

St. John's
United Church of Christ
September 2019

"Blessed is the one, ... whose delight is in the law of the Lord, ... that person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season" (Psalm 1a, 2a, 3a , NIV)



Pastor's Article

"Time like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away" (Isaac Watts, "O God, Our Help In Ages Past").

Somehow, it's September again. September means a lot of things. It means the end of summer vacation and county fair season; children, youth, and teachers going back to school, busses on their routes again (STOP when they have their sign out, and be careful in the school zones). September means the fall asters are blooming, the trees are starting to change, and the Christmas decorations are already up in the stores. September also means that our shared three church ministry is already a year old! Back when we were younger, 365 days or so ago, we weren't entirely sure how *this* would all work or if it would work at all. We had lots and lots of questions: "Would this wear out the pastor?" "Would we be able to agree on worship times for holidays?" "What would happen if there was an emergency?" "Would people feel like they had enough of Pastor Moira's time and energy?"

As I look back on this year, I think we can say with confidence that our shared ministry is working quite well! It has been a busy 2018-2019, but a good busy. People have been able to find me when they need me (*my cell phone is never very far away*), and I think I'm learning the routine of what happens next at Black Creek, integrating that into a routine I've known for much longer at Trinity & Cecil. I don't feel worn out, although there are days, and I'm careful to make sure I make time to recuperate. I'm loving having a church office where I can leave things to work on another day, going home to rest and renew myself. By a miracle, or at the very least a sure sign the Holy Spirit is with us, we agreed on worship times for Christmas Eve, Holy Week, and Easter without major conflict. We have had tremendous joys together, deep sorrows, and things in between. We have worked to strengthen relationships and build new ones. We have met the challenges that came our way and learned through it all to live into the call God has issued to us to be the Gospel in this time, in this place, with the skills, talents, and passions that we have been given.

So what's next for Tri-Jo-Jo? Well, first we need to come up with a snazzier acronym for our shared ministry. And then, we need to think about ways we can work together for even greater impact in our communities and around the world. Adding to the food pantry Trinity helps run, and the clothes closet at St. John's Cecil, what else can we offer to meet the needs of the world? What are the needs of our communities, and how can what we're good at (or might be good at) help us meet

those needs? How can our three churches work together, worship together, and be visible in the world together? Do we need a shared website or social media presence? Could our women's groups get together to learn, serve, and grow together? What about some sort of shared worship time next summer (outside in our own yard, on Shawano Lake, in a barn, who knows)? Now that the logistics, the day to day operations of our three churches are largely sorted out, we look forward to the ever-rolling stream of time that will take us where God needs us to be. What will we do to be ready for the next chapters in our life together? What will we leave behind? What will we take with us, but adapt for a new day and time? What will we dream of doing that we've never done before?

I don't, and can't have, all those answers on my own. It will take all of us, every single person in our congregations and communities for us to live into what God is asking of us. We'll need to dream together, try things, fail some, succeed some, and try more things. We'll need to trust, through it all, that God is with us, guiding and loving us, encouraging and nurturing us, and rooting for us, as we work to build the kingdom of God here in our corner of the earth. What I do know is that we will do all this together. I'm in this for the long haul, in the good times and the struggles, laughing and crying, over coffee and at meetings, at parades and washing dishes, wherever it is you need me to be, I'll be there as best I'm able, and together, together we can and will be faithful, following in Jesus' footsteps, being God's hands and feet, hearts and minds, hope and love in the world.

In grace and peace, Pastor Moira



1 Corinthians 12:4-7

"There are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit; there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God Who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (NRSV)!

Church Council "Preliminary" Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Menning, with Pat Schomisch, Todd St. John, Gary VanderLinden, Lisa Waterstradt, and Pastor Moira Finley present. Connie Wheeler was absent. Aron Rasmussen was also present, as a guest to discuss the elevator.



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

Aron Rasmussen came to discuss the situation with the elevator. Aron has a quote from Adam, for \$1,765.00, for the part and installation with a one year warranty. Motion was made, by Pat Schomisch, to approve this from the building fund, seconded by Todd St. John. Motion passed. The part is readily available (2 days) and we will work into the schedule when Dale (maintenance person from Kone Elevator) is available in the area.

A motion was made, by Lisa Waterstradt and seconded by Pat Schomisch, to accept the minutes with two spelling corrections in prayers (Jordan Schadrie and Ron Metko) from last month. Motion passed.

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

Pastors Report

- Conducted 2 Worship Services, 1 Funeral Service
- Made 4 home/hospital/hospice/counseling visits
- Shared her plans for continuing education funds, and vacation through September 2020
- Shared notes from the discussion at the Shared Ministry Team Meeting, including scheduling of holiday services (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Lent, Easter), and thoughts about what to do next together, as three churches, now that we have the basic rhythm of the year figured out.

Committee Reports

Membership: *Nothing at this time*

Christian Ed: Met August 6th and set events for Rally Day (September 8th), Confirmation, and the Christmas Program (December 15th); They will also be paying for curriculum for Randy Miller's adult Bible study.

Worship: Next meeting is Tuesday, August 20th, at 6:30 p.m.

Music: Next meeting is Tuesday, August 20th, at 6:30 p.m.

House: *Nothing to report.*

Stewardship: There was some discussion about whether we wanted to investigate additional ways to have electronic giving. No decision was made at this time.

Cemetery: Need to have a meeting and reorganize following Kent Abel's death.

Campital Campaign/Mission Projects: *Nothing to report*

Old/New Business:

- Computer, additional phone handset, and paper shredder have all arrived.
- Steeple leak & fix: Gary spoke with a roofer, and they inspected in the tower after the strong storms, the floor was wet; they will bring a tall boom lift in the next few weeks for further investigation; there are two sides that have flat roofing, and that is probably the culprit; the old portion of the church also needs tuck pointing (brick repair), and there is a company in Green Bay that does this work; we continue to work on a plan for a durable, long-term repair.
- Bubbler: not working well, need to investigate a repair (John Wheeler?)
- Communion Concerns: there is a concern about the wafers sticking (*probably due to humidity*) and about who can serve (council members vs. ushers); this will be brought up at the upcoming Worship Committee meeting

Prayers and Thanks:

- Thank you to Aron Rasmussen for running the elevator at Kent Abel's funeral
- Prayers for Jordan Schadrie (her cancer is back), Ron Metko (friend of Pat), Melinda (Carla Menning's sister-in-law, who passed away), Kim Leach (Pat's niece, having part of her colon removed for biopsy), Val & Leisha Abel, Doris & Wayne Schmidt (he is having heart surgery), Ron & Kim.

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

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, September 10th at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

*Financial Secretary's Report
July 2019*


Date	<u>July 7</u>	<u>July 14</u>	<u>July 21</u>	<u>July 28</u>		<u>Direct Deposit</u>	<u>Total</u>
Checking deposit	\$2,107.00	\$1,295.50	\$1,488.00	\$1,460.50		\$300.00	\$6,651.00
General Fund	\$2,077.00	\$1,233.50	\$1,383.00	\$1,105.50		\$100.00	\$5,899.00
Building Fund	\$30.00	\$62.00	\$105.00	\$55.00		\$100.00	\$352.00
Campital Campaign				\$300.00		\$100.00	\$400.00
OGHS							
NIN							
STC							
Christmas Fund							
Fuel Fund							
Total Member Contributions	\$2,107.00	\$1,295.50	\$1,488.00	\$1,460.50		\$300.00	
Total Checking Deposit	\$2,107.00	\$1,295.50	\$1,488.00	\$1,460.50		\$300.00	

Psalm 100:2

“Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing” (NKJV)!



Treasurer's Report ~ July 2019

Building Fund	Deposits	\$352.00	
	Interest	\$6.00	
	Disbursements	(\$0.00)	
Memorial Fund	Deposits	\$0	
	Disbursements	\$0	
Organ Fund	Deposits	\$0	
	Disbursements	\$0	
General Fund	Deposits	\$6,299.00	
	Disbursements	(\$15,366.00)	
<i>Campital Campaign</i> Deposits		\$400.00	Total YTD \$2,805.00

Totals	Beginning Balance	\$212,453.00
	Deposits	\$6,651.00
	Interest	\$6.00
	Disbursements	(\$15,366.00)
	Ending Balance	<u>\$203,743.00</u>

General Fund	\$17,935.17
Building Fund	\$11,854.82
Memorial Fund	\$5,999.47
Organ Fund	\$4,997.00
Parsonage	<u>\$162,957.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$203,743.46</u>

YTD Membership Giving	\$58,472.00
YTD Expenses	(\$67,872.00)
Net Amount	<u>(\$9,400.00)</u>



Psalm 18:1

"I love You, O Lord, my Strength" (NRSV).

Christian Education Meeting – August 6, 2019



There were six people present at the meeting.

Current Balance as of June 30, 2019, is \$1,188.94. Ruth Hanson has been the treasurer for many years but has given up her position, Thank you for your many years and time, Ruth!

Rally Sunday is September 8, 2019. Sunday School will begin at 9:00 a.m., with the service beginning at 10:15 a.m. Following the service, we will have a potluck, games for all ages, bean bag toss tournament, and an ice cream treat to finish the day! Please plan to join us and have lots of fun. Robin will send out a message to the current families as a reminder.

There will be four students for confirmation class this year, with two confirming from 8th grade. Classes will start September 8, with the readings of their Statement of Faith and Confirmation scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2020.

Candy Bars will be sold, again for \$1.00 each. Funds raised will be discussed, as to where they will be sent. Last school year, we raised \$1,400.00 for Haiti's Feeding Program at their school, through candy bar sales, Sunday school offerings, and congregational offerings!

Doris has been sending out birthday cards to the Sunday school students and will now start at age 1 to encourage them to start coming to Sunday school at age 3.

Curriculum has been ordered and is here.

The Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2019, during our worship service at 10:15 am. Kim is working on creating bulletins to color. Christmas bags will be organized by Audrey and Connie, again, this year.

Our next Christian Education meeting will be Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

Connie Wheeler, Secretary



Psalm 26:3

*"For Your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to You" (NRSV).*



Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on Wednesday, August 7, 2019, at 1:30 p.m., with thirteen members present, to work out details for the following year and notes for the *Women's Guild Congregational Activity Book September 2019—August 2020*.

The meeting was called to order by President Roberta Lorenz.

Pastor Moira shared a "Thank You" card from Steve Hanson, for all his rummage sale help.

Plans are to have a raffle basket for the benefit being held for Jordan Schadrie, on Friday, August 23, 2019, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., at Romy's Nitengale. A motion was made and seconded to prepare a \$50.00 basket for the benefit. Motion carried.

It is requested that those helping at the Abel funeral, be present by 9:00 a.m., and that spreadable butter be acquired.

Those interested in being part of the prayer chain are asked to contact Roberta Lorenz. We need more prayer chain members.

More details to come regarding the Ice Cream Social; we will further discuss these matters at our September 4th meeting. The basement carpet will also be discussed then.

Pastor Moira volunteered to check into the Women's Guild by-laws. Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at 1:30 p.m., with Ila Mae Jens leading us in devotions, and Judy Samson will be our hostess. See you there!

Audrey Hooyman Blake, Guild secretary



Fall Feast – Sunday, October 13, 2019

SERVING FROM 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.



FOOD: Chicken, Ham, Potatoes, Coleslaw

CHAIR: *Bob Menning* 920-268-8197

Elly Menning; Todd St. John; Denis Shepard

SERVING DESSERTS

CHAIR: *Sally Dickinson* 920-525-2137

Jan Boman; Esther Meyer

SERVING

CHAIR: *Robin Schmidt* 920-450-0292

Kerri Cournoyer; Ila Mae Jens; Wyatt Samson; Sue Schneider; Tori Scott;

KITCHEN *washing dishes and clean up*

CHAIR: *Doris Schmidt* 920-984-3615

Esther Meyer; Judy Samson; Carol Schmidt

DINING ROOM

CHAIR: *Roberta Lorenz* 920-984-3824

Karen Arnold; Debbie Boettcher; Audrey Hooyman-Blake; Stephanie Julius; Kimberly Marcks; Caitlin Pingel; Verla Pingel; Lisa Raaths; Makenna Scott

BAKERY

CHAIR: *Jan Rohloff* 920-984-3418

Carla Menning; Connie Rohloff

PUBLICITY *provide details to church secretary by September 10, 2019*

CHAIR: *Vi Brown-Luebke* 920-428-8840

Todd Arnold; Ruth Hanson

CASHIERS *Treasurer will get change*

CHAIR: *Val Abel* 715-745-4314

Lisa Waterstradt

GREETER *Marian Goodwin* 920-984-3668



There will be a bake sale, also. We encourage you to donate something for the bake sale. If possible, all families are encouraged to bring desserts for the dinner, as well. Thank you!

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 and in the hanging file, between the church's and Pastor's offices. If you cannot greet, usher, or read on your assigned date, please speak with Connie Wheeler as soon as you know you're not able to do so! Please inform Kim and Pastor by the prior Tuesday morning. THANK YOU.

September

Sunday September 1, 2019 ~

Communion

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

Sunday September 8, 2019 ~ Rally Day!

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

Sunday, September 15, 2019

Reader	Trudy Koon
Greeter/Usher	Trudy Koon & Morgan Vander Linden
Greeter/Usher	Ryan & Stephanie Julius

Sunday, September 22, 2019

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

Sunday, September 29, 2019

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



October

Sunday, October 6, 2019 ~

Communion

Reader	Connie Wheeler
Greeter/Usher	Connie & Hollie Wheeler
Greeter/Usher	Verla & Caitlyn Pingel

Sunday, October 13, 2019

Reader	Vi Brown-Luebke
Greeter/Usher	Gene & Audrey Blake
Greeter/Usher	Mike & Sally Dickinson

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Reader	Sue Biese
Greeter/Usher	Joe & Sue Biese
Greeter/Usher	Wes & Angie Biese

Sunday, October 27, 2019

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

**November****Sunday, November 3, 2019 ~****Communion**

Reader	Trudy Koon
Greeter/Usher	David & Brenda Holz
Greeter/Usher	Greggory & Arcadia Holz

Sunday, November 10, 2019

Reader	Roberta Lorenz
Greeter/Usher	Ryan & Stephanie Julius
Greeter/Usher	Duane & Carol Henke

Sunday, November 17, 2019

Reader	Devin Schmidt
Greeter/Usher	Devin Schmidt & Wyatt Lison
Greeter/Usher	Heather & Ashley Lison

Sunday, November 24, 2019

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

December**Sunday, December 1, 2019 ~ Communion**

Reader	Robin Schmidt
Greeter/Usher	Steve & Pat Schomisch
Greeter/Usher	Aron Rasmussen & Terry Rihm

Sunday, December 8, 2019

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

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Reader	Jim Rucci
Greeter/Usher	Verla & Caitlyn Pingel
Greeter/Usher	Dallas & Lisa Waterstradt

Sunday, December 22, 2019

Reader	Connie Wheeler
Greeter/Usher	Connie & Cailey Wheeler
Greeter/Usher	Mark & Kelcie Hooyman

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.**Christmas Eve**

Reader	Bob Menning
Greeter/Usher	Bob & Carla Menning
Greeter/Usher	John & Connie Wheeler

Sunday, December 29, 2019

Reader	Marian Zuleger
Greeter/Usher	Barry & Duane Zuleger
Greeter/Usher	Gary & Bonnie VanderLinden





Thank you to all who helped celebrate Mike Minlschmidt's birthday, last month!

Scripture Readings

Sunday, September 8, 2019 ~ Rally Day

Psalm 1 & Deuteronomy 30.15-20
Sermon title – *What will you choose?*

Sunday, September 15, 2019

Exodus 32.1-14 & Luke 15.1-10
Sermon title – *Lostness*

Sunday, September 22, 2019

Psalm 113 & Luke 16.1-13
Sermon title – *Masters*

Sunday, September 29, 2019

Psalm 146 & Luke 16.19-31
Sermon title – *In this life*

Reserve the Date

Our annual Fall Feast will be Sunday, October 13, 2019! Please check our *Women's Guild Congregational Activity Book* (we anticipate it being published and available by Sunday, September 15, 2019) for your part. All of us are needed for this to be successful!



Do You Need A Ride?

Are you at least age 60 or have a disability?

Making the Ride Happen (MRH) is a transportation, information, and assistance center that makes it easier for many to get to the places they need to go. Staff help identify transportation options, including a ride program, through which qualified volunteer drivers take people with disabilities and older adults to and from: medical appointments, grocery stores, hair salons, banks, pharmacies, social and volunteer activities. Donations are appreciated.



Contact MRH, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at (920)225-1718 or 1-888-200-0576, or email MRH@lsswis.org, for more information ~ whether you need a ride or want to volunteer. This project is funded, in part by the Federal Transit Administration, as authorized under 49 U.S. C. §5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (CFDA20.513). Their website is LSSWis.org.

Update from Kim

The blessing you are to others is evidence of the love you have for God! By the blessings you are to Ron and me, it is evident that you love the Lord so very much! Your prayers, thoughtfulness, and care means more to us than I can put into words.

Ron and I continue to see medical providers for our immediate medical problems. Ron had his third of three synthetic rooster comb injections in his right knee (it *was the one injured in the automobile accident we were in May 24th, this year*). The specialist said he won't know the next step for four weeks from his third injection, which was August 30th. We choose to look at these four weeks *as time God has to heal it*. That poor guy has had enough surgeries and still is suffering greatly with unresolved pain ~ thus, we seek God for His healing.

I continue to see a physical therapist for the neck and should injuries, which have been causing increased headaches, I sustained in the above mentioned accident. My headaches were much less frequent and intense since I have been on a medication, for the nerve pain stemming from the L-5/S-1 nerve root being significantly pinched by arthritis and bone. My back, leg, and foot are still in need of healing. Because we were in the car accident day three, after the first injection into the nerve root, to test whether surgery would help alleviate the major pain and loss of flexibility and strength, on August 22, I underwent another x-ray guided injection into the nerve root. OUCH! I certainly don't accomplish even half of what I was accomplishing before all this. The surgeon and I want to be as sure as possible that the surgery, which includes fusing L-5/S-1, will benefit me. He said I may lose even more flexibility with the fusion, but because of the significant amount of bone he'd need to *carve out*, I'd definitely need the fusion. SCARY.

We are so grateful to God for our sisters and brothers, of which you are many. Thank you for continuing to hold us in your prayers; **we truly need you and your faithful prayers**. As many here know first hand, it gets disheartening when trial after trial comes our way, especially when we haven't made it through others we are enduring.

There is good news! The three-month CT scan, of my upper left lobe of my lung, shows the nodule, which was incidentally found on the chest CT following the car accident, has not grown!!! The plan remains the same ~ a CT of chest every three months for a year and a half from May 24, 2019. There was another scare with my health, but by God's grace, it turned out to be benign! **Oh, praise the LORD!**

There is humor too! The other day, I was in Woodman's in Green Bay. That is a huge store, and my back, leg, and foot, have extreme difficulty getting through it without the use of one of the *wheelchair* carts. So, I use one when available. The one available that day indicated it was fully charged when I got on it; but, there must have been an electrical issue in it, for it would go and randomly stop. Here I found myself stalled in the middle of an aisle, at the very back of the store, in which there were many shoppers trying to get their shopping done. Folks walking around me and giving me the *look*. You know, *the look*: "What is she doing just sitting in the way? How rude." So, I thought, I'll look up the store's phone number and call for help! LOL. Yep, I pulled out my cell..."What is that woman doing on her phone sitting in our way?!" Eventually, I was rescued by a supervisor, who kindly brought a replacement *wheelchair* cart to me. It wasn't so humorous for me then, but now remembering it, I can chuckle. You never know why someone is *sitting in the way*!

There is GRATITUDE...from us to God and to you for your loving care and prayers.

Grateful, Kim (and Ron)

September 2019

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

Sunday Schedule: 8:45 a.m. Trinity Worship
9:00 a.m. Christian Education & 10:15 a.m. Black Creek Worship
7:00 p.m. Cecil Worship

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

Wednesdays noon - 7:30p.m.

7:00 p.m. Cecil Worship

Work Camp, at Pilgrim Center (through Sunday)

“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

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Wisconsin Conference UCC

www.wiucc.org

United Church of Christ

www.ucc.org



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