

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

I've spent all week, as I'm sure you have thinking about what has happened this past week in Kenosha. The struggles of this year, of many years, have come home with the world's attention focused on Wisconsin, and not for good reasons. I have struggled all week with what to say, and how to say it knowing that, no matter what I say, someone won't like it. I did a lot of thinking, and consulting with people who I trust to give me honest feedback. And I did a lot of praying, asking God for the words that fit this moment, and that fit us as a community of God's people. There are a few things we can know. On Sunday August 23, Jacob Blake was getting in his car when he was shot in the back seven times by one of three Kenosha Police Department officers attending a domestic disturbance. People came out to protest the shooting and the city issued a curfew order. After the protests had largely dispersed for the night, violence broke out with businesses looted and burned. On Tuesday evening, Kyle Rittenhouse (age 17) came from his home in Illinois to Kenosha with a weapon, intending to defend businesses from violence. Rittenhouse shot his weapon into the crowds killing Anthony Huber and Joseph Rosenbaum and injuring Gaige Grosskreutz. Blake is in hospital, reportedly paralyzed from the waist down, and Grosskreutz is also in hospital recovering from his injuries. Rittenhouse has been arrested and charged with murder. The Wisconsin Department of Justice is investigating the police shooting as well as the rest of the events in Kenosha.

While there is a lot of other information circulating, in news broadcasts and on the internet, this is what we can know. To some it seems as if Kenosha has erupted out of nowhere, but it is one more of a series of events in the social upheaval we are all living through. There is, in our collective history as humans and as Americans, a history of racism, sexism, bigotry, and discrimination. We cannot any of us deny that the land we live on wasn't discovered, but was taken from the native people who lived there long before we did. We cannot deny the sexism that contributed to women being denied the right to vote, serve on juries, or even have credit in their own name (that happened in my lifetime!) that leads to widespread violence against women still being overlooked and excused today.

And of course we cannot deny that much of this country was built by Africans brought here as slaves. That slavery and discrimination was not exclusive to the south, but was a part of our founding (article 1, section 2, clause 3 of the Constitution defines a black person as 3/5 of a person), and it spread to every part of the country including the Midwest. The racial discrimination continued long after the civil war, enshrined in laws that tried to keep people of color from voting, owning property, holding jobs, getting loans, and more. It continues to this day, perhaps in more subtle ways, but doing just as much damage to our collective souls. We also cannot deny that we seem, as a world, to have forgotten among others the sixth commandment, "thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20.13). It seems to have become all too common to settle disputes, vent frustration, and more with deadly force.

So what do we do? Well, let's start with the thing you expect your pastor to say ... let's pray. I think we all need to spend some time with ourselves and God, asking who we have been, who we are, and who we truly want to be. We need to ask God about our personal and collective dependence on violence as a means to solve problems, on how quickly we resort to words and actions of violence when we are afraid, or frustrated, or uncertain. We need to listen as God asks us to examine our hearts and minds, how we participate in systems of oppression and injustice, how we benefit from how the world perceives who we are, and what injustices we have been willing to silently overlook or actively endorse. We need to ask God for the courage to face what is in our own, and our collective past: racism, bigotry, sexism, hatred, and all the other connected isms. We need to examine our faith, remembering that Jesus calls us to allow no excuse for any of those isms, that hatred, racism, bigotry and more are not a part of what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and that everything he asked us to do was about loving, and trusting in God, reaching out to others particularly the ones who don't look like and think like us, and speaking up for those who are silenced by the systems of this world.

And then, when we have prayed, we need to figure out ways to act on our faith, on the belief that God's love and grace is for all, not just for some; on the truth that we are more alike than we are different; that there is a third way of living between passive acceptance of things and opposing them with violence, a way Jesus showed us with his life. We have to find ways, each of us in our own way, in our own place, with the resources we have, to create something different than the mess we find ourselves in.

What I'm asking us to do isn't easy, or quick. It can't be reduced to a bumper sticker, a hashtag, or yard sign slogan. It's uncomfortable, unsettling, and the work of a lifetime. None of our hearts, or minds, or actions, or communities will change overnight, but if we are to truly call ourselves Christians we have to engage in this work, not because the present moment demands it, not because the media is paying attention to Wisconsin because of Kenosha, but because we want to be like Jesus, the one who, in the words of my friend Bryan Sirchio, paraphrasing Dr King, "loved his enemies so much he died for them." My prayer, for myself and for all of us, is that this moment might be a time of looking inward and outward, to who we have been and who we might yet be; and that every person around the world and throughout time, might see in our words and actions the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that there are seats aplenty at the table of God's kingdom, that none of those seats are assigned by the stereotypes and isms of this world, and that there is grace and love enough for everyone.

My friends, I would welcome talking with you about this, about what got us to where we are, and where we go from here. These are hard, confusing, and unsettling times, and we need to have meaningful conversations (particularly perhaps if we disagree) to find a way forward.

In peace and grace, *Pastor Molra*

Black Creek Fall Feast Sunday October 4, 2020

In the time of covid, it's all TAKE OUT!

Every dinner will include chicken, ham, mashed potatoes (with gravy), stuffing, corn, coleslaw, cranberry sauce & dessert.

Preorders will be available by calling (920-984-3845) or emailing (stjcreek@gmail.com) from September 27 through October 3.

There is an order form in this newsletter & will be in Sunday worship bulletins!

We need your help with:

- ♥ Spreading the word & encouraging folks to order food to take home
- ♥ Preparations on Saturday October 3rd
- ♥ Pies or tortes in one of four flavors: pumpkin, chocolate, apple, or lemon (if you're able to bring a dessert, please sign up in the sanctuary or let Pastor know & **we need the desserts at church on Saturday October 3rd!**)
- ♥ Workers on the day of the event (meals will be available from 11:30am to 1:30pm, or until we run out, but there's preparations before, and clean up after

Able to help? Questions? Talk with Pastor Moira

Trinity Bizarre Bazaar Saturday October 17th

- ♥ Because of covid-19 we are making changes to our annual event to keep everyone as safe & healthy as possible.
- ♥ We will have soup to go, but no food available to eat-in
- ♥ We will have a bake sale (including individual pieces of pie/torte), but everything will need to be in a closed container (meaning a Ziploc bag or to-go container, no just plastic wrap).
- ♥ There will be crafts, and maybe a few bucket raffles, but no ticketed raffle or granny's attic
- ♥ Everything will be held in the fellowship hall (or outside if we can)

Able to help? Questions? Talk with Pastor Moira or Mona Ashenbrenner

A reminder ... continuing worship changes because of covid-19

As we continue with in-person worship, we have made changes to our time together for our collective health and safety. Please talk with Pastor Moira if you have questions:

- ♥ **MASKS ARE REQUIRED (per the Governor's order beginning 8/1/2020)**
- ♥ special music will begin during September in place of the choir, and we will slowly return to singing (quietly and with masks on)
- ♥ social distancing (6' apart from folks you haven't been with during the pandemic)
- ♥ interior doors will remain open whenever possible;
- ♥ hand sanitizer available at every entrance to each of our sanctuaries;
- ♥ no passing of the peace or fellowship time;
- ♥ communion will be changed to limit physical contact;
- ♥ the offering will be collected in plates at each door rather than passing the plates;
- ♥ contact tracing (attendance) records will be taken;
- ♥ other changes might come as we respond to this ever changing virus pandemic.

Your parish leadership ~ the Black Creek Council, Cecil Consistory, and Trinity Council, along with Pastor Moira ~ is working hard to navigate this time without putting any of us at unnecessary risk. Our online worship and print worship delivery will continue so please, if you aren't ready to be in larger groups of people, we entirely understand. If your comfort level changes from week to week, that's ok too. Let's all be gentle, kind, and compassionate with ourselves and one another as we live through these days.

Women's Guild Report

The Women's Guild met on Wednesday August 5, 2020 at 1:30pm with 10 members present. Our meeting was scheduling programs for another year book.

The meeting was called to order by President Roberta Lorenz. She asked if anyone would be interested in serving on the Guild Board as an officer. Our treasurer Marian Zuleger has asked to retire after donating so many dedicated hours and years of service. We thank you. After some discussion, Donna Stucki volunteered as our new treasurer. A motion was made and seconded for Donna Stucki to be our new treasurer. Motion carried. Thank you. All the other officers stayed the same. Thanks everyone. Marian and Donna will do the bank changes. We continued to work through the year book with programs and committees. As soon as the books are printed they will become available.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved with a balance of \$5408.70 in the general fund and \$487.98 in the memorial fund.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday September 2, 2020 at 1:30pm with devotions by Ila Mae Jens and hostess Judy Samson. Come and join us.

Guild secretary, Audrey Hooyman-Blake

Scripture Readings

*** scripture focus for sermon ***

September 6, 2020

Exodus 12.1-14

Psalm 149

Romans 13.8-14

Matthew 18.15-20

September 13, 2020

Black Creek Rally Day

*** Exodus 14.19-31***

Exodus 15.1-21 (as the psalm)

Romans 14.1-12

Matthew 18.21-35

September 20, 2020

Exodus 16.1-15

Psalm 105.1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1.21-30

Matthew 20.1-16

September 27, 2020

Exodus 17.1-7

Psalm 78.1-16

Philippians 2.1-13

Matthew 21.23-32

October 4, 2020

Black Creek Fall Feast

World Communion Sunday

*** Exodus 20.1-21***

Psalm 19

Philippians 3.4b-14

Matthew 21.33-45

News from Camp

The challenges of living safely and carefully with covid-19 continue. Our camps have determined that everything scheduled for this year will be cancelled at all three of our facilities. In the new year there will be many opportunities for you to visit our camps, and in the meantime, you can visit <http://www.ucci.org> to make a donation to the upkeep and ongoing work of our outdoor ministries programs.

Register To Vote & Request A Mail-in Ballot

The general election is
Tuesday November 3rd.

You can register to vote and request mail-in (absentee) ballots at your town clerk's office or by going online to <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is **October 29th.**

Church Council "Preliminary" Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2020

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

A motion was made by Todd St. John and seconded by Dallas Waterstradt to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed.

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

Pastor's Report

- Had a good staycation at the end of July
- Conducted 2 in person plus video and print materials worship services
- Attended 2 meetings (Christian Education & Guild)
- Conducted 1 funeral
- No joint leadership (3 church) dinner will take place in September, we will reschedule for next year

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership - nothing to report

Worship & Music - next meeting is October 20th

House - nothing to report

Christian Education

- Discussed the Black Creek Family Daze on August 29th including the float and needing workers for games after (1-4pm)
- Resuming Sunday school with changes to in-person classes and also take home packets for families that need that
- Rally Day (September 13th) will NOT be potluck, but there will be a meal and games after worship (planning for 40)
- Wyatt Sampson will be confirmed on Sunday September 27th
- New confirmation classes will begin soon with Aubrey Stevens (BC) and Austyn Neubert (T) continuing and Jaiden Wheeler (BC) as a first year student

Council meeting minutes continue on next page --->

Stewardship - August focus is school supplies, September focus is winter clothes; it was mentioned that UCCI, our camps, have cancelled/postponed all events for the rest of 2020

Women's Guild - they met and decided that, given covid, it would be best to move the Fall Feast (October 4th) to an entirely take-out event; lots of discussion surrounded how this would work and the challenges it will entail for food preparation including a lot of work all day on Saturday October 3rd

Old Business

Steeple Fix - still waiting for September, we will stop the bells, but not the clock during repairs; Gary provided all the members of the Council with the official quote/paper work for the repairs

Land Sale - completed, paper work to be signed at the end of the week and a check received

New Business

Prayer Garden - Wyatt Sampson is looking for projects for his Eagle Scout and approached Bob about perhaps redoing the prayer garden. Pastor Moira will check with Sue Biese about this as they were involved in the original work of the prayer garden.

Thanks & Prayer

- Received a thank you note from Kim for the gas card and grocery card we gifted them; Pastor Moira will print in the September newsletter;
- We sent a thank you note to Ralph's Hardwood Flooring for their work, including a discount and donation of the work on the wood floors in the gathering room and main church office
- Prayers for David Holz (hospitalized with infection again), Mona Ashenbrenner from Trinity (kidney stone), Beirut after the explosion, everyone dealing with cancer

A motion was made by Todd St. John and seconded by Dallas Waterstradt to adjourn to the meeting at 7:25pm. Motion passed.

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday September 8th, 2020 at 6:30pm

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley, temporary recording secretary

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

July 2020

	7/12/2020	7/19/2020	7/26/2020	7/26/2020		Direct Deposit	Total
Checking deposit	2606.00	2657.00	2343.00	3000.00		300.00	10906.00
General Fund	2371.00	2422.00	1823.00			150.00	6766.00
Building Fund	35.00	200.00	100.00			150.00	485.00
OGHS*							
NIN*							
STC*	50.00						50.00
Christmas Fund							
Fuel Fund							
Total Member Contributions	2456.00	2622.00	1923.00			300.00	
Other Income							
UCCI	150.00	35.00	380.00				565.00
Loaves & Fishes			40.00				40.00
Endowment for flooring project				3000.00			3000.00
Total Other	150.00	35.00	420.00	3000.00			
Total Checking Deposit	2606.00	2657.00	2343.00	3000.00		300.00	
*OGHS = One Great Hour of Sharing NIN = Neighbors In Need STC = Strengthen The Church							

St. John's United Church of Christ Treasurer's Report

June 2020

Building Fund	Deposits	\$3485.00
	Interest	\$8.77
	Disbursements	(\$5,992.10)
Memorial Fund	Deposits	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00
Organ Fund	Deposits	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00
General Fund	Deposits	\$7,421.00
	Disbursements	(\$8,242.21)

Feel free to continue sending your contributions by mail if you are more comfortable doing so. You can mail them to:

St. John's UCC
PO Box 264
Black Creek, WI 54106

If you have questions, please be in touch with our financial secretary, Gary VanderLinden

Totals	Beginning Balance	\$218,356.71
	Deposits	\$10,906.00
	Interest	\$8.77
	Disbursements	(\$14,234.31)
	Ending Balance	\$215,037.17

General Fund	\$13,518.98
Building Fund	\$12,464.72
Memorial Fund	\$21,099.47**
Organ Fund	\$4,997.00
Parsonage Fund	<u>\$162,957.00</u>
TOTAL	\$215,037.17

YTD Membership Giving	\$60,693.25
YTD Expenses	(\$57,020.96)
Net Amount*	\$3,672.29

* excludes contributions and disbursements for special offerings

**of which \$15,060 is designated for building projects

Reader & Greeter Schedule

We will be resuming the reader and greeter schedule in July. Greeters will NOT hand out bulletins, or shake hands, but will point out the location of bulletins, sanitizer, and offering plates, and generally help make people feel welcome. They will also help in serving communion on first Sundays of the month. If you have questions or concerns, or if you're not quite ready for this yet, that's understandable. PLEASE talk with Connie Wheeler or Pastor Moira and we can rearrange the schedule.

Sunday September 6, 2020 ~ Communion

Reader	Trudy Koon
Greeter/Usher	Trudy Koon
	Morgan VanderLinden
	Ryan Julius
	Stephanie Julius

Sunday September 20, 2020

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

Sunday September 13, 2020

Reader	Connie Wheeler
Greeter/Usher	Connie Wheeler
	Hollie Wheeler
	Duane Henke
	Carol Henke

Sunday September 27, 2020

Reader	Robin Schmidt
Greeter/Usher	Keegan Hooyman
	Rachel Hooyman
	Mark Hooyman
	Kelcie Hooyman

Year of Giving ~ Winter Clothes

It's hardly fall and we're thinking of coats, mittens, scarves, hats, snow boots, and gloves. That's because winter in Wisconsin requires a special kind of clothing, particularly if you're a child at school and want to go out to play at recess. We want to make sure that all kids get to play, at school and at home, and to enjoy being children, making snow forts or walking through the woods. During this month we'll collect winter clothes for children that will be distributed through the Cecil Community Closet, local Salvation Army, and Community 2000 to kids in our area. Some winter clothes will have already started to appear in shops, but maybe you also have some at the back of the closet, that hat you don't wear any more, the coat that's a little snug around the middle, the snow boots your child or grandchild outgrew. We will also collect funds that can be used to purchase items when more of them appear in the stores.

September 2020

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

Sunday Schedule: 8:45 am Trinity Worship

9am Sunday School & 10:15 am Black Creek Worship

7:00 pm Cecil Worship

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10am - 5pm

Please call/text to make sure
or to make an appointment.

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	2	3	4	5
			1:30pm BC Women's Guild			
6 SCRIP order	7 <i>Labor Day</i>	8 9am ALC Pantry board 6:30pm BC Council	9 9am T New Hope Circle	10 5:30pm T Council	11	12 10am BC Rally Day prep
13 BC Rally Day C Consistory after worship	14	15	16 5-7pm ALC Pantry distribution	17 9am C Closet work day	18	19 9-11am ALC Pantry distribution
20	21	22 Noon-3pm C Closet distribution	23	24	25	26
27 BC Confirmation Sunday	28	29	30	<i>October 1</i>	<i>October 2</i>	<i>October 3</i> BC Fall Feast Preparations

September Birthdays

We give thanks, Gracious God, for those you have brought into our lives and we celebrate their birthdays with joy and thanksgiving.

3rd	...	Paul Schmidt
4th	...	Justin Biese
6th	...	Adrianna Pynenberg
		Brielle Roesler
7th	...	Robin Schmidt
		Logan VandeCorput
18th	...	Trudy Koon
19th	...	Steve Hanson
20th	...	Lisa Waterstradt
27th	...	Don Henning
28th	...	Marc Roesler
		Ethan St. John
20th	...	Connor Roesler

September Anniversaries

We give thanks for those whose love we celebrate as they remember their vows in the covenant of marriage.

September 3, 2008
Ryan Sr & Brandi Schomisch

September 9, 1967
Jim & Pam Rucci

If your special day is incorrect, or is not listed, please let Pastor Moira know.

Rally Sunday ~ Sunday September 13

Sunday school is starting with a combination plan of in-person classes, spread out in the fellowship hall to allow for social distancing, and take-home materials for families as well.

It will all begin on Sunday September 13th with class at 9am followed by worship at 10:15am and then FOOD!

Because of the pandemic, the meal is not a potluck, but there will be sandwiches, chips, drinks, cookies and a free will offering to defray the costs. After we eat there will be games (including limbo & JESUS bingo) and ice cream treats.

Please join us! Questions? Talk with Robin Schmidt or Pastor Moira

Oh look. It's a Fall Feast Order Form!
 You can fill it out and put it in the offering plate,
 or return to Pastor Moira.
 Leave the Order # space blank & we will fill it in for you!

St. John's Fall Feast Sunday October 4, 2020

Name: _____

Phone: _____

P.U. Time: _____ Order #: _____

of meals: _____ x \$9 = _____

☐ Paid

☐ Picked-up

Meal # 1

☐ White ☐ Dark

☐ Gravy on the side

Dessert

☐ Lemon ☐ Pumpkin

☐ Apple ☐ Chocolate

Meal # 2

☐ White ☐ Dark

☐ Gravy on the side

Dessert

☐ Lemon ☐ Pumpkin

☐ Apple ☐ Chocolate

Meal # 3

☐ White ☐ Dark

☐ Gravy on the side

Dessert

☐ Lemon ☐ Pumpkin

☐ Apple ☐ Chocolate

Meal # 4

☐ White ☐ Dark

☐ Gravy on the side

Dessert

☐ Lemon ☐ Pumpkin

☐ Apple ☐ Chocolate

"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



September 2020 Newsletter

