

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

May. Somehow it's already May. We started this month with snow which was, at least for me, rather depressing. I'm ready for warmer weather, for getting out in the garden beds to clean them up and nurture new growth, for putting away the winter coat and sitting outside at the baseball diamond. Mostly, I think, my soul needs a stretch of strong sunshine filled days to help shake off the winter, to refresh things, and to renew my hope.

We continue in this month in the Easter season, not letting go just yet of the miracle of the empty tomb, continuing to think about what it means for us ~ as individuals, communities, parishes, families, and the world ~ that not even the powers of death and violence could stop the love that Jesus came to teach us about, the love of God so big, so powerful, so abundant that there is room for everyone at the table, absolutely everyone, so we can all (no exceptions ever) experience the grace of God.

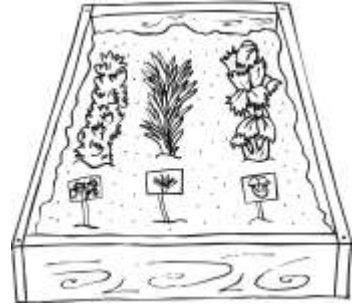
As we've walked through some of the resurrection appearances of Jesus in worship in the past few weeks, they've felt like new stories even though I've read them and preached them many, many times before. I'm not sure why they feel new, but I'm grateful that these stories ~ of Thomas, and the road to Emmaus, and breakfast on the beach at the Sea of Galilee ~ seem to be opening up to me in new ways as I think about what it must have been like in those days after the first Easter. I wonder if it has something to do with embracing the uncertainty of the future? Those first disciples didn't know what was coming, weren't sure if they could really believe in the miracle of the resurrection, had no idea what would happen to their group or to Jesus' message of love and mercy. Our futures are just as unsure, and uncertain. We can't any of us really know what tomorrow holds, much less what will happen in six weeks or six months or six years time.

What we can know is something those early disciples also knew ~ that God was with them, and that together they could face whatever was ahead. It reminds me of the song "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" that says: "many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand." Wherever God is leading us, however God is calling us towards the work of building and rebuilding the kingdom of God's promise, we go together, side by side in this work, leaning on each other, supporting and encouraging each other, laughing and crying and praying together, and trusting in God a future God can see where there is justice and peace and prosperity for all, absolutely all. And for that, I will always give thanks.

In peace and grace, Pastor Moira

News From The Church Garden...

The Garden of Eatin



We have teeny tiny baby tomato plants!

In the classroom next to Pastor's office there's a seed starting greenhouse and in late April we started 72 tomato plants in little cups. They had a tough start without a lot of sun (considering the snow on May 1st), but they've got a grow light and a couple of them have started to break through the dirt. Hopefully soon we'll have lots of plants growing big and strong so we can plant them in their raised beds soon. We hope to have extra plants leftover if you want a few for your own house so stay tuned!

We'll also be planting beans in the garden, but those are direct sow, straight into the garden beds when they're in place. We'll also have some strawberries, and along the fence line we'll plant hollyhocks and sunflowers to attract pollinators and to look pretty.

Speaking of the fence, we've contracted with Valley Custom Fencing in Appleton to put a cedar and wire fence with a gate around the garden. As soon as materials have arrived and the building permit is approved, they'll start work.

We will be assembling the garden beds, benches, and other materials on:

Saturday May 13th beginning at 10am

Saturday May 20th beginning at 10am

Additional times will be scheduled if needed.

You don't have to have any talents or tools.

Just come & help out so we can get everything ready to grow produce for our local food pantries.

Questions? Talk with Pastor Moira

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 (Abel) Schumacher
7th	...	Barb Flaherty Todd Arnold
8th	...	Stephanie Julius Ryan Julius
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 Gregorious
25th	...	Carol Henke
26th	...	Eli Biese
30th	...	Brenda Holz Daniel Pynenberg Caitlyn Pingel Jordan Schmidt
31st	...	Donald Peotter Randal Hooyman Greggory Holz

May Anniversaries

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

May 31st
Brandon & Melissa Rohloff



Rummage Sale

Thursday - Saturday June 15, 16 & 17 and June 22, 23 & 24

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.

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 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 Nate Seefeldt
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

May 21st ~ Celebration Sunday

Worship at the usual times to celebrate everyone who makes our parish so incredibly special.

We have MOVIE theme this year so break out your celebrity sun glasses or your red carpet tuxes & ball gowns, or just your going to the movies clothes!

May 14th ~ Celebrating The Christian Family Home

Join us at 9am in the Fellowship Hall for games, food & fun for people of all ages as we celebrate the ways our homes help nurture our faith.

The children will also be singing in worship at 10:15am

St. John's UCC Black Creek ~ Council Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2023

- Present in person were Pat Schomisch, Lizzie Tesch, Lisa Waterstradt, Sally Dickinson, and Pastor Moira; absent were Todd St. John and Trevor Rohloff
- Pastor Moira led us in prayer.
- The minutes of the March 2023 meeting were read; motion to approve by Lisa, second by Sally, motion passed
- The Financial Secretary & Treasurer's reports were reviewed;
- Motion to approve by Sally, second by Pat, motion passed
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including a review of Holy Week and Easter (with worship attendance for Easter at 118 and breakfast about 60) and changes we might make to Easter breakfast; her upcoming required continuing education course on implicit bias; and plans for the Association and Conference annual meetings
- As we did last year, the expenses for the Conference Annual Meeting will all be put on the Black Creek credit card and then, when final expenses are in, Tri-Jo will make a reimbursement for their portion
- Christian Education ~ met April 21st, discussed confirmation (5/7), Celebration of Christian Family Home (5/14); the milk jug fundraising and camping scholarships; discussed Rally Day for this fall and think we can go back to a potluck for that day; next meeting Tuesday August 15, 2023 at 6:30pm
- Worship & Music ~ discussed Hunter Erickson's acceptance to a performing arts high school, and the replacement of the fellowship hall sound system; next meeting Sunday May 21, 2023 after worship
- Building & Grounds ~ reviewed the list of tasks supplied by Duane Zuleger, the state inspection for the elevator on 4/11, stained glass (outside work), plastering, smoke detectors for the lower level, moving the janitorial supplies out of the furnace room (to the old men's bathroom), and lock boxes for the church & pastor's office
- Stewardship ~ May is Break The Silence Sunday (BTSS), June is Strengthen the Church (STC) one of the UCC offerings, and July is the Fire Department
- Cemetery ~ working on getting online bank statements
- Endowment ~ Nothing to report
- Women's Guild – met on April 5th with Sally Dickinson providing fund & games for Holy Week; ordered two pots of artificial Easter lilies to begin establishing a supply of reusable Easter flowers; paid for the fellowship hall sound system replacement; next meeting is Wednesday May 18th at 9am for rummage sale preparations (lunch provided)
- Garden Project – beds & benches need assembling; Jim from Valley Custom Fence has provided a quote and we will be reassembling the greenhouse soon

- SCRIP ~ there is enough in the SCRIP fund to repay the General Fund its start-up money back in October when the program is one year old;
- 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 ~ parish relations will be Bob Menning, Steve Hanson, Lizzie Tesch, Sally Dickinson, and Steve Seefeldt; they need to meet before sabbatical to make sure lines of communication are clear
- 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;
- Old Business ~ Duane’s retirement, a celebration will be planned
- New Business ~ Painting sidewalk at west entrance; Sally brought up that the sidewalk is lifted in several places after the winter and to prevent falls we should consider painting with safety paint so it is easily noticed; Pastor will acquire paint
- Thanks and prayers were shared: Sunny (Lizzie’s friend, thyroid cancer), Scott (Pat’s friend’s son, lymphoma), Jami Huisjen Scott (former student pastor at Tri-Jo, with an infected replaced knee), Warner Onstine (Pastor’s friend, his mom Inis passed); Louisville, Kentucky after the bank shooting
- Motion to adjourn by Sally, second by Lizzie, motion passed.
- The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer
- Next meeting ~ Tuesday May 9, 2023 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

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:

May 7th (for pickup on May 14th)
 June 4th (for pickup on June 11th)
 July 2nd (for pickup on July 9th)

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

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...

Soon. Sabbatical will begin very soon. We're all a little nervous about it, yes, even Pastor Moira. There's a lot to get organized before she's gone, but it's all starting to come together. As you know, she's taking this time in two parts, but we're going to focus in this article & next month on the first section: June 25—July 31, 2023.

Worship Information

- ♥ NO in person worship at Cecil
- ♥ Video ministry continues (Pastor Moira will coordinate these before she goes)
- ♥ Student Pastor Mark Schmitt, a member in discernment (MID) will lead worship for **these six Sundays; he's working on a sermon series about Heroes of the Hebrew Bible** so stay tuned for that information

Pastoral Care Information

- ♥ Student Pastor Mark will also provide pastoral care for the routine things that might come up while Pastor Moira is away;
- ♥ A few local area clergy will be available for emergencies and Student Pastor Mark as well as the leadership at all three churches will have their contact information;

Bulletins, Newsletters, The Mail & All That?

- ♥ **We're working to do all the bulletins & powerpoint for worship in advance** so we should be all settled there;
- ♥ There will be a combined July **–August newsletter** so you'll have all the information you need for the time Pastor Moira is gone and for the time when she comes back
- ♥ We will need some folks who will gather the mail at church each week, sort it and get it to the people who need to see to it (bills to the treasurer, ads in the recycling, etc.)

Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms?

- ♥ **We won't schedule weddings or baptism during the sabbatical time**
- ♥ **For funerals, we'll work with our funeral directors and families to decide what the best thing to do is in terms of scheduling or waiting, just like we do if Pastor Moira is on more usual vacation time**

What is Pastor doing during this time again?

At the beginning of this first chunk of time she'll be attending the UCC's General Synod in Indianapolis, IN to share the work of Break The Silence Sunday and support survivors of sexual violence. For the rest of the time, she'll be reading and writing about long-term and shared ministry thinking of ways she can encourage others to want to explore staying in their ministry settings longer, and looking towards the future of shared ministry (serving more than one church). She'll also have some naps, walks, and clean out those pesky overflowing closets at home, and maybe get in a few baseball games too!

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

	3/5/2023	3/12/2023	3/19/2023	3/26/2023	3/31/2023	TOTAL
Checking deposit	2,714.00	1,263.00	1,291.00	1,092.50		6,360.50
Direct Deposit					300.00	300.00
Total General Fund						
	2,529.00	1,201.00	1,219.50	986.50	300.00	6,236.00
Operating Funds						
Building Fund	30.00		1.50			31.50
Endowment	5.00			20.00		25.00
Total Operating Funds	35.00		1.50	20.00		56.50
Special Funds (in alphabetical order)						
Disaster Aid	100.00	25.00		10.00		135.00
Easter Breakfast			20.00			20.00
One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)	50.00		50.00	76.00		176.00
Total Special Funds	150.00	25.00	70.00	86.00	0.00	331.00
Total Membership Giving						
	2,714.00	1,226.00	1,291.00	1,092.50	300.00	6,623.50
Other Income						
United Dartball		37.00				37.00
Total Other Income		37.00				37.00
Total Income						
	2,714.00	1,263.00	1,291.00	1,092.50	300.00	6,660.50

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

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$20,442.77
	Deposits	\$31.50
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$20,474.27
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	\$29,842.05
	Interest	\$0.69
	Deposits	\$6,629.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(10,055.72)
	Ending Balance	\$26,416.02
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	\$16,640.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$16,640.00
Plastering Fund	Beginning Balance	\$7,708.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$7,708.00
Gardening Project	Beginning Balance	\$10,320.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$572.00)
	Ending Balance	\$9,747.98

**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	\$24,952.50
YTD Expenses	(\$28,659.52)
Net Amount*	(\$3,707.02)

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

FUND TOTALS	
Beginning Balance	\$101,598.29
Deposits	\$6,660.50
Interest	\$0.69
<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$10,627.74)
Ending Balance	\$97,631.74

Scripture Readings

Sunday May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday

Isaiah 43.1-7

1 Peter 2.2-5

Sermon ~ Spiritual Building

Sunday May 14, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Celebrating the Christian Family Home

Mother's Day

John 14.15-21

Sermon ~ Love

Sunday May 21, 2023

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Celebration Sunday ~ MOVIES theme

1 Corinthians 12.4-13

Sunday May 28, 2023

Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21

Sermon ~ Into The World

Sunday June 4, 2023

Trinity Sunday

Matthew 28.16-20

Sermon ~ 3 in 1

Sunday June 11, 2023

Second Sunday of Pentecost

Matthew 9.18-26

Sermon ~ Wellness, Wholeness, Healing

Sunday June 18, 2023

Third Sunday of Pentecost

Matthew 9.35-10.14

Sermon ~ Stay Until You Leave

May 28th Pentecost

Join us for the coming
of the Holy Spirit, the
birthday of the church.

You're invited
to wear RED!

As it's also Memorial
Day weekend we will
honor those who have
served our country.

Women's Guild News

The Women's Guild met on Wednesday April 5th at 1:30pm with a program of fun and games thinking about Holy Week and Easter led by Sally Dickinson who also provided delicious cupcakes! The next gathering will be Wednesday May 17th at 9am. We will start moving tables and organizing items for the rummage sale. Lunch will be provided and all are welcome. The rummage sale dates are Thursday through Saturday June 15, 16, 17 and 22, 23, 24. Plus plan on joining us for our July adventure to eat ice cream on Wednesday July 12th. Stay tuned for more details about our destination & carpooling.

May 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
7 <i>Communion</i> <i>SCRIP</i> <i>Confirmation</i> <i>at BC & T</i>	8	9 9am ALC Pantry board 2pm T New Hope Circle 6:30pm BC Council	10 NO Choir practice	11 5:30pm T Council	12	13 10am BC Garden bed assembly
14 Mother's Day Celebrating Christian Family Home 9am BC fun & food for all ages	15	16	17 9am BC Guild (with lunch) 6:30pm BC Choir 4-6pm ALC Pantry	18 9am C Closet work day	19	20 9-11am ALC Pantry 10am BC Garden bed assembly
21 Celebration Sunday BC Worship & Music Meeting	22	23 Noon-3pm C Closet	24	25	26	27 <div data-bbox="1177 1459 1529 1648" 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>
28 Pentecost Cecil begins 7pm worship for the summer	29 <i>Memorial Day</i>	30	31	<i>June 1</i>	<i>June 2</i>	<i>June 3</i> <i>Tomorrow...</i> <i>SCRIP</i> <i>Communion</i>

May
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
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Wisconsin Conference UCC
www.wiucc.org

United Church of Christ
www.ucc.org



Break The Silence Sunday (BTSS)

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. This year she's also taking BTSS to the meeting of the entire UCC at General Synod in Indianapolis, IN.

Your gifts help support this work.
Look for the envelopes in the sanctuary.

US Mass Shootings

192

January 1, 2023
to
May 4, 2023

*According to the
Gun Violence
Archive*