

Pastor's Article

According to the weather folks and the calendar, it's officially fall. There are some trees starting to change, and I'm sure when I go up to Moon Beach (our UCC camp near Eagle River) in a couple of weeks, I'll see even more evidence of the changing seasons, but with as much rain as we've had, and days still being quite warm, it's a little hard to tell. But fall is still one of my favorite times of the year. My childhood memories of fall are filled with the sounds and sights of hundreds of hot air balloons rising over the skies in Albuquerque, a crispness in the air scented heavily with the aroma of roasting green chile, and a trip to Dixon's apple orchard, where they grew a champagne delicious, created by the university agriculture department to grow in the dryness of New Mexico's climate. I like wearing sweaters, cooler nights, the gorgeous colors of the leaves changing, and seeing all the birds migrating to their winter destinations. I like apple cider, stomping about in piles of crunching leaves, and the sense of nesting, drawing things closer, getting comfy and ready for the coming winter. I like munching on apples from the farm just outside Landstad, and looking at Christmas Eve worship ideas I got to thinking about change and how we, as individuals and communities, deal with change.

*I look
forward to all
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that we will
face together
as God's
people...*

Change is, I'm sure someone famous once said, inevitable. Everything changes. Sometimes it happens quickly and suddenly, but sometimes things change in such small ways that we don't notice it until we wake up one morning and everything seems to be completely different than it's ever been before. Change is, I think, almost always unsettling. We are creatures of routine. We like things the way we know and understand them. When they rearrange the grocery store, or take things off the menu at our favorite restaurant, or when the pastor changes the arrangement of the pews or the closing song, our hearts and souls get unsettled.

Because we are creative people, filled with flexibility and hope by God, we can and generally do adapt, but it takes time, and patience, and a community of support to help us. Some changes are easier to deal with – eventually we get to find a new favorite on the menu, or locate the cereal aisle again, and we might even learn to like the new seating arrangement, or the new hymn. Some changes, though, require more work to integrate into our lives – a new baby, a new job, the loss of someone we love.

And while we are busy dealing with the changes of our lives, our local communities, and our congregations, there are even bigger changes swirling around us. The climate is changing, as storms are intensifying, and weather is getting more extreme (both hotter and colder). Our society is changing with technology ~ bringing us closer together and sometimes pushing us farther apart. Then there's politics, and the economy, and the threat of global warfare, and gun violence, and racism, and sexism, and It's a lot to deal with, to take in, to not feel overwhelmed by, and maybe even hopeless about. But my friends, the great good news is that in the midst of all these changes – the small personal ones and the giant global ones – we are never alone!



That's part of the point of community, of church. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus reminds us that we need each other, "*For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there among them*" (Matthew 18.20, NRSV). He isn't saying that He leaves us when we are alone, but that He is particularly present with us when we are together, leaning on each other, learning from each other, sharing our lives, our hopes, our dreams, our fears, our courage, and our love. Together we can meet the changes and challenges of our lives. Together we can adapt and grow, finding new ways to follow Jesus in our time, in the places we find ourselves, with the resources, gifts, and talents that we have. Together we can discover ways to slow climate change, to end poverty and isolation, to destroy the 'isms' that threaten to destroy us, to meet hatred with love, to bring peace with our every thought, word, and action. It won't be easy.

The work of following Jesus will never be easy, but if we commit ourselves to going together, to sharing our lives with honesty and courage, to being brave and vulnerable together, then we can surely meet whatever changes come our way. I look forward to all the changes that we will face together as God's people ~ as St. John's Black Creek, and Trinity Shiocton, and St. John's Cecil ~ and the many wonderful ways God will reveal God's self to us in the days to come!

*Peace and grace,
Pastor Moira*



"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one. As You, Father, are in Me and I am in You, may they also be in Us, (Jesus, as recorded in John 17:20-21 NRSV).

Church Council "Preliminary" Meeting Minutes

September 10, 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 report on the repairs to the elevator. The part was ordered, but the wrong part was received. It has been reordered, and when it arrives he will work with Kone to schedule a time to install, hopefully within the next week.

A motion was made, by Gary VanderLinden and seconded by Todd St. John, to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2019, meeting. 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 4 worship services, 3 funerals, and attended 4 meetings as well as Jordan Schadrie's benefit
- Made 9 home/hospital/hospice/counseling visits
- Discussed that the new confirmation class; it begins Sunday, September 15th, with two second year students from Black Creek, one first year student from Black Creek, and one first year student from Trinity.
- Also discussed her work with mentoring Randy Miller as licensed local pastor

Committee Reports

Membership: No formal meeting; request from Dorothy Kominowski to transfer her membership back to Black Creek from Ascension Lutheran Navarino - Pastor Moira sent a letter requesting this.

Christian Ed: An informal meeting was held after worship August 25, with Pastor Moira, Robin Schmidt, and Ruth Hanson; Robin now has the records and checkbook; planning was done for Rally Day games; for Rally Day, we had 50 people stay for lunch and the majority of them also stayed for

games (bingo), conversation, and fellowship; all things were held indoors; the next meeting is Tuesday October 1st, at 6:30 p.m.

Worship & Music: Met August 20, and discussed changes to communion including the ushers becoming servers (rather than just the council) beginning after the Annual Meeting in January; discussed Easter breakfast and changes to preparations and serving; next meeting is Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

House: There was an investigation of a gas leak in the furnace room; no leak was found.

Stewardship: *Nothing to report.*

Cemetery: Pastor Moira provided notes given to her by Steve Hanson with the banking information for the cemetery, as well as costs for plots, opening graves, and other information; Steve has updated maps of the cemetery at his home; the group needs to meet and reorganize going forward.

Campital Campaign/Mission Projects: *Nothing to report*

Parish Relations: Met September 3rd and helped Pastor Moira brainstorm ideas about how to handle a difficult situation; also discussed what needs the church could meet within the community and how we might increase our outreach; there was also discussion about the overlap between this group and the Shared Ministry Team.

Old/New Business:

- **Steeple Fix** - we are waiting for the weather to cooperate to be able to investigate further whether there are cosmetic fixes to the brick work, or if it is in need of a full pintuck (replace mortar); in addition there is an electrician looking at the lights that face up, at the steeple, which need replacing with outdoor fixtures (while the boom is here)
- **Elevator** - *see notes above*
- **Bubbler** - still waiting to see how it can be fixed
- **Flooring for Fellowship Hall** - received a quote for flooring that would match the hallway for \$15,500.00 and for carpeting for \$5,000.00; referring to the Guild for their input
- **Sanctuary Modifications** - someone suggested removing some pews at the front to make more accessible room for those using wheelchairs or walkers; all

were reminded that there are spaces at the front and back, on the north side of the sanctuary; a railing for the lectern side of the chancel was discussed and is being prepared by David Tesch and Duane Zuleger

- **Council members** - Connie Wheeler has agreed to serve another term; Lisa Waterstradt's time is up on the council at the January Annual Meeting; Dallas Waterstradt has agreed to serve as treasurer beginning February 2020.

Prayers and Thanks:

- ♦ Jordan Schadrie's family;
- ♦ Ron Metko passed away;
- ♦ Wayne Schmidt is doing well after a heart procedure.

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

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, October 8th, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley



A Brief Note from Kim

I continue to be amazed at the goodness of our Lord and His people at St. John's, in Black Creek. Most of our days are occupied by a medical appointment of one kind or the other. When we get a *day off* from appointments and necessary errands, we don't know what task or chore we ought to tackle or at least attempt to tackle, for there are an abundance of unfinished tasks. Ron's knee has not responded to the injections, so we'll see what the specialist has to say now. He had said a scope would likely be the next step, but doctors certainly change course sometimes. I am still in PT for the neck and shoulder injuries I sustained in the car accident (in May). I am so torn about what to allow and what to try for my back...surgery means a fusion and a long road to recovery. No surgery means I live in this awful pain, which limits me too. Some moments, I am sure I should go through surgery; then, I change my mind. I wish I could audibly hear the voice of God telling me what to do. Better yet, I pray God would heal us. In all things, Paul said, he had learned to give thanks (1 Thessalonians 5:18). I truly give thanks for YOU!

Financial Secretary's Report

August 2019

Date	<u>August 4</u>	<u>August 11</u>	<u>August 18</u>	<u>August 25</u>		<u>Direct Deposit</u>	<u>Total</u>
Checking deposit	\$2,197.00	\$783.00	\$1,231.25	\$1,252.00		\$300.00	\$5,763.25
General Fund	\$1,877.00	\$621.00	\$1,181.25	\$1250.00		\$100.00	\$5,092.25
Building Fund	\$20.00	\$62.00	\$10.00	\$2.00		\$100.00	\$194.00
Campital Campaign	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$40.00			\$100.00	\$540.00
OGHS							
NIN							
STC							
Christmas							
Fuel Fund							
Total Member Contributions	\$2,197.00	\$783.00	\$1,231.25	\$1,252.00		\$300.00	
Total Checking	<u>\$2,197.00</u>	<u>\$783.00</u>	<u>\$1,231.25</u>	<u>\$1,252.00</u>		<u>\$300.00</u>	

Psalm 100:2

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



Treasurer's Report ~ August 2019

Building Fund	Deposits	\$194.00
	Interest	\$8.22
	Disbursements	
Memorial Fund	Deposits	\$
	Disbursements	\$
Organ Fund	Deposits	\$
	Disbursements	\$
General Fund	Deposits	\$5,569.25
	Disbursements	(\$10,791.16)
Capital Campaign	Deposits	\$540.00
	Total YTD	\$3,345.00



Totals	Beginning Balance	\$203,743.46
	Deposits	\$5,763.25
	Interest	\$8.22
	Disbursements	(\$10,791.16)
	Ending Balance	\$198,723.77

General Fund	\$12,721.48
Building Fund	\$12,048.82
Memorial Fund	\$5,999.47
Organ Fund	\$4,997.00
TOTAL	<u>\$162,957.00</u>
	\$198,723.77

YTD Membership Giving	\$63,694.95
YTD Expenses	(\$76,258.27) <i>*removed Capital Campaign</i>
Net Amount	(\$12,563.32)

Women's Guild



WOMENS GUILD

The Women's Guild met on Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at 1:30 p.m., with thirteen members present.

Our devotional leader was Ila Mae Jens, who shared "Who Is Our Community" and "How to Build a Community". We have a close knitted family, within our church and community. Share to help the old and younger families in need. Do rummage sales as a community blessing ~ to help many and support treasure shoppers. Communicate with several socials in the community. Community support with fire Department and Police and Ambulance departments. Pastor Moira shared a beautiful community story of a real experience, at the restaurant she went to for lunch. She started to cry, then the waitress sat down to talk with her, a Muslim woman, a little girl asked to take her hand to pray. They prayed for Jordan. It was a very touching community experience. Love in their hearts. Several other stories were shared of community togetherness!

The business portion of our meeting was called to order by President Roberta Lorenz. Secretary and Treasurer Reports were read and approved. There is a balance of \$9,351.53, in the general fund, and there is \$478.98 in the memorial fund.

The prayer chain was discussed with two more added!

Pastor Moira is in need of more time for locating the Guild's by-laws.

The Ice Cream Social was discussed. A motion was made and defeated to change the date and time of the Ice Cream Social. A motion was made and approved to keep it the same as last year.

Committees can change the amounts of items on the menu.

Wish to see more congregation members attend. Check the congregational activity book.

A motion was made and approved for a donation of \$300.00 to cover the cost of those attending the cleanup and workshops at Pilgrim Center, October 4, 5 & 6.

Prayers shared for those in need.

Fall Feast is Sunday, October 13, 2019, serving from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. , with Pastor Moira leading devotions and Jan Boman will be our hostess.

We closed with the *Lord's Prayer*, prayed in unison.

We sang the *Doxology* and were served a delicious dessert, by Judy Sampson.

Guild Secretary, Audrey Hooyman-Blake.



Neighbors in Need Offering

The Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering, which will be received on October 6, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion, throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates) Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues, such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. NIN, also, supports our American Indian neighbors, in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today, there are twenty UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is, also, an invaluable recourse for more than one-thousand individuals, from dozens of other tribes and nations, who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.



Neighbors in Need helps make *A Just World for All Possible*. For this to occur, it needs your support. Please make your donation, in addition to your regular tithes and offerings, as the donations to NIN go to the UCC's Ministries as specified above. Please make checks payable to "St. John's UCC" and put in the memo "NIN". We will issue one check with all the offerings and record your donation. 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.

October

Sunday, October 6 ~ Communion

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

Sunday, October 13

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, ~ 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

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever" (1 Chronicles 16:34).



December

Sunday, December 1 ~ Communion

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

Sunday, December 8

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

Sunday, December 15

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

Scripture Readings

Sunday, October 6

2 Timothy 1.1-14
& Luke 17.5-10

Sunday, October 13

Luke 17.11-19

Sunday, October 20

Genesis 32.22-31
& Luke 18.1-8

Sunday, October 27

Psalms 65
& Luke 18.9-14



Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

Fall Feast Dinner & Bake Sale

All you can or care to eat!

Sunday, October 13th, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Ham, Chicken & all the Fixings and Dessert

Ages 13—Adult	\$9.00
Ages 6—12	\$5.00
Ages 0—5 years	Free

Be sure to check out our
BAKE SALE!
Tasty, fresh, and delicious
treats made by our
best bakers!

St. John's United Church of Christ
Corner of Burdick and Clark Streets
101 S Clark Street
Black Creek, Wisconsin

Please use the accessible west entrance



Newsletter Information

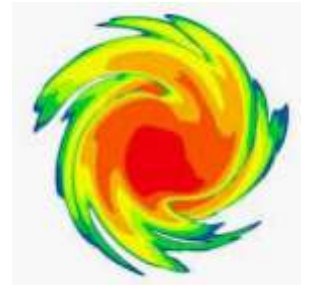


If you have submissions, reports, announcements, articles, expressions of gratitude... , for our November Newsletter, please have it to Kim by the morning of Wednesday, October 16.

In addition, if you have a meeting or other event going on, for church, it is vital that you have it on the wall calendar, in the hallway by the main office (please use pencil; write time and event in chronological order). Please feel free to write meetings and events as far ahead as you'd like; 2020 calendar is available. It is important that we be all on the same page. If you have questions, please feel free to speak with Kim. Thank you!

Hurricane Dorian Relief

Hurricane Dorian has left at least 51 dead, 1,300 reported missing, and 13,000 homes severely damaged or destroyed on the Bahamas' Abaco and Grand Bahama islands - nearly 40 percent of all homes on the two islands. These numbers only begin to hint at the pain Dorian caused at the beginning of September. People are being evacuated to other islands in the Bahamas and to the U.S. The United Nations reported that as of September 15, indications are that most people's immediate humanitarian needs have been met by the humanitarian community, the private sector and through individual initiatives. The Government of the Bahamas has requested help, including from NGOs and humanitarian organizations, to fill identified relief and recovery gaps.



UCC Disaster Ministries is appealing for funds to support long-term recovery - beginning with assessment and community planning and is likely to continue for several years. Make checks to "UCC Disaster Ministries" with "Hurricane Dorian" in the memo line. Contributions, for this critical work, will be received, by St. John's, through the month of October.

Please keep all affected and those who are helping in your prayers.

Trees of Love

Good Shepherd Services invites you to join them for an evening of food, drinks, and fundraising, at Hotel Seymour (210 S Main St., Seymour, Wisconsin). Cost: \$50/seat. Reserve a table and receive a bottle of wine.

October 17, 2019, 5-6 p.m. Beer tasting & hors d'oeuvres & 6:30 p.m. Dinner.

Cash raffles, games, & live auction.

Proceeds go toward purchase of new accessible van to transport residents.

October 2019

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

Pastor's Office Hours

All are welcome at Black Creek

Tuesdays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.


Wednesdays noon - 7:30 p.m.

Please call/text to make sure of times!

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"One thing I asked of the Lord ~ that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple" (Psalm 27:4).</p>		1	2	3	4	5
		6:30p.m. BC Christian Ed	1:30p.m. BC Women's Guild 6:30p.m. BC Choir practice	5:30p.m. T Council	<div>Work Camp at Pilgrim Center (through Sunday)</div>	
6 SCRIP Randy Miller preaches <i>World Communion Sunday</i>	7	8 9:00a.m. ALC Food Pantry Board 6:30p.m. BC Council	9 5:30p.m. T Bazaar set-up 6:30p.m. BC Choir practice	10	11 9:00a.m. T Soup cooking & bazaar set-up	12 Trinity Fall Bazaar 9a.m.-12:30p.m. BC Fall Feast preparations (morning)
<div>Pastor Moira at clergy retreat</div>						
13 Black Creek Fall Feast 11:30am-1:30pm C Consistory after worship	14	15	16  <i>Newsletter information due in office.</i> 5-7p.m. ALC Food Pantry 6:30p.m. BC Choir practice	17 9:00a.m. C Closet work day 5:30p.m. BC Wedding rehearsal	18 C Cookies for SAM25 Due!	19 9-11a.m. ALC Food Pantry 1:00p.m. BC Hooyman-Springstrom Wedding
20 11:30a.m. BC Confirmation (with mentors)	21	20 Noon-3:00p.m. C Closet distribution	23 6:30p.m. BC Choir practice	24	25	26
				<div> 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 </div>		
27 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 11:30a.m. BC Confirmation	28	29	30 10a.m. C Closet Clean-up Day NO BC Choir	31	November 1	November 2 <i>Daylight Savings Time ends tomorrow. Set your clocks BACK one hour before bed!</i>

"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.stjuccbc.com

Pastor Moira Finley
Phone 715-851-3080
Email pastormoira73@gmail.com

Wisconsin Conference UCC
www.wiucc.org

United Church of Christ
www.ucc.org



October 2019 Newsletter

