

*From Pastor Moira*

*“Learn how to see. Realize that everything connects to everything else.”  
~ Leonardo DaVinci*

In worship on June 30th, I said I wasn't all that excited about July 4th. I like the parade in Bonduel with the bands, and milk trucks, and show horses, and people who toss tootsie rolls and string cheese at the crowds. But I don't like fireworks (or fire pits, or fire really ... happens when your mom trains fire fighters, you learn a healthy respect of the power of fire). But it's not really the hoopla of the 4th that bothers me. I can usually hide out in my bedroom, with loud enough music to get me and the cats through the fireworks. It's really the idea of Independence Day that I struggle with. I understand why we celebrate the values and ideals the United States strives for, but somewhere deep in my heart the idea of independence just doesn't sit right.

A dear friend of mine, Steven, was from Kenya. One day I was lamenting to him my struggle with the idea of independence and he said, “well, the problem is, you were born on the wrong continent.” He was partly joking, but also reminding me that where he came from there isn't a concept of independence, that we can do things on our own, that we can live our days without needing anyone else. We are inherently dependent creatures. We need each other from our very first breath. We need someone to care for us, nurture us, teach us, show us how to love, guide and correct us, sustain us in hard times, and celebrate with us in joyful moments. None of us can get through this life on our own. That is an essential teaching of our faith—we are dependent beings. We depend on God for life. We depend on one another for courage in the struggle, for mutual love and support. If you turn to 1 Corinthians 12.12 and read on through the end of the chapter you'll find a reminder that we are one as the body of Christ.

*“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” (1 Corinthians 12.26, NRSV)*

None of us is more or less important. None of us is more or less valuable. None of us has more or less worth in the eyes of God. Not everyone can do the same things, nor should everyone try, but everyone - every single human, every single part of creation - everyone is essential to the wholeness of the church, the community, the world. We need all the glorious diversity of creation in order to be whole.

And thinking about all this has me thinking about the world we are living in. I once asked God if I could live in interesting, history making times. I realize now I should have been much more specific. These surely are history making times, and how we think about each other, our relationships, our connections, our need for one another, will determine a lot of how future generations look back on these times and remember us.

This isn't a political statement, except that the Gospel, the life of Jesus, whose footsteps we are called to follow, the work of Christ that we are called to continue in our time and place is inherently political. Jesus came and challenged the structures of his day that kept people oppressed, in poverty, in slavery, isolated, discriminated against, and in despair. He came and preached good news and worked to bring about that good news in healing, restoring communities, reuniting families, and sharing the power of soul changing, demanding, fierce and gracious love everywhere he went.

We cannot be silent in these days when so many are struggling - families separated from one another and kept in the most horrific of conditions, standing on the brink of war, poverty rising because wages are not enough, factories closing, hatred of people who aren't like us increasing, violence seeming to be everywhere we turn - and claim to be disciples of Jesus.

*Yes, that's a hard statement, and I imagine a few of you might disagree with me (please, seriously, call and let's talk this through together ... I'll buy the coffee, or beer, or whatever).* But when I hold the Gospel in my heart, and the newspaper in my hands, I hear Jesus calling us to do the things he would have done—to befriend the widow, the orphan, the immigrant, the stranger, the foreigner, the sick, the lame, the hurting, the broken, the lonely, the isolated. The world desperately needs the good news we bring, the power of love, of community, of unity, of wholeness, of transformation. The world needs us, and they're looking to see how we, who follow Jesus, will respond. There are no simple answers to the questions and struggles facing us—as individuals, or communities, or countries, or the planet—but we must be engaged in this work, together, because as one of my mother's favorite cartoons, Pogo, said, "there is no us and them, there is only us."

In grace and hope, *Pastor Moira*

### *A word from Kim...*

Being the hands of Christ can only be accomplished when we care for others. Oh my friends and neighbors, you are such tremendous caring hands and hearts. Ron and I are healing; and depending on the injury, we are in different stages of the process. I am in physical therapy for neck, shoulder, sternum, and rib injuries caused by the accident. My back and foot are still in too much pain; the surgeon has ordered an MRI to determine whether the accident changed my back. At this point, I don't know what the medical professionals will decide to do to help me, but I trust God knows the plan and will get us through it.

Your prayers, cards, notes, gifts, helping hands and feet, and even a bouquet of tulips picked from one's own yard are God-glorifying and much more appreciated than you can imagine. Pastor and Sally have been SO amazing. We sincerely thank God for all of you.. When the light of Jesus shines through His children, the world can see, even if we don't notice the world witnessing the body of Christ at work. You are living evidence that there are Christians who live-out the instructions in 1 Corinthians 16:14, which says, "Let all that you do be done in love"! Glory to God, and **thank you!**

## Church Council "Preliminary" Meeting Minutes ~ June 11, 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 Todd St. John, 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 4 Worship Services, 1 wedding, 1 baptism
- Attended 1 church meeting, Family Daze parade
- Made 9 home/hospital/hospice/counseling visits

### Committee Reports

- **Membership:** *Nothing at this time.*
- **Christian Ed:** The youth group and members walked in the Family Daze parade and won 1<sup>st</sup> place receiving \$100. The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 6, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Worship:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 20, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Music:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 20, at 6:30 p.m.
- **House:** The bell tower was checked, and there are no leaks. The elevator door is still not working on the lower level. We tried a curtain in the window, and that did not work. We think it may be a censor that is not working.
- **Stewardship:** For the month of June, we will be collecting for *Strengthen the Church, UCC National offering*. There will be a meeting in September to determine whether we want to continue the monthly giving idea for 2020.
- **Campital Campaign/Mission Projects** - For the month of May, we collected \$315.00. We have collected \$1,855.00 YTD.

### Old Business

- The parsonage was sold, and the check will be deposited and then be put in the United Church of Christ Foundation of WI.
- The parking lot has been sealed and looks great.

- The neighbor next to the parking lot is asking to purchase a 10-15 feet strip of land to build an addition in the future. The town won't give him the variance so the neighbor has to purchase it from the church.

### New Business

- The recycling was picked up at the parsonage but we can no longer do that. To put it out by the church, there would be a charge. We will have someone take it to the recycling center.
- The cemetery account only has one signer, Pastor Moira will check with one of the other members on the cemetery committee to add as a signer on the account. Our policy is to have two signers on every account.

### Prayers and Thanks:

- Thank you to Gary VanderLinden for all his time in selling the parsonage.
- Thank you to Todd St. John for the beautiful cutting boards in the kitchen.
- Prayers for Kim and Ron, Brenda (Todd St. John's aunt), Jordan Schadrie, Mason Retzlaff (surgery June 27 for a tumor)

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

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.  
The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

### *A Word of Thanks...*

To "All" of you, at Black Creek St. John's U.C.C.:

You certainly know how to make persons **feel special!**

The donation, of 52 more pairs of shoes, is greatly appreciated. Earlier, we sent off 500 pairs to Third World Country Relief. Last week, another 600 pairs were received—now, there are more that groups have donated again! Plus 52 pairs from you all. How wonderful "you all" are. God bless each of you...with each pair of shoes, it can mean food, a meal, or lodging received because they had a pair of shoes to trade or a pair of shoes someone could wear. This fall, I and many are going on a Mission Trip, in November 2019, so this week was getting up-to-date shots and information! God Bless!

God bless "you" all, in helping the Missions.

*Love, Tammi (cousin to Donna Jean) and friends.*

**St. John's United Church of Christ Financial Secretary Report May 2019**

<b>Date</b>	<b>5/5/19</b>	<b>5/12/19</b>	<b>5/19/19</b>	<b>5/26/19</b>		<b>Direct Deposit</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Checking deposit</b>	<b>1687.00</b>	<b>1935.00</b>	<b>1219.50</b>	<b>3074.00</b>		<b>300.00</b>	<b>8215.50</b>
General Fund	1510.00	1875.00	1199.00	1239.00		100.00	5923.50
Building Fund	117.00			60.00		100.00	277.00
Campital Campaign	60.00	35.00		120.00		100.00	315.00
OGHS							
NIN							
STC							
Christmas Fund							
Fuel Fund							
Haiti		25.00	20.00	130.00			175.00
<b>Total Member Contributions</b>	<b>1687.00</b>	<b>1935.00</b>	<b>1219.50</b>	<b>1549.00</b>		<b>300.00</b>	
Other Income							
Sunday School				1225.00			1225.00
Eileen Zuleger Memorial				300.00			300.00
Total Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	1525.00			
<b>Total Checking Deposit</b>	<b>1687.00</b>	<b>1935.00</b>	<b>1219.50</b>	<b>3074.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>300.00</b>	

## St. John's United Church of Christ Black Creek Treasurer's Report ~ May 2019

<b>Building Fund</b>	Deposits	277.00
	Interest	1.36
	Disbursements	0.00
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	Deposits	300.00
	Disbursements	0.00
<b>Organ Fund</b>	Deposits	0.00
	Disbursements	0.00
<b>General Fund</b>	Deposits	7,638.50
	Disbursements	(8,188.20)
Campital Campaign		315.00
Campital Campaign YTD		1,855.00

<b>Totals</b>	Beginning Balance	47,271.00
	Deposits	8,215.50
	Interest	1.35
	Disbursements	(8,188.20)
	Ending Balance	47,299.66

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>25,086.37</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>11,216.82</b>
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	<b>5,999.47</b>
<b>Organ Fund</b>	<b>4,997.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,299.66</b>
<b>YTD Membership Giving</b>	<b>43,855.50</b>
<b>YTD Expenses</b>	<b>(46,430.56)</b>
<b>Net Amount</b>	<b>(2,575.06)</b>

## Women's Guild Minutes

The Women's Guild met, on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. There were 13 members present.

Our devotional leader was Esther Meyer, who led us in prayer and shared stories from the calendar "Navigator" of which were many memories, memorial days and history—the sound of sirens, fire trucks, people happy, with smiles on their faces, people on horse back, many kinds of beautiful floats are all reflections of memories from long gone days and years. She shared a poem, "Gifts of All The Seasons", sharing a word or two is like a great big smile. As we age, we hear of retirement, when and if we can afford it—prescriptions, insurance paperwork—I can't remember where I am or what I was doing or going up or down. We are getting old, the words are all familiar and very nicely put in the poem.

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 \$6,120.17, is in the general fund and \$477.98, is in the memorial fund.
- There was discussion about two tables suggested for the church. Pastor Moira volunteered to check on some. Many thanks for a table donation for the sanctuary from the Wheeler Family.
- The church is in need of a 100-cup coffee pot. Sally Dickinson will purchase one for the church.
- The parking lot is being resurfaced and repainted on Friday July 13, 2019. A stop marking was discussed.
- Discussion on a new church cook book, joining the three churches with all the family specialties together. More information to follow.
- Tables are set up for the Rummage Sale to be held on June 20-21-22 and June 27-28-29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Start to set up on Monday June 10, at 9 a.m. Please sign up on the worker list. Advertising and signs are in progress.
- Ice cream social is set for July 18, 2019, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Check the guild book for the committee list.
- Fall Feast is October 13, 2019, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- We closed with the *Lord's Prayer* in unison.
- We were served a delicious lemon dessert by Hostess Jan Boman.

Our next meeting will be July 3, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. with Roberta Lorenz leading devotions and Audrey Hooyman-Blake, hosting.

*Bless all, Audrey Hooyman-Blake*

## Reader & Greeter Schedule

The scripture passages for worship are listed 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 & 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, July 7, 2019 ~ Communion

Reader	Kent Abel
Greeter/Usher	Kent Abel Val Abel Mike Dickinson Sally Dickinson

### Sunday, July 14, 2019

Reader	Roberta Lorenz
Greeter/Usher	Roberta Lorenz Esther Meyer Verla Pingel Judy Samson

### Sunday, July 21, 2019

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

### Sunday, July 28, 2019

Reader	Robin Schmidt
Greeter/Usher	Robin Schmidt Barry Zuleger Kerri Cournoyer Keith Kruse

### Sunday August 4, 2019 ~ Communion

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

### Sunday August 11, 2019

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

### Sunday August 18, 2019

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

### Sunday August 25, 2019

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

### Sunday September 1, 2019 ~ Communion

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

### Sunday September 8, 2019 ~ Rally Day!

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

## **Scripture Readings**

### **Sunday July 7, 2019 ~ Communion**

Psalm 30 & Luke 10.1-20

### **Sunday July 14, 2019**

Psalm 82 & Luke 10.25-37

### **Sunday July 21, 2019 ~ Randy Miller preaches**

Psalm 15 & Luke 10.38-42

### **Sunday July 28, 2019 ~ Randy Miller preaches**

Psalm 138 & Luke 11.5-13

### **Sunday August 4, 2019 ~ Communion**

Psalm 107.1-9 & Luke 12.13-21

### **Sunday August 11, 2019**

Psalm 33 & Luke 12.32-40

### **Sunday August 18, 2019**

Psalm 80 & Luke 13.10-17

### **Sunday August 25, 2019**

Psalm 71 & Luke 13.18-21

### **Sunday September 1, 2019**

Psalm 81 & Luke 14.1-14

## **Rummage Sale**

A huge thank you to all who contributed to the success of our annual rummage sale! We cannot be successful without workers, shoppers, donations, and prayers. It is a big job organizing and pricing the items for sale, from table-setup to table-take down, every hand of help was necessary and is appreciated. Special thanks to Steve Hanson for his hard work, and doing a lot of the set-up, clean-up, hauling away of things that didn't sell, and generally being fabulous. **There were some late sales, and one bill for advertising to pay, but right now it looks like our profit is \$2,500!!**

## Ice Cream Social ~ Thursday, July 18, 2019

Serving from 4:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

All families are asked to bring donations of desserts & pickles.

<b>Greeter</b>	Marian Goodwin
<b>Beans</b>	Roberta Lorenz Jan Boman
<b>Brats &amp; Hotdogs</b>	Todd St. John Noah St. John
<b>Hamburgers</b>	Doris Schmidt Val Abel, Kent Abel, Esther Meyer, Carol Schmidt, Robin Schmidt
<b>Potato Salad &amp; Chips</b>	Jan Rohloff Karen Arnold, Vi Brown-Luebke, Judy Samson
<b>Ice Cream &amp; Pop</b>	Roberta Lorenz Trudy Koon, Nancy Noack, Lisa Raaths
<b>Serving</b>	Ila Mae Jens Judy Samson, Kerri Cournoyer, Carol Schmidt, Robin Schmidt
<b>Dining Room</b>	Audrey Hooyman-Blake Karen Arnold, Debbie Boettcher, Kelcie Hooyman, Caitlyn Pingel, Verla Pingel, Lisa St. John, Makenna Scott, Tori Scott, Donna Sutucki, Cailey Wheeler, Connie Wheeler, Holly Wheeler
<b>Kitchen (dishes &amp; clean up)</b>	Connie Rohloff Mike Rohloff, Wyatt Samson, Sue Schneider
<b>Desserts (serving)</b>	Vi Brown-Luebke Jan Boman, Sally Dickinson, Esther Meyer
<b>Cashiers</b>	Val & Kent Abel Lisa Waterstradt <i>Treasurer will get change</i>
<b>Publicity</b>	Vi Brown Luebke Todd Arnold, Ruth Hanson

## Summer Special Music

We know you're out there - talented musicians and artists who can share their gifts with us, while the choir is on summer break.

Please look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, in the Gathering Room, and sign up to share your gifts of song, poem, interpretive dance, mime, or whatever you've got.

Thank you for your help in enhancing our worship life together.

### A Year Of Giving July & August Focus – School Supplies, Socks & Undies

*Oops...Pastor Moira's been announcing them backwards! July was supposed to be socks & undies and August was to be school supplies! So we are just going to combine them into a late summer project to help our kids back to school! Collection boxes are in the sanctuary!*

**Socks & Undies:** Kids grow, and they grow fast. Almost overnight they'll change sizes and it's sometimes difficult to keep up. Imagine being a parent who can't afford to provide new socks and underwear for their children. Imagine being a child who doesn't have those items we take for granted. Help us stock the shelves at the Cecil Community Closet and Community 2000. Let's make them full to bursting with new socks and underwear for kids in need. Let's make sure every child in our communities has the opportunity to wear their own holes in their socks. When looking for socks, think about athletic socks for boys and girls in all sizes, and when for boy's underwear, look for both boxers and briefs. And remember, some of our older kids wear adult sizes.

**School Supplies:** The lists are here, the long lists of things kids need to bring to school. It used to be a box of crayons, a few pencils, and a stack of paper, but no more. Children and their families have to bring everything from pencils to tissues to Ziploc bags for their classrooms, and with changing technology children are increasingly asked to bring headphones, flash drives, and more as well. That gets to be expensive, particularly for families that are already struggling. We will collect items that are on our local school district lists, and cash donations towards additional supplies that will be provided to our local schools as well as distributed through organizations like Community 2000 and our local Salvation Army. When you're shopping, think about things like crayons, markers, dry erase markers, pencils (including mechanical ones), Ziploc bags (quart and gallon are the most requested sizes), tissues, pocket folders and folders with pockets and prongs, spiral notebooks (wide and college ruled), and loose-leaf paper (wide and college ruled).

## July 2019

**How to reach Pastor Moira: phone 715-851-3080**  
**email [pastormoira73@gmail.com](mailto:pastormoira73@gmail.com)**

**Pastor's Office Hours**  
 All are welcome at the  
 Black Creek office  
 Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
 Wednesdays noon - 7:30p.m.

**Sunday Schedule: 8:45 a.m. Trinity Worship**  
**10:15 a.m. Worship**  
**7:00 p.m. Cecil Worship**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3  1:30 p.m. BC Women's Guild	4 11 a.m. Bonduel Parade ( <i>come to Pastor's house</i> )	5	6
7 Communion  SCRIP order	8	9 10a.m. ALC Food Pantry Board meeting  6:30 p.m. BC Council meeting	10	11  5:30 p.m. T Council meeting	12	13
14	15	16	17  5-7 p.m. ALC Food Pantry distribution	18 9 a.m. C Clothes closet work day  4-7 p.m. BC Ice Cream Social	19  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Pastor Moira's vacation -&gt;</div>	20 9-11 a.m. ALC Food Pantry distribution
21 Randy Miller preaching at <b>all 3</b> churches	22	23  Noon- 3 p.m. C Clothes closet distribution	24	25	26	27
<b>Pastor Moira's vacation</b>						
28 Randy Miller preaching at <b>all 3</b> churches	29	30	31	August 1	August 2	August 3
<b>Pastor Moira's vacation (to August 3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>						

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17 NRSV)!

**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 outside Navarino

“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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**Wisconsin Conference UCC**  
[www.wiucc.org](http://www.wiucc.org)

**United Church of Christ**  
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)



*July 2019*

**SUMMER**  
**ice cream**  
**sunshine**  
**FLIP FLOPS**  
**lemonade**  
**BARE FEET**  
**vacation**  
**MEMORIES**