission is free. Free will offerings will be taken (*100% of offerings are given to the performers*).

Food is available.

Friday Night Fish Fry.

Bring lawn chairs and your family, friends, and co-workers.

Hymn of the Month for August: *“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”*



This hymn was written by Brian Wren, a British hymn writer whose works appear in many modern hymnals. It was written for a New Year's Day service held in Oxford, England, in 1978. The tune "New Beginnings" was composed by Carlton Young, in 1987, specifically for this text. The hymn appears in many modern hymnals.

Wren's words point us to one of the great truths of the Christian faith—God's love is always re-creating our world and us. The prophets of the Old Testament continually reminded Israel of the transforming power of God's love. They pointed Israel to the Messiah—the One Who would come to embody this transforming love.

What an appropriate hymn for us to sing in August—for it will be a time of transition that leads to a time of transformation. The old will give way to the new—all by the grace of God!

May we sing this hymn with joy and gladness throughout the month.

August 2018 Schedule

Sunday, August 5, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m.- Communion Sunday

Reader	Roberta Lorenz
Greeters/Ushers	Roberta Lorenz & Karen Arnold
Greeters/Ushers	David & Brenda Holz

Sunday, August 12, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m.

Reader	Lisa St. John
Greeters/Ushers	Todd & Lisa St. John
Greeters/Ushers	Tanner St. John & Jonathan Tesch

Sunday, August 19, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m.

Reader	Jan Rohloff
Greeters/Ushers	Jan Rohloff & Trevor Rohloff
Greeters/Ushers	Mike & Connie Rohloff

Sunday, August 26, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m.

Reader	Vi Brown-Luebke
Greeters/Ushers	Vi Brown-Luebke & Gary Vander Linden
Greeters/Ushers	Bryce Vander Linden & Darwin Ethington

September 2018 Schedule

Sunday, September 2, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m.- Communion

Sunday

Reader	Bob Menning
Greeters/Ushers	Bob & Carla Menning
Greeters/Ushers	Gary & Carla Lathrop

Sunday, September 9, 2018 @ 10:15 a.m. - Rally Sunday

Reader	Jim Rucci
Greeters/Ushers	Jim Rucci & Steve Hanson
Greeters/Ushers	Duane & Carol Henke

Sunday, September 16, 2018 @ 10:15 a.m.

Reader	Trudy Koon
Greeters/Ushers	Trudy Koon & Morgan Vander Linden
Greeters/Ushers	Ryan & Stephanie Julius

Sunday, September 23, 2018 @ 10:15 a.m.

Reader	Sue Biese
Greeters/Ushers	Joe & Sue Biese
Greeters/Ushers	Dallas & Lisa Waterstradt

Sunday, September 30, 2018 @ 10:15 a.m.

Reader	Robin Schmidt
Greeters/Ushers	Robin Schmidt & Bev Kruse
Greeters/Ushers	Mark Hooyman & Kelcie Hooyman