

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

October. The leaves are a glorious mix of green, red, orange, and gold. The apples are in abundant supply, the field corn is being harvested, and the nights are delightful for sleeping with the windows open and cuddled up under a blanket. October is one of my favorite months, filled with an abundance of happy memories from my childhood (apples, hot air balloons, and roasting green chile), along with the delights and beauty of where we live.

The other thing that October reminds me of is that change is part of how the universe works. The leaves are going to let go, and the gardens will start their journey towards a long winter sleep. Even the evergreens will look different against a barer background and the fields, first plowed rows of dark dirt and then snow covered, will change. It all has to change, and so do we. It's part of how God created us, and the world.

None of us is the same as we were last October, maybe not even the same as we were last week. Sometimes that change is good and exciting, sometimes the change is hard and scary, and sometimes it's a combination of the two, a mix and muddle where we aren't really sure how we feel about it until we've lived through it for a while. But one thing I do know is that whatever changes happen ~ in our lives, in our families, in our parish, in our communities, in the world ~ we never face them alone. We are with God, and with each other for all that life brings.

In worship recently, we've been reading through Exodus ~ the story of the people's enslavement, and journey to freedom, and their struggles to trust in Moses' leadership, in God's providing for them in the wilderness, and in a path they could not see leading to a place they could not imagine. I love that we've come to this story at this particular time of the year, as we shift from summer to fall and ready ourselves for winter, and as we get closer to All Saints Sunday (November 5th) remembering the ones we love who now live in eternity. Our lives, much like the Israelites in Exodus, are journeys through wildernesses where we can often only see the next step, or maybe two or three steps ahead, and journeys where we have to trust in God, and in the people God has given us who journey with us.

I pray that this fall season might be one where we all open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to the ways God is with us, providing for us with the resources and companions we need for this moment. I pray we might see the changing of the world and reflect on all the changes of our lives, looking for the ways God is with us, guiding and leading us. And I pray we might welcome all that this season has to teach us, the ways it can inspire our imaginations, our kindness and compassion towards one another and ourselves, and our gratitude for all that life is.

In peace and grace, Pastor Moira

All Saints Sunday ~ November 5th

During worship, we will remember those we love who have gone on to eternal life ~ recently or many years ago, all remembrances are welcome.

You are invited to submit names to Pastor Moira at any time before Sunday October 29th.

Parish Celebrations

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

October Birthdays

2nd ... Cecelia Rohloff
3rd ... Duane Zuleger
Brandi Schomisch
4th ... Angela Biese
5th ... As Schmidt
6th ... Verla Pingel
7th ... Jordy Seefeldt
13th ... Joshua Holz
15th ... Jennifer Sassman
17th ... Barry Zuleger
20th ... Dallas Rihm
21st ... Timothy Veldt
21st ... Ariel Jochman
23rd ... Kerri Cournoyer
27th ... Arcadia Holz
28th ... Barbara Sassman
29th ... Sue Schneider
30th ... Pam Rucci

October Anniversaries

October 1st
Brian & Katye Holz

October 14th
William & Sue Schneider

October 17th
Morgan & Lucas Werner

October 19th
Dale & Marilyn Gregorious
Keegan & Rachel Hooyman

October 20th
Adrianna & Daniel Pynenberg

October 27th
Brent & Stephany Boettcher

Women's Guild News

The Guild met on Wednesday September 6th at 1:30pm. Pastor Moira gave a presentation about the history and practice of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Donna Stucki served a refreshments with all kinds of delicious snacks. We discussed the upcoming Fall Family Festival.

Our next meeting is Wednesday October 4th at 9am for clean-up day. Lunch will be provided. And mark your calendar for the All Church Christmas Party potluck on Thursday December 7th at 6:30pm! All are welcome!

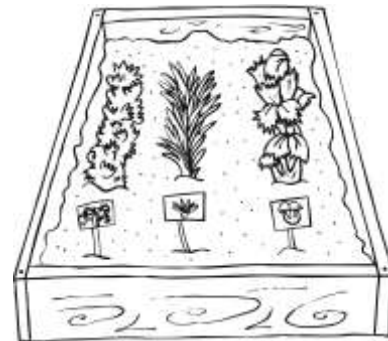
October Focus Of Giving Neighbors In Need (NIN)

NIN is a special offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion across the United States. One third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), paying special attention to how issues of justice affect American Indian life. The remaining two-thirds of NIN supports the work of Justice and Witness Ministries. NIN grants are awarded to churches working in their communities to address systems of injustice and oppression for programs such as church based food and clothing ministries, refugee and immigrant advocacy and support groups, church camps and facilities redesigning and rethinking their space to make them more accessible for all, homeless shelters and ministries, programs for at-risk teens and youths, and more.

Sabbatical Corner...

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 at Trinity & Black Creek during these four weeks (and Cecil will take those weeks off from in-person worship). Please reach out with any questions.

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



It's been a tremendous first year. We've given our local food pantries an abundance of beans & tomatoes to help their clients have fresh produce.

Our garden has created a pollinator habitat with butterflies and bees coming to enjoy the flowers, and the birds are around in abundance as well (the red sunflowers are particularly attractive to the hummingbirds!).

Now that fall is here, the squirrels are taking the dead sunflower heads off to store up for the winter and we're looking towards planting bulbs so we can enjoy reminders of new life in early spring. We'll also be putting paving stones in the greenhouse and doing all the other fall tasks gardens require, while dreaming of what we'll be planting next year (beans, tomatoes, and probably cucumbers).

Don't forget, the garden is a lovely place to sit, and breathe, and enjoy the beauty of God's creation too!

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 October 1, 2023 ~ Communion

Fall Family Festival

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

Sunday October 8, 2023

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Robin Schmidt & Carol Schmidt

Sunday October 15, 2023

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

Sunday October 22, 2023

Reader Sue Biese
Greeters Joe & Sue Biese

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

Sunday December 17, 2023

Program Sunday

Reader Connie Wheeler
Greeters Connie Wheeler
Hollie Wheeler

Sunday December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Worship at 7pm

Communion

Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning
Connie Wheeler
Cailey Wheeler

Sunday December 31 ~ Sabbatical

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Lisa Raaths
Esther Meyer

St. John's United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes ~ September 12, 2023

- Present were Pat Schomisch, Todd St. John, Lisa Waterstradt, Lizzie Tesch, Sally Dickinson, Trevor Rohloff, and Pastor Moira Finley
- Pastor Moira led the group in prayer
- The minutes of the August 2023 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Todd, second by Trevor, motion passed
- The Financial Secretary & Treasurer's reports were reviewed; motion to approve by Trevor, second by Sally, motion passed
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including recent funerals for members of the community, meetings with various church groups, work with Student Pastor Mark Schmitt on his ordination process, and visiting Ila Mae Jens in memory care in Oconomowoc;
- Christian Education ~ met on August 15th including planning rally day, and candy sales for this year; next meeting November 2nd at 6:30pm
- Worship & Music – will begin to record hymns on our instruments with the help of Allison Schultz (Cecil) and Amy Zuiches (Trinity), next meeting Sunday September 17th after worship;
- Building & Grounds ~ Duane Zuleger retirement plans; had the elevator tech out to investigate mysterious beeping, no problems with the elevator, but the phone is not working which must be fixed ASAP; need to investigate the emergency panel at the west door as the possible source;
- Stewardship ~ revised the monthly giving calendar and will also give a monthly food pantry focus item throughout the year
- Cemetery ~ committal for Dorothy Paul on 8/28; dirt pile moved from church to cemetery thanks to Trevor and equipment borrowed from Lang;
- Endowment ~ nothing to report
- Women's Guild ~ met on Wednesday September 6th with a presentation on the history of Quakers by Pastor Moira & refreshments by Donna Stucki; next meeting is Wednesday October 4th for clean up, meeting at 9am with lunch provided;
- Garden Project ~ donated 16 flats of beans & 4 flats of tomatoes; working on end of season work;
- SCRIP ~ need to publicize as we move into the holiday season
- Parish Relations ~ need to meet end of September or beginning of October to discuss salaries before budgeting;
- Old Business ~ Window ~ waiting on the contractor
- Old Business ~ Plastering ~ narthex completed, bell tower portion is waiting on the contractor's schedule;

- Old Business ~ Sabbatical ~ second part is December 31, 2003 through January 24, 2024 (4 weeks)
- Old Business ~ Maintenance ~ discussed renovations to the narthex bathroom; Duane's retirement party & gifts; clock winding (move to Sundays), lawn mowing & snow removal/shoveling (Trevor & Pastor Moira will contact folks for proposals)
- Old Business ~ Hunter Erickson ~ final checks were cashed
- Old Business ~ Bell Tower Motor ~ Joe Biese will investigate
- Old Business ~ Elevator Phone ~ Lisa will investigate
- No New Business
- Thanks & Prayers ~ Paige (Lizzie's friend), Ryan Schomisch Sr (eye problems), Lizzie's boss' mom (colon cancer), Morocco (earthquake), Libya (flooding)
- Motion to adjourn by Lisa, second by Lizzie, motion passed
- The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer
- Next meeting ~ Tuesday October 10, 2023 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

SCRIP CORNER

The holidays are just around the corner & SCRIP can help make your gift-giving easier!



Nephew in college who loves coffee?

Granddaughter working on their first hunting shack?

Have a friend who loves the movies?

Planning a get-away vacation & need gas money?

Family coming for Thanksgiving & need all the fixings?

Thinking about buying a boat, new carpet for your living room,
or a new snowblower before the flakes start to fall?

Need a gift for the driver who delivers all your packages? Or your mail person?

Or your garbage collector? Or your hair dresser?

We can help you with ALL of these things.

SCRIP is the easiest way you can support our church ~
buy gift cards that you & your recipient get the full value of,
and the church gets a percentage of the value (generally 2-10%).

We will order on:

Sunday October 1st, Sunday November 5th & Sunday December 3rd.

(If you need to place an order at another time, please just ask!)

Look for the SCRIP station in the Gathering Room.

Questions? Talk with Brandi Schomisch or Pat Schomisch

Scripture Readings

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

Sunday October 15, 2023

Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost
Exodus 32.1-14
Sermon ~ Idols

Sunday October 22, 2023

Twenty-First Sunday of Pentecost
Matthew 22.15-22
Sermon ~ What is God's?

Sunday October 29, 2023

Twenty-Second Sunday of Pentecost
Matthew 22.34-40
Sermon ~ Two Rules

Sunday November 5, 2023

All Saints Sunday
Twenty-Third Sunday of Pentecost
Hebrews 11.1-3, 13-16 & 11.39-12.2
Sermon ~ Perfection of our faith

Youth Group Turkey Fundraiser October 8 to November 12

Help us raise at least \$1500 to purchase turkeys for the Black Creek Food Pantry (Salvation Army) Thanksgiving meal! All the turkeys stay local, helping families in our area enjoy the abundance of a Thanksgiving feast.

Soon we will have many fabulous items in the Gathering Room & as in years past, you'll be able to view & bid online.

This year's auction site is: <https://auctria.events/2023TurkeyFundraiser>

You'll need to register in order to bid online

All bids will be updated on Sunday afternoons and bidding in both forms closes at 10am on Sunday November 12th.

Monetary donations are also more than welcome.

Look for the Turkey Fund envelopes or simply send a check to church

with "Turkey Fund" in the memo line.

Questions? Talk with Sue Biese or Pastor Moira



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

	8/6/2023	8/13/2023	8/20/2023	8/27/2023	Direct Deposit	TOTAL
Checking deposit	1,766.00	1,769.19	742.50	1,469.00	300.00	6,046.69
Total General Fund	1,484.00	1,544.19	667.50	1,059.00	300.00	5,054.69
Operating Funds						
Building Fund	40.00		30.00			70.00
Endowment	5.00		5.00			10.00
Total Operating Funds	45.00	0.00	35.00	0.00	0.00	80.00
Special Funds						
Disaster Aid Hawai'i				110.00		110.00
Fall Family Festival				250.00		250.00
Firefighters	10.00	5.00				15.00
School Supplies	50.00	20.00	40.00	50.00		160.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	60.00	25.00	40.00	410.00		535.00
Total Membership Giving	1,589.00	1,569.19	742.50	1,469.00	300.00	5,669.69
Other Income						
Endowment Fund (for UCCI)	175.00					175.00
Oconto Falls Insurance Center	2.00					2.00
Women's Guild (for UCCI)		200.00				200.00
Total Other Income	177.00	200.00				377.00
Total Checking Deposit						
Total Checking Deposit	1,766.00	1,769.19	742.50	1,469.00	300.00	6,046.69

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

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$20,582.27
	Deposits	\$70.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$20,652.27
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	\$26,953.53
	Interest	\$0.70
	Deposits	\$5,976.69
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$8,079.94)
	Ending Balance	\$24,850.98
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	\$16,716.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<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	\$5,080.94
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<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**

YTD Membership Giving	\$68,432.69
YTD Expenses	(\$73,380.93)
Net Amount*	(\$4,948.24)

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

FUND TOTALS	
Beginning Balance	\$92,597.93
Deposits	\$6,049.69
Interest	\$0.70
<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$8,079.94)
Ending Balance	\$90,565.38

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



Trinity U.C.C. Fall Bazaar

Saturday October 14, 2023
9:00am to 12:30pm

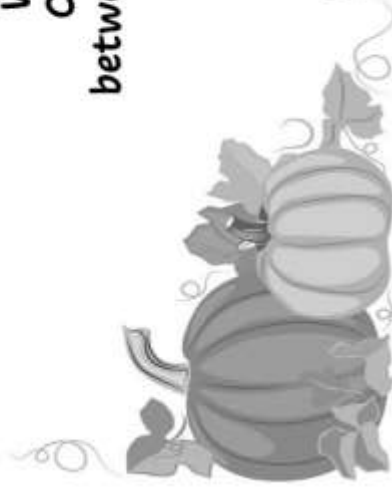
Crafts, gifts, granny's attic,
bucket and basket raffles
& our amazing bake sale!

**Sloppy Joe/BBQ Lunches &
Our Famous Chicken Soup!**

Dine-in (inside) or To-Go

Everyone is welcome & our church is accessible!

We are located on
County Highway F,
between Nichols & Leeman
Church Phone
(920) 525-2132



Funds from the bazaar
will go to community
programs & to help repair
our south entrance.

October 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
1 Communion SCRIP Black Creek Fall Family Festival	2	3	4 9am BC Women's Guild clean up (with lunch) 6:30pm BC Choir	5	6 <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>	7
8 11:30am BC Confirmation BC Turkey Auction (through 11/12)	9	10 9am ALC Pantry Board 6:30pm BC Council	11 5-7pm T Bazaar prep NO Choir	12	13 8:30am—4pm T Bazaar prep	14 Trinity Fall Bazaar
15	16	17	18 4-6pm ALC Pantry 6:30pm BC Choir	19 9am C Closet work day	20	21 9-11am ALC Pantry
22 11:30am BC Confirmation	23	24 Noon—3pm C Closet	25 6:30pm BC Choir	26	27	28
29 Deadline for All Saints Day dedications	30	31 Happy Halloween	<i>November 1</i> 1:30pm BC Guild 6:30pm BC Choir	<i>November 2</i> 6:30pm BC Christian Ed	<i>November 3</i>	<i>November 4</i> Tomorrow... All Saints & Communion Daylight Savings Ends

October
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 stjcreek@gmail.com
Website www.stjucbc.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



Daylight Savings Time Ends ~ Sunday November 5th

It's time change time again!

Set your clocks **BACK** one hour before bed
on Saturday November 4th or
you'll be really early to church the next morning.



*Also, check your smoke & carbon monoxide detectors
and make sure those batteries are working!*

Cecil Soup Sale ~ Sunday November 12th

Let us help you with your Packer's Party,
your family gathering & your weeknight meals!
Chicken Noodle Soup & Beef Chili with Noodles

\$9 per quart

Delivered to Trinity & Black Creek, or pick up in Cecil
Order forms & more information soon.



US Mass Shootings

520

January 1, 2023
to
September 26,
2023

*According to the
Gun Violence
Archive*