

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Palm & Passion Sunday ~ April 2nd

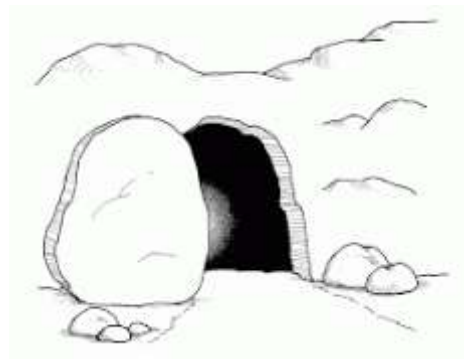
Worship at all three parish churches at the usual time as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem & the last week of his earthly life.

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

Coming Soon...

♥ Sunday April 23rd ~ Break The Silence Sunday

This service will include several prayers to stand in support of and solidarity with survivors of rape and sexual violence. Please talk with Pastor Moira if you have questions or concerns.

♥ Sunday May 7th ~ Confirmation Sunday

Join us as Ashlee Neubert at Trinity & Jordan Schmidt at Black Creek affirm their faith after two years of study.

♥ Sunday May 14 Celebrating The Christian Family Home & Mother's Day

Join us as we celebrate the Christian family home and all the kinds of families that nurture & support us. There will be snacks & games at 9am for children of all ages (yes, that's YOU) and the children will sing in worship.

♥ Sunday May 21st ~ Celebration Sunday

We have a MOVIES theme this year so break out the popcorn, cue the lights, and get ready to celebrate everyone who makes our parish so amazing.

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

It's spring in Wisconsin. You can tell because it snowed overnight, it's raining now, there's a forecast for more snow tomorrow, and it is supposed to be +50° by next weekend. The migrating birds are starting to return, some brave crocus and tulips (in south facing beds) are poking through, and the pollen sneezing has begun. Most importantly, I know it's spring because they've started playing regular season baseball, and even if I'm not happy about some of the new rules changes, I can still listen to games on the radio (my preference if I'm not at the game in person). Eventually it will really be spring and we'll get to plant things and consider annual flowers and so much more, but we have to wait.

It is also the end of another Lenten season. The beginning of April brings us the celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and the following week the miracle of the empty tomb will be revealed to us again. In between, of course, things change quite a lot. The crowd that welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday turns to shouting for his death by Holy Friday. So, much like waiting for spring, we have to wait through the days of Holy Week. Even though we know how the story will end, we have to slow down and allow ourselves to wonder how it happened, how the crowd turned against Jesus so quickly, what kind of fears led to the leaders of the people arresting Jesus, why the message of God's love and grace being for ALL was so threatening to those in power. And while we wait, we think about what the Spirit needs from us and for us this particular Easter, as the people we are who have lived through all the days since last Easter with all their joys and struggles.

And as I write this, we are still reeling from the most recent school shooting, this time at an elementary school in Nashville, Tennessee where three children and three adults were killed, along with the shooter. As someone who uses words for a living, and loves them, I'm running out of them. Nothing I saw seems to be enough, but something has to be done before more parents, children, siblings, and friends have to bury another loved one killed in this senselessness. I keep coming back to Jesus' words in Matthew's gospel. In the garden, as he's being arrested, one of the disciples lashes out with a sword, cutting off the ear of the high priest's servant. Jesus says, "put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword." (Matthew 25.52) As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be peacemakers, to speak the truth WITH love, to reach out to those who have been marginalized and excluded, to live and love and work as Jesus did during his lifetime, to remember that grace isn't just for us, but is for ALL people and ALL creation, no exceptions ever. As we wait for the miracle of the resurrection, let us be people of the good news and do SOMETHING ~ write, plan, call, organize, reach out, pray, act ~ something for the wholeness of all God's people that this epidemic might come to an end.

In peace and grace, Pastor Moira

Parish Celebrations

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

April Birthdays

| | | |
|------|-----|-------------------------------|
| 1st | ... | Elton Wendt |
| 2nd | ... | Jeff Rasmussen 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 | ... | Dave Tesch |
| 24th | ... | Marian Goodwin |
| 25th | ... | Bridget Shepard |
| 28th | ... | Esther Meyer David Rohloff |
| 30th | ... | Kenneth Melchert |

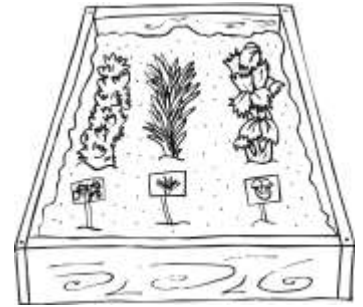


**“The work of a mature person
is to carry grief in one hand
and gratitude in the other and
to be stretched large by them.
How much sorrow can I hold?**

**That’s how much
gratitude I can give.**

~ Francis Weller

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



The raised beds have all arrived and now need to be assembled ... along with our benches (for sitting on in the garden), the hose reel, and some other things we’ll need to get going. We are looking at dates in May, probably a Saturday or two. If the weather allows we’ll do the assembly outside, but we also have an indoor backup plan because it’s Spring in Wisconsin.

We also need to start our seeds in the greenhouse in the classroom closest to Pastor’s office so that our tomato plants get nice and big and strong before they go in the ground.

Pastor Moira is talking with a fencing contractor about the possibility of them building our fence to keep the deer & other critters out of the garden so stay tuned for that news as well.

And we’ll be getting together watering, weeding & harvesting schedules soon!

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

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 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
Gene & Audrey Blake

Sunday April 16, 2023

Reader Devin Schmidt
Greeters Mike & Sally Dickinson

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

Sunday June 4, 2023 ~ Communion

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

Sunday June 11, 2023

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Barry Zuleger & Steve Hanson

Sunday June 18, 2023 ~ Father's Day

Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning

Sunday June 25, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Reader Autumn Schmidt
Greeters Autumn Schmidt
Kelly Stevens

St. John's UCC Black Creek ~ Council Meeting Minutes ~ March 14, 2023

- Present in person were Pat, Todd, Trevor, Lizzie & Pastor Moira; and Sally & Lisa by zoom.
- Pastor Moira led us in prayer.
- The minutes of the February 2023 meeting were read; motion to approve by Trevor, second by Sally, motion passed
- The Financial Secretary & Treasurer's reports were reviewed;
 - Lisa mentioned that several expenses have increased recently including insurance (possibly as much as \$2000/year), internet & phone (about \$400/year), and elevator maintenance (about \$60/year) and that the congregation should be aware of these increases;
 - Motion to approve by Todd, second by Trevor, motion passed
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including the beginning of the Wednesday Lenten gatherings, volunteering at the Shiocton school book fair, attending the ordination of Jacob Nault at Congregational UCC Neenah/Menasha, and plans for upcoming events including Holy Week, Easter, and Confirmation;
 - Discussion was had about delegates to the Conference Annual Meeting; Pastor will be in touch with Steph Julius & Lisa has agreed to go as well.
- Christian Education ~ confirmation is coming on May 7th, the fundraising competition continues, and Gary V. is coordinating who might be going to camp this summer; next meeting March 21, 2023 at 6:30pm
- Worship & Music ~ next meeting May 7, 2023 after worship
- Building & Grounds
 - Duane has announced his intention to retire from maintenance work as of September 30, 2023; there was discussion about how to proceed and the first step is acquiring a complete detailed list of jobs that Duane does
 - Smoke detectors on lower level of addition – the one in Robin's classroom fell down; need to consult with the fire department when they do their inspection about how many we need (currently there are 7 in close proximity in classrooms and hallway);
- Stewardship ~ April giving is United Church Camps Inc (UCCI) and May is Break The Silence Sunday (BTSS):
- Cemetery ~ Nothing to report
- Endowment ~ Nothing to report
- Women's Guild – met on March 1st and will meet on April 5th; the May meeting (May 17th at 9am) will be rummage sale preparations with lunch provided; rummage sale dates are Thursday-Saturday June 15, 16, 17 & June 22, 23, 24

- Garden Project – assembling beds and benches soon; looking for a fencing contractor (consider Jim at Valley Custom Fencing)
- SCRIP ~ nothing to report
- Old Business – stained glass window; waiting on the weather for the outside work to be done;
- Old Business – plastering; on the calendar to be done;
- Old Business – new committees ~ discussed possibilities for people to be on the parish relations committee which needs to be organized before sabbatical;
- Old Business ~ sabbatical; Mark Schmitt will preach & lead worship and also provide some pastoral care (he is a 3rd year seminary student in the ordination process); he will be coming to worship before sabbatical to meet folks;
- New Business – keys for church & pastor’s office; after some discussion about access to the offices a motion was made to get 2 key/lock boxes (one for the church office key and one for the pastor’s office key) with codes to be determined; motion by Todd, second by Lizzie, motion passed.
- Thanks and prayers were shared: Sally’s knee (after scope), Todd’s dad recovering from a stroke, all those who struggle with mental health
- Motion to adjourn by Trevor, second by Lisa, motion passed.
- The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer
- Next meeting ~ Tuesday April 11, 2023 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Trevor Rohloff

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:

April 2nd (for pickup on April 9th)

May 7th (for pickup on May 14th)

June 4th (for pickup on June 11th)

If you are interested in putting in an order at another time, please talk to Pastor or Brandi Schomisch.

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.

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



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 ~ FEBRUARY 2023

| | 02/05/2023 | 02/12/2023 | 02/19/2023 | 02/26/2023 | 02/28/2023 | TOTAL |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Checking deposit | 1,860.00 | 1,282.00 | 754.00 | 1,774.00 | | 5,760.00 |
| Direct Deposit | | | | | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| Total General Fund | | | | | | |
| | 1,775.00 | 1,272.00 | 729.00 | 1,593.00 | 300.00 | 5,669.00 |
| Operating Funds | | | | | | |
| Building Fund | 30.00 | 10.00 | | 30.00 | | 70.00 |
| Endowment | 5.00 | | | 5.00 | | 10.00 |
| Total Operating Funds | 35.00 | 10.00 | 0.00 | 35.00 | 0.00 | 80.00 |
| Special Funds (in alphabetical order) | | | | | | |
| Disaster Aid | | | 25.00 | | | 25.00 |
| Food Pantry | 50.00 | | | 70.00 | | 120.00 |
| Plastering Project | | | | 76.00 | | 76.00 |
| Total Special Funds | 50.00 | 0.00 | 25.00 | 146.00 | 0.00 | 221.00 |
| Total Membership Giving | | | | | | |
| | 1,860.00 | 1,282.00 | 754.00 | 1,774.00 | 300.00 | 5,970.00 |
| Other Income | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Total Other Income | | | | | | |
| Total Income | | | | | | |
| | 1,860.00 | 1,282.00 | 754.00 | 1,774.00 | 300.00 | 5,970.00 |

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

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Building Fund | Beginning Balance | \$20,372.77 |
| | Deposits | \$70.00 |
| | <u>Disbursements</u> | \$0.00 |
| | Ending Balance | \$20,442.77 |
| Memorial Fund | Beginning Balance | \$10,390.47 |
| | Deposits | \$0.00 |
| | <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 | \$34,324.36 |
| | Interest | \$0.63 |
| | Deposits | \$5,824.00 |
| | <u>Disbursements</u> | (10,306.94) |
| | Ending Balance | \$29,842.05 |
| 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> | (\$18,360.00) |
| | Ending Balance | \$16,640.00 |
| Plastering Fund | Beginning Balance | \$7,632.00 |
| | Deposits | \$76.00 |
| | <u>Disbursements</u> | \$0.00 |
| | Ending Balance | \$7,708.00 |
| 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 | \$18,716.50 |
| YTD Expenses | (\$18,604.49) |
| Net Amount* | \$112.01 |

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

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| FUND TOTALS | |
| Beginning Balance | \$124,294.60 |
| Deposits | \$5,970.00 |
| Interest | \$0.63 |
| <u>Disbursements</u> | (\$28,666.94) |
| Ending Balance | \$101,598.29 |

Scripture Readings

Sunday Sunday April 2, 2023

Palm & Passion Sunday

John 12.1-19

John 18.1-14

Sermon ~ A Long Week

Thursday April 6, 2023

Maundy Thursday

1 Corinthians 11.23-26

John 13.1-20, 31-35

Sermon ~ The Basin & The Towel

Friday April 7, 2023

Holy Friday

John 18.1-19.42

Sunday April 9, 2023

Easter Sunday

Acts 10.34-43

John 20.1-18

Sermon ~ In The Garden

Sunday April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 1.3-9

John 20.19-29

Sermon ~ A Living Hope

Sunday April 23, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

Break The Silence Sunday

Luke 24.13-35

Sermon ~ Made Known To Us

Sunday April 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2.42-47

John 21.1-14

Sermon ~ Breakfast On The Beach

Sunday May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday

Isaiah 43.1-7

1 Peter 2.2-5

Sermon ~ Spiritual Building

Women's Guild News

The Women's Guild met for a round-table (traditional) meeting on Wednesday March 1st, 2023 with 11 members present. Karen Zuleger shared the story of her medical miracle 25 years ago. The checking account balance is \$12,983.33 in the general fund and \$507.98 in the memorial fund. There was a discussion about the need for continuing these two funds (general & memorial) going forward. Motion to purchase silk Easter lilies (2 pots) motion & second to do so, motion passed, Pastor Moira will arrange with Kailhofer's. Discussion about if we are going to continue receiving an offering at these round-table meetings; motion & second to continue; motion passed with one opposed. Next meeting is to be an outing for Holy Week, but nothing for us to attend has been found. Sally offered to do a program and provide refreshments as well on Wednesday April 5th at 1:30pm upstairs in the Gathering Room.

April 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 |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| 2 Communion SCRIP Palm & Passion Sunday | 3 <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> | 4 | 5 1:30pm BC Guild 6:30pm BC Choir practice | 6 Maundy Thursday Worship at CECIL, 6pm | 7 Holy Friday Worship at Black Creek, 7pm | 8 |
| 9 Easter Sunday Tri-Jo at Trinity Worship 8:30am Breakfast after Black Creek Breakfast 8:30 Worship 10:15 | 10 | 11 2pm T Circle 6:30pm BC Council | 12 6:30pm BC Choir practice | 13 5:30pm T Council | 14 | 15 |
| 16 BC Kids sing 11:30am BC Confirmation | 17 | 18 | 19 4-6pm ALC Pantry 6:30pm BC Choir practice | 20 9am C Closet work day | 21 | 22 9-11am ALC Pantry |
| Pastor Moira on vacation Monday-Saturday Pastor Lynn Martin (Appleton) available for emergencies at 734-474-4181 | | | | | | |
| 23 Break The Silence Sunday | 24 | 25 Noon-3pm C Closet | 26 6:30pm BC Choir practice | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 11:30am BC Confirmation (2nd years) Cecil Business Meeting | May 1 | May 2 | May 3 6:30pm BC Choir practice | May 4 | May 5 | May 6 Tomorrow... ♥ Confirmation Sunday ♥ SCRIP ♥ BC Worship & Music |

April
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



United Church Camps, Inc. (UCCI)

The Wisconsin Conference UCC is blessed with a vital outdoor ministry program. Daycholah Center on the shores of Green Lake near Ripon and Moon Beach, in the Northwoods near St. Germain have camps and programs for people of all kinds 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 throughout the year.

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

US Mass Shootings

131

January 1, 2023
to
March 30, 2023

*According to the
Gun Violence
Archive*