

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

It's time again for turkey, potatoes, cranberries, green beans, sweet potatoes, Brussel sprouts (maybe), and my favorite ~ stuffing. But most importantly, it's PIE season. If my body wouldn't object, I would have a bowl of stuffing and then four or five or six pieces of different kinds of pie. But, my body will be happier if I try to balance it with a nice salad, some more green beans, and small tastes of pie which is why I've started making them in cupcake pans, little two or three bite pies that allow me to have some variety without overdoing it quite as much.

There are some problems with the version of the first Thanksgiving that many (most) of us learned in school. The history of colonial expansion, and how indigenous people were, and are, treated even today is a complicated one, something that we need to face directly, honestly and openly so that together we might build a better future for all humanity, and all creation. But that is a much bigger conversation, part of the long work of true Christian faith and discipleship.

But for now, for this November, I'd like us to think about gratitude as a way of life for those of us who are working to follow Jesus. It's easy to get caught up in thinking that we are entitled to the things we have, and the lives we live. We can act as if we are owed our blessings, the comforts of our homes, friends, family, community, possessions, and more. But we aren't. All of it, all of life from our every breath to our every piece of pie, is a gift from God's incredible love and grace. This season of Thanksgiving calls our attention to doing just that ~ giving thanks for the blessings of our lives, and for the gift of life itself.

But what if we lived every day as if it were Thanksgiving? We could eat pie every day (well, maybe not), but we could surely give thanks to God for all that we have, all that we are, and all that might yet come before us. We could wake up in the morning and give thanks for our eyes opening, for the roof over our heads, for the coffee or tea we enjoy while it's getting colder outside. We could sit down at our lunch table and give thanks for the food that nourishes our bodies, the hands that helped grow and prepare it. We could take our shower, and turn up the thermostat, and put gas in the car, and take out the garbage and give thanks for all of it. And every night we could lie down again, giving thanks for all that the day held ~ the good, the hard, and the mundane ~ knowing that through it all God was and always will be with us, guiding us, nurturing us, inspiring us, encouraging us, and loving us completely.

So, my friends, let us be thank-filled people not just on the third Thursday in November, but each and every day of our lives. Let us rejoice in our many blessings and trust in God's presence.

In peace and grace, Pastor Moira

Coming Soon ... At Home Advent Devotional Books

To help you & your family prepare your hearts, minds, and homes for the miracle of Jesus' birth we will once again have an at-home Advent devotional book. They will be available by email (with the weekly email worship materials) and in all three churches on Sunday November 20th.

Church Council Meeting Minutes ~ October 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Schomisch with Trevor Rohloff, 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 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
- Conducted a funeral
- Begin confirmation class on 10/9

Committee Reports

Membership: Nothing at this time.

Christian Ed: Rally Sunday was well attended. Confirmation class will begin on October 9th. Children's Christmas program will be Sunday, December 18th at 10:15 during worship service. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 18th at 6:30 pm.

Music / Worship: They met on Sunday, September 18th. Discussed the search for the new musician and posted ads around the area, Lawrence University and St. Norbert College. Choir will sing once a month and the Sunday School children will sing once a month. The other Sundays will be open for special music. The next meeting will be Sunday, February 5th after worship service.

House/Building Grounds: Thank you to Trevor for fixing the hole in the driveway. The contract is signed for the plastering repair. The sanitary humidifiers are old and can't find replacement filters, we are looking into other ways to make new filters work since the system works fine yet. Spectrum came to switch the elevator phone from CenturyLink but we are waiting on Kone to make sure it works. Please have your cell phone with you when you are on the elevator just in case.

Stewardship: We are collecting for the following:

October - Neighbors in Need

November - Turkey Fund

December - Christmas Fund / Adopt a Family

Cemetery: Clean up day is scheduled for Saturday, October 22 at 9:00 am.

Endowment: There has been an email established for statements and transactions.

Women's Guild: They met on Wednesday, October 12th for a craft day to cover hangers for the rummage sale to hang delicate clothes on.

Garden Project: Diggers Hotline completed their work, building permits are in progress, sod is removed (Thank You to Mark Hooyman), and materials are being ordered.

Old Business:

- Waiting on stain glass window
- There was a motion to approve the plastering quote of \$3510.50. Motion passed.
- We are looking to get the Parish Relations committee going again.
- The sump pump battery backup, check valve and GFI were added.

New Business:

- New office computer anti-virus software was purchased for \$50/year. Motion was made and approved.

Prayers and Thank You's:

Jim Rucci from his hip surgery, Bob Menning's mom, Steve Schomisch's sister for heart surgery.

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

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, November 8th at 6:00 pm with a Joint Council Dinner provided by Pastor Moira.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Parish Celebrations

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

November Birthdays

1st	...	Michael Flaherty
2nd	...	Tim Rihm
		Lila Hooyman
5th	...	Bev Kruse
6th	...	Duane Henke
		Connie Wheeler
7th	...	Randy Miller
8th	...	Keith Kruse
		Abbie Flaherty
		Samantha Scott
9th	...	Debbie Boettcher
11th	...	Marcus Flaherty
		Seija Neff
19th	...	Paul Henning
20th	...	Audrey Hooyman-Blake
22nd	...	Adam Rihm
28th	...	Jaiden Wheeler
		Maddelyn Holz
30th	...	Joe Biese
		Ava Hooyman

November Anniversaries

November 7th
Steve & Pat Schomisch

No worship on Sunday December 25

Mark your calendars now ...
join us for Christmas Eve and then spend
Christmas Day with your family & friends.
There will be no worship on Sunday December
25th in any of our parish churches.

Readers & Greeters Schedule

If you are unable to make your date, please talk
with Pastor Moira & Connie Wheeler.

On communion Sunday,
greeters help serve communion.

Sunday November 6 ~ Communion

Reader	Bob Menning
Greeters	Bob & Carla Menning Mike & Connie Rohloff

Sunday November 13

Reader	Connie Wheeler
Greeters	Verla Pingel & Connie Wheeler

Sunday November 20

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

Sunday November 27

Reader	Jim Rucci
Greeters	Jim Rucci & Randy Miller

Sunday December 4 ~ Communion

Reader	Randy Miller
Greeters	Mike & Sally Dickinson Ryan & Stephanie Julius

Sunday December 11, 2022

Reader	Jan Rohloff
Greeters	Jan Rohloff & Trevor Rohloff

Sunday December 18, 2022

Christmas Program

Reader	Connie Wheeler
Greeters	Connie Wheeler & Hollie Wheeler

Saturday December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve with Communion, 7pm

Reader	Bob Menning
Greeters	Bob & Carla Menning Connie Wheeler & Cailey Wheeler

Sabbatical Corner...

What's a sabbatical? It is an extended time for renewal and continuing education. It's a time for Pastor Moira to reconnect with herself, as a person of faith, to nourish her soul, to restore and renew the light of God within her. It is an extended sabbath, a gift of time from God, so that Pastor Moira can prevent burn-out (which is very common in ministry and other caring professions). This time will allow her to continue enjoying her ministry with us for many years to come.

So it's vacation? No. It's more like extended continuing education time where Pastor Moira works on her faith, and her ministry skills (and probably takes a few more naps).

How long is Pastor Moira's sabbatical? Pastor Moira's call with us says she gets three months every five years.

Um? What? She'll be gone for three months? No. Don't panic. Pastor Moira is going to take her sabbatical in two blocks, one for six weeks (June 25 — July 31, 2023) and one for four weeks (December 31, 2023 — January 24, 2024).

Has she done this before? **Yes, twice in the time she's been with Trinity & Cecil she's had a sabbatical** (during 2008-2009 & 2015-2016). Trinity & Cecil have been through this twice so Black Creek is going to lean on the wisdom and experience of our partners in ministry **about this since they've never had a pastor take a sabbatical before.**

What will she do while she's away? Plans are still evolving, but during the first part she'll be traveling to Indianapolis, IN for the United Church of Christ's General Synod, doing advocacy for Break The Silence Sunday. There will also be a lot of reading, particularly **about the changing face of rural ministry.** In the second part she's going to take a train trip to Massachusetts.

What will we do while she's away? The combined parish leadership is working on the answer to that question. We will have folks provide worship leadership during these weeks. We'll also work with area pastors to provide care for emergencies while members of the parish do regular calls and visits. Generally speaking, we also don't schedule weddings or baptisms during the sabbatical and we'll work with the area funeral homes to cover those kinds of emergencies.

In the coming months, much more information will be provided about what Pastor Moira will be doing during her sabbatical, the sabbatical worship schedule, and how we **will take care of pastoral care. You'll probably have lots of questions, so please don't** hesitate to reach out to Pastor Moira or a member of the Trinity Council, Cecil Consistory or Black Creek Council!

St. John's United Church of Christ Financial Secretary's Report ~ SEPTEMBER 2022							
	09/04/2022	09/11/2022	09/18/2022	09/25/2022		Direct Deposit	Total
Checking deposit	1,101.00	2,571.00	1,725.80	2,431.00		300.00	8,131.50
Member Giving Towards Budget							
	09/04/2022	09/11/2022	09/18/2022	09/25/2022		Direct Deposit	Total
General Fund	1,001.00	2,378.00	1,718.50	2,151.00		300.00	7,548.50
Fuel Fund		43.00					43.00
Total Member Contributions	1,001.00	2,421.00	1,728.50	2,181.00		300.00	7,691.50
Other Income (in & out funds and income for designated purposes)							
	09/04/2022	09/11/2022	09/18/2022	09/25/2022		Direct Deposit	Total
Building Fund				210.00			210.00
Fall Feast	50.00						50.00
Food Pantry	50.00						50.00
Special Bench Contribution		150.00					150.00
Community Garden				15.00			15.00
Good Shepherd Bus Fund				25.00			25.00
Total Other Income	100.00	150.00	0.00	250.00		0.00	500.00
Total Checking Deposit	1,101.00	2,571.00	1,725.80	2,431.00		300.00	8,131.50

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

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$19,692.27
	Deposits	\$210.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$19,902.27

Memorial Fund	Beginning Balance	\$10,205.47
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$10,205.47

Organ Fund	Beginning Balance	\$4,455.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$4,455.00

General Fund	Beginning Balance	\$29,504.53
	Interest	\$0.51
	Deposits	\$7,906.50
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$7,766.57)
	Ending Balance	\$29,644.97

Boiler/Furnace Fund	Beginning Balance	\$1,800.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$1,800.00

Stained Glass Fund	Beginning Balance	\$35,000.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$35,000.00

Plastering Fund	Beginning Balance	\$7,480.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$7,480.00

Gardening Project	Beginning Balance	\$0.00
	Deposits	\$15.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$15.00

**We appreciate your continuing
to send contributions by mail**

as you are able:

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

YTD Membership Giving	\$81,155.05
YTD Expenses	(\$75,706.72)
Net Amount*	\$5,448.33

*** excludes contributions and
disbursements for special offerings**

FUND TOTALS

Beginning Balance	\$110,493.06
Deposits	\$5,884.00
Interest	\$0.52
<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$8,240.31)
Ending Balance	\$108,137.27

***All Church Christmas Party
Thursday December 1, 2022***

Join us for food & festivities,
prayers & skits,
carols & more!

POTLUCK dinner begins
at 6:30pm
Program to follow.

Questions?
Talk with Pastor Moira
about the meal &
Sue Biese about the program.

**Church Christmas Decorating
Tuesday November 22nd
Beginning at 6pm**

Join us to help beautify the
sanctuary, the entrances to the
church & more for the Advent &
Christmas Season. Snacks &
drinks will be provided!

Questions?
Talk with Lizzie or Dave Tesch,
Jan or Connie Rohloff
or Pastor Moira

**Youth Group
Turkey Fundraiser**

Help us raise at least \$1500 to
purchase turkeys for the Salvation
Army Thanksgiving meal!
All the turkeys stay local, helping
families in our area enjoy the
abundance of a Thanksgiving feast.

We have fabulous items for auction
which can be seen in the Gathering
Room at church and at our online
auction site:

[https://auctria.events/
SJUCCBC2022TURKEYS](https://auctria.events/SJUCCBC2022TURKEYS)

You can bid in person or online.
To bid online, visit the site then
click “Auction” to view the items,
register to bid and make your offer.

All bids are updated on Sunday
afternoons and bidding in both
forms closes at 10am on Sunday
November 13th

Monetary donations are also more
than welcome. Look for the Turkey
Fund envelopes or simply send a
check to church with “Turkey
Fund” in the memo line.

Questions?
Talk with Sue Biese
or Pastor Moira

November 2022

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 ~ 9am Christian Ed for all ages & 10:15 am Worship

Cecil ~ 4pm (beginning September 11th)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> Key to locations: BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran </div>		1	2 9am BC Women's Guild Clean Up Day 6:30pm BC Choir	3	4	5 <i>Pastor Moira out of town for a wedding, available by phone</i> <i>Daylight Savings ENDS Clocks back!</i>
6 <i>Communion</i> SCRIP Order Day All Saints Sunday 11:30am BC Confirmation	7	8 9am ALC Pantry Board 2pm T New Hope Circle 6:30pm BC Leadership Dinner	9 6:30pm BC Choir	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> Cecil Soup Sale Preparations	12 T—hall reserved Cecil Soup Sale Preparations
13 Cecil Soup Sale	14	15 6:30pm BC Christian Education	16 4-6pm ALC Pantry 5:30pm BC Budget Cmte 6:30pm BC Choir	17 9am C Closet work day	18	19 9-11am ALC Pantry
20	21	22 Noon-3pm C Closet 6pm BC Christmas decorating	23	24 Happy Thanksgiving	25	26
27 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	28	29	30	December 1 6:30pm BC All Church Christmas Party POTLUCK	December 2	December 3 <i>Tomorrow...</i> ♥ Communion ♥ SCRIP ♥ Confirmation ♥ BC Youth Bell Ringing

2022 Fall Youth Group News

Work Camp Report ~ a wonderful group of 16 members of our church went to Daycholah Center on Green Lake and helped with winterizing projects like cutting and stacking wood for the camp. **The camp's interim director said we were amazing! We worked hard & had a lot of fun. Plan now for next year ... open to everyone from 4 to 104!**



Youth Group Meeting ~ November 20th at 9am

Upcoming activities:

- **TURKEY AUCTION & FUNDRAISER** Donation envelopes are available at church and The auction is on - items can be viewed in the Gathering Room or on the auction website: <https://auctria.events/SJUCCBC2022TURKEYS>
- Thursday December 1st is the All-Church Christmas party. We will participate in the program. POTLUCK dinner with a program following.
- **Sunday December 4th ~ Bell ringing at Sal's in Black Creek at 9am**

Youth Group Leaders: Sue Biese 920-475-2147 Connie Wheeler 920-850-8937
Gary Vander Linden 920-984-3734-8937

Women's Guild News

The Women's Guild gathered on Wednesday October 12th for our first crafts day. We worked on covering hangers with yarn so **they'll better hold items for next year's rummage sale!** A brave group of eleven of us worked for several hours, and some of us even took projects home and now we have more than 80 covered hangers!



Our next gathering is on Wednesday November 2nd for kitchen & hall clean up. We will gather at 9am and a lunch will be provided.

After that, we're getting ready for the All Church Christmas Party on Thursday December 1st. We'll gather for a POTLUCK meal at 6:30pm followed by a program of skits, readings, prayers, carols, and more as we usher in the Advent and Christmas season!

Everyone is welcome to join us at all our gatherings & meetings.

SCRIP CORNER

The holidays are just around the corner & SCRIP is a perfect way to shop. You can place your order while wearing your pajamas, and every order you place helps support the work of YOUR church. Working with Raise Right we can offer you gift cards ofr hundreds and hundreds of local & national retailers.



- ♥ Need a gas card for that hard to shop for nephew who lives out west somewhere?
- ♥ Or what about a coffee shop card for that grandchild who has gone to college?
- ♥ Or what about a restaurant card to thank you garbage collector or post person?
- ♥ Or what about a book store gift card for your favorite sister?
- ♥ Or maybe your babysitter or hair stylist likes scented candles or soap - get them a Bath & Body Works card perhaps.
- ♥ Maybe that hunter in your life is thinking of a new deer stand - we can set you up at Fleet Farm and other places.
- ♥ How about a grocery card so you can get all your holiday meal fixings and donate to the church at the same time?

If you can think of a shop, we've pretty much got you covered!

You purchase the cards through the church, receiving full face value, and then the church receives a percentage back (anywhere from 2-15% depending on the retailer). SCRIP cards are a wonderful way to give gifts, and to use for your regular **expenses. They also provide you some privacy and protection since you won't have to use your bank cards at the gas pump, or when you're traveling.**

To begin with (and to cover shipping costs) we will put in orders on the first Sunday of the month. Cards will be delivered to our coordinator (Brandi Schomisch) during that week, and distributed on the second Sunday.

Our next order dates for the holidays are:

November 6th (cards available for pickup on November 13)

December 4th (cards available for pickup on December 11)

There is a SCRIP order station in the gathering room where you can find all kinds of information including the LONG list of participating retailers across the country and the percentage back that the church will receive for your purchases.

You'll also find order forms, and a basket where you can place your orders at any time (they'll be picked up & secured until the first Sunday of the month).

St. John's UCC Black Creek
SCRIP Order Form (9/2022)

Name: _____

Date: _____

*These are only the most popular.
 There are more than 500 stores
 available ~ JUST ASK!*

**Make checks payable to:
 St. John's UCC Scrip**

Store	%	Amount	#	Total
Applebee's	8%	\$25		
		\$50		
BP	1.5%	\$50		
Cabela's	10%	\$25		
		\$100		
Cenex	3%	\$25		
		\$100		
CVS	6%	\$25		
		\$100		
Dairy Queen	3%	\$10		
Dick's Sporting	8%	\$25		
		\$100		
Domino's	8%	\$10		
		\$25		
Festival	3%	\$25		
		\$50		
		\$100		
Fleet Farm	3.5%	\$25		
		\$100		
Home Depot	4%	\$25		
		\$100		
Kohl's	4%	\$25		
		\$100		
Kwik Trip	4%	\$25		
		\$50		
		\$100		

Store	%	Amount	#	Total
Little Caesar's	8%	\$20		
Meijer	3%	\$10		
		\$25		
		\$50		
		\$100		
Menards	3%	\$25		
		\$100		
		\$500		
Shell	1.5%	\$25		
		\$50		
		\$100		
Target	2.5%	\$25		
		\$50		
		\$100		
Walmart	2.5%	\$25		
		\$50		
		\$100		
Olive Garden	8%	\$25		
		\$100		
Panera	8%	\$10		
		\$25		
		\$50		
Papa Murphy	8%	\$10		
Starbucks	7%	\$10		
		\$25		
Subway	4.5%	\$10		
		\$50		
Visa Gift Cards	1.25	\$50		
		\$100		
		\$250		
Other Cards				
TOTALS				

Scripture Readings

Sunday November 6, 2022

Communion

All Saints Sunday

Hebrews 11.13-16 & 12.1-2

Matthew 1.1-6, 15-16

Sermon ~ Cloud Storage

Sunday November 13, 2022

Psalm 98

Isaiah 65.17-25

Sermon ~ Newness

Sunday November 20, 2022

Reign of Christ Sunday

Thanksgiving Sunday

Psalm 65

Revelation 21.1-7

Sermon ~ A Kingdom

Sunday November 27, 2022

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35.1-10

Matthew 3.1-12

Sermon ~ John The Baptist

Sunday December 4, 2022

Communion

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11.1-9

John 1.1-18

Sermon ~ Joseph

News From The Church Garden... The Garden of Eatin



The sod has been removed
(thank you to Mark & Randall Hooyman)!

The greenhouse is here (in boxes) and will prayerfully be assembled before you're reading this article. Once that's in place we'll be ordering everything else - garden beds, benches (both of which are given in memory of church member's loved ones), work benches, and more. We plan to assemble things during the winter in the fellowship hall and move them into place as possible given the snowfall.

In the late winter/spring we'll start seeds in the greenhouse, order a giant load of dirt, and start planting. We'll also arrange with a fence contractor to build for us to keep the critters out. Hopefully by next summer we'll be giving away bushels of tomatoes & beans and enjoying some fresh strawberries!

Diagrams & updates are posted on the white board near the Gathering Room.

Questions? Want to help?
Talk to Pastor Moira

Election Day Tuesday November 8th

Check your voter registration status,
polling place location & hours,
and what's on your ballot at
<https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>

**November
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



**Cecil Fall Soup Sale ~ Sunday
November 13, 2022**

The cold and darker days have settled in which means that it's SOUP SEASON.

Order your quarts of delicious soup from St. John's in Cecil

Our famous chicken noodle,
Creamy potato &
Beef chili with noodles

Only \$5 each!

Soup will be delivered to Black Creek for pick up on Sunday November 13th

Look for the order forms at church or contact Pastor Moira to reserve your choices

**Daylight Savings
Time Ends ~
November 6th**

Set your clocks
BACK one hour
before bed
on Saturday
November 5th or
you'll be really
early to church!

And check your
smoke & carbon
monoxide
detectors too!

**US Mass
Shootings**

559

January 1, 2022
to
October 26, 2022

*According to the
Gun Violence
Archive*