

### *From Pastor Moira's Desk...*

It's September. They're bringing in the hay, they're playing baseball and football and basketball too, and it's time for back to school (make sure you stop for the school busses please). And it's back to a different rhythm in the life of the church. Our worship time at Cecil changes back to 4pm, and we look towards fall fundraisers, All Saints Day, Advent, and Christmas too. For me, this August has been a bit of a blur getting back into the rhythm of things after the first part of my sabbatical, so I'm looking forward to the things ahead that will shape our weeks and months.

Speaking of sabbatical, thank you so much for the gift of this time. I know it probably felt risky, having the pastor away for that long, and I am grateful for your trust in me, and in our life and ministry together. I'm going to share a few brief reflections with you about what I did during this part of the sabbatical, and what I'll be doing in January during the next part.

General Synod for Break The Silence Sunday ~ every few years the entire UCC gets together to do our shared business and work (think of a congregational meeting multiplied by all our congregations). I attended, with my friend Lella Baker, to do the advocacy and support work of Break The Silence Sunday, to listen to survivors (more than 130 stories were shared) and to help congregations and communities learn how they can participate in this important work. It was hard, and holy, and I am so incredibly honored that survivors trust me with their experiences, and for the opportunity to open up this work throughout the denomination.

Writing ~ I'm working on a book, really a collection of stories, about ministry, and particularly about why long-term parish ministry, sticking around for more than five or six years (the average length of UCC pastorates). I'm writing about my adventures with you, with the incredible joy that comes from being part of a community, a group of folks committed to each other and to the work of following in Jesus' footsteps. Hopefully, when it's all done, it will be full of laughter, and reflection, and ideas for pastors & churches about how to do this work together with creativity and enthusiasm over the course of many, many years.

Napping ~ I also took a lot of naps, allowing each day after Synod to evolve at its own pace, cuddling kittens, knitting, watching British murder mysteries on TV, and more napping. I made some short trips within Wisconsin to visit friends, went to the farmer's market, and pattered around my house a lot.

January ~ I'll be working on the writing some more, having more naps I'm sure, and going to Boston with my friend Helen to visit Lella. We'll see the sights including the best baseball stadium in the world. A reminder that those dates are December 31, 2023 through January 24, 2024 and Student Pastor Mark will be with you in worship again.

Thank you again for the gift of sabbatical time. I pray that these days ahead will bring us all a renewed sense of the strength of our community & the work Jesus has set before us.

*In peace and grace, Pastor Moira*

## Parish Celebrations

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

### September Birthdays

3rd ...	Paul Schmidt
4th ...	Justin Biese
6th ...	Adrianna Pynenberg
7th ...	Robin Schmidt Logan Vande Corput
18th ...	Trudy Koon
19th ...	Steve Hanson
20th ...	Lisa Waterstradt
27th ...	Don Henning
28th ...	Ethan St. John

### September Anniversaries

September 9th  
Jim & Pam Rucci

September 12th  
Trevor & Sarah Rohloff

September 13th  
Brandi & Ryan Schomisch, Sr.

## Women's Guild News

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Rummage Sale. The profit was \$3,500!

The Guild met on August 2nd for their annual planning meeting, reviewing events for the coming year **and deciding to do something new ...** the Fall Family Festival on Sunday October 1st. The Guild Book which has all the events & programs in it was emailed out in mid-August & is available in print at church.

Some highlights of the coming year are...

- ♥ Sunday October 1st ~ Fall Family Festival
- ♥ Wednesday October 4th ~ Fall Clean Up Day at 9am with lunch provided
- ♥ Thursday December 7th ~ All Church Christmas Party potluck at 6:30pm
- ♥ Wednesday February 21st ~ Community Program at 6pm, **second part of our "Let's Talk About Death" series**
- ♥ Wednesday May 15th at 9am and Wednesday June 12th at 9am ~ Rummage Sale Work Days
- ♥ June 20, 21, 22 & June 27, 28, 29 ~ Rummage Sale

Our next meeting is  
Wednesday September 6th  
at 1:30pm  
with Pastor Moira  
providing the program and  
Donna Stucki  
providing refreshments

## September Focus Of Giving ~ Community Garden

The Garden of Eatin is doing incredibly well providing green beans and tomatoes to our area food pantries (Black Creek & Navarino so far this season). The beans keep coming and the tomatoes are coming in abundance now as well. With sunflowers & other flowers, the garden also provides a pollinator habitat to encourage bees, butterflies & other pollinators to help nurture the earth. There are also two benches in the garden where you can pause, breathe, pray, and enjoy the beauty of God's creation. Look for the special envelopes at church and help us provide for those in need.

## **Sabbatical Corner...**

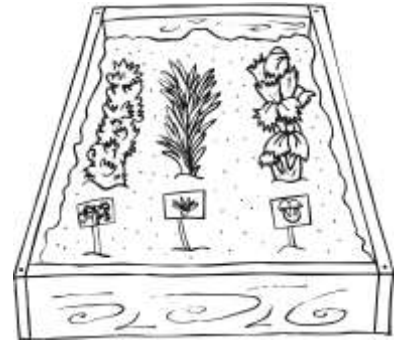
The first part of sabbatical was a great success.

Pastor Moira did some reading, and writing, and a lot of relaxing. She attended the UCC's General Synod in Indianapolis, IN to do the advocacy & support work of Break The Silence Sunday. She had a few trips within Wisconsin and started work on her book about why long-term parish pastoring is an important thing for pastors & churches.

Student Pastor Mark Schmitt did a wonderful job leading worship and we were blessed with his incredible gifts for ministry in preaching, and music.

The next part of the sabbatical is Sunday December 31st, 2023 through Wednesday January 24th, 2024. Pastor Moira will continue her writing work, and take a trip out to Boston, MA to see her friend Lella and take in the sites including the best baseball park in the world. :-)  
Student Pastor Mark will be back with us in worship during these four weeks. Stay tuned for more information!

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



Beans! So many beans.

Apparently we have the perfect growing environment for beans this year. We're producing in abundance and have delivered eight flats of beans to the Black Creek food pantry at the Salvation Army & another flat to Loaves & Fishes food pantry in Navarino (that Trinity runs). We've also delivered a couple of flats of tomatoes too, and there are plenty more on the vine that should be ready to pick in the next couple of weeks.

We're working on getting paving stones for the inside of the greenhouse, and weed control, plus we're thinking about what kind of bulbs we'd like to plant this fall by the windows of the church so we have beautiful blossoms to welcome in the spring.

And remember, there are a couple of benches in the garden and it's a lovely place to sit, and breathe, and pray, and experience God's presence.

# 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 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

## Sunday October 1, 2023 ~ Communion

*Fall Family Festival*

Reader Sally Dickinson  
Greeters Mike & Sally Dickinson  
Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

## Sunday October 8, 2023

Reader Sue Biese  
Greeters Joe & Sue Biese

## Sunday October 15, 2023

Reader Vi Brown-Luebke  
Greeters Vi Brown-Luebke  
Kelly Stevens

## Sunday October 22, 2023

Reader Robin Schmidt  
Greeters Robin Schmidt & Carol Schmidt

## Sunday October 29, 2023

Reader Jim Rucci  
Greeters Jim Rucci & Steve Hanson

## Sunday November 5, 2023 ~ Communion

Reader Bob Menning  
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning  
Mike & Connie Rohloff

## Sunday November 12, 2023

Reader Connie Wheeler  
Greeters Vera Pingel & Connie Wheeler

## Sunday November 19, 2023

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

## Sunday November 26, 2023

Reader Autumn Schmidt  
Greeters Devin Schmidt  
Autumn Schmidt

## Sunday December 3, 2023 ~ Communion

Reader Randy Miller  
Greeters Mike & Sally Dickinson  
Ryan & Stephanie Julius

## Sunday December 10, 2023

Reader Jan Rohloff  
Greeters Trevor & Sarah Rohloff

## St. John's UCC Black Creek ~ Council Meeting Minutes ~ July 11, 2023

- Present were Pat Schomisch, Trevor Rohloff, Lisa Waterstradt, Sally Dickinson and Lizzie Tesch; absent was Pastor Moira and Todd St. John
- Pat led the group in prayer
- The minutes of the June 2023 meeting were read; motion to approve by Sally, second by Trevor; motion passed
- The financial secretary & treasurer's reports were reviewed; motion to approve by Trevor, second by Sally, motion passed;
- The only committee report was from Sally regarding the rummage sale; the Women's Guild made \$3500 this year which was \$100 more than last year. Kudos to all involved from set-up to clean-up. Success!
- Old Business ~ Pat gave the name of a plaster contractor to Gary Vander Linden to make contact; no feedback to date;
- Old Business ~ Trevor reported that he has been working with Duane Zuleger to get his items moved out of the shed, and also discussed the dirt pile in the parking lot;
- New Business ~ one motor on the bell tower is not working; Trevor is going to talk to Joe Biese since he has worked on the problem in the past;
- New Business ~ Hunter Erickson has been having difficulty depositing his checks from the church; a group phone call was made to Hunter to discuss this.
- Thanks and prayers shared for Mike Dickinson's successful surgery, and Pat's great-nephew Cashton who shows no more signs of epileptic seizures; continued prayers for Pastor Moira during her sabbatical;
- Motion to adjourn by Trevor, second by Lizzie, motion passed
- The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer
- Next meeting ~ Tuesday August 8, 2023 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Sally Dickinson

## SCRIP CORNER

SCRIP is one of the easiest way you can support our church, buying gas, grocery, restaurant, and other gift cards & a percentage of the value comes to church!

*We will order on Sunday September 3rd*

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

Look for the SCRIP station in the Gathering Room.

Questions? Talk with Brandi Schomisch or Pat Schomisch



## St. John's UCC Black Creek ~ Council Meeting Minutes ~ August 12, 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 July 2023 meeting were read; motion to approve by Trevor, second by Lisa, motion passed
- The Financial Secretary & Treasurer's reports were reviewed; Motion to approve reports by Sally, second by Todd, motion passed
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including some reflections on her sabbatical time (more to come);
- Christian Education ~ next meeting Tuesday August 15, 2023 at 6:30pm; Rally Day is Sunday September 10<sup>th</sup> with Sunday school at 9am, worship at 10:15am and potluck lunch & games to follow;
- Worship & Music ~ need to resume the search for a new musician and will continue the plan to record hymns on our instruments with the musicians from Cecil & Trinity; next meeting Sunday September 17 after worship;
- Building & Grounds ~ renovating the narthex bathroom has been brought up; elevator inspection was performed (checking on the telephone situation ~ Lisa will follow-up);
- Stewardship ~ August is school supplies; September is community garden & October is Neighbors in Need (UCC national offering); at budget time this fall will consider reorganizing the giving months – the fire fighters collection should be moved from summer to the program year (Moira to get statistics about fire department services/calls)
- Cemetery ~ working on getting the dirt from church moved to the cemetery to even out the ground
- Endowment ~ paid camp scholarships for Arabella Marcks & the Waterstradt family
- Women's Guild – changing the Fall Feast to the Fall Family Festival on Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> from 11:30am to 2:30pm
- Garden Project – have donated many beans & tomatoes to the Black Creek food pantry & working on weed control that uses less toxic chemicals near the food crops; working on paving stones for the inside of the greenhouse;
- SCRIP ~ need to find ways to encourage folks to purchase SCRIP
- Parish Relations ~ Steve Hanson represented the committee in a meeting with Hunter Erickson; entire committee to meet late September to do reviews & budgeting
- Old Business – stained glass window; waiting on the outside work to be done;
- Old Business – plastering; Gary Vander Linden continues to work on finding a new contractor

- Old Business ~ sabbatical; things went very well and Student Pastor Mark did a great job;
- Old Business ~ Duane's retirement, a celebration is being planned for Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup> after worship; Trevor has been working with Duane to clean out the shed & furnace room; working on the list of jobs and how to divide them going forward;
- Old Business ~ bell tower motor not working; Trevor will contact Joe Biese about working on this;

Thanks and prayers were shared for Mike Dickinson (recovering from surgery), Lella Baker (covid), Mike Felton (moved into assisted living)

Motion to adjourn by Todd, second by Sally, motion passed.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting ~ Tuesday September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

## Scripture Readings

### Sunday September 3, 2023

*Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost*

Romans 12.9-21

Sermon ~ Exhortations

### Sunday September 10, 2023

*Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost*

*Rally Sunday at Black Creek*

Exodus 12.1-14

Sermon ~ It Takes A Village

### Sunday September 17, 2023

*Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost*

Exodus 14.19-31

Sermon ~ Dry Land

### Sunday September 24, 2023

*Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost*

Exodus 16.2-15

Sermon ~ Providing

### Sunday October 1, 2023

*Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost*

*World Communion Sunday*

*Fall Family Festival at Black Creek*

Ephesians 2.19-22 & 4.1-6

Sermon ~ One Holy Temple

### Sunday October 8, 2023

*Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost*

Exodus 20.1-17

Sermon ~ Commandments

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

	7/2/23	7/9/23	7/16/23	7/23/23	7/30/23	Direct Deposit	TOTAL
<b>Checking deposit</b>	2,649.50	848.00	3,934.00	1583.00	1,274.00	300.00	10,588.50
<b>Total General Fund</b>	1,740.00	848.00	3,684.00	1,583.00	1,198.00	300.00	9,353.00
<b>Operating Funds</b>							
Building Fund	103.00						103.00
Endowment	5.00						5.00
<b>Total Operating Funds</b>	108.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.00
<b>Special Funds</b>							
Fire Fighters	60.00		150.00		76.00		286.00
Break The Silence			100.00				100.00
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS</b>	60.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	76.00	0.00	386.00
<b>Total Membership Giving</b>	1,908.00	848.00	3,934.00	1,583.00	1,274.00	300.00	9,847.00
<b>Other Income</b>							
Tri-Jo Reimburse for Annual Meeting	741.50						741.50
<b>Total Other Income</b>	741.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	741.50
<b>Total Checking Deposit</b>	2,649.50	848.00	3,934.00	1,583.00	1,274.00	300.00	10,588.50



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

<b>Building Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$20,582.27
	Deposits	\$103.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$20,685.27
<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	\$28,874.10
	Interest	\$0.70
	Deposits	\$9,744.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$11,382.41)
	Ending Balance	\$27,236.39
<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	\$76.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$16,716.00
<b>Plastering Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$6,619.72
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$6,619.72
<b>Gardening Project</b>	Beginning Balance	\$5,080.94
	Deposits	\$124.27
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$5,205.21

**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>\$63,376.00</b>
<b>YTD Expenses</b>	<b>(\$66,061.69)</b>
<b>Net Amount*</b>	<b>(\$2,685.69)</b>

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

<b>FUND TOTALS</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$93,518.50
Deposits	\$9,971.27
Interest	\$0.70
<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$93,108.06)
Ending Balance	\$93,108.06

**We're trying a NEW thing.** At their planning meeting, the Women's Guild decided that they wanted to do something different than our more recent Fall Feast chicken & ham dinner. After a lot of conversation about what we can do with the time & volunteers we have, and what's important (time together for fellowship), we're proud to announce the Fall Family Festival.

**St. John's U.C.C.  
Fall Family Festival  
Sunday October 1, 2023  
11:30am to 2:30pm**

Support our ministry  
by purchasing...

**Brats, burgers & hot dogs  
Desserts & Ice Cream  
Caramel Apples & Drinks**

Plus free...

**Sweet Corn (if available)  
Cotton Candy**

**Face Painting, Cornhole & Games For All Ages**

**Covered outdoor dining & to-go too!**

*Meet your neighbors & make new friends!*



St. John's United Church of Christ  
Corner of Burdick & Clark  
101 S Clark Street, Black Creek

On Sunday October 1st from 11:30am to 2:30pm there will be booths where you can purchase food & drink, plus games for all ages and lots of tables where you can sit and visit with friends old & new.

Since we've never done this before, it's all a little uncertain, but we're figuring it out as we go. And we need your help.

There are sign-up sheets at church (and sent around by e-mail) with items we need donated & volunteers needed.

We hope you'll join us, invite your friends & neighbors (and strangers too!) and help us make this new adventure a tremendous success.

Questions?  
Talk with Pastor Moira

# September 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 ~ Sunday School 9am & Worship 10:15am  
Cecil ~ 4pm Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div 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>					1	2 Pastor Moira gone to Oconomowoc all day
3 Communion SCRIP Cecil begins 4pm worship	4 Labor Day	5	6 1:30pm BC Women's Guild 6:30pm BC Choir	7	8 Pastor Moira out of town for the day	9
10 BC Rally Day Potluck lunch after worship	11	12 9am ALC Pantry board 2pm T Circle 6:30pm BC Council	13 6:30pm BC Choir	14 5:30pm T Council	15	16 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>
17 BC Worship & Music after worship	18	19	20 4-6pm ALC Pantry 6:30pm BC Choir	21 9am C Closet work day	22	23 9-11am ALC Pantry
24 BC Duane Zuleger retirement party C Business Mtg	25 <i>Yom Kippur</i>	26 12-3pm C Closet	27 6:30pm BC Choir	28	29	30 BC Fall Festival Prep  <i>Tomorrow... Fall Family Festival at BC</i>

September  
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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YouTube: search for Moira Finley

**Pastor Moira Finley**  
Phone 715-851-3080  
Email [pastormoira73@gmail.com](mailto:pastormoira73@gmail.com)

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

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



## Help For Hawai'i

As you know, wildfires have devastated the Hawai'ian island of Maui. The work continues to assess the damages, find those who have sheltered and evacuated (including on other islands), and to identify all those who have been killed. The UCC church in Lahaina was completely destroyed. The rebuilding will be an incredibly long-term event. The Hawai'i conference of the UCC writes ... *The Conference is taking a two-pronged approach in our response. The first prong is immediate assistance through funds from the HCUCC disaster relief funds reserve. The second prong is long-term recovery. Danny Tengan is heading this up as the Conference Disaster Ministries Coordinator. He is well-networked and is leading the way. Danny is active with Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) and has already advised that financial funds are the best way to help.* Please make checks out TO CHURCH with "Hawai'i Relief" in the memo, and use the designated envelopes. We will collect funds through September

## **US Mass Shootings**

**460**

January 1, 2023  
to  
August 22, 2023

*According to the  
Gun Violence  
Archive*