

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

In worship on Sunday June 18th, we read from Matthew's gospel. Jesus is sending the disciples out to do ministry in his name. He gives them instructions about what to pack ~ no extras that would burden them with the things of this world, reminding them to trust in all God will provide, and how to behave in the different towns and villages they will visit. In particular, Jesus says, "stay there until you leave." (*Matthew 10.11*) I also mentioned a sign in my office, directly across from my desk, that reads "Be Here Now".

As I write this, it's the last few days before my sabbatical begins. The list is down to about half a page (from its height at eight pages). I've started crossing things off with a big blue marker so I know they're really crossed off and done. We're down to the last bits of paperwork, these newsletters, two funerals, a couple of visits, and cleaning my office at Black Creek. It's so easy to get caught up in the lists, in the things we should and could be doing, in the plans we have for tomorrow, next week, next year, and even further down the line. But one of the challenges of our faith is, as Jesus said, to stay here, in the present, in what is happening in this hour, this day, this moment.

Planning and dreaming about the future, setting goals and figuring out how to achieve them ~ that's all important so that our lives can be vital and meaningful. But while we're busy planning, God is revealing things to us in the present, in the now, revealing to us what God needs us to be doing for the work of the kingdom in this time, whispering to us about all the ways God is revealed to us in the miracles we often overlook while we're focused on what lies ahead.

As we enter into this sabbatical time together, I pray that we might all be here now, be present in what is happening in us, to us, through us, and around us. Watch the breeze in the trees, marvel at the growing plants in the garden, stop and breathe in the smells of mid-summer in Wisconsin, count the stars, laugh with your friends, drink your iced tea slowly, focus on your heartbeat and your breath and remember that, as big as the universe is, God decided the universe needed one of YOU.

And then find ways to connect with others, to reach out and help, offer a listening ear, share some sweet corn or strawberries, go to a concert in the park with someone who might be lonely, eat some brats and burgers or indulge in an ice cream cone. However you spend these days, be here now, be present with God and with one another, and truly we will be the beloved community Jesus taught us about. And please know, while I am away, you will all be in my heart and mind.

In peace and grace, Pastor Moira

Parish Celebrations

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

July Birthdays

1st ... Barbara Volkman
Chad Lison
2nd ... Roberta Lorenz
3rd ... Skylar Stucki
10th ... Sue Jochman
11th ... Elly Menning
12th ... Wyatt Lison
13th ... Emma Holz
14th ... Cole Marcks
15th ... Jason Kruse
Lizzie Tesch
16th ... Kheenan Halvorson
18th ... Ashley Lison
Samantha Rasmussen
22nd... Anders Waterstradt
23rd ... Tori Erickson
26th ... Ethan Biese
27th ... Gary Helein
28th ... Pat Schomisch

please see next page for August birthdays

July Anniversaries

July 5th
Stanley & Sue Jochman

July 6th
Don & Diane Henning

July 22nd
Eugene & Audrey Blake

August Anniversaries

August 2nd
Michael & Barb Flaherty
Cody & Kheenan Halvorson

August 8th
Sheila & Scott Neff

August 9th
Julie Hein & Mark Suda

August 15th
Bob & Carla Menning
Jeffrey & Cindy Rohloff

August 19th
Michael & Connie Rohloff

August 22nd
Gary & Carla Lathrop

**Do you or your friends and family shop
at Tadych's Market in Clintonville?**

Please save your receipts.

The folks at Trinity collect them to return
& receive a percentage of the total back
towards the church's budget.

There will be a collection container
in the Gathering Room on the SCRIP table.

Thank you in advance.

August Birthdays

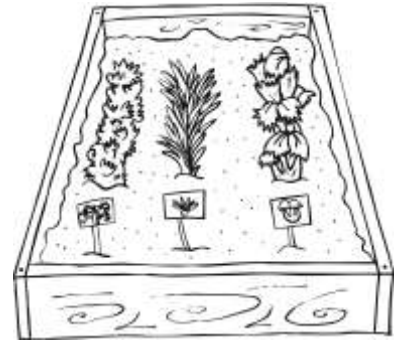
2nd ... Jeffrey Rohloff
Makenna Scott
5th ... Randall Vande Corput
Mark Hooyman
12th ... Steve Schomisch
Kurt Boettcher
Bryce Vander Linden
17th ... Marshall Halvorson
Calyix Wernet
18th ... Amanda Shepard
21st ... Carla Holz
Johnathan Tesch
25th ... Karen Zuleger
Karleigh Hooyman
29th ... Marian Zuleger
30th ... Ray Menning
31st ... Morgan Werner

Musician Hunter Erickson's Last Sunday

Hunter has been accepted to Interlocken Arts Academy in Michigan to finish his high school education among other talented musicians & artists. Join us as we wish him well in all the future holds.

Worship ~ 10:15am
Potluck Lunch ~ 11:15am
(after worship)
Recital ~ 12:30pm

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



Things are growing!
We have one small tomato
& lots of blooms.
The bean plants look wonderful.
Now we just need to care
for the garden until harvest time.
**There is a sign-up calendar for
watering, a bit of weeding &
eventually harvesting.**

The idea is for each
person or family to take a week
(or more) and come to church
to water as needed depending
on what rain we receive.

**If you're able to help out,
look for the sign up calendar
at the west door to the sanctuary.**

**The most important time
to cover right now is July
while Pastor is on sabbatical.**

Also, there are a couple of benches
in the garden & it makes a lovely
place to sit, drink something cool,
and have a little bit of quiet time in
the midst of God's creation!

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 July 2, 2023 ~

Sabbatical & Communion

Reader Vi Brown-Luebke
Greeters Vi Brown-Luebke
Kelly Stevens
TBA (2)

Sunday July 9, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Robin Schmidt
Carol Schmidt

Sunday July 16, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Reader Lizzie Tesch
Greeters Gene & Audrey Blake

Sunday July 23, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Reader Steve & Nate Seefeldt
Greeters Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

Sunday July 30, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Reader TBA
Greeters TBA

Sunday August 6, 2023 ~ Communion

Reader Randy Miller
Greeters Randy Miller
Keith Kruse
Gary & Bonnie Vander Linden

Sunday August 13, 2023

Reader Jan Rohloff
Greeters Jan Rohloff
Trevor Rohloff

Sunday August 20, 2023

Reader Sue Biese
Greeters Joe & Sue Biese

Sunday August 27, 2023

Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning

Sunday September 3, 2023 ~ Communion

Reader Autumn Schmidt
Greeters Mark Hooyman
Kelcie Hooyman
Steve Hanson
Darwin Ethington

Sunday September 10, 2023 ~ Rally Day

Reader Connie Wheeler
Greeters Connie Wheeler
Cailey Wheeler

Sunday September 17, 2023

Reader Sally Dickinson
Greeters Duane & Carol Henke

Sunday September 24, 2023

Reader Nate Seefeldt
Greeters Mike & Connie Rohloff

St. John's UCC Black Creek ~ Council Meeting Minutes ~ June 13, 2023

- Present were Pat Schomisch, Todd St. John, Lisa Waterstradt, Trevor Rohloff, Sally Dickinson, and Pastor Moira; absent was Lizzie Tesch
- Pastor Moira led us in prayer.
- The minutes of the May 2023 meeting were read; motion to approve by Lisa, second by Trevor, motion passed
- The Financial Secretary & Treasurer's reports were reviewed; Motion to approve reports by Sally, second by Trevor, motion passed
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including work for her required continuing education, getting the garden up and running, Celebration Sunday, and attending the WI Conference UCC annual meeting;
- Christian Education ~ next meeting Tuesday August 15, 2023 at 6:30pm
- Worship & Music ~ Hunter Erickson's last Sunday with us (8/20) will have worship followed by a potluck with a recital at 12:30pm; Hunter will also be working with David Tesch to record hymns that we can use while we resume the search for a settled musician;
- Building & Grounds ~ reviewed the list of maintenance tasks, and the plans for Duane Zuleger's retirement celebration on Sunday 9/24 (Trevor will work with Duane to sort items in the furnace room & shed); stained glass is waiting on the exterior work; we are looking for a new plastering contractor; new smoke alarms have been installed downstairs; Bernie Shepard is organizing the janitorial supplies in the north basement storage room (old men's bathroom);
- Stewardship ~ June is Strengthen the Church (STC) one of the UCC offerings, and July is the Fire Department and August is School Supplies
- Cemetery ~ are now receiving online banking statements
- Endowment ~ Nothing to report
- Women's Guild – rummage sale begins this week; ice cream outing is July 12th; planning meeting is August 2nd at 1:30pm; Fall Feast is Sunday October 1st (all take out)
- Garden Project – fence was installed and looks fabulous; Todd resurrected the greenhouse; beds & benches are assembled; everything (beans, tomatoes & strawberries) are growing well;
- SCRIP ~ nothing to report
- Parish Relations ~ met on June 4th and discussed personnel (meeting with folks and reviewing job descriptions before budget time) and their plans for future meetings
- Old Business – stained glass window; waiting on the outside work to be done;
- Old Business – plastering; need to find a new contractor as the one we had is unable to do the work, Pat has recommendations from Ryan Schomisch, Sr.

- Old Business ~ sabbatical; reviewed notes about worship, mail, phone, contact information, and other logistics and we are ready for Pastor Moira to be away and Student Pastor Mark Schmitt to be with us;
- Old Business ~ Duane's retirement, a celebration is being planned & we are evaluating the list of jobs and how to move forward;
- Thanks and prayers were shared for Pastor Moira's friend Sharon MacArthur who passed away, and for Mike Dickinson who is having back surgery soon
- Motion to adjourn by Todd, second by Trevor, motion passed.
- The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer
- Next meeting ~ Tuesday July 11th, 2023 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

Women's Guild News

Thank you to everyone who helped support our rummage sale! Totals will be included in the Sunday announcements & in the next newsletter in September.

The Women's Guild will meet on Wednesday July 12th for an ice cream adventure and on Wednesday August 2nd at 1:30pm at church for our annual planning meeting with snacks provided by Pastor Moira

Mark your calendars now for our Fall Feast ~ Sunday October 1st

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: July 2nd, August 6th & September 3rd
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 Pat Schomisch



Sabbatical Corner...

We're here. The first part of Pastor Moira's sabbatical has begun. She will be away from Sunday June 25 through Monday July 31st. She'll be back in the office on Wednesday August 2nd and back with us in worship on Sunday August 6th.

Worship Information

- ♥ Student Pastor Mark Schmitt will lead worship for these six Sundays at the usual times at **Trinity (8:45am) & Black Creek (10:15am); he's written prayers & chosen scriptures for a theme about heroes of the Hebrew Bible.**
- ♥ There will be communion on Sunday July 2nd with elements that Pastor Moira consecrates (blesses) before she goes as this is not something Student Pastor Mark can do just yet
- ♥ NO in person worship at Cecil
- ♥ Video ministry continues as usual (Pastor Moira coordinated these)

Pastoral Care Information

- ♥ Student Pastor Mark will also provide pastoral care for the routine things that might come up while Pastor Moira is away; You can reach Student Pastor Mark at 262-366-4153 or you can talk with any of the members of our parish leadership (Cecil Executive Committee, Trinity Council & Black Creek Council)
- ♥ **What about 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**

Bulletins, Newsletters, The Mail & All That?

- ♥ The bulletins & PowerPoint are all ready for worship
- ♥ **You're reading the combined July/August newsletter that hopefully has all the information you need for this time**
- ♥ We have volunteers at each church who are coordinating mail pick-up, checking the voice mail or answering machine, and all those kinds of things.

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!

Can I contact Pastor Moira during this time?

Yes, please send texts & emails with things you want her to know like joys, concerns & general **information, but you may not get a response as quickly as you're used to and if you have an emergency, please contact the parish leadership or Student Pastor Mark**

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

	5/7/2023	5/14/2023	5/21/2023	5/28/2023	Direct Deposit	TOTAL
Checking deposit	3,054.00	1,593.00	968.00	1,063.00	300.00	6,978.00
Total General Fund	3,014.00	1,514.00	868.00	993.00	300.00	6,689.00
Operating Funds						
Building Fund	35.00	3.00				38.00
Endowment	5.00					5.00
Total Operating Funds	40.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.00
Special Funds (in alphabetical order)						
Stained Glass Window Fund		76.00				76.00
Break The Silence			100.00	70.00		170.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	0.00	76.00	100.00	70.00	0.00	246.00
Total Membership Giving	3,054.00	1,593.00	968.00	1,063.00	300.00	6,978.00
Other Income						
Total Other Income						
Total Checking Deposit	3,054.00	1,593.00	968.00	1,063.00	300.00	6,978.00

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

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$20,544.27
	Deposits	\$38.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$20,582.27
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	\$33,052.45
	Interest	\$0.70
	Deposits	\$6,864.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$9,242.48)
	Ending Balance	\$30,674.67
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	\$76.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$16,716.00
Plastering Fund	Beginning Balance	\$6,619.72
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$6,619.72
Gardening Project	Beginning Balance	\$9,797.98
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$4,717.04)
	Ending Balance	\$5,080.94

**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	\$46,593.50
YTD Expenses	(\$46,692.91)
Net Amount*	(\$99.41)

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

FUND TOTALS	
Beginning Balance	\$103,299.89
Deposits	\$6,978.00
Interest	\$0.70
<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$13,959.52)
Ending Balance	\$96,319.07

Scripture Readings

Sunday June 25, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

Genesis 16.1-16

Genesis 21.8-18

Sermon ~ Sarah & Hagar

Sunday July 2, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Communion

Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

Psalm 1

Genesis 38.1-26

Sermon ~ Tamar

Sunday July 9, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Sixth Sunday of Pentecost

Exodus 15.20=21

Numbers 12.1-16

Sermon ~ Miriam

Sunday July 16, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Seventh Sunday of Pentecost

Psalm 40.1-8

Numbers 27.1-11

Sermon ~ Daughters of Zelophehad

Sunday July 23, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

Psalm 82

Joshua 2.1-24 & 6.22-25

Sermon ~ Rahab

Sunday July 30, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Ninth Sunday of Penecost

Psalm 84.5-12

1 Kings 1.1-40

Sermon ~ Bathsheba

Sunday August 6, 2023 ~ Communion

Tenth Sunday of Pentecost

Matthew 14.13-21

Sermon ~ Abundance

Sunday August 13, 2023

Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost

Matthew 14.22-36

Sermon ~ Take Heart

Sunday August 20, 2023

Twelfth Sunday of Pentecost

Isaiah 56.1-8

Sermon ~ Thus says the Lord ...

Sunday August 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Exodus 1.8-2.10

Sermon ~ Midwives & Bullrushes

Sunday September 3, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Romans 12.9-21

Sermon ~ Exhortations

July 2023

How to reach Pastor Moira: phone 715-851-3080
email pastormoira73@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule: Trinity ~ 8:45am Worship
Black Creek ~ 10:15 am Worship
Cecil ~ NO IN PERSON WORSHIP

PASTOR IS ON SABBATICAL
If you need pastoral assistance,
please contact Student Pastor Mark
Schmitt at 262-366-4153 or any
member of the parish leadership

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30	1
Pastor Moira's Sabbatical (through July 31st)						
		Noon—3pm C Closet				
2 SCRIP Communion <i>NO Cecil Worship</i>	3	4 Happy Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9 <i>NO Cecil Worship</i>	10	11 6:30pm BC Council	12 BC Women's Guild Ice Cream Outing	13	14	15
16 <i>NO Cecil Worship</i>	17	18	19 4-6pm ALC Pantry <i>Help needed from noon</i>	20 9am C Closet work day	21	22 9-11am ALC Pantry <i>Help needed from 7:30am</i>
23 <i>NO Cecil Worship</i>	24	25 Noon-3pm C Closet	26	27	28	29
30 <i>NO Cecil Worship</i>	31					
						<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Key to locations: BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran</p> </div>

August 2023

How to reach Pastor Moira: phone 715-851-3080
email pastormoira73@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule: Trinity ~ 8:45am Worship
Black Creek ~ 10:15 am Worship
Cecil ~ 7pm Worship

Pastor's In The Office
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays
Please call/text to make sure

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Pastor back in the office 1:30pm BC Guild	3	4	5
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Key to locations: BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran </div>						
6 Communion SCRIP	7	8 9am ALC Pantry board 2pm T Circle 6:30pm BC Council	9	10 5:30pm T Council	11	12
13	14	15 6:30pm BC Christian Education Meeting	16 4-6pm ALC Pantry <i>Help needed from noon</i>	17 9am C Closet work day	18	19 9-11am ALC Pantry <i>Help needed from 7:30am</i>
20 Hunter Last Sunday at BC Worship Potluck after Recital 12:30pm	21	22 Noon-3pm C Closet	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	<i>September 1</i>	<i>September 2</i> <i>Tomorrow... SCRIP Communion Cecil moves to 4pm worship</i>

This page intentionally left blank.

July &
August
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



July Focus Of Giving ~ Fives For Firefighters

Our volunteer fire & rescue workers do so much to help keep us and our community safe & healthy. From medical emergencies, to fires, to cleaning up storm damage and helping with so many other challenges in life, they're here for us, just at the other end of the phone when we need them the most. This is your chance to give back, to help support their work, and provide a little financial cushion so they can update and replace their equipment and provide necessary training. Look for the \$5s for Firefighters envelopes

August Focus Of Giving ~ School Supplies

Children and their families have to bring everything from pencils to tissues to Ziploc bags more as well. That gets to be expensive, particularly for families that are already struggling. All month we will collect basic school supplies, and cash donations towards additional supplies, that will be provided to our local schools, as well as distributed through organizations like our local Salvation Army to families in our area in need. *Suggested items include: pens, pencils (mechanical & regular), spiral notebooks (wide & college ruled), notebook paper (wide & college ruled), binders, highlighters, dry erase markers, binders, folders, glue, glue sticks, colored pencils & crayons.*

US Mass Shootings

318

January 1, 2023
to
June 20, 2023

*According to the
Gun Violence
Archive*