

*From Pastor Moira's Desk...*

In worship on Pentecost (May 28th), I said that somehow it had already been eight weeks since Easter, since Mary Magdalene stood by the empty tomb and discovered, through her tears, that the man she thought was the gardener was the risen Jesus. The weeks of Easter were filled with all kinds of things in the life of the church and the life of the world, great joys and great struggles alike. And now we find ourselves in the season of Pentecost, the long weeks that stretch ahead of us, all the way to Advent beginning in December.

Of course, we're also looking towards the glorious months of summer here in Wisconsin when there's an abundance of daylight, a different rhythm to many parts of our lives, and so many different activities, parties, and adventures. And in our parish, we're looking forward to my sabbatical that begins on June 25th. For some of us, we've been through sabbatical before, and for others it's the first time they've ever had a pastor take this kind of time. Either way, there can be a bit of anxiety and nerves in the time leading up to sabbatical for both parish & pastor. My desk is a mess of papers and lists trying to make sure everything is taken care of, as best as it can be, before I'm away, and there are lots of questions about what happens if the unexpected happens.

In the middle of all of it, I was working on worship things and the scripture for the Sunday before my sabbatical begins is an important reminder for me, and maybe for all of us. Jesus sends the disciples out to minister in his name and encourages them, in every town or village they visit, to "stay there until you leave."

What I think Jesus is trying to remind us to do is not forecast too far into the future, to live the day in front of us, sometimes even the hour or the minute; to be present in what is happening now and to trust that whatever happens in the future, God is already there ahead of us. It's certainly advice that I need at this moment, with the lists of "to do" and "must do" and "probably should do" threatening to overwhelm me. What I need to do, I hear the voice of the Spirit telling me, is the thing right in front of me, one thing at a time, to the best of my abilities, and to trust that God will help me (and all of us) get through with grace, love, laughter, and community.

Two more things about sabbatical (I'll remind you about them in the July/August newsletter too):

(1) We are in this together. We've come through so much, particularly in the years since the pandemic began, and we've done it TOGETHER, united as a parish, working with each other, alongside each other through the joy and the struggle, and that is exactly how we're going to get through sabbatical.

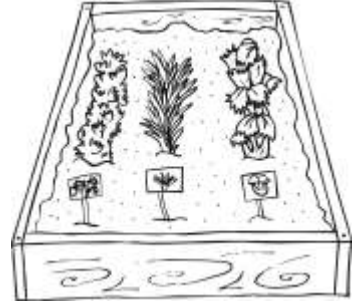
(2) I will be back; I'm not using sabbatical time to look for a different church, I'm not even remotely thinking about that. I love being your pastor. I'm using this time to renew, refresh, and recharge so that we can have many, many more years of ministry together. Promise.

*In peace and grace, Pastor Moira*

## News From The Church Garden...

### The Garden of Eatin

The beds and benches have been assembled. The greenhouse has been restored after the winds put it in the trees. Much dirt has been moved. The fence has been installed. Beans, tomatoes, and strawberries have been planted (as well as sunflowers, hollyhocks, marigolds and clematis to attract pollinators and be beautiful). A storage shed for our tools was assembled and the outdoor sink installed so we can rinse our hands and tools without carrying dirt into the church. The beans have even started sprouting! The garden is a beautiful place to sit and enjoy a little time outside in the beauty of God's creation too! We are well on our way to providing fresh produce to the local food pantries to help folks in need.



*NOW we need your help with caring for the garden:  
watering & eventually harvesting.*

*Pastor Moira has a weekly sign-up schedule  
so please be in touch if you're able to help out!*

## Rummage Sale

Thursday - Saturday June 15, 16 & 17 and June 22, 23 & 24  
8am to 5pm each day

Sign-up sheets are in the sanctuary now!  
*If you'd like to work and aren't at church, please give a call  
to Pastor Moira and we'll get you on the chart!*

Please, if you can have your items to church by  
Sunday June 11th so we can get everything  
set up, sorted & priced before the sale!

# Parish Celebrations

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

## June Birthdays

2nd ... Tammy Zuleger  
5th ... Carol Schmidt  
8th ... David Hooyman  
13th ... Trevor Rasmussen  
Devin Schmidt  
14th ... Gary Vander Linden  
16th ... Marion Jones  
18th ... Jan Boman  
19th ... Cheryl Pingel  
Ryan Pingel  
20th ... Taycie Schmidt  
21st ... Connie Rohloff  
22nd... Paul Sassman  
23rd ... Heather Lison  
Tyler Biese  
24th ... Karen Arnold  
25th ... Eugene Blake  
28th ... Judy Samson  
30th ... Cheryl Duhm  
David Holz



## June Anniversaries

June 4th  
Stephen & Barbara Sassman

June 7th  
Steven & Cheryl Pingel

June 8th  
Donald & Ann Peotter

June 9th  
David & Mary Tesch

June 21st  
Gregory & Barbara Volkman  
David & Brenda Holz  
Timothy & Connie Shannon

June 27th  
Tori & Jon Erickson

June 28th  
Michael & Carla Holz  
Lindsay & Steve Seefeldt

June 30th  
Kurt & Debbie Boettcher

## 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 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

### Sunday July 2, 2023 ~

### Sabbatical & Communion

Reader Vi Brown-Luebke  
Greeters Vi Brown-Luebke  
Kelly Stevens  
Mike & Sally Dickinson

### Sunday July 9, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Reader Robin Schmidt  
Greeters Robin Schmidt  
Carol Schmidt

### Sunday July 16, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Reader Autumn Schmidt  
Greeters Gene & Audrey Blake

### Sunday July 23, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

Reader Steve & Nate Seefeldt  
Greeters Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

### Sunday July 30, 2023 ~ Sabbatical

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

### 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

## St. John's UCC Black Creek ~ Council Meeting Minutes ~ May 9, 2023

- Present were Pat Schomisch, Todd St. John, Lizzie Tesch, Lisa Waterstradt, Trevor Rohloff, Sally Dickinson, and Pastor Moira
- Pastor Moira led us in prayer.
- The minutes of the April 2023 meeting were read; motion to approve by Trevor, second by Sally, motion passed
- The Financial Secretary & Treasurer's reports were reviewed;
- Motion for the money from the Easter Breakfast offering (\$358.00) to go to Good Shepherd for their bus fund; motion by Trevor, second by Todd, motion passed
- Motion to approve reports by Sally, second by Trevor, motion passed
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including upcoming celebrations in May and the coming Wisconsin Conference annual meeting plans;
- Christian Education ~ Celebration of Christian Family Home (5/14); next meeting Tuesday August 15, 2023 at 6:30pm
- Worship & Music ~ Hunter would like to have a recital with us on his last Sunday (August 20<sup>th</sup>) with potluck after worship and recital at 12:30pm; next meeting Sunday May 21 after worship
- Building & Grounds ~ reviewed the list of tasks supplied by Duane Zuleger; waiting on the outside work for the stained glass; need to resume looking for a plastering contractor; waiting for the fire inspection before replacing smoke alarms; moving janitorial supplies to the old men's bathroom; lock boxes for pastor & church office keys acquired;
- 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 – meeting on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9am for rummage sale preparations (lunch provided)
- Garden Project – work days are May 13 & 20; deposit on fence from Valley Custom Fencing and waiting on building permit from village;
- SCRIP ~ nothing to report
- Old Business – stained glass window; waiting on the weather for 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;
- Old Business – new committees ~ parish relations is scheduling a meeting before sabbatical begins

- Old Business ~ sabbatical; reviewed notes about worship, mail, phone, and all the other logistics related to Pastor Moira being away, we are ready;
- Old Business ~ Duane's retirement, a celebration is being planned
- New Business ~ Gifts for Bonnie Vander Linden, Robin Schmidt & Kerri Cournoyer from Council were discussed; motion for Bonnie's gift by Sally, second by Lizzie, motion passed; motion for Robin & Kerri's gifts by Sally, second by Lisa, motion passed;
- Thanks and prayers were shared for Allen, Texas;
- Motion to adjourn by Trevor, second by Sally, motion passed.
- The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer
- Next meeting ~ Tuesday June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

News from the 2023 Northeast Association Annual Meeting Saturday April 22nd, Kerri Cournoyer attended the annual meeting of the **Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference as our church's** delegate, carpooling to Daycholah Center with Pastor Lynn Martin and members of her parish from Appleton & Kaukauna. There were several speakers and representatives from indigenous people of the area. There was an amazing lunch and in the afternoon all of the business of the association was done including the budget and installation of new officers. There was also a discussion of boundaries and adding a new church to the association.

## 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: June 4th, July 2nd & August 6th  
*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...**

We're here. The first part of Pastor Moira's sabbatical begins this month. 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 will coordinate these before she goes)

### 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 are all ready and we're working on the PowerPoint for worship so that will all be set before Pastor Moira leaves**
- ♥ 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**

### 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 ~ APRIL 2023**

	4/2/23	4/7/23	4/9/23	4/16/23	4/23/23	4/30/23	Direct Deposit	TOTAL
<b>Checking deposit</b>	2,724.00	872.00	3011.00	507.00	6,710.00	1,651.00	300.00	15,775.00
<b>Total General Fund</b>	2,529.00	822.00	2,618.00	492.00	6,700.00	1,791.00	300.00	15,252.00
<b>Operating Funds</b>								
Building Fund	20.00		30.00	15.00		5.00		70.00
Endowment	5.00		5.00			5.00		15.00
<b>Total Operating Funds</b>	25.00	0.00	35.00	15.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	85.00
<b>Special Funds (in alphabetical order)</b>								
Community Garden		50.00						50.00
Easter Breakfast	40.00							40.00
Plastering	30.00							30.00
Sunday School	100.00					50.00		150.00
UCCI					10.00	100.00		110.00
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS</b>	170.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	150.00	0.00	380.00
<b>Total Membership Giving</b>	2,724.00	872.00	2,653.00	507.00	6,710.00	1,951.00	300.00	15,717.00
<b>Other Income</b>								
Easter Breakfast Offering			358.00					358.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>			358.00					358.00
<b>Total</b>								
<b>Total Checking Deposit</b>	2,724.00	872.00	3,011.00	507.00	6,710.00	1,651.00	300.00	15,775.00



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

<b>Building Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$20,474.27
	Deposits	\$70.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$20,544.27
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$10,390.47
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$10,390.47
<b>Organ Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$4,455.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$4,455.00
<b>General Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$26,416.08
	Interest	\$0.68
	Deposits	\$15,925.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$8,989.25)
	Ending Balance	\$33,352.45
<b>Boiler/Furnace Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$1,800.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$1,800.00
<b>Stained Glass Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$16,640.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$16,640.00
<b>Plastering Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$7,708.00
	Deposits	\$30.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$1,118.28
	Ending Balance	\$6,619.72
<b>Gardening Project</b>	Beginning Balance	\$9,747.98
	Deposits	\$50.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$9,797.98

**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**

<b>YTD Membership Giving</b>	<b>\$40,204.50</b>
<b>YTD Expenses</b>	<b>(\$37,648.09)</b>
<b>Net Amount*</b>	<b>\$2,556.41</b>

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

<b>FUND TOTALS</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$97,631.74
Deposits	\$16,075.00
Interest	\$0.68
<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$10,107.53)
Ending Balance	\$103,599.89

## Scripture Readings

### 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

### 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

*Fifth Sunday of Pentecost*

Psalm 1

Genesis 38.1-26

Sermon ~ Tamar

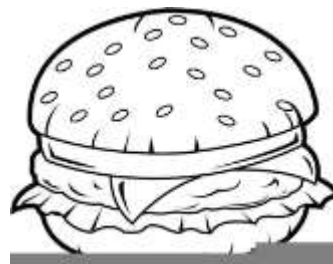
## Hamburger & Brat Fry

*to benefit the Good Shepherd  
Services Bus Fund*

Wednesday June  
14th & Thursday  
June 15th  
10am to 6pm



Depot Street Seymour  
(across from the Museum)



Bake sale &  
small craft  
sale too!

Questions?  
Talk with Connie Rohloff

### **Women's Guild News**

The Women's Guild met on Wednesday May 17th at 9am to begin organizing for the rummage sale. Sally Dickinson provided a delicious lunch & dessert. This month all our work is the rummage sale, but plan on joining us for our ice cream adventure on Wednesday July 12th ... more details soon.

# June 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
		<b>Key to locations:</b> BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran		1	2	3
4 <b>SCRIP</b>  <i>Communion</i>  BC Parish Relations after worship	5	6	7  9am BC Guild rummage sale prep (lunch provided)	8	9	10
				<b>Pastor Moira at Conference Annual Meeting</b>		
11	12	13 9am ALC Pantry board  2pm T Circle  6:30pm BC Council	14	15  5:30pm T Council	16	17 BC Gathering room in use (afternoon)
				<b>Black Creek Rummage Sale 8am - 5pm (each day)</b>		
18  <i>Father's Day</i>	19  <i>Juneteenth</i>	20	21  4-6pm ALC Pantry	22  9am C Closet work day	23	24 9-11am ALC Pantry Trinity (pm) ~ Lorraine Steinberg memorial
				<b>Black Creek Rummage Sale 8am - 5pm (each day)</b>		
25  NO Cecil worship	26	27  Noon-3pm C Closet	28	29	30	<b>July 1</b>  <i>Tomorrow... SCRIP Communion</i>
<b>Pastor Moira's Sabbatical (through July 31st)</b>						

June  
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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Black Creek, Wisconsin 54106

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**Wisconsin Conference UCC**  
[www.wiucc.org](http://www.wiucc.org)

**United Church of Christ**  
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)



## June Focus Of Giving ~ Strengthen The Church

Strengthen The Church (STC) is a special offering of the UCC that helps our entire denomination think in new ways about how we are called to be the church in this particular time and place. This offering helps start (plant) new churches, as well as renew and revitalize existing churches. This fund also helps develop the spiritual life of our youth and young adults through ministries designed to engage the next generation with the possibilities of church life and leadership. Conferences may use up to 50% of the offering for local and regional efforts to help support clergy and congregations through times of transition, conflict, and change.

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

## **US Mass Shootings**

**266**

January 1, 2023  
to  
May 31, 2023

*According to the  
Gun Violence  
Archive*