

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

Summertime ... baseball and fishing, the smell of brats on the grill and bonfires, the hum of mosquitoes and the splash of the pool, long days and longer nights, and for many of us a different rhythm to life.

I'm thinking a lot these days about how we structure our lives and our culture. Truly it's something I think about a lot, wondering how we might shape our lives ~ individually and collectively ~ to better reflect the gospel, the good news of God's love for us and for all creation, the life and work of Jesus whose example we try to follow.

There's a lot that's challenging in the world, and in our own lives, right now. We've got mass shootings, and more mass shootings; the war in Ukraine and so many other places as well; rising prices on gas, food, and simply everything; job struggles; health struggles; family and relationship struggles; covid is still real and present and now we've got monkey pox to look out for (please don't panic about that); political bitterness; rising poverty and need; ... the list could go on and on. I want us to take those things seriously, and do our part to work to resolve the struggles where we can, knowing that nothing any of us do will be enough, but that working together we can and do affect real and lasting change in the world.

But at the same time, I want us to start to tell a different story, to reclaim the news from only the stories of gloom, heartbreak, and more and start to tell the story of the goodness of humanity, the times when people help each other, when kindness and compassion are the rule rather than the exception, when someone stops to wait for baby geese to cross the road or offers a life-saving bone marrow donation to a stranger. My friends, those stories are not the exception that the news would have us believe they are. They're happening every day, in big ways and small, often getting no attention or press coverage (or if they do they're being talked about as unusual). But the reality is that there is so much more good in the world than we often imagine because the media is good at feeding us a diet of despair.

So in these longer summer days I wonder if we might all work intentionally at telling those stories, at making it a part of our daily lives, our practice of the faith. Could we come up with five (or maybe just one) act of goodness and grace each day? Could you bring a list of six or seven of them to church on Sunday for prayer time? Could we talk about the good and change how we look at the world, seeing with the eyes of God, the eyes of love, the eyes of grace and goodness that know how much hope there really is in the world?

In peace and grace, Pastor Moira

News From UCCI (our Wisconsin Conference Church Camps)

Dear friends of the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ,

We greet you in the hope of the Resurrection as signs of springtime lift our spirits! On behalf of the boards of directors of both the Wisconsin Conference and United Church Camps, Inc., we want to communicate with you directly and transparently about some challenges and opportunities we face as partner organizations in a key component of the mission and ministry of the Wisconsin Conference. As many of you know, the lengthy pandemic has taken a particularly hard toll on UCCI. After two years of drastically reduced programming, UCCI faces a potentially insurmountable level of debt. Were it not for the very generous gifts received in our 2020 "Keep the Fires Burning" campaign and two Paycheck Protection Program loans, both now forgiven, UCCI would have been faced with the almost certain sale of one of our precious camp and retreat centers. The Conference board of directors has extended an additional \$250,000 loan to assist UCCI through the summer programming season.

Assuming the worst of the pandemic is behind us, we are taking several steps toward an eventual season of solvency, allowing all three UCCI ministry sites to continue to offer hospitality, programming, and sacred outdoor experiences. This process involves a rigorous evaluation of programming, staffing, facility use, and options for repositioning our Outdoor Ministries for greater efficiency.

A key component of our faithful stewardship, and of UCCI's future success, includes a bold and purposeful reset at Daycholah Center, formerly known as Pilgrim Center. A task force is currently working on a new mission plan, aimed at retaining faith formation as a priority while expanding programming to a wider constituency, and cultivating new partnerships for retreat, camping, and recreational opportunities. Our boards of directors are discerning together how to best leverage the collective strengths, assets, and leadership capabilities of both organizations to position UCCI for a strong and viable future. We ask for your prayers and trust as we contemplate the options and listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The pandemic has prompted significant changes, and accelerated many trends, in Church and culture. Thus, we are mindful of both the implications and opportunities this presents for the entire ecosystem of the United Church of Christ in Wisconsin.

Together we remain convinced that our Outdoor Ministries will thrive post-COVID. While the Church continues to navigate declines in membership there remains a deep hunger in the hearts of many to find meaning in life, and to touch the sacred through the beauty of nature and the sharing of relationships.

We want you to know this process of discernment must include some big options. The collective wisdom and creative energy of our collaborating boards brings steady reassurance that the way forward will be Spirit led, strategically planned, and diligently carried out.

While our current deliberations will take a few more months, please know that our intention is to communicate with you again by midsummer.

On behalf of our boards of directors, we remain faithfully yours in Christ,
The Rev James Schleif, interim director United Church Camps Inc
The Rev Franz Rigert, conference minister Wisconsin Conference UCC

*Church Council "Preliminary" Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2022*

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Schomisch with Trevor Rohloff, Todd St. John, 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 Todd St. John 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, 2 funerals
- Attended church meetings, administrative meetings, and group meetings

Committee Reports

Membership: Nothing to report at this time.

Christian Ed: Christian Family Home day was celebrated on May 8 with handing out flowers to all. Last Sunday School class will be May 21. Next meeting is August 2 at 7:00 pm.

Music / Worship: Meeting on May 15 after worship service.

House/Building Grounds: Gary is waiting on more quotes for the plastering. Elevator maintenance was done on April 26 and found the phone in the elevator was not working, replaced the phone and it is now working.

Stewardship: We will be collecting for Strengthen the Church during June and the Fire Department for July.

Cemetery: Nothing to report at this time.

Endowment: Nothing to report at this time.

Women's Guild: They met on May 4. Nursery items were purchased and received. Rummage Sale dates are June 16-18 and 23-25. Items can be brought to the church at any time, Please place items near the designated areas.

Old Business:

- We are waiting on supplies for the window, hope to be in mid-May.
- There will be a congregational meeting on May 22 to approve the updated by-laws, and to approve the raised gardens project.

New Business:

- We looked at the results of the Easter breakfast. We served about 80 people. We collected about \$400 from the table offerings. We are still deciding on where that will be distributed. Pastor Moira made notes for next year.

Prayers and Thank You's:

Keep Sally's mom in your prayers.

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

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Congregational Meeting ~ UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who stayed for our meeting on May 22nd.

The bylaws changes and the garden project were approved.

Gary Vander Linden updated us on his work (for over a year) to get quotes for repairing the plastering in the bell tower and narthex (east side of sanctuary).

Look for an article in this newsletter about the garden project's next steps.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who came to my 20th anniversary party, and everyone who couldn't be there, but sent wishes and cards. We had a wonderful day - a break in the heat and glorious sunshine filled the day.

We had food, and drink, and laughter. We had folks from all three churches talking, and enjoying each other's company.

Special thanks to Mona Ashenbrenner, Michelle Hert & Jenny Mitchell for all their hard work coordinating everything!

Parish Celebrations

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

June Birthdays

2nd ... Tammy Zuleger
3rd ... Wayne Schmidt
5th ... Carol Schmidt
8th ... David Hooyman
13th ... Trevor Rasmussen
Devin Schmidt
14th ... Gary Vander Linden
16th ... Marion Jones
18th ... Jan Boman
19th ... Cheryl Pingel
Ryan Pingel
20th ... Taycie Schmidt
21st ... Connie Rohloff
22nd ... Paul Sassman
23rd ... Heather Lison
Tyler Biese
24th ... Karen Arnold
25th ... Eugene Blake
28th ... Judy Samson
30th ... Cheryl Duhm
David Holz



June Anniversaries

June 4th
Stephen & Barbara Sassman

June 7th
Steven & Cheryl Pingel

June 8th
Donald & Ann Peotter

9th
David & Mary Tesch

21st
Gregory & Barbara Volkman
David & Brenda Holz
Tim & Connie Shannon

22nd
Marc & Kristin Roesler

28th
Michael & Carla Holz
Lindsay & Steve Seefeldt

30th
Kurt & Debbie Boettcher

Apologies to Brandon & Melissa Rohloff whose anniversary on May 31 was accidentally left off the May newsletter list.

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.

June 5, 2022 ~ Pentecost & Communion

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Gary Vander Linden
Bonnie Vander Linden
Robin Schmidt
Lisa Waterstradt

June 12, 2022

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Barry Zuleger
Steve Hanson

June 19, 2022 ~ Father's Day

Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob Menning
Carla Menning

June 26, 2022

Reader Randy Miller
Greeters Kelly Stevens
Dallas Waterstradt

Rummage Sale

Thursday - Saturday
June 16, 17 & 18 and
June 23, 24 & 25
8am to 5pm each day

Sign-up sheets for
set up, sales & clean up
are in the sanctuary now!

*If you'd like to work and aren't
at church, please give a call to
Pastor Moira and we'll get you
on the chart!*

Please, if you can have your
items to church by Sunday
June 12th that will give us
time to get everything set up,
sorted & priced before the
sale without panicking!

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.

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

	04/03/2022	04/10/2022	04/17/2022	04/24/2022		Direct Deposit	Total
Checking deposit	2,677.50	1,476.00	2,127.00	2,984.00		300.00	9,564.50

Member Giving Towards Budget

	04/03/2022	04/10/2022	04/17/2022	04/24/2022		Direct Deposit	Total
General Fund	2,142.50	1,396.00	1,660.00	2,961.00		300.00	8,459.50
Total Member Contributions	2,142.50	1,396.00	1,660.00	2,961.00		300.00	8,459.50

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

	04/03/2022	04/10/2022	04/17/2022	04/24/2022		Direct Deposit	Total
Building Fund	25.00	30.00	25.00	10.00			90.00
One Great Hour Of Sharing	5.00						5.00
Endowment Fund	10.00	30.00	5.00				45.00
Ukraine Aid	445.00	10.00					455.00
UCCI (Camp)	50.00	10.00	30.00				90.00
Easter Breakfast			407.00	13.00			420.00
Total Other Income	535.00	80.00	467.00	23.00			1,105.00

Total Checking Deposit	2,677.50	1,476.00	2,127.00	2,984.00		300.00	9,564.50
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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 ~ APRIL 2022

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$19,333.27
	Deposits	\$90.00
	Interest	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$19,423.27
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
Deposits		\$0.00
<u>Disbursements</u>		<u>\$0.00</u>
Ending Balance		\$4,455.00
General Fund		Beginning Balance
	Interest	\$0.51
	Deposits	\$9,474.50
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$10,424.16)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$26,179.55
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
Deposits		\$0.00
<u>Disbursements</u>		<u>\$0.00</u>
Ending Balance		\$35,000.00
Plastering Fund		Beginning Balance
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$2,252.00
	Totals	Beginning Balance
Deposits		\$9,564.50
Interest		\$0.51
<u>Disbursements</u>		<u>(\$10,424.29)</u>
Ending Balance		\$98,795.29

YTD Membership Giving	\$38,402.50
YTD Expenses	(\$34,326.64)
Net Amount*	\$4,075.86
* excludes contributions and disbursements for special offerings	

Women's Guild News

The Women's Guild met on Wednesday May 4, 2022 with nine members present at 1:30pm. Our devotional leader was Roberta Lorenz. She lead us in prayer and shared several stories from her book of many "Small Miracles" - when a stranger pays a grocery bill for someone who didn't have enough money to pay; another of kids playing hide and seek and the youngest kid hid in a refrigerator and nearly died, but with the luck of a dear friend opened the door in time (be very careful); another family of not having much communication brought happiness with bags of groceries when in need – try to keep in touch. Joy and love is precious. Waste not, want not. A penny saved is a penny earned. The best things in life are free – if you're a bird. Sticks and stones may break your bonds, but names will never hurt you. Share and share alike. It's better to forgive than to fight. We all have a lot to be thankful for. 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 \$10,332.33 in the general fund and \$497.98 in the memorial fund.

We thanked Karen Arnold, Bobbi Jo Figlinski and others for setting up the beautiful flowers at Easter and volunteering for 2023. Thanks to the Council for setting up the Easter Breakfast.

The nursery is getting new changes. Parents gave the guild some ideas. A motion was made and seconded that the guild will give up to \$600 towards the nursery. Motion carried.

Rummage sale items can be brought in for the sale on June 16, 17, 18 & 23, 24, 25. Flyers are being prepared. Mother's Day & Family Home day are being taken care of.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer in unison, sang the doxology, and were served a delicious butterscotch dessert by Jan Rohloff, our hostess.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday June 1, 2022 at 1:30pm with Audrey Hooyman-Blake with devotions and Roberta Lorenz as hostess.

Audrey Hooyman-Blake, secretary

June 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 ~ 10:15 am Worship
Cecil ~ 7pm (through September 4th)

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 1:30pm BC Women's Guild	2	3 4pm C Wedding rehearsal	4 1pm C Bonnin Marcks Wedding
	5 <i>Communion</i> TJ SCRIP Pentecost <i>Wear RED</i> <i>for the Spirit</i>	6	7	8	Pastor at WI Conference Annual Meeting (through Sunday)	
12 Randy Miller leads worship <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Conference Mtg </div>	13	14 T 2pm New Hope Circle 6:30pm BC Council	15 5-7pm ALC Pantry	16	17	18 9-11am ALC Pantry
19 <i>Father's Day</i>	20	21	22	Black Creek Rummage Sale 8am - 5pm (each day)		
26	27	28 Noon—3pm C Closet	29	23 9am C Closet work day	24	25
				Black Creek Rummage Sale 8am - 5pm (each day)		
				30	July 1	July 2

News From The Church Garden...



At the May congregational meeting we approved moving forward with the idea of a church garden to provide fresh produce to folks in need in our communities through our local food pantries. We hope to plant our first crops next Spring (2023) which means we've got work to do this summer, fall, and winter.

Pastor Moira has a list of names of folks who have already expressed interest in the project, but maybe you're interested and haven't let her know? Drop her an email, text, or call and we'll get you on the garden info list.

First we get the gardening team together (and maybe get ourselves a snazzy name ... Garden of Eating?), and make more official plans for the garden—scale drawings; budgets for raised beds, fencing, a greenhouse, and a storage shed; contacting digger's hotline so we don't cause problems; checking with the fire department and the village about building codes (how we can or can't put up a fence, do we need a permit for a fence, or a greenhouse, etc.); ideas about how we can rotate garden care (planting, weeding, watering, and general maintenance). We also need to send folks out to talk with our local food pantries about their distribution schedules, what produce would be best for us to provide, and how we can get the produce to them in a timely manner for their clients.

We're hoping to get the team together in late June or early July so stay tuned for meeting dates and times.

Scripture Readings

Sunday June 5, 2022

Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21

John 14.15-27

Sunday June 12, 2022

Randy Miller leads worship

Proverbs 8.22-31

Romans 5.1-5

Sunday June 19, 2022

Father's Day

1 Kings 19.1-15a

Galatians 3.23-29

Sunday June 26, 2022

2 Kings 2.1-14

Psalm 77

Sunday July 3, 2022

Galatians 6.7-10

Luke 10.1-11

Sunday July 11, 2022

Colossians 1.1-14

Luke 10.25-37

June
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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Black Creek, Wisconsin 54106

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Office email stjcreek@gmail.com
Website www.stjucbc.com
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YouTube: search for Moira Finley

Pastor Moira Finley
Phone 715-851-3080
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Wisconsin Conference UCC
www.wiucc.org

United Church of Christ
www.ucc.org



Year of Giving ~ Strengthen The Church

A special offering of the UCC that helps our entire denomination think in new ways about how we are called to be the church in this particular time and place. This offering helps start (plant) new churches, as well as renew and revitalize existing churches. This fund also helps develop the spiritual life of our youth and young adults through ministries designed to engage the next generation with the possibilities of church life and leadership. Conferences may use up to 50% of the offering for local and regional efforts such as the Wisconsin Conference UCC's Lay Academy, Damascus Project, and other programs to help support clergy and congregations through times of transition, conflict, and change. Strengthen The Church is an annual opportunity for everyone in the UCC to share the gospel in new ways – starting new churches, renewing existing churches, nurturing new leaders, and growing the UCC as a community of extravagant welcome.

Look for the envelopes at both entrances to the sanctuary!

US Mass Shootings

233

January 1, 2022
to
June 2, 2022

*According to the
Gun Violence Archive*