

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

As I write this, March is proving that the concept of spring is a tricky one here in Wisconsin. While the calendar may say it's spring, and the migrating birds have returned, we are looking at a combination of sleet/snow/rain/ice/wind for the next few days as March gives way to April. Thankfully they're playing baseball which gives me a lot of hope that someday I'll be sitting outside, my toes in the grass, basking in the warmth of summer, admiring the beauty of my gardens. Meanwhile, I spend part of every morning wondering what coat or sweater I should wear, unwilling to put the winter boots away, and remembering the giant snowstorm of 2018.

Speaking of hope, we all need a lot of it these days. The war in Ukraine continues. Climate change is melting ice shelves in Antarctica. Australia is flooding. Tornadoes and strong storms have rocked the southern US. Friends are struggling. Prices are rising. There's another covid variant. Folks are tired, exhausted even, worn out from ... well, from everything we've been dealing with individually and collectively these days. Wouldn't you know it, into the middle of our muddle and mess, April brings us the greatest story of hope we could dream of ~ the miracle of Easter.

I try, every year, to imagine what it must have been like for Jesus' first community. Everything they had hoped for, dreamed of, believed in, trusted in was gone, buried in the tomb after being crucified as a common criminal for what?, for daring to speak the truth that God's love is for everyone, that justice is possible, that no one should be cast out of the community, that we are called to work for the wholeness, healing, and abundance of all. Sealed away behind a giant stone, in the cold corners of a tomb, hope seemed to have died. But .. but then, early in the morning the women find the courage to go out to the tomb to do what needed to be done, what hadn't been done on Friday because of the Sabbath. They find the stone rolled away, the tomb empty, and in Luke's version, are asked why they're looking for the living among the dead.

It must have been startling, scary, confusing, unsettling, and more at first, but eventually it must have been the miracle they were waiting for, the glimmer of hope that can never be extinguished, the proof that God hasn't given up on us, not then at the first Easter and not now all these years later. Easter gives us, not wild eyed delusional optimism, but deep seated hope that God is with us in the midst of the muck of our world, that if Christ can rise from the dead, we can carry on in our lives, being beacons of hope, courage, justice, and love in the world.

And the thing that will always give me hope, no matter the circumstances of my life or the life of the world, is that the resurrection isn't something that's saved for a particular day in March or April. The resurrection isn't limited to Easter Sunday. It's something that happens to us each and every day, sometimes in big and dramatic ways and at other times in small and quiet ways. The resurrection is God coming into our hearts and lives and planting a little seed of hope, a little bit of courage, a little drop of love, a little speck of faith that we might carry on, that we might share our hope, and courage, and love, and faith with a world so desperately in need. As we come to this year's celebration of the resurrection on Easter weekend, I pray we might all find the little Easters in our lives, the little moments where the Holy One breaks through, reaches into our hearts, minds, and souls, and reminds us that we are God's beloved children. And I pray we might take that out into our lives, wherever we find ourselves, that God's kingdom of abundance and promise might come for all creation.

In peace and grace, Pastor Moira

Mark Your Calendars

May 8th

**Mother's Day & Celebration
of the Christian Family Home**
9am multigenerational Sunday
school with snacks
10:15am Worship

May 22nd ~ Celebration Sunday

Worship at 10:15am to celebrate
everyone who makes our parish
so incredibly special.

We have a cooking theme
this year so get out those aprons
& oven mitts!

Pastor Moira's 20th Anniversary

The folks at Trinity & Cecil are throwing
a party and want YOU to come & celebrate!

Saturday May 21st

Village Park Pavilion, Bonduel
Gathering & Fellowship ~ Noon
Food & Festivities ~ 1pm

RSVP by May 8th

Questions? Or to RSVP

Cecil ~ Michelle Hert (920-676-3644)
Trinity ~ Mona Ashenbrenner (715-851-2104)
Black Creek ~ Pat Schomisch (920-984-3233)

*There is a collection for gifts & to offset costs.
You can make checks out to church & talk with the
church contact person for more information.*

*Also, the details are a SURPRISE
to Pastor Moira, so shhhhh!*

Church Council "Preliminary" Meeting Minutes
March 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 Todd St. John and seconded by Dallas Waterstradt to accept the minutes from last month. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Connie Wheeler 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, 4 funerals, 1 baptism
- Attended church meetings, administrative meetings, and group meetings
- Met with new pastor of Peace UCC Shawano, attended the Salvation appreciation dinner, and attended Black Creek Lions chili supper.

Committee Reports

Membership: Nothing new to report.

Christian Ed: The children sang on March 6th. The next meeting will be April 5th at 7:00 pm.

Music / Worship: Next meeting will be May 15th after worship service.

House/Building Grounds: Had a second service call on the large refrigerator in the kitchen, the thermostat was replaced and is now working. The Women's Guild paid for this repair as well as the first service call. The elevator passed inspection and now needs a 10 digit phone number.

Stewardship: For the month of March we will be collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) which is an offering of the entire UCC for emergencies and disaster relief. The Stewardship months were looked at and there were some changes made.

Cemetery: Burial of John Shepard on 2/15/22.

Endowment: Transfer of funds was finally straightened out; they had sent Steve Hanson the wrong forms for distributing it to various investment accounts.

Women's Guild: They met on March 2, 2022. They now have a debit card attached to their checking account to simplify purchases. They will be replacing the curtains in the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen. They paid for the service calls for the refrigerator.

Old Business:

- Gary is working on quotes for the plastering.
- The council looked over the By-Laws and didn't see any changes. This will be brought to the congregation on May 22 in the congregational meeting. There will be listening sessions the 3 weeks prior to the meeting. The packet will be ready to be handed out on Easter. The Congregational Meeting will be May 22 after worship service. We will be discussing the garden, plastering and the by-laws.

New Business:

- Pastor Moira will be getting out some information on the Ukraine collection.
- The Rummage Sale is set for June 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25.

Prayers and Thank You's:

Denis Shepard, Pastor Lynn (Appleton UCC)

A motion was made by Trevor Rohloff and seconded by Connie Wheeler to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Next Council Meeting will be April 12, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Special Offering For Ukraine

Working with our partner church, the Reformed Church in Hungary, the United Church of Christ is collecting funds to help refugees and others displaced, wounded, and in need because of war in Ukraine. There are many organizations collecting and sending resources, but this is the one that we feel will most directly get funds to those in need.

There are offering envelopes at all three churches (look for the Ukrainian flag).

Please make checks out to church and put "Ukraine Aid" in the memo line.

We will collect through at least the end of April.

If you are interested in working with another organization to send relief, please make sure you have checked that the greatest portion of funds you send will actually reach those on the ground and in need. Do some research and if you need help with that research, please be in touch and I can help you make sure your funds end up where they need to be.

~ Pastor Moira

Parish Celebrations

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

March Birthdays

1st ...	Elton Wendt
2nd ...	Grace Krull
3rd ...	Val Abel
4th ...	Sadie Fenske
9th ...	Denis Shepard
14th ...	Berniece Shepard
16th ...	Noah St. John
17th ...	Tanner St. John
19th ...	Steve Sassman
23rd ...	David Tesch
24th ...	Marian Goodwin Eliana Roesler
25th ...	Bridget Shepard
28th ...	Esther Meyer David Rohloff
30th ...	Ken Melchert

March Anniversaries

April 30th
Dallas & Lisa Waterstradt

Rummage Sale

Thursday - Saturday

June 16, 17 & 18

June 23, 24 & 25

You can bring things
to the yellow room now!

Scripture Readings

Sunday April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Psalm 126

Luke 18.9-14

Sunday April 10, 2022

Palm & Passion Sunday

Luke 19.29-49, 45-48

Luke 22.1-23

Thursday April 14, 2022

Maundy Thursday

1 Corinthians 11.23-26

John 13.1-20

Friday April 15, 2022

Holy Friday

Luke 22.39-23.56

Saturday & Sunday April 16 & 17

Easter Weekend

Acts 10.34-43

Luke 24.1-12

Sunday April 24, 2022

Break The Silence Sunday

John 20.19-31

Sunday May 1, 2022

Confirmation

Acts 9.1-20

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.

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
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

May 22, 2022 ~ Celebration Sunday

Reader Jan Rohloff
Greeters Connie Rohloff
Mike Rohloff

May 29, 2022 ~ Memorial Day Weekend

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

June 5, 2022 ~ Pentecost & Communion

Reader Randy Miller
Greeters Gary Vander Linden
Bonnie Vander Linden
Randy Miller
Lisa Waterstradt

June 12, 2022

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Barry Zuleger
Steve Hanson

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

	2/6/2022	2/13/2022	2/20/2022	2/27/2022		Direct Deposit	Total
Checking deposit	1,808.00	873.00	830.50	1,318.00		300.00	5,129.50

Member Giving Towards Budget

	2/6/2022	2/13/2022	2/20/2022	2/27/2022		Direct Deposit	Total
General Fund	1,767.00	773.00	778.00	1,228.00		300.00	4,846.00
Fuel Fund	41.00						41.00
Total Member Contributions	1,808.00	773.00	778.00	1,228.00		300.00	4,887.00

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

	2/6/2022	2/13/2022	2/20/2022	2/27/2022		Direct Deposit	Total
Building Fund				30.00			30.00
Food Pantry		100.00	30.00	60.00			190.00
Men's Dartball			22.50				22.50
Total Other Income	0.00	100.00	52.50	90.00		0.00	242.50

Total Checking Deposit	1,808.00	873.00	830.50	1,318.00		300.00	5,129.50
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**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

St. John's United Church of Christ Treasurer's Report ~ FEBRUARY 2022

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$19,122.27
	Deposits	\$30.00
	Interest	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$19,152.27
Memorial Fund	Beginning Balance	\$9,685.47
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$9,685.47
Organ Fund	Beginning Balance	\$4,455.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$4,455.00
General Fund	Beginning Balance	\$27,577.64
	Interest	\$0.47
	Deposits	\$5,099.50
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$8,527.78)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$24,149.83
Boiler/Furnace Fund	Beginning Balance	\$1,800.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$1,800.00
Stained Glass Fund	Beginning Balance	\$35,000.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$35,000.00
Plastering Fund	Beginning Balance	\$2,176.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$2176.00
Totals	Beginning Balance	\$99,816.38
	Deposits	\$5,129.50
	Interest	\$0.47
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$8,527.78)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$96,418.57

YTD Membership Giving	\$21,564.50
YTD Expenses	(\$17,858.36)
Net Amount*	\$3,706.14
* excludes contributions and disbursements for special offerings	

Women's Guild News

The Women's Guild met on Wednesday March 2, 2022 at 1:30pm with ten members present. We were happy to have Sally Dickinson with us on the computer monitor while she was taking care of Mike who is getting stronger. Our prayers are with them as well as Pastor Moira who is fighting with lupus and a cough.

Our devotional leader was Vi Brown-Luebke leading us in prayer. She then asked about "How Do We Determine Easter?" - the first Sunday after the full moon after the equinox, and forty days plus Sundays before is Ash Wednesday. The symbols of Easter came about 1700 by German immigrants when eggs were colored, eaten, and hidden as games. Easter is a symbol of new life. Lilies are a sign of purity. There were once beautiful hats for women and girls and parades as well. There is candy, chocolate eggs and colorful jelly beans (displayed on beautiful towels she had made) which were all yummy tasting. She closed with prayer.

The offering was taken and the business meeting was called to order by President Roberta Lorenz. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved with \$10,455.56 in the general fund and \$497.98 in the memorial fund. The debit card has been received and is in use. Curtains were discussed—long vs. short style. A show of hands approved them in the long style as they can always be shortened. Motion carried. The large clock has been purchased. The soup pots will be purchased and we are in need of Nescos. Vi Brown Luebke and Sally Dickinson have ones to donate. Thanks much. Need foil liners to go in the Nescos which are easy to clean up. Easter Breakfast was discussed. Palms have been ordered and flower slips are to be turned in. Communion was discussed and how to serve it to keep everyone safe.

We closed by singing happy birthday to Vi and Donna and praying the Lord's prayer in unison. We were served delicious cupcakes by Vi Brown-Luebke as hostess and lots of jelly beans.

Our next meeting is Wednesday April 6th at 1:30pm with Esther Meyer as devotions leader and hostess.

Audrey Hooyman-Blake, secretary

April 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
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Key to locations: BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran </div>		1	2
3 Communion TJ SCRIP 11:30am BC Confirmation	4	5 7pm BC Christian Ed	6 1:30pm BC Guild Lenten Worship, 5pm	7 5:30pm T Council	8	9
10 Palm & Passion Sunday C Consistory	11	12 2pm T Circle 6:30pm BC Council	13 6:30pm BC Choir	14 Maundy Thursday Worship, 7pm at Black Creek	15 Holy Friday Worship, 7pm at Trinity	16 Holy Saturday CECIL Food ~ 4pm Worship ~ 5pm
17 Easter Sunday <u>Trinity</u> Worship 7:45am Breakfast after <u>Black Creek</u> Breakfast 8:30am Worship 10:15am	18 <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Pastor Moira vacation </div>	19	20 5-7pm ALC Pantry distribution (help needed all day) 6:30pm BC Choir	21 9am C Closet work day	22	23 9-11am ALC Pantry distribution (help needed from 8am)
24 Break The Silence Sunday	25	26 Noon-3pm C Closet distribution	27 6:30pm BC Choir	28	29	30 Association Annual Meeting Tomorrow... Confirmation at BC

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

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 (things you don't need a fork to eat!)

Worship at 5pm

Sunday April 17th ~ Trinity

Worship at 7:45am

Breakfast to follow ~ sign up sheets are at church & we need fruit & pastries

Sunday April 17th ~ Black Creek

Breakfast at 8:30am ~ sign up sheets are at church

Worship at 10:15am

April
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
Website 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

Wisconsin Conference UCC
www.wiucc.org

United Church of Christ
www.ucc.org



Year of Giving ~ United Church Camps Inc (UCCI)

The Wisconsin Conference UCC is blessed with something many conferences don't have ~ a strong and vital outdoor ministry program.

Daycholah Center (formerly Pilgrim) located on the shores of Green Lake near Ripon and Moon Beach, located on a hundred acres of north woods near St. Germain have camps and programs for people to experience the beauty and wonder of God's creation in new ways.

Your gifts to UCCI help to continue to provide outdoor ministries, and the scholarships all UCC church members receive for events.

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