

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

Harry Truman, Doris Day, Red China, Johnnie Ray, South Pacific,  
Walter Winchell, Joe DiMaggio, Joe McCarthy, Richard Nixon,  
Studebaker, television, North Korea, South Korea, Marilyn Monroe.

So begins Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start The Fire" a song with a long list of social crises, celebrities, technological innovations, and more. A couple of years ago people started imagining what new verses could be added to the song, the challenges and triumphs of our time, and I wonder now what we might add (apologies these probably won't rhyme):

covid-19, masks and distancing, remote learning, zoom meetings, 900,000 dead,  
empty shelves, inflation, resignations,  
red states, blue states, us and them, mass shootings,  
US left Afghanistan, Russia invades the Ukraine

It's enough to overwhelm even the strongest of hearts and souls, and that's just the beginning of the challenges facing the world, our communities, and our families. As I sit at my desk I look at a map of the world and my heart aches and breaks for all the places that are struggling with war, disease, disaster, famine, and so much more. And I look at our parish directories and know what our folks are struggling with, the things we're hoping and dreaming about. I look out my window at the gently falling snow that (hopefully) won't accumulate too much and wonder about this winter that seems to be dragging on, spring a far off dream, even while the days seem to race by.

It's not all bad, of course. We're looking forward to new babies, and weddings, and graduations, and all kinds of other exciting things, but there's just a lot that we're all holding, a lot we carry in our bodies and souls. I know, from the number of people reaching out to talk (which is an incredibly good thing—keep doing that please!) that we're all really starting to understand how much this season, these past two years of the pandemic and the political bitterness, has affected us, have changed our lives and society.

How appropriate then that this moment in our lives and in the life of the world overlaps with the holy season of Lent. Beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd we have a gift of time, forty days plus Sundays, that we might refocus our lives, hearts, and spirits;

that we might listen more closely for what God is asking of us, dreaming for us, and hoping for the world in this moment in the life of the world.

There are lots of ways to keep a holy and faithful Lent. Some will give up a food or habit to change the focus of their lives. Others will add faith practices like reading scriptures, or the offerings in our devotional booklets that come with this newsletter, or attending our mid-week worship services.

However it is you approach Lent 2022, whatever you add or give up, I hope that this is a time of gentle reconnecting to your faith, to knowing God is with you whatever this world might bring. In our far too often rushing world, Lent is a reminder to all of us that it's ok to slow down, to adopt a different pace. You can say no to things this season if it feels like it's all too much, or you can say yes to the things you really and truly want to do. I pray that all of us might learn to be and breathe differently during this time. We get so caught up in the things and ways of this world that we miss the holy happening right there beside us, the miracles of our daily lives, the connections and hope that are there underneath the news headlines, fears, and worries.

If you've seen my social media posts you will know I end them with the same advice ~ morning or night ~ drink you water and remember that I love you. It's true. We need more water, particularly in these dry winter days, and slowing down enough to drink a glass of water might give us the moment we need for clearer thought. And whatever happens, in our lives and in the life of the world, I still believe in love ~ in the deep, passionate, messy, fierce, tender, pushy, hopeful, honest, gutsy, justice seeking, justice making love that Jesus preached about, that Jesus gave his life for, and that Jesus asks us to commit our lives to. May this Lent bring us all that kind of love, and may we share it passionately and abundantly with one another and with the world through our words and our actions.

*In peace and grace, Pastor Moira*

### **Covid-19 Procedures for Worship & Gatherings**

- ♥ **Face Coverings** ~ HIGHLY ENCOURAGED for the non-vaccinated
- ♥ **Offering** - there are plates at the sanctuary doors;
- ♥ **Respect** ~ respect others in our community by giving people space, not standing so close, and honoring different comfort levels

## ***Church Council "Preliminary" Meeting Minutes ~ February 8, 2022***

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Schomisch with Trevor Rohloff, Todd St. John, Lizzie Tesch, 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 Dallas Waterstradt and seconded by Trevor Rohloff to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed.

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

### **Pastors Report**

- Conducted in person and virtual Worship Services, 2 non member funerals
- Attended 2 church meetings, 3 congregational meetings

### **Committee Reports**

- **Membership:** Pastor Moira is still working with a few people to become members.
- **Christian Ed:** Meeting was held on February 1, 2022. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7:00 pm.
- **Worship/Music:** Meeting was held and discussed communion, choir took a break but will be back in March. Next meeting will be Sunday, May 15 after worship service.
- **House:** The large refrigerator in the kitchen stopped working and repairs have been done but didn't fix the problem. They will be coming again to investigate the problem more. The Woman's Guild paid for the repairs.
- **Stewardship:** For the month of February we are collecting for the food pantry and restocking their shelves. For March, we will be collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing.
- **Cemetery:** Steve Hanson has helped a family pick out a plot which was made easier with our new plot maps
- **Endowment:** Transfer of funds from the parsonage sale was completed
- **Women's Guild:** getting a debit card for their account, purchased new shelves for the yellow/storage room, paid for the first service call on the refrigerator

### **Old Business:**

- Gary will continue to be the contact person for the window repairs that are taking place at this time.
- Council members are to read over the by-laws that were updated and bring them back to the next meeting. Once approved, there will be a congregational meeting in the near future.
- Dallas will contact Guide One to cancel the policy. Pastor Moira and Pat Schomisch will fill out the paperwork/forms for the new policy.

### **New Business:**

- The council members have been placed in their positions as follows; Pat Schomisch as President, Todd St. John as Vice President, Lizzie Tesch as Financial Secretary, Dallas Waterstradt as Treasurer, Trevor Rohloff as member and Connie Wheeler as Secretary.

### **Prayers and Thank You's:**

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

**Next Council Meeting** will be Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

## **Women's Guild News**

The Women's Guild met on Wednesday February 2, 2022 at 1:30pm with ten members present. Our devotional leader was Pastor Moira leading us in prayer as a meditation on the names of God. She focused on thoughts of God as being strong, powerful, caring, giver, creator, blessed, contradictions, mysterious as a guide to our own bodies, feeling of our breathing and our hearts beating. God said, "I am who I am. I will be what I will be." After sharing several readings, she gave us a sheet of white paper and a box of crayons and a list of words. We were to choose three words as our images of God with us in it. She shared this in Confirmation and they thought we couldn't do it. Surprise! we all did very well. We had to get our thinking caps on.

The offering was collected and the business meeting was called to order by President Roberta Lorenz. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved with \$11,215.56 in the general fund and \$497.98 in the memorial fund. A thank you was shared from the youth who attended work camp. The basement curtains came up for discussion as to shorter or longer with tension rods. Sally Dickinson volunteered to check into the project, but we need the debit card first. Treasurer Donna Stucki will check with the bank about getting a debit card—motion was made, seconded and approved. After some discussion a motion was made, seconded, and approved to purchase three shelves for the yellow room at about \$30 each using a gift card we were given for Fleet Farm. We closed with the Lord's Prayer in unison.

We sang the doxology and then we were served a delicious chocolate mousse from a recipe of Pastor Moira's mother. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday March 2, 2022 at 1:30pm with Vi Brown-Luebke with devotions and as hostess. God bless all.

*Audrey Hooyman-Blake, secretary*

# Parish Celebrations

*If your special day is incorrect,  
please let Pastor Moira know.*

## March Birthdays

3rd ... 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

## March Anniversaries

March 14th  
Gary & Bonnie Vander Linden

March 25th  
Randall & Kris VandeCorput  
Chad & Heather Lison

March 30th  
Paul & Taycie Schmidt

# Scripture Readings

## Wednesday March 2, 2022

*Ash Wednesday*

Worship

Trinity ~ 5pm

Black Creek ~ 7pm

Isaiah 58.1-12

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

## Sunday March 6, 2022

*First Sunday of Lent*

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Luke 4.1-13

## Sunday March 13, 2022

*Second Sunday of Lent*

Psalm 27

Luke 13.18-30

## Sunday March 20, 2022

*Third Sunday of Lent*

Isaiah 55.1-13

Luke 15.1-10

## Sunday March 27, 2022

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Psalm 84

Luke 15.11-32

## Sunday April 3, 2022

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Psalm 126

Luke 18.9-14

## *Reader & Greeter Schedule*

If you are not able to make it on your assigned day, please let Connie Wheeler & Pastor Moira know. Greeters also help serve communion.

### March 6, 2022 ~ Communion

Reader Connie Wheeler  
Greeters Connie Wheeler  
Cailey Wheeler

### March 13, 2022

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

### March 20, 2022

Reader Sue Biese  
Greeters Mike Rohloff  
Connie Rohloff

### March 27, 2022

Reader Roberta Lorenz  
Greeters Mike Dickinson  
Sally Dickinson

### April 3, 2022 ~ Communion

Reader Sue Biese  
Greeters Joe Biese  
Sue Biese  
Mike Rohloff  
Connie Rohloff

### April 10, 2022

Reader Connie Wheeler  
Greeters Gene Blake  
Audrey Hooyman-Blake

### April 17, 2022 ~ Easter Sunday Communion

Reader Bob Menning  
Greeters Bob Menning  
Carla Menning  
Connie Wheeler  
Hollie Wheeler  
Mike Dickinson  
Sally Dickinson

### April 24, 2022

Reader Roberta Lorenz  
Greeters Mark Hooyman  
Kelcie Hooyman

### May 1, 2022 ~ Communion & Confirmation

Reader Robin Schmidt  
Greeters Steve Schomisch  
Pat Schomisch  
Robin Schmidt  
Jan Rohloff

### May 8, 2022

Reader Jim Rucci  
Greeters Jim Rucci  
Keith Kruse

### May 15, 2022

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

**St. John's United Church of Christ Financial Secretary's Report ~ JANUARY 2022**

	1/2/2022	1/9/2022	1/16/2022	1/23/2022	1/30/2022	Direct Deposit	Total
<b>Checking deposit</b>	1230.00	1303.00	6593.00	2873.50	4787.00	300.00	17086.50

**Member Giving Towards Budget**

	1/2/2022	1/9/2022	1/16/2022	1/23/2022	1/30/2022	Direct Deposit	Total
<b>General Fund</b>	1102.00	1303.00	2393.00	2597.50	4782.00	300.00	12477.50
<b>Charitable Trust Fund</b>			4200.00				4200.00
<b>Total Member Contributions</b>	1102.00	1303.00	6593.00	2597.50	4782.00	300.00	16677.50

**Other Income (in & out funds and income for designated purposes)**

	1/2/2022	1/9/2022	1/16/2022	1/23/2022	1/30/2022	Direct Deposit	Total
Building Fund	118.00			200.00	5.00		323.00
Endowment Fund	10.00						10.00
Plaster Project				76.00			76.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>128.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>276.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>409.00</b>

<b>Total Checking Deposit</b>	1230.00	1303.00	6593.00	2873.50	4787.00	300.00	17086.50
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St. John's United Church of Christ Treasurer's Report ~ JANUARY 2022

<b>Building Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$18,799.27
	Deposits	\$356.00
	Interest	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$19,122.27
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$9,685.47
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$9,685.47
	<b>Organ Fund</b>	Beginning Balance
Deposits		\$0.00
<u>Disbursements</u>		<u>\$0.00</u>
Ending Balance		\$4,455.00
<b>General Fund</b>		Beginning Balance
	Interest	\$0.53
	Deposits	\$16,687.50
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$9,331.58)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$27,577.64
	<b>Boiler/Furnace Fund</b>	Beginning Balance
Deposits		\$0.00
<u>Disbursements</u>		<u>\$0.00</u>
Ending Balance		\$1,800.00
<b>Stained Glass Fund</b>		Beginning Balance
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$35,000.00
	<b>Plastering Fund</b>	Beginning Balance
Deposits		\$76.00
<u>Disbursements</u>		<u>\$0.00</u>
Ending Balance		\$2176.00
<b>Totals</b>		Beginning Balance
	Deposits	\$17,086.50
	Interest	\$0.53
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$9,331.58)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$99,816.38

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, Lizzie Tesch or Treasurer Dallas Waterstradt

<b>YTD Membership Giving</b>	<b>\$16,677.50</b>
<b>YTD Expenses</b>	<b>(\$9,331.05)</b>
<b>Net Amount*</b>	<b>\$7,346.45</b>

\* excludes contributions and disbursements for special offerings



## Wednesday Lenten Worship March 9 through April 6

Join us as we read and reflect on scripture & share the prayers of our community that we might deepen our walk as Jesus' disciples during this Lenten season.

**5pm Simple soup & bread  
supper will be ready  
6:15 – 6:45pm Worship & Prayer**

Everything will be held downstairs in the Black Creek fellowship hall (elevator accessible)

Questions? Want to help?  
Talk with Pastor Moira

## Holy Week & Easter Schedule

### Maundy Thursday ~ April 14th

Worship at Black Creek at 7pm

### Holy Friday ~ April 15th

Worship at Trinity at 7pm

### Easter Weekend

#### Saturday April 16th ~ Cecil

Food at 4pm & Worship at 5pm

#### Sunday April 17th ~ Trinity

Worship at 7:45am with breakfast after

#### Sunday April 17th ~ Black Creek

Breakfast at 8:30am with worship at 10:15am

**More details in worship & the April newsletter!**

## Easter Flowers For The Sanctuary

To celebrate Jesus' resurrection we would like to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 17th

Both Kailhofer's in Seymour (920-833-2321) and Black Creek Garden & Gifts (920-984-3494)

will deliver to church, but you should call early for the best selection. Please place orders by Friday April 8th. *You are also welcome to bring your own plants or flowers.*

**Dedications must be received by Sunday April 10th to be included in the Easter worship bulletin.**

Everything **MUST** be at church by Friday April 15th  
Questions? Talk with Karen Arnold or Pastor Moira



### 2022 Easter Flower Dedication Form

*Please PRINT clearly*

Your name:

How you would like your dedication to read:

Return to Pastor Moira by Sunday April 10th

*This page is intentionally mostly blank  
so you can cut out the flower dedication form on the other side!*

# March 2021

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

**Pastor's Office Hours**  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays  
Please call/text to make sure

**Sunday Schedule: Trinity ~ 8:45am Worship**

**Black Creek ~ 9:00am Education Hour & 10:15 am Worship**

**Cecil ~ 4:00pm Worship \*\*\* PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME \*\*\***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Key to locations:</b> BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran Church Navarino		1	2 1:30pm BC Guild  Ash Wednesday 5pm Trinity 7pm BC	3	4	5
				<b>Wednesday Lenten Worship</b> <i>all at Black Creek</i> 5pm ~ soup supper 6:15pm ~ worship (1/2 hour) 7pm ~ choir practice		
6 <i>Communion</i> <b>First Sunday of Lent</b>  TJ SCRIP  11:30am BC Confirmation	7	8 9am ALC Pantry Board  2pm T Circle  6:30pm BC Council	9  <b>Lent Worship</b> <i>see box above</i>	10	11	12 <b>SPRING FORWARD ...</b> Set your clocks ahead 1 hour; Daylight Savings Time starts tomorrow
13 <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	14	15	16 5-7pm ALC Pantry  <b>Lent Worship</b> <i>see box above</i>	17 9am C Closet work day  6:30pm T Tri-Jo Council	18	19 9-11am ALC Pantry
20 <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>  11:30am BC Confirmation	21	22 Noon-3pm C Closet	23  <b>Lent Worship</b> <i>see box above</i>	24	25	26
27 <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	28	29	30  <b>Lent Worship</b> <i>see box above</i>	31	April 1	April 2  Tomorrow... Communion SCRIP Confirmation

March  
2022

"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](mailto:stjcreek@gmail.com)  
Website [www.stjucbc.com](http://www.stjucbc.com)  
Facebook: St. John's UCC Black Creek  
YouTube: search for Moira Finley

**Pastor Moira Finley**  
Phone 715-851-3080  
Email [pastormoira73@gmail.com](mailto:pastormoira73@gmail.com)

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

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



### **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 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.

***Look for the offering envelopes at both entrances to the sanctuary!***