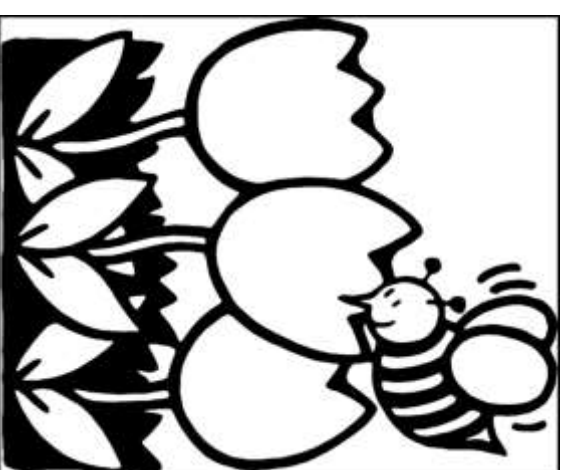


May 2019



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

St. John's United Church of Christ

101 South Clark Street (PO Box 264)

Black Creek, Wisconsin 54106

Church Phone 920-984-3845

Office email stjcreek@gmail.com

Website www.stjucbc.com

May 2019 Newsletter

Friends, Kim & Pastor Moira are in the process of redesigning the newsletter. It's not quite how we'd like it yet, but we're getting closer. This new format will make it easier to produce, and will mean that the email and website versions look much more like the print version. We appreciate your continued patience during the transition in formats.

May 2019

How to reach Pastor Moira: phone 715-851-3080 &
email pastormoira73@gmail.com

Pastor's Office Hours
All are welcome
at the Black Creek Office
Tuesdays 10am – 6pm
Wednesdays noon – 7:430pm

Sunday Schedule 8:45am Trinity Worship
9:00am Black Creek Christian Education & 10:15am Worship
7:00pm Cecil Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Key to locations: BC = St. John's U.C.C. Black Creek T = Trinity U.C.C. outside Nichols C = St. John's U.C.C. Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran Church Navarino			1 1:30pm BC Women's Guild 6:30pm BC Choir	2	3	4 9:00am BC Church & Cemetery Clean-up
5 BC Confirmation & Communion SCRIP order	6	7 10am ALC Food Pantry Board 6:30pm BC Parish Relations	8 9am T Circle NO BC Choir practice	9 5:30pm T Council meeting	10	11
12 <i>Mother's Day</i> C Consistory after worship	13	14 6:30pm BC Council meeting	15 5-7pm ALC Food Pantry distribution 6:30pm BC Choir	16	17	18 9-11am ALC Food Pantry distribution
19 Celebration Sunday Olympics	20	21 Newsletter deadline	22	23 9am C Closet work day	24	25
26	27 <i>Memorial Day</i>	28 Noon – 3pm C Closet distribution	29	30 5pm BC wedding rehearsal	31 1:30pm BC wedding	June 1 BC Family Daze Parade

From Pastor Moira...

“Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!”
from “Christ The Lord Is Risen Today”

The Easter lilies are fading, the jelly beans have mostly all been eaten, and we hope (pray) that all the eggs that were hidden have been found. There's only a few stray peeps marked down to 50% off on the clearance shelves. For the commercial part of our world Easter is done. They've moved on to the next holiday (Mother's Day) and into selling us new grills, and lawnmowers, and we will need for summer.

But just as the church takes the weeks of Lent to slowly prepare for Easter's coming we aren't too quick to let it go. The season of Easter in the church runs for fifty days, from Easter itself to Pentecost (June 9th this year). Why? Why would we need to celebrate Easter for so long, for even longer than we took to prepare for it?

At least part of it, as I said on Easter Sunday, is because we are not the same people we were last year. When we celebrated Easter in 2019 we were all very different people than we were when we celebrated it the year before. Our lives ~ as individuals, families, congregations, communities, and the world ~ in good and challenging ways. We need some time to think, to pray, to reflect on what the resurrection means for us in this time and place, in these moments, for the people we are today.

The weeks of Easter will take us through the end of the church's program year with confirmation on May 5th, a celebration of the Christian home and the end of the Sunday school year on May 12th and, new for the folks at Black Creek, the excitement of Celebration Sunday on May 19th (more on that in a minute). Then the summer will come with Memorial Day weekend, brat frys, camping, parades, and all the other things that summer means in Wisconsin (including I'm afraid mosquitoes).

We need these weeks to prepare for those, to be able to let the love of the risen Christ into our lives, to understand in our hearts, minds, and souls that, as the hymn says, we are made like Christ and so we are called to rise like him, to take up the work he left us, to follow in his footsteps as his disciples, caring for those in need, reaching out to the world, supporting one another, ending hunger, homelessness, poverty, and injustice wherever we can, by whatever means we can.

I pray that each of us might continue our Lenten work into these weeks of Easter, spending time with God in prayer, listening for God's guiding voice calling us into ever deeper relationship, and following God's call out into the world that is waiting for the message of hope and love that we bring.

Now, you're maybe wondering what all this strangeness is about Celebration Sunday and why your pastor has ordered a purple leotard and is collecting hula-hoops. The good people of Trinity & St. John's Cecil can tell you many a story, and probably show you some pictures as well, about Celebration Sundays past. We've had themes from luaus to the Oscars to farming to artistry to baseball. But really, regardless of the theme and the apparent lunacy of my costumes, the idea behind Celebration Sunday is simple. Consider these words...

“Children have this amazing way of becoming exactly who we tell them they are. If we tell them they are strong, they become strong. If we tell them they are kind, they become kind. If we tell them they are capable, they become capable. Speak life into your kids, so they will have what it takes to tackle their own life one day.” ~ Amy Weatherly

Guess what, that's true, not just of children but of all people. We become what we are repeatedly told we are and you, my friends, are AMAZING! Unfortunately we don't get told that often enough, and our own inner dialogue is often one of criticism and judgement. So celebration Sunday is about, well, celebrating the incredible people who make up our church, and our wider parish. Every single person in our parish is needed, and necessary, and valuable just as you are right this very minute. Without you, yes you!, our church would not be what it is – a place where we can learn, and grow, and explore our faith together, finding out what it means to be Jesus' disciples in northeast Wisconsin in 2019.

But it's easy to forget that we're amazing so several years ago I decided to start throwing a party for the folks in church, celebrating each and every person for the contribution they make to our lives together, and to my life as a pastor. The parties started simply, but have grown to what you will see in worship on Sunday May 19th. It's silly to get dressed up in a costume and wonder if I can figure out how to make the Olympic theme play over the sound system, but if my silliness helps you to remember how AMAZING you are then it's all worth it (plus all these preparations make me smile which is frankly worth it too).

So, if you've got an Olympic costume idea let's see it – track suit, swimming suit, ski jumping outfit, tennis clothes, ice skating ensemble, wrestling singlet, boxing gloves! As for me, I'll be the one in the gymnastics outfit up front hoping the Olympic torch doesn't catch the altar cloths on fire, and giving great, silly thanks to God for every one of you!

In love and grace, *Pastor Moira*

Scripture Readings

May 5 – Confirmation Sunday

Acts 9.1-22

May 12 – Mothers' Day

Psalms 23 & John 10.22-30

May 19 – Celebration Sunday

Romans 12.10 & 1 John 4.19 & John 13.31-35

May 26 – Memorial Day Weekend

Acts 16.9-15 & John 14.18-31

What's Your Favorite Hymn?



It's time to let us know your favorite hymn. Over the summer our choir director, Bonnie Vander Linden, and Pastor Moira will work to incorporate hymn submissions into our music lineup on Sundays. If there is a hymn you would like to have the congregation sing, or hear the choir sing, leave a note in the box between the offices, and we shall do our best to get it into the selections for the coming year!

Summer Is Just Around the Bend

To coincide with our Sunday School (Christian Education Hour) wrap up of another good year of growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, we will celebrate the Christian Family. Be sure to join us Sunday, May 12th, during the Christian Education hour, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the fellowship hall. All are invited and welcome. Questions? Please speak with Robin Schmidt.



Celebration Sunday



It's a party with an Olympic theme! As we end our Sunday School program year and look forward to wonderful summer, join us for a "Thank you" party for everyone who makes our parish such an incredible place. Pastor Moira has big surprises in mind, including medals, and Olympic torch, and maybe even a gymnastics outfit! Be sure to join us Sunday, May 19th!



Summer Worship Time

Now, that we are sharing Pastor Moira with Trinity and St. John's in Cecil, our worship time will continue to be 10:15 a.m., Sundays, throughout the summer.

Brat and Burger Fry

Come to Charlie's Market (521 S Main St.) in Shawano, Monday, May 27th, through Wednesday, May 29th, and support Trinity's Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. Have questions? Please speak with Pastor.



Confirmation Sunday 2019

Confirmation Sunday is May 5! Confirmation students are Autumn Schmidt (daughter of Brandy & Grant Krull), MaKenna Scott (daughter of Tori & the late Chris Scott), and Hollie Wheeler (daughter of John & Connie Wheeler). Be sure to join us as we celebrate these steps along their faith journeys.

Directory Listings



We plan to issue an up-to-date church directory, in early June 2019. To help the directory be most useful, please make sure the church office has your correct contact information. If you have cell phones, please specify whose is whose. If you have questions, please feel free to speak with Kim, in the office, or Pastor. Thank you for helping us serve you.

Newsletter Deadline

If you have a submission, reports, announcements, articles, notes of gratitude, recipes, or other things you would like to have included in the June 2019 newsletter, please have it to Kim and/or Pastor Moira by Tuesday May 21st.

The Calendar Has Moved

The common calendar that has been in the gathering room is now on the wall by the church office. If you have a meeting or other event going on, PLEASE record it (in pencil) on the calendar so we all know what is happening & when. Feel free to include events as far out as you know them.

Church Council "Preliminary"

Meeting Minutes—April 9, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Menning, with Pat Schomisch, Todd St. John, Gary VanderLinden, Lisa Waterstradt, Connie Wheeler, and Pastor Moira Finley present.

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Pastor Moira Finley.

A motion was made, by Lisa Waterstradt and seconded by Pat Schomisch, to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed.

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

Pastors Report

- Conducted 8 Worship Services (3 Sundays, 4 Wednesdays, 1 Good Shepherd)
- Attended 1 church meeting, 1 installation, and 1 conference
- Made 5 home/hospital/hospice/counseling visits
- There was 1 Baptism, Roman Halvorson

Committee Reports

Membership: Gary will get the new members on the address listing.

Christian Ed: There needs to be a meeting scheduled before Christian Family Home day in May.

Worship: There needs to be a meeting scheduled.

Music: There needs to be a meeting scheduled.

House: There will be a Clean up Day on Saturday, May 4. Anyone that can come help that day, meet at the church anytime you can. Clean up will be at the church and the cemetery.

Stewardship: The month of April, we will be collecting donations for church camps.

Campital Campaign/Mission Projects - For the month of March, we collected \$430.00. We have collected \$720.00, YTD. Our yearly goal is \$7,000.00.

Old Business:

- We had a realtor, from Coldwell Bankers, come to the meeting and give us information in regards to selling the parsonage. The inspection cost was \$330. We approved to having Dan Katch as the realtor from Coldwell Bankers. Our listing price will be \$179,900.

New Business:

- The elevator door is acting up and doesn't always close the first time. Gary is looking into this; it may be a fuse like last time this happened.
- We have had some members wanting to borrow/rent tables and chairs for events. We have approved them, and they are giving a donation to the church.
- Steve Hanson asked for permission to burn the ditch on the north side of the parking lot. Pat will check with the Fire Department on doing this as a controlled burn.

Prayers and Thanks:

- Thank you to Steve Hanson for all his time and work on cleaning up the ditch by the cemetery.
- Prayers for the following; Ron and Kim, Jim Rucci, Shawn Retzlaff, Jordan Schadrie, Chip Brown, Jeff Helser, and Darvin Zuleger.

A motion was made, by Pat Schomisch and seconded by Todd St. John, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Church & Cemetery Clean-Up Saturday May 5th

We have some tasks that will be made easier with many hands helping.

There's work at the cemetery getting rid of debris (raking)
and sprucing things up for the spring.

There's work at church with end of the program year clean-up.

There's work for standing, sitting, climbing,
clambering, scampering, and everything in between.

There's something for all of God's people both at church & at the cemetery.

Meet at church at 9am and pick a job!

Snacks and coffee provided

St. John's United Church of Christ Financial Secretary Report ~ March 2019							
	03/03/2019	03/10/2019	03/17/2019	03/24/2019	03/30/2019	Direct Deposit	Total
Checking Deposit	2444.00	2218.50	1923.00	2329.00	3086.50	300.00	12301.00
General Fund	2404.00	1681.50	1548.00	1776.00	2931.50	100.00	10441.00
Building Fund	10.00	112.00	150.00	250.00	125.00	100.00	747.00
Campital Campaign	30.00	250.00	50.00			100.00	430.00
One Great Hour of Sharing		175.00	175.00	259.00	30.00		639.00
Neighbors in Need							0.00
Strengthen the Church							0.00
Christmas Fund							0.00
Fuel Fund							0.00
Total Member Contributions	2444.00	2218.50	1923.00	2285.00	3086.50	300.00	
Other Income							
Men's Dartball				44.00			44.00
Total Other Income				44.00			
Total Checking Deposit	2444.00	2218.50	1923.00	2329.00	3086.50	300.00	

Treasurer's Report – March 2019

Building Fund	Deposits	\$ 747.00
	Interest	\$ 1.36
	Disbursements	\$ 0
Memorial Fund	Deposits	\$ 0
	Disbursements	\$ 0
Organ Fund	Deposits	\$ 0
	Disbursements	\$ 0
General	Deposits	\$ 11,554.00
	Disbursements	\$(11,833.95)
<i>Capital Campaign</i>		\$ 430.00
	Total YTD	\$ 720.00

Total	Beginning Balance	\$ 43,405.74
	Deposits	\$ 12,301.00
	Interest	\$ 1.36
	Disbursements	\$(11,833.95)
	Ending Balance	\$ 43,874.15

General Fund	\$22,561.86
Building Fund	\$10,615.82
Memorial Fund	\$ 5,699.47
Organ Fund	<u>\$ 4,997.00</u>

\$43,874.15

YTD Membership Giving	\$ 26,849.50
YTD Expenses	<u>\$(30,723.20)</u>
Net Amount	<u><u>\$ (3,873.70)</u></u>

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on Wednesday, April 3, 2019, at 1:30 p.m., with nine members present.

Our devotional leader was Audrey Hooyman-Blake. Audrey led us in prayer and shared a nursing home story, of which the aides' names were Grace and Gloria. She shared a song the daughter sang for her mother, as grace and glory. Another story, *Grandma's Depression Cake*, a cake shared in their family, which is an eggless, milk-less, butter-less cake. Audrey shared the recipe (recipe follows these minutes). "What Can't You Give Up?" Think about it..... Not much. Audrey concluded with a story about F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely on God). Inspires people everywhere handing out little frogs. Even played a game of snappy frogs. Fun!

The business meeting was called to order by President Roberta Lorenz. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved. There is a balance of \$5,557.19 in the General Fund and \$472.98 in the Memorial Fund.

The large print "Our Daily Bread" booklets are here to be shared and used. There was a discussion regarding a Mother-Daughter or Father-Son Banquet. We need some suggestions. The church bake sale on Saturday, April 27, 2019, for which we need workers and bakery items.

Church Rummage Sale will be held on Thursday-Saturday, June 20, 21, 22, and 27, 28 and 29. Need workers and donations of items to sell. Thank you.

Discussion on church clean up days. We leave that to the council to set the date. [Council has set the date for Saturday, May 4, 2019. We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m., and work on cleaning the outside and inside of the church and clean up the debris in the cemetery].

Sign up list for Easter breakfast supplies and help needed.

Prayers were said for Kim and Ron, Ila Mae Jens, Chip Brown, Darvin Zuleger, Conference Minister's mother passed away, and Jeff Helser, Schadrie family. Our get-well wishes to all.

We closed with the *Lord's Prayer* in unison. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn our meeting. We sang the *Doxology* and were served a delicious pineapple crème dessert by Sally Dickinson, our April hostess.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, May 1, 2019, with Sally Dickinson leading us in devotions, and Marian Zuleger as our May hostess.

Blessings to all.

Audrey Hooyman-Blake, Guild Secretary

Eggless, Milk-less, Butter-less Cake

A spiced cake that's easy on the budget

1 C brown sugar, firmly packed

1 ½ C Water

1/3 C Vegetable Oil

2 C dark raisins

2 tsp Cinnamon

½ tsp ground Cloves

½ tsp ground Nutmeg

1 tsp Baking Soda

1 tsp Salt

2 tsp Water (*for step 5*)

2 C Flour

1 tsp Baking Powder



1. Preheat oven to 325° F.
2. Grease 9-inch-square pan.
3. Combine sugar, water, oil, raisins and spices in a saucepan, and boil for 3 minutes, stirring frequently.
4. Take pan off heat and let cool for 10 minutes.
5. Dissolve baking soda and salt in 2 tsp of water and add to raisin mixture (it will foam).
6. Blend in flour and baking powder. Mix well.
7. Pour batter into the greased 9-inch-square pan and bake for 55 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
8. Let cake cool for about 10 minutes before serving.

Serves about 10-12.

Pastor Moira's Contact Information

Phone number: 715-851-3080 (calls and texts welcome).

E-mail: pastormoira73@gmail.com

Office hours are typically Tuesdays (about 9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. or later depending on meetings) and Wednesdays (about noon – after choir practice).

Please call ahead if you want to be sure she is in the office at a specific time.

Expressions of Gratitude

Where do I even begin to tell you how wonderful you are to Ron and me? Ron and I could not be more blessed by any congregation of believers and followers of Jesus than you do as you continue to bless us. Your thoughtful and genuine prayers for healing and provision, for both of us, are so **much appreciated** and **needed**. Thank you. As you likely know, I am facing back surgery. The pain from the pinched nerves, on both sides, in my lower back, make everything so much more difficult (and somethings impossible). Ron has had to have surgery to reattach his tendon in his right arm and to decompress a nerve in the same arm, so he needs my help and I need his.

Your care, patience, help in my place, gifts, and cards are each appreciated **every single day**. We do not take your Christ-like love for granted. My heart could write on and on, but my body is screaming for me to stop and ice. Please know how extremely grateful I am to be your church secretary and neighbor. May God bless you a-hundredfold for all you have and continue to do for His glory and the good of Ron and me (*not to mention all the other people you directly bless with your kindness, generosity, and prayers*). What a real witness you are to His presence in Black Creek. We truly thank God for you, my beloved sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus.

*Thank
you*

Love, Kim and Ron

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!



Here are some guidelines from Best Choice:

1. Save only the UPC symbol from Best Choice products. Cut the UPC symbol from labels or cartons. *For glass items with a glued label, the labels can be removed by first soaking in warm water. Please dry the label afterwards.*
2. Products excluded from the Best Choice Save-A-Label Program: aluminum soda cans, aerosol cans, and cigarettes. (*UPCs from 12-pk. & 24-pk. soda cardboard cartons are acceptable*),
3. Any questions or inquiries: please contact BEST CHOICE SAVE-A-LABEL, at 913-288-1165 or www.awgbrands.com.

A Year Of Giving

May Focus ~ Haiti Allies

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, and a much closer neighbor to the US than we often think, only ninety minutes from Miami, Florida. Haiti, the first slave colony to gain its independence, Haiti has a long history of foreign occupation and exploitation of both the people and resources by both Haitian and foreign governments. This has, of course, led to wide-spread poverty. In addition, because of its geographic location, Haiti has suffered from frequent hurricanes and earthquakes. Aid groups have come in to help and have sometimes done more damage than good, bringing with them diseases such as cholera, along with corruption, sexual and economic exploitation, and more. Despite this, the Haitian people are a strong, resilient, intelligent, and joyful people. They are resourceful, patient, loving, and hopeful about building and renewing their country. From their mission statement, Haiti Allies works to, “empower Haitians to better their lives and country through education, meal programs, adult literacy, and job creation.” Haiti Allies works closely with Cite Soleil Community School, located in one of the largest slums surrounding the capital of Port au Prince. In addition, Haiti Allies leads trips of mutual learning and exchange to help develop and foster relationships with our Haitian friends, learning from the wisdom, spirit, and passion of the people of Haiti themselves. Your gifts this month will help provide scholarship assistance to students seeking high-school and higher education. (Pastor Moira is sadly not going to Haiti this summer. She has commitments at the U.C.C.’s General Synod in Milwaukee at the end of June she doesn’t have the oomph to do both, BUT she’s looking forward to a trip in 2020 and you’re welcome to sign up to go along.)

Reader & Greeter Schedule

The scripture passages for worship are listed earlier in this newsletter.

If you would like to have your readings emailed to you, please let Pastor Moira and Kim know. Otherwise, your readings are printed and in the hanging file between the church and pastor's offices.

If you cannot greet, usher, or read on your assigned date please talk with Connie Wheeler!

Sunday, May 5, 2019 ~ Confirmation Sunday

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

Sunday, May 12, 2019 – Mother's Day

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

Sunday, May 19, 2019 – Celebration Sunday

Reader	Lisa St. John
Greeter/Usher	Todd & Lisa St. John
Greeter/Usher	Tanner St. John & Noah St. John

Sunday, May 26, 2019

Reader	Vi Brown-Luebke
Greeter/Usher	Vi Brown-Luebke & Darwin Ethington
Greeter/Usher	Gary and Bonnie VanderLinden

Sunday, June 2, 2019 – Communion

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

Sunday, June 9, 2019

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

Sunday, June 16, 2019.

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

Sunday, June 23, 2019

*Pastor Moira at UCC General Synod;
Randy Miller preaching*

Reader	Robin Schmidt
Greeter/Usher	Steve & Pat Schomisch
Greeter/Usher	Barry Zuleger & Keith Kruse

Sunday, June 30, 2019

Reader	Devin Schmidt
Greeter/Usher	Devin Schmidt & Brandy Krull
Greeter/Usher	Terry Rihm & Aron Rasmussen