

## *From Pastor Moira's Desk...*

Somehow it's March again. That means it's nearly been a year that we've been living with the reality of covid, of dealing with all the changes that it has required in our lives. So I want to make sure you get a star for having gotten this far. Seriously, you've made it through an utterly unprecedented time with courage, a little cursing, a lot of baking or other coping skills, grace, creativity, and faith. It's not over, but as vaccination rates increase and percent positive rates decrease (particularly in our area), we are making progress and there's a glimmer of hope that we'll be able to return to some of our pre-pandemic activities, and start figuring out what the pandemic has truly taught us about what is important in our lives, and in the life of the world. I've said this before, but I really want you to understand just how amazing and incredible you have been through all this. You have adapted to an ever changing reality. You've reached out to one another, to strangers, and to me to support our communities. As I described it to our conference minister, the Rev Franz Rigert, recently ~ you have been what Jesus' disciples, what the church, are supposed to be, and I am deeply grateful. As we look forward to warming weather, to the promise of new life, and the hope of the resurrection as Easter comes in the beginning of April, I pray we might continue with the same courage, hope, faith, and love we have had during all these months, knowing that we have met the challenges life brought us and we will meet whatever the future holds because we have God, and one another, as companions on this journey of life.



Pretend this star  
is GOLD

I also want to give you an update on my eye. I saw my eye specialist again at the beginning of February and he was thrilled to see how much my eye had improved after only one treatment. I'll see him again in early March and then we'll figure out how many more treatments I might need, and hopefully be able to space them out further apart. I also recently saw my general doctor and we discussed the medication changes we made for my blood pressure, blood sugar, and other things. Those changes have had a very positive impact and my doctor was quite pleased with the direction my tests are trending. I will follow up with her again in about three months. I'm doing my best to make changes to my diet (oh, pastries are so tempting), and my routine (going to bed with a cup of calming tea and reading a book not the news for a while before sleep, plus some slow morning time with my kittens before rushing into the day). All this, and your prayers, love, patience, and support, has made and will continue to make all the difference in the world, and for that I am more grateful than I could possibly describe.

*Peace and grace, Pastor Moira*

*Church Council "Preliminary" Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2021*

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

A motion was made by Gary VanderLinden and seconded by Todd St. John 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.

**Pastors Report**

- Conducted Video and In Person Worship Services, and 2 Funerals
- Attended Annual Meeting, Virtual Confirmation Class, and an online presentation
- Put together Living Lent kits to be handed/delivered out

**Committee Reports**

- Membership: There will be a directory out in about 2 weeks.
- Christian Ed: There will be a meeting on March 2nd t 6:30 pm.
- Worship: Nothing to report at this time.
- Music: Nothing to report at this time.
- House: Elevator maintenance and all was good.
- Stewardship: February is a collection for the UCCI camps. March will be One Great Hour of Sharing.

**Old Business**

- The AV process is getting started and should be up and running by Easter.
- There was a suggestion brought up of reusing the existing classroom cabinets to make new cabinets for the classrooms. This is something that Wyatt Samson could do for an Eagle Scout project. We are waiting to hear back on the decision.

**New Business**

- Pastor Moira will be taking her sabbatical during the years of 2023-2024.

*council minutes continue —>*

## Council Minutes Continued

### Prayers and Thank You's:

Thank you to Steve and Pat Schomisch and Denis Shepard for taking care of getting the copier paper inside before the snowstorm.

Prayers for Pastor Lew, Kruzicki/Immel family for the loss of a brother; Don Immel.

A motion was made by Connie Wheeler and seconded by Todd St. John to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting ended at 7:31 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

### **Year of Giving ~**

#### **One Great Hour Of Sharing (OGHS)**

OGHS is a special offering of the United Church of Christ. Working with international partners OGHS provides sources of clean water, food, education, and health care; micro-credit loans for small businesses;

resettlement for refugees; and emergency relief. OGHS also supports domestic and international disaster preparedness and response. Along with several other Christian denominations – American Baptist Church, Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Church of the Brethren, and Cumberland Presbyterian Church – the UCC works with Church World Service to develop common promotional materials and goals while retaining control of all their own denomination's offerings. Sixty-two percent of the UCC's offering supports international development including annual support for missionaries and others working in disaster relief, health care, education, development of sustainable agriculture, and refugee support. Nearly one-fifth of the UCC's offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugees and disaster programs around the world.



# Scripture Readings

*\*\*Italics = sermon focus\*\**

## March 7, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

*\*\*Exodus 20.1-17\*\**

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1.18-25

John 2.13-22

## March 28, 2021

Palm & Passion Sunday

Mark 11.1-11

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem

Mark 14.1-26

The Last Supper

## March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Numbers 21.4-9

Psalm 107.1-3, 17-22

Ephesians 2.1-10

*\*\*John 3.14-21\*\**

## April 1, 2021

Maundy Thursday

Worship at Black Creek, 7pm

Psalm 116.1-2, 12-19

John 13.1-7, 31-35

## March 21, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31.31-34

Psalm 119.9-16

Hebrews 5.5-10

*\*\*John 12.20-33\*\**

## April 2, 2021

Holy Friday

Worship at Trinity, 7pm

Hebrews 12.1-3

John 18.1-19.42

## **Living Lent In Our Living Rooms ~ Giving Calendar Ideas & Information**

We are part way through Lent and hopefully your Living Lent In Our Living Room kit is proving helpful for you and your house during this holy season as we work on better following in Jesus' footsteps and thinking about what his ministry, death, and resurrection mean for us and for the world this year. As you know, there is a giving calendar in the Lent kit that includes a suggested item for you to donate to our area food pantries during this season. Because getting out and shopping is a challenge for some, we also included a giving envelope where you could make a monetary donation. Someone asked what it would cost if you purchased every item on the list. It was a great question and one I hadn't thought about at all. So with the help of the internet I set about finding out. If you shop for generics, and you don't buy the largest container of peanut butter available, it would be just over \$68 to purchase every item in the calendar. The first week is expensive (\$15.48) because of the peanut butter mostly), and the fourth week (\$12.03) because fruit and juice are just plain expensive, and the last week of non-food items is pricy (\$12.80), but the other weeks are in the \$6-7 range so perhaps it evens out. Whatever you're able to contribute ~ in food or money ~ will go a long way towards helping end hunger in our area. *Thank you!*

# Parish Celebrations

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

## March Anniversaries

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

March 14, 1992

Gary & Bonnie Vander Linden

March 25, 1994

Randy & Kris VandeCorput

March 25, 2000

Chad & Heather Lison

March 30, 2007

Paul & Taycie Schmidt

## March Birthdays

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

3rd ... Roy Pingel

Timothy Arnold

Kody Holz

5th ... Kelly Stevens

7th ... Doris Schmidt

10th ... Haydan Schmidt

12th ... Vi Brown-Luebke

13th ... Jack Holz

Ember Waterstradt

16th ... Bob Menning

John Wheeler

21st ... Wyatt Samson

23rd ... Brent Boettcher

25th ... Darwin Ethington

Carla Menning

27th ... Ryan Schomisch, Sr.

30th ... Donna Stucki

Wes Biese

## ***A New Serenity Prayer***

*Fr James Martin, SJ*

God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, which is pretty much everyone, since I'm clearly not you, God, at least not the last time I checked. And while you're at it, God, please give me the courage to change what I need to change about myself, which is frankly a lot, since, once again, I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect. It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people, who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying, I can't change anyway. Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter than everyone else in the room, that no one knows what they're talking about except me, or that I alone have all the answers. Basically, God, grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you.

## ***Grab & Go Meals for those over 60***

This program to provide meals to older adults in Outagamie County has been extended through March. There is no cost, but you do have to register, and order meals.

Carol Schmidt has volunteered to coordinate this for members of our parish. She can help you with registration, and delivery.

You can reach Carol at 920-450-0984.

## St. John's United Church of Christ Financial Secretary's Report January 2021

	1/3/2021	1/10/2021	1/17/2021	1/24/2021	1/31/2021	Direct Deposit	Total
<b>Checking deposit</b>	648.00	1248.00	11373.50	2607.00	6069.50	300.00	22246.00
<b>Member Giving Towards Budget</b>							
<b>General Fund</b>	648.00	1248.00	913.50	2524.00	1849.50	150.00	7333.00
<b>Charitable Trust Fund</b>					4200.00		4200.00
<b>Total Member Contributions</b>	648.00	1248.00	913.50	2524.00	6049.50	150.00	11533.00
<b>Other Income (in &amp; out funds and income for designated purposes)</b>							
	1/3/2021	1/10/2021	1/17/2021	1/24/2021	1/31/2021	Direct Deposit	Total
Endowment for steeple repair			10410.00				10410.00
Building Fund			50.00	83.00	20.00	150.00	303.00
<b>Total Other</b>			10460.00	83.00	20.00	150.00	
<b>Total Checking Deposit</b>	648.00	1248.00	11373.50	2607.00	6069.50	300.00	

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

January 2021

<b>Building Fund</b>	Deposits	\$303.00
	Interest	\$7.66
	Disbursements	\$0.00
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	Deposits	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00
<b>Organ Fund</b>	Deposits	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00
<b>General Fund</b>	Deposits	\$21,943.00
	Disbursements	(\$7,654.76)

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 or Treasurer Dallas Waterstradt

<b>Totals</b>	Beginning Balance	\$229,160.90
	Deposits	\$22,246.00
	Interest	\$7.66
	Disbursements	(\$7,654.76)
	Ending Balance	\$243,759.80

<b>General Fund</b>	\$31,450.61
<b>Building Fund</b>	\$21,033.72
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	\$23,321.47**
<b>Organ Fund</b>	\$4,997.00
<b>Parsonage Fund</b>	<u>\$162,957.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$245,759.80</b>

<b>YTD Membership Giving*</b>	<b>\$11,533.00</b>
<b>YTD Expenses*</b>	(\$7,654.76)
<b>Net Amount*</b>	<b>\$3,878.24</b>

\* 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, we understand. PLEASE talk with Connie Wheeler or Pastor Moira.

### **Sunday March 7, 2021 ~ Communion**

Reader            Connie Wheeler  
Greeters         Connie Wheeler  
                      Cailey Wheeler

### **Sunday April 25, 2021**

Reader         Roberta Lorenz  
Greeters       Mark Hooyman  
                     Kelcie Hooyman

### **Sunday March 14, 2021**

Reader         Sue Biese  
Greeters       Mike Rohloff  
                     Connie Rohloff

### **Sunday May 2, 2021 ~ Confirmation & Communion**

Reader         Robin Schmidt  
Greeters       Steve Schomisch  
                     Pat Schomisch

### **Sunday March 21, 2021**

Reader         Vi Brown-Luebke  
Greeters       Gary Vander Linden  
                     Bonnie Vander Linden

### **Sunday May 9, 2021**

Reader         Connie Wheeler  
Greeters       Connie Wheeler  
                     Audrey Blake

### **Sunday March 28, 2021**

Reader         Roberta Lorenz  
Greeters       Mike Dickinson  
                     Sally Dickinson

### **Sunday May 16, 2021**

Reader         Tanner St. John  
Greeters       Tanner St. John  
                     Todd St. John

### **Sunday April 4, 2021 ~ Easter & Communion**

Reader         Sue Biese  
Greeters       Joe Biese  
                     Sue Biese

### **Sunday May 23, 2021**

Reader         Vi Brown-Luebke  
Greeters       Vi Brown-Luebke  
                     Darwin Ethington

### **Sunday April 11, 2021**

Reader         Connie Wheeler  
Greeters       Connie Wheeler  
                     Hollie Wheeler

### **Sunday May 30, 2021**

Reader         Jan Rohloff  
Greeters       Mike Rohloff  
                     Connie Rohloff

### **Sunday April 18, 2021**

Reader         Bob Menning  
Greeters       Mike Dickinson  
                     Sally Dickinson



# March 2021

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

Sunday Schedule: 8:45 am Trinity Worship

9am Sunday School/Bible Study & 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
	1	2 6:30pm BC Christian Education Meeting	3	4	5	6
				<b>Key to locations:</b> 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		
7 Communion T & C SCRIP	8	9 9am ALC Food Pantry board  6:30pm BC Council	10	11 6:30pm C Trinity Council  7pm C Tri-Jo Council (C Consistory after)	12	13 <b>SPRING FORWARD ...</b> Set your clocks ahead 1 hour; Daylight Savings Time starts
14	15	16	17 5-7pm ALC Food Pantry	18 9am C Closet work day	19	20 9-11am ALC Food Pantry
21	22	23 Noon—3pm C Closet distribution	24	25	26	27
28 <b>Palm &amp; Passion Sunday</b>	29	30	31 4:30pm BC Confirmation	<i>April 1</i> Maundy Thursday  Worship at BC 7pm	<i>April 2</i> Holy Friday  Worship at T 7pm	<i>April 3</i> Holy Saturday  Worship at C, time to be determined

March  
2021

"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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Black Creek, Wisconsin 54106

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Facebook: St. John's UCC Black Creek  
YouTube: search for Moira Finley

**Pastor Moira Finley**  
Phone 715-851-3080  
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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)



### 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/FACE COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED** (for everyone over age five)
- ♥ we can sing 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.

Our online worship and print worship delivery continues as well. Let's all be gentle, kind, and compassionate with ourselves and one another as we live through these days.

## BLACK CREEK 2021 Easter Breakfast Survey

This is not a reservation or commitment.  
We're just trying to get an idea if you're comfortable coming to Easter Breakfast on Sunday April 4th (8:30am with worship at 10:15am).

**Please circle one:**

Yes, I'm definitely coming.

Maybe, I want to, but I'm not sure

No, I'm not comfortable yet.

If you're coming, or thinking about it, how many people might be with you (count yourself & any family/friends who might be with you)?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return to the offering plate, or to Pastor Moira.

**You only need to fill it out once!**

## Easter Flowers For The Sanctuary

To celebrate Jesus' resurrection we would like to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 4th.

Both Kaillhofer's in Seymour (920-833-2321) and Black Creek Garden & Gifts (920-984-3494) will deliver to church, but you should call early.

Both greenhouses must have your order by

Wednesday March 24th

*You are also welcome to bring your own plants or flowers.*

Dedications must be received by Sunday March 28th to be included in the Easter worship bulletin.

Flowers & plants MUST be at church by

9am on Saturday April 3rd.

Questions? Talk with Carol Schmidt



### Easter Flower Dedication Form

**Sunday April 4, 2021**

*Please PRINT clearly*

Your name:

How you would like your dedication to read:

Return by Sunday March 28th