

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

A few weekends ago we celebrated the miracle ~ the women overcoming their fears and going out to the tomb where they had seen Jesus buried, where they thought all their hopes and dreams of the kingdom of God's promise had died, only to discover that the great stone sealing the tomb had been rolled away, that Jesus' body was not there, that he was risen indeed!

And now we find ourselves in the season of Easter, sometimes called *Eastertide*. The world around us has moved on to preparations for Mother's Day, and graduations, and summer barbecue season, but we're going to hold on to the miracle for fifty days—from Easter until Pentecost. It will give us some time to really slow down and think about what the empty tomb means for us this year, at this point in our lives, and in the life of the world.

It's easy, once the eggs have all been colored, hidden, and hopefully found and once the Alleluias have been sung, the meals have been shared and the lilies are all gone from the sanctuaries for us to think that Easter is over and done, something we can put in a box on a shelf in the back of the closet until we need it again next year. But if we are going to take our lives as Jesus' disciples seriously, we're going to have to hold on to Easter, to the miracle of the empty tomb, not just for this season, but for all our lives.

I wonder if our imaginations might stretch together to help us understand what the empty tomb really means, in this moment in our lives and in the life of the world? I have long been troubled by the church's narrow focus on what I once called "six days in April", or Holy Week. While we have to pay attention to these days, the struggle and terror of them, we also can't see them in isolation, without the life that led up to them, and the events that take place after them.

The empty tomb is a result of the incarnation, the events of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. It is a consequence of the life that Jesus lived, his radical, passionate, unflinching commitment to love, to expanding the table of God's grace, to welcoming all to the banquet of God's hope.

And the empty tomb leads to the events of Pentecost, to the coming of the Spirit, to the birth of the church, to the work we are called to do to carry on what Jesus began, to see God's kingdom as real in this moment, to share God's love with everyone through our words and our actions, day in and day out, until God's kingdom comes in its fullness.

I'm wondering if we might learn to think about the fullness of Jesus' life and message; about Joseph the Carpenter who held the newborn Jesus and Joseph of Arimathea who held Jesus' body as he was buried; about Mary Jesus' mother whose courage brought him into the world, and Mary and the other women whose courage learned of the miracle of the resurrection; about the manger and the cross, but also about the Sea of Galilee and all those little towns and villages Jesus visited with the good news of God's love.

While I wait for it to warm up enough to clean up my garden for spring, and I lament the baseball standings of my Red Sox, and I get ready for a season of parties and weddings and denominational meetings, I'll be praying about all this, wondering some more about how we might become people whose lives are inspired not by any one part of Jesus' life and ministry, but by the fullness of it.

And through it all I'll be praying for this world, so very beloved by God, so full of God's presence and grace, and at the same time full of so many challenges, fear, and heartbreak. I'll be praying for peace in Ukraine, and everywhere; for hope where there is despair; for love where there is hatred; for courage where there is fear; and for more peace that we surely cannot create on our own.

And through it all I'll be praying with and for YOU, for our parish and our communities, for the strength and creativity we need to live through these days; for the imagination and faith we need to follow where God is leading us in this Easter season, into Pentecost, and beyond.

In peace and grace, Pastor Moira

Congregational Meeting ~ Sunday May 22nd

Immediately following worship we will have a special congregational meeting to discuss three items: (1) revisions to the church bylaws recommended by the Council; (2) replastering where damage was caused by the now fixed steeple leak; and (3) a proposal to put in a community garden.

Copies of the bylaws & garden project proposal are now available in print & by email.

There will be listening sessions following worship on Sundays May 1, 8 & 15 in the Gathering Room following worship.

Questions? Talk with members of the Council or Pastor Moira

Church Council "Preliminary" Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Schomisch with Trevor Rohloff, Lizzie Tesch, Connie Wheeler and Pastor Moira Finley present.

The meeting was opened with a prayer from Pastor Moira Finley.

A motion was made by Lizzie Tesh and seconded by Trevor Rohloff 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
- Attended church meetings, administrative meetings, and group meetings
Baptism for Ava Hooyman and two new members, Rachel and George

Committee Reports

Membership: Two new members joined the church, Rachel Hooyman and George Engel

Christian Ed: Met on April 5th. See their notes for details.

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

House / Building Grounds:

The basement flooded in the entrance and classrooms. A great team of helpers got it cleaned up. Thank You!

We will be looking into purchasing a sump pump alert system, Trevor will work on this.

We may purchase drain tile for the spout by the entrance in the back due to the pipe freezing and water running out on the sidewalk area.

The elevator phone has been updated with an area code system.

Stewardship: We will be collecting for the following:

April - collections will be for our UCCI church camps.

May - collections will be for Break the Silence Sunday.

June - collections will be for Strengthen the Church (STC)

The collection for Ukraine will continue through the end of May.

Cemetery: Nothing at this time to report.

Endowment: Nothing at this time to report.

Women's Guild: Met on April 6th, see their notes for details.

Old Business:

- The window project should be starting in May, they were waiting for supplies to come in.
- Gary is still getting quotes on the plastering. He has been continuing with this project since he started it.

Pastor Moira's sabbatical will be June 25, 2023 - July 31, 2023 and December 31, 2023 - January 24, 2024.

New Business:

- Pastor Moira brought the Garden Project information and a motion was made by Lizzie Tesch and seconded by Connie Wheeler to bring the idea to the congregation to be approved. The Congregational Meeting will be May 22, 2022 after the worship service. We will be discussing the bylaws, garden project and plastering quotes. There will be listening sessions May 1, 8 and 15 after worship.

Prayers and Thank You's:

Former member, Kay Christianson

Freedom Resident (friend of Connie's) Tim VanderWettering family

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

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Pastor Moira's 20th Anniversary

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

Saturday May 21st at Village Park Pavilion, Bonduel

Gathering & Fellowship ~ Noon

Food & Festivities ~ 1pm

Questions? Or to RSVP (by May 8th)

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.

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

Parish Celebrations

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

May Birthdays

1st ... Michael Holz
3rd ... Gloria Dalke
5th ... Connie Shannon
Leisha Schumacher
7th ... Barb Flaherty
Todd Arnold
8th ... Stephanie Julius
Ryan Julius
9th ... Nancy Noack
Kristin Roesler
10th ... Ralph Sassman
(happy 98th)
11th ... Kris Vande Corput
Shannon Volkman
12th ... Cailey Wheeler
13th ... Faye Veldt
15th ... Jan Rohloff
16th ... Gary Lathrop
Scott Holz
19th ... Alyiah Kruse
24th ... Dale Greogrious
25th ... Carol Henke
26th ... Eli Biese
30th ... Brenda Holz
Daniel Pynenberg
Caitlyn Pingel
Jordan Schmidt
31st ... Donald Peotter
Randall Hooyman
Greggory Holz

May Anniversaries

May 6th
Wayne & Doris Schmidt
(Happy 50th)
May 9th
Ryan & Stephanie Julius
May 15th
John & Connie Wheeler
May 17th
Denis & Berniece Shepard
May 19th
Greggory & Arcadia Holz
May 30th
Joe & Sue Biese



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.

May 1, 2022 ~ Confirmation & Communion

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

June 5, 2022 ~ Pentecost & Communion

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

May 8, 2022

Reader Jim Rucci
Greeters Jim Rucci
Keith Kruse

June 12, 2022

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Barry Zuleger
Steve Hanson

May 15, 2022

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

June 19, 2022

Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob Menning
Carla Menning

May 22, 2022 ~ Celebration Sunday

Reader Jan Rohloff
Greeters Connie Rohloff
Mike Rohloff

June 26, 2022

Reader Randy Miller
Greeters Kelly Stevens
Dallas Waterstradt

May 29, 2022 ~ Memorial Day Weekend

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

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

	3/6/2022	3/13/2022	3/20/2022	3/27/2022		Direct Deposit	Total
Checking deposit	3,156.50	1,765.00	1,790.50	2,908.50		300.00	9,900.50

Member Giving Towards Budget

	3/6/2022	3/13/2022	3/20/2022	3/27/2022		Direct Deposit	Total
General Fund	2,940.50	1,750.00	835.50	2,552.50		300.00	8,378.50
Total Member Contributions	2,940.50	1,750.00	835.50	2,552.50		300.00	8,378.50

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

	3/6/2022	3/13/2022	3/20/2022	3/27/2022		Direct Deposit	Total
Building Fund	60.00	10.00	35.00	76.00			181.00
One Great Hour Of Sharing			450.00	170.00			620.00
Endowment Fund	60.00		5.00				65.00
Plastering Project	76.00						76.00
Ukraine Aid		5.00	465.00	110.00			580.00
Total Other Income	196.00	15.00	955.00	356.00			1,522.00

Total Checking Deposit	3,156.50	1,765.00	1,790.50	2,908.50		300.00	9,900.50
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Feel free to continue sending your contributions by mail:

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

If you have questions, please be in touch with Lizzie Tesch or Dallas Waterstradt

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

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$18,799.27
	Deposits	\$181.00
	Interest	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$18,980.27
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	\$20,221.19
	Interest	\$0.53
	Deposits	\$9,643.50
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$6,664.63)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$36,529.85
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	\$92,060.93
	Deposits	\$9,900.50
	Interest	\$0.53
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$6,664.63)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$95,297.33

YTD Membership Giving	\$29,943.00
YTD Expenses	(\$24,522.99)
Net Amount*	\$5,420.01
* excludes contributions and disbursements for special offerings	

Women's Guild News

The Women's Guild met on Wednesday April 6, 2022 at 1:30pm with 10 members present. Our devotional leader was Esther Meyer. She led us in prayer and shared several stories from her fantastic books, telling and sharing the lives of many people growing up. She shared about her life which reminded all of us of our growing up—sometimes it was great and sometimes we thought it could be better. It was interesting and many memories were shared. She closed with a 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 \$10,326.37 in the general fund and \$497.98 in the Memorial Fund. The Easter breakfast was discussed which is well in progress. It will be served cafeteria style and there is a sign-up list. The flower list is with Pastor Moira, and Karen Arnold will be setting them up. Thanks much to all. We had a surprise of the sump pump not working, and thanks to all the helpers who worked to clean out the rooms and get everything drying out. The Guild plans to update the toy room. Our Daily Bread books are being ordered as usual. We closed with the Lord's Prayer in unison, sang the doxology and were served a delicious desert by Esther Meyer.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday May 4, 2022 at 1:30pm with Roberta Lorenz with devotions and Jan Rohloff as hostess.

Audrey Hooyman-Blake, secretary

Rummage Sale

Thursday - Saturday June 16, 17 & 18 and June 23, 24 & 25
After Mother's Day you can bring items to the Fellowship Hall.

If you have something to donate that might be hard for our volunteers to identify (that ice cream maker or instapot you're not using), please label it so we can price things properly & help our shoppers know what treasures they're finding.

May 2021

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

Pastor's In The Office
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 through May 22, THEN 7pm for the summer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion TJ SCRIP T Yard Work Confirmation at BC BC Listening session	2	3	4 1:30pm BC Guild NO Choir practice	5	6	7 BC Schmidt 50th Anniversary
				Key to locations: BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran		
8 Mother's Day Celebrating Christian Home BC Listening session	9	10 9am ALC Pantry board 2pm T Circle 6:30pm BC Council	11 Pastor Moira at NEA Clergy Day 6:30pm BC Choir	12 5:30pm T Council	13	14
15 T Yard Work (backup) BC Listening Session BC Worship & Music C Consistory	16	17	18 5-7pm ALC Pantry 6:30pm Choir	19 9am C Closet work day	20	21 9-11am ALC Pantry Pastor Moira's 20th Anniversary Party
22 Celebration Sunday BC Congregational Meeting	23	24 Noon-3pm C Closet	25	26	27	28
29 Cecil Worship at 7pm	30 Memorial Day	31	June 1 1:30pm BC Guild	June 2	June 3 C Wedding Rehearsal	June 4 C Bonnin-Marcks Wedding

Wayne & Doris Schmidt

50th Anniversary Open House

All the church family is invited
to join in the celebration

Saturday May 7th

1pm - 4pm

St. John's UCC

Fellowship Hall

Your presence is appreciated,
but please no presents.

A buffet meal will be served

Merriment In May

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!

Scripture Readings

Sunday May 1, 2022

Confirmation

Acts 9.1-20

Sunday May 8, 2022

Mother's Day

Celebrating The Christian Home

Psalm 23

Sunday May 15, 2022

Acts 11.1-18

John 13.31-35

Sunday May 22, 2022

Celebration Sunday

1 Corinthians 12.1-13

John 21.1-19

Sunday May 29, 2022

Memorial Day Weekend

Psalm 97

Acts 16.16-34

Sunday June 5, 2022

Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21

John 14.15-27

May
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
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Wisconsin Conference UCC
www.wiucc.org

United Church of Christ
www.ucc.org



Year of Giving ~ Break The Silence Sunday

Break The Silence Sunday (BTSS) is Pastor Moira's work to help churches better support survivors of sexual violence. Every year she develops worship and sermon resources, ideas about how congregations can support survivors in their communities, and advocates on behalf of survivors in the wider United Church of Christ (UCC) and other faith communities. Their next big goal is to have a booth and perhaps lead workshops at the next General Synod of the UCC in Indianapolis in June 2023.

Special Offering For Ukraine

As the war continues, we will continue receiving contributions to help refugees & others affected by the violence. Look for the envelopes with the Ukrainian flag. Please make checks out to church and put "Ukraine Aid" in the memo line.