

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

Here we are, at the beginning of March, already in the second week of Lent, and it feels strange. I've written about it a lot, that it seems this year started both very quickly, and very slowly. Yet, here we are already. They're playing baseball down in Florida and Arizona. The stores are all stocked with seeds, and dirt, and things to start getting our gardens ready. Many of us are dreaming of stowing away the heavy coats, gloves, mittens, and hats for another year.

And then, just when we were really looking forward to spring, the world reminded us that we live in Wisconsin. Over the past week I've gotten almost 30 inches of snow at my place in Bonduel. The storm that came during the week of Ash Wednesday stalled right over highway 29 and dumped, and dumped, and dumped snow at my place, and on the steps at Cecil.

I spent Mardi Gras eating pancakes, and watching the weather reports, noticing as the day went on the number of churches that had called in their cancellations to the news stations, and eventually doing the same for our parish, knowing that as much as we might miss gathering together for worship on Ash Wednesday, the right decision was to cancel, to let people stay home, off the roads, and as safe as possible.

So here we are at the beginning of a strange Lent, one that doesn't quite feel like it started properly since we didn't have that in-person experience of sharing ashes and communion. This Lent has me thinking about Lent 2020 which started great, with worshipping together, and then just a few weeks in fell apart when covid changed our lives and the life of the world.

Thankfully we're not in that place, the worldwide panic and shutdown, and in these years we've learned at least one thing together ~ how to do video worship. I was grateful that, before the snow started to fall too heavily I could record a service and send it out to folks. It's not a perfect system, of course, because we do have some folks who don't have the technology, or the comfort with it, or the

internet access for video streaming, but even with its limits the video worship we started has continued and allows us to be connected in ways we weren't able to be in the "before" times.

We often spend a lot of the Lenten season thinking about what we've given up, trying to get control of our addictions by giving up sweets (OK, maybe that's just me), and working on ridding ourselves of the distractions that keep us from giving ourselves completely to God. And that's a very good, and important thing to do in the life of faith.

But, what if Lent is also a season of taking things on, of adding to our lives practices and disciplines that help us in our life of discipleship? What if, instead of just giving up the soda, we took on a practice of daily prayer, or making a weekly phone call to someone we know who is lonely, or visiting a shut-in, or volunteering, or ... you get the idea.

What if this season wasn't only about the denial of worldly things, but also about the taking on of worldly things that help us grow as people and communities of faith? It's like that video worship ~ we didn't used to do it, but now lots of us can't imagine our parish without it. We can take on things, practices and habits of faith that help us during this season that will help us grow more fully into Jesus' disciples.

I pray that this Lent might be a gift to all of us, however we practice it, that we might be ready to embrace the fullness of God's love made known to us in Jesus, through his life, death, and most importantly his resurrection.

In peace and grace, Pastor Moira

Keep a list of small, ordinary things that make you happy.

A new flower from your plant baby. That book you can't wait to finish.

When you hear something wonderful has happened to someone you love.

Cultivate the habit of noticing everyday joy.

After a while, you won't even have to try.

~ Nanea Hoffman

This part is intentionally left blank
so that you can clip out the Easter flower dedication form
on the other side and you won't lose any important information

Parish Celebrations

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

March Birthdays

3rd	...	Tim Arnold
		Kody Holz
5th	...	Kelly Stevens
10th	...	Haydan Schmidt
12th	...	Vi Brown-Luebke
13th	...	Jack Holz
		Ember Waterstradt
16th	...	Bob Menning
		John Wheeler
18th	...	Saxton Werner (happy 1st)
21st	...	Wyatt Samson
23rd	...	Brent Boettcher
25th	...	Darwin Ethington
		Carla Menning
		Corbin Rohloff (happy 1st)
27th	...	Ryan Schomisch, Sr.
30th	...	Donna Stucki
		Wes Biese

March Anniversaries

14th
Bonnie & Gary Vander Linden
25th
Kris & Randall Vande Corput
Heather & Chad Lison
30th
Taycie & Paul Schmidt



Easter Flowers For The Sanctuary

To celebrate Jesus' resurrection we would like to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023

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 March 31st

You are also welcome to bring your own plants or flowers.

Dedications must be received by Sunday April 2nd to be included in the Easter worship bulletin.

Everything **MUST** be at church by Friday April 7th

Questions? Talk with Karen Arnold or Pastor Moira



2023 Easter Flower Dedication Form

Please PRINT clearly

Your name:

How you would like your dedication to read:

Return to Pastor Moira by Sunday April 2nd

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Palm & Passion Sunday ~ April 2nd

Worship at all three parish churches at the usual time as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem & the last week of his earthly life.

Maundy Thursday ~ April 6th

Remembering the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples ~ Cecil at 6pm

Holy Friday ~ April 7th

Remembering Jesus' arrest, trial & crucifixion ~ Black Creek at 7pm

Easter Sunday ~ April 9th

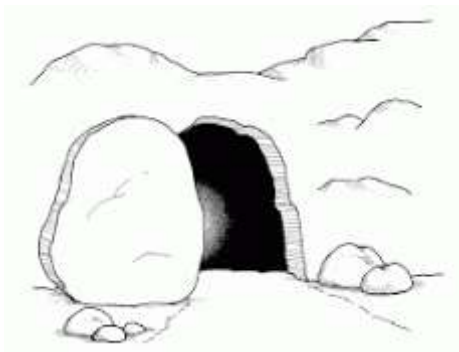
Celebrating the good news of the resurrection

Tri-Jo AT Trinity

Worship at 8:30am with breakfast after

Black Creek

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



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 March 5, 2023 ~ Communion

Reader Sue Biese
Greeters Mike & Connie Rohloff
Lisa Waterstradt

Sunday March 12, 2023

Reader Connie Wheeler
Greeters Connie Wheeler
Cailey Wheeler

Sunday March 26, 2023

Reader Roberta Lorenz
Greeters Ryan & Stephanie Julius

Sunday April 2, 2023 ~ Communion

Palm & Passion Sunday

Reader Autumn Schmidt
Greeters Mark Hooyman
Kelcie Hooyman
Mike & Connie Rohloff

Sunday April 9, 2023 ~ Communion

Easter Sunday

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

Sunday April 16, 2023

Reader Devin Schmidt
Greeters Gene & Audrey Blake

Sunday April 23, 2023 ~

Break The Silence Sunday

Reader Sue Biese
Greeters Joe & Sue Biese

Sunday April 30, 2023

Reader Jim Rucci
Greeters Jim Rucci
Keith Kruse

Sunday May 7, 2023 ~ Communion

Confirmation Sunday

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Steve & Path Schomisch
Robin Schmidt
Jan Rohloff

Sunday May 14, 2023 ~ Mother's Day & Celebration of Christian Home

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

Sunday May 21, 2023 ~

Celebration Sunday

Reader Jan Rohloff
Greeters Mike & Connie Rohloff

Sunday May 28, 2023 ~ Pentecost

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

St. John's U.C.C. Black Creek ~ Council Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2023

Present were: Pat Schomisch, Todd St. John, Lisa Waterstradt, Lizzie Tesch, Trevor Rohloff, Sally Dickinson, Pastor Moira

The meeting was called to order by president Pat Schomisch and Pastor Moira led us in prayer

The first order of business was the organization of the council after the congregational meeting in January; with a motion by Lizzie, second by Todd and unanimous vote the following officers were elected:

President – Pat Schomisch

Vice-President ~ Todd St. John

Treasurer ~ Lisa Waterstradt

Financial Secretary ~ Lizzie Tesch

Secretary ~ will rotate between Trevor Rohloff, Sally Dickinson, and Pastor Moira

We approved a letter to BMO for updated signatures on all church accounts held there.

The minutes of the January 2023 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Lisa, second by Trevor, motion passed

The minutes of the January 22, 2023 congregational meeting were reviewed;

The financial secretary & treasurer reports were read and reviewed; motion to approve by Trevor, second by Todd, motion passed

Pastor Moira reviewed her report including three funerals, the gathering to talk about funeral planning with Joel Walters from Muehl-Boettcher Funeral Home, confirmation classes, and attending the UCC's Rural & Small Church Ministries conference via zoom plus plans for Lent, Holy Week & Easter

Committee Reports

Christian Education ~ Jordan Schmidt will be confirmed May 7, 2023

Worship & Music ~ met on February 5th; discussed Lent plans, ordering supplies, sabbatical, and organ maintenance; next meeting is Sunday May 7, 2023 after worship

Building & Grounds – stained glass inside work is finished; plastering repairs should begin soon; Randerson came to do yearly heating service and to repair the leaking overflow valve in the Christmas décor storage area; acquired a closed cupboard for janitorial supplies in the furnace room

Stewardship ~ March focus is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) and April is United Church Camps

Cemetery ~ nothing to report

Endowment ~ nothing to report

Women's Guild ~ very good gathering on February 8th with Joel Walters from Muehl-Boettcher to talk about sharing our funeral wishes; next meeting is Wednesday March 1st at 1:30pm

Garden Project ~ beds and benches have been ordered; seeds were donated; the greenhouse will be resurrected and secured when the weather improves

SCRIP ~ Woodman's is now available

Old Business ~ Window; inside work finished, waiting on the weather for outside work

Old Business – Plastering; should be done during the beginning of March

Old Business ~ New Committees; continuing

Old Business ~ Sabbatical; Pastor Moira has worked with Mark Schmitt, member in discernment and seminary student, to provide worship coverage for the six weeks in June/July 2023 and four weeks in December 2023/January 2024 at Trinity & Black Creek; Mark has also offered to do some pastoral care for non-emergency situations; per the conference guidelines we would provide compensation at \$284/week divided between Tri-Jo and Black Creek (\$1704 for 6 weeks in June/July is \$852 each part of the parish and \$1136 in December/January is \$568 for each part of the parish); motion to approve by Lizzie, second by Sally, motion passed

Prayers ~ Todd's dad Richard (had stroke), Barry Baker (appendix cancer), Sunny (Lizzie's friend) with thyroid cancer, Roberta, Jim, Lisa St. John

Motion to adjourn by Trevor, second by Sally, motion passed

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting ~ Tuesday March 14, 2023 at 6:30pm

Wednesday Lenten Worship ~ Into The Wild

March 1st through March 29th

Using the work of the artist Henri Matisse (1869-1954) we'll be going "Into The Wild" to think about our life of faith at this particular moment, in the place where we find ourselves, with all that we are carrying. Join us as we reflect on all these things and our life of faith during this Lenten season.

5pm Soup & bread supper will be ready

6:15—6:45pm Worship & Prayer

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

Additional copies of the devotional book are available if you're not able to make it to Wednesday nights. Questions? Want to help? Talk with Pastor Moira

P.S. You can stay and join us for choir practice at 7pm too!

Sabbatical Corner...

It's getting closer, the time for Pastor Moira's sabbatical. This isn't a vacation, but is an extended time of rest, renewal, and continuing education. This is a gift our parish can give Pastor Moira so that she can nourish her soul, prevent burnout, and enthusiastically enjoy being our pastor for many years to come. As a reminder...

The dates for Pastor's sabbatical are:

June 25 – July 31, 2023 (six weeks)

December 31, 2023 – January 24, 2024 (four weeks)

Important Worship Updates...

- ♥ Mark Schmitt, a member in discernment (MID ~ student studying for ordained ministry) will lead worship for all the weeks of Pastor Moira's sabbatical. Mark is a retired school teacher, and is in his final year studying at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. In the coming months you'll get more information about Mark and we're working on a date when he will be in worship with us so you can meet him before June.
- ♥ During the sabbatical period, there will be NO in-person worship at Cecil. Sunday worship will be only at Trinity (8:45am) and Black Creek (10:15am) as usual.
- ♥ Video worship will continue during the sabbatical period, but it will be different than in-person worship. Pastor Moira will coordinate the videos before she goes on leave.

Pastoral Care Updates...

Mark Schmitt will also provide some limited pastoral care during the sabbatical time, but we are still in search of a contact person or two for each church in the parish. This is the person you would call if you were in need and they would decide if it was something a member of the parish could handle (a routine visit or call), something that needed a bit more training (Mark), or something that needed one of our local area clergy for more intensive or complicated pastoral care needs.

Please consider if you'd be willing to be one of our parish volunteers.

You don't have to commit to being available the entire time

(we know, some of it is summer).

If you're interested, or need more information, please talk with Pastor Moira.

Will I be able to call, text, or send messages to Pastor while she's on sabbatical?

Yes, and no. Yes, of course you will. Please continue to share what's going on in your life, your joys and concerns, BUT please don't expect responses (or quick ones). This is a time for Pastor Moira to be away, to step away from the demands of the phone (and email) and maybe even turn it off, to renew herself so she can continue to enjoy being our pastor for years to come. And because it's who she is, she'll still be on social media so you'll know what she's up to.

St. John's United Church of Christ Financial Secretary's Report ~ JANUARY 2023

	1/1/2023	1/8/2023	1/15/2023	1/22/2023	1/29/2023	Total
Checking deposit	3,708.00	4,791.00	1,977.00	1,857.00	574.50	12,907.50
Direct Deposit					300.00	300.00
Total General Fund						
	3,673.00	4,781.00	1,962.00	1,807.00	824.50	13,047.50
Operating Funds						
Building Fund	30.00	10.00	15.00			55.00
Endowment	5.00					5.00
Total Operating Funds	35.00	10.00	15.00			60.00
Special Funds (in alphabetical order)						
Menstrual & Hygiene				50.00	50.00	100.00
Total Special Funds				50.00	50.00	100.00
Total Membership Giving						
	3,708.00	4,791.00	1,977.00	1,857.00	874.50	13,207.50
Other Income						
Total Other Income						
Total Income						
	3,708.00	4,791.00	1,977.00	1,857.00	874.50	13,207.50

St. John's United Church of Christ Treasurer's Report ~ JANUARY 2023

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$20,317.77
	Deposits	\$55.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$20,372.77

Memorial Fund	Beginning Balance	\$10,390.47
	Deposits	\$185.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$10,390.47

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

General Fund	Beginning Balance	\$29,470.04
	Interest	\$0.70
	Deposits	\$13,152.50
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(8,298.88)
	Ending Balance	\$34,324.36

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	\$7,632.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$7,632.00

Gardening Project	Beginning Balance	\$10,320.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$10,320.00

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 a member of the Council

YTD Membership Giving	\$13,047.50
YTD Expenses	(\$8,298.18)
Net Amount*	\$4,749.32

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

FUND TOTALS	
Beginning Balance	\$119,385.28
Deposits	\$13,207.50
Interest	\$0.70
<u>Disbursements</u>	(8,298.88)
Ending Balance	\$124,294.60

SCRIP CORNER

SCRIP is one of the easiest way you can support our church, buying gas, grocery, restaurant, and other gift cards and return a percentage of the full face value to the church.



Our order dates are:

March 5th (for pickup on March 12th)

April 2nd (for pickup on April 9th)

*If you are interested in putting in an order at another time, **please talk to Pastor or Brandi ... we are more than willing as long as we cover the shipping costs.***

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.

Woodman's SCRIP cards are now available.

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).

Questions? Talk with Brandi Schomisch or Pastor Moira

Women's Guild News

Thank you to everyone who came for our February 8th gathering with Joel Walters from Muehl-Boettcher Funeral Home to talk about making arrangements for our end-of-life wishes as a gift to our loved ones. We had 46 folks in attendance!

The March Guild meeting is a more traditional meeting on Wednesday March 1st at 1:30pm with devotions by Karen Zuleger and hostess Audrey Hooyman-Blake.

Scripture Readings

Sunday March 5, 2023

Second Sunday of Lent

Communion

John 3.1-21

Sermon ~ New Life

Sunday March 12, 2023

Third Sunday of Lent

John 4.1-42

Sermon ~ Living Water

Sunday March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Lent

John 9.1-41

Sermon ~ Sinning & Seeing

Sunday March 26, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Lent

John 11.1-45

Sermon ~ A Time For Everything

Sunday April 2, 2023

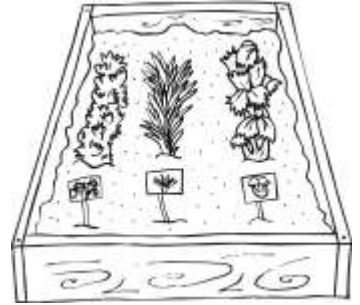
Palm & Passion Sunday

John 12.1-19

John 18.1-14

Sermon ~ A Long Week

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



We might have had oodles of snow in the last couple of weeks of February, but we're getting closer and closer to seed starting time. We'll be doing that in the small seed starting classroom next to Pastor Moira's office.

We'll also need to assemble our benches and other items for the garden so stay tuned in late March or early April for dates for that work.

Our biggest need right now is a fencing contractor. We have some particular needs because the sidewalk in the garden is part of the emergency exit for the church. The gate needs to open out and away from the building, and has to be as wide as the sidewalk is. If you know anyone locally who does vinyl or wooden fencing work, please get in touch with Pastor Moira with their contact information.

Questions? Ideas? Want to help?
Talk to Pastor Moira

March 2023

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
Wednesday Lenten Worship <i>all at Black Creek</i> 5pm ~ soup supper 6:15pm ~ worship (1/2 hour) 7pm ~ choir practice			1 1:30pm BC Women's Guild Wednesday Lenten Worship <i>(see box)</i>	2	3	4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Key to locations: BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran </div>
5 Communion SCRIP order	6	7 9am ALC Pantry Board	8 Wednesday Lenten Worship <i>(see box)</i>	9 6:30pm T Tri-Jo Council meeting	10	11 Daylight savings time begins tomorrow ... clocks AHEAD one hour!
12 11:30am BC Confirmation	13	14 2pm T New Hope Circle 6:30pm BC Council	15 Wednesday Lenten Worship <i>(see box)</i> 4-6pm ALC Pantry	16 Pastor Moira out of town (Milwaukee) - available by phone	17	18 9-11am ALC Pantry
19	20	21 6:30pm BC Christian Education	22 Wednesday Lenten Worship <i>(see box)</i>	23 9am C Closet work day	24	25
26 11:30am BC Confirmation	27	28 Noon—3pm C Closet	29 Wednesday Lenten Worship <i>(see box)</i>	30	31	April 1 <i>Tomorrow...</i> Palm & Passion Sunday SCRIP Communion

March
2023

"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 stjccreek@gmail.com
Website www.stjccbc.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



One Great Hour Of Sharing (OGHS)

A special offering of the United Church of Christ that works with international partners to provide clean water, food, education, and health care as well as refugee resettlement and emergency relief. In addition, OGHS supports domestic and international disaster preparedness and response.

Working with a variety of different denominations and Church World Service (CWS), your gifts support missionaries & those working in disaster relief, health care, education, sustainable agriculture, and refugee support

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

US Mass Shootings

94

January 1, 2023
to
February 28,
2023

*According to the
Gun Violence
Archive*