

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

As I write this it's raining, unusual for late October, and the rain feels as heavy as my heart. News overnight was of yet another mass shooting, this time in and near Lewiston, Maine, and Israel sent tanks into Gaza yesterday and are bombing places where people are sheltering while Hamas continues to hold hostages and aid convoys aren't able to reach those in need of food, water, fuel, and medicines.

People (and the media of all sides) are forgetting that there is a difference between the government of Israel and the Jewish people, just as there is a difference between the terrorist organization Hamas and the Palestinian people. using the war to justify anti-Semitism (anti-Jewish) and anti-Muslim words and actions.

As I've said in worship the last few weeks, no hatred is ever acceptable if you are following Jesus. None, ever. None of the actions of any side of this conflict can be used as an excuse to hate anyone regardless of their faith, their ethnicity, their country, their politics, or anything else. We cannot add any more hatred to this world if we are going to claim to be Jesus' disciples.

The wars in Ukraine and Syria continue to rage, and a powerful hurricane made landfall in Mexico, causing incredible destruction in the resort town of Acapulco. Closer to home, we're all still reeling from the terrible accident on Highway 187 near Trinity that took the life of Dylan Herb and seriously injured two other young men. And all of that is before we get to things like friends who are struggling, job and bill worries, health problems, old and new grief, and so much more. It's scary, and hard, and just plain overwhelming.

And yet, November is also the season of gratitude, and soon we'll be in Advent and Christmas, the season of hope, times when we give thanks for our blessings, and when we remember that there is something at work for good in our lives and the world.

We can't watch every bit of news from everywhere around the world 24 hours a day and 7 days a week, but we also can't climb into bed and pull the covers over our heads and ignore everything. So what do we do? How are we supposed to be faithful when it all feels just so incredibly overwhelming?

First, I think, we allow ourselves to feel our feelings ~ anger, fear, frustration, worry, grief, and all the other stuff we feel about our lives, and the life of the world. Don't try to stuff your feelings away, or pretend they don't exist. Don't try to be "fine" when you

aren't. Be as honest with yourselves and with others as you can about what and how you're feeling. Try to name the feelings—grief and anger can feel a lot alike in our minds and bodies. Not everyone needs to know the details of what you're feeling, but make sure there's someone (hint, your Pastor is here for this) you can open up to, and share what's really going on in your heart, mind, and spirit.

Second, be careful with your news consumption. Choose your sources well, looking for balanced reporting as best you can. Remember that in the first hours (sometimes) days of an event like the accident near Trinity or the shootings in Maine, information will be contradictory and confusing. And remember, you're not responsible for watching every minute of every hour of coverage. Turn off the TV, the computer, and the instant alerts on your phone. Don't pick up the paper until maybe after lunch. Find a couple of friends and share the work of staying on top of what's going on, each of you taking a turn for a day or two. Watch the 6pm news and then leave it be until morning and you've had your rest. Change the channel to something like re-runs of Bonanza or a cooking show.

Third, look for the glimmers of good. They're out there, everywhere, but we all get bogged down with the pain and hurt of the world that we can't see them. In the middle of today's rain and chaos I have a bag on my desk with six homegrown Cortland apples (because if it was more than six I'd eat them until I got sick because I love them so much). Those apples aren't going to solve any problems, not really, but they will remind me that we are connected each of us to every other one, and that there is so much more love in the world than we sometimes think. So look for little bits of hope. It's not naïve to do so, but is the deepest work of our faith. Look for a break in the clouds, a friendly gesture, a kind moment, a pause in the chaos, the helpers, the lovers, the dreamers who all know there is something beyond the pain and heartbreak of the news. And remember sometimes the glimmers are really tiny ~ you didn't spill your tea on your shirt, and you made it through this day and you never have to do it again.

In all things, please remember we really are in this together. I don't know what tomorrow holds, but I know that God is already there, leading and guiding us, and I know that wherever we're going, we go together. Please, reach out (email, text, phone, office visit, coffee shop, whatever works). Let's talk and work through this life together ~ the big stuff and the small stuff which is really much bigger than we think. It really is my deepest honor to be your pastor, with you in all that this life brings.

In peace and grace, Pastor Moira

Parish Celebrations

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

November Birthdays

1st ...	Michael Flaherty
2nd ...	Timothy Rihm Lila Hooyman
5th ...	Beverly Kruse
6th ...	Duane Henke Connie Wheeler
7th ...	Randy Miller
8th ...	Keith Kruse Abbie Flaherty Samantha Scott
9th ...	Debbie Boettcher
11th ...	Marcus Flaherty Seija Neff
19th ...	Paul Henning
26th ...	Audrey Hooyman-Blake
22nd ...	Adam Rihm
28th ...	Jaiden Wheeler Maddelyn Holz
30th ...	Joe Biese Ava Hooyman

November Anniversaries

November 7th
Steve & Pat Schomisch

*All Church Christmas Party
Thursday December 7, 2022
Food, prayers, skits & more
POTLUCK begins at 6:30pm
Program to follow.*

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.

Christmas Eve Worship
Sunday December 24
Cecil ~ 3pm
Trinity ~ 5pm
Black Creek ~ 7pm
*no morning services
at Trinity or Black Creek*

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.

Church Christmas Decorating Party

Tuesday November 22nd
beginning at 5pm

Join us as we decorate the church for the Advent & Christmas season.



There are trees in the sanctuary & entrances to decorate, garland to hang, banners to put up and so much more.

There will be cookies to decorate (and eat), cocoa and tea to drink, carols to sing, and friends to visit with along with a couple of very simple decorations to make for the tree in the gathering room.

We'll have food (yes, actual dinner)
starting at 5pm!

Come if you want to help decorate.

Come if you like carrot cake, sugar cookies, and cocoa.

Come if you want dinner you didn't have
to prepare yourself.

It will be great fun for all ages & will help get us all into the spirit of the season.

Questions? Talk with Pastor Moira

Garden of Eatin News



The garden is getting ready for a winter sleep.

Everything but

the strawberry plants have been pulled up and the beds will have a nice rest before spring. The strawberries are covered with straw that, along with snow cover, will help protect them through the winter and hopefully help us have an early crop next year.

We've put the paving stones down in the greenhouse and are dreaming about seed starting maybe as soon as February, and we planted oodles of bulbs (tulips, daffodils, crocus, and more) on the side of the garden by the church where we can take advantage of the southern exposure and have some early signs of life returning after the winter. And now, we wait. We dream of what to plant next year (beans, cucumbers, tomatoes and maybe something else?). We dream of some perennial flowers to beautify parts of the garden where food crops won't grow well (at the east side between the fence and the greenhouse). And we wait, trusting in the work God is doing down under the ground where we can't see it.

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 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 with Communion

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

Sunday December 31 ~ Sabbatical

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Lisa Raaths
Esther Meyer

Sunday January 7, 2024 ~ Sabbatical

Communion

Reader Jan Rohloff
Greeters Gary Vander Linden
Mark Hooyman
Jan Rohloff
Keith Kruse

Sunday January 14, 2024 ~ Sabbatical

Reader Vi Brown-Luebke
Greeters Vi Brown-Luebke
Darwin Ethington

Sunday January 21, 2024 ~ Sabbatical

Reader Sally Dickinson
Greeters Mike & Sally Dickinson

Sunday January 28, 2024

Congregational Meeting Sunday

Reader Audrey Blake
Greeters Gene & Audrey Blake

St. John's United Church of Christ Black Creek Council Minutes ~ October 10, 2023

- Present were Pat Schomisch, Lizzie Tesch, Lisa Waterstradt, Sally Dickinson, Trevor Rohloff, and Pastor Moira; absent was Todd St. John
- Pat called the meeting to order and Pastor Moira opened with prayer
- The minutes of the September 2023 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Lisa, second by Trevor, motion passed
- The financial secretary & treasurer's reports were reviewed; motion to approve by Sally, second by Trevor, motion passed
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including funerals for several members of the wider community, a wedding, the beginning of this year's confirmation class with six students, and plans for the Christmas decorating on Tuesday November 21st beginning at 5pm with food & projects for all ages.
- Christian Education ~ Confirmation has begun with five students from Black Creek and one from Trinity; next meeting is Thursday November 2nd at 6:30pm
- Worship & Music ~ have begun the hymn recording project with the musicians from Trinity & Cecil; discussed special music & communion guidelines; working to get a software problem with the sound system fixed; discussed the Advent and Christmas schedule, sabbatical, and the Lent/Easter schedule; next meeting will be in February
- Building & Grounds ~ celebrated Duane Zuleger's retirement; made note that we would like to renovate the narthex bathroom and that the village is making changes to garbage collection but we have no information at present;
- Stewardship ~ November focus is the turkey fund; December focus is the UCC's Christmas Fund and Adopt a Family
- Cemetery ~ a CD is coming due and will be renewed;
- Endowment ~ nothing to report
- Women's Guild ~ Fall Family Festival was a success and next year will transition to a merged event with Christian Ed's Rally Day; clean up day on October 4th went well and the all church Christmas party is Thursday December 7th at 6:30pm
- Garden Project ~ had a wonderful first year and are winterizing things in addition to planting bulbs for the spring;
- SCRIP ~ have begun publicizing for the holiday season; discussed returning the start-up money to the church; motion to purchase \$500 in scrip with the start-up money (\$100 for GFS where we get dispenser paper towels and other supplies; \$200 for Menards; \$200 for Office Depot), motion by Lizzie, second by Sally, motion passed.
- Parish Relations ~ working on scheduling a meeting for the beginning of November
- Old Business ~ Window; outside work has begun, completed in early November
- Old Business ~ Plastering; waiting on the bell tower portion

- Sabbatical ~ second part is December 31, 2023 – January 24, 2024 (4 weeks)
- Maintenance
 - Snow Plowing – reviewed the quote we have received and will get additional quotes and make a decision via email asap
 - Bell Winding – working on a schedule; Mark Hooyman has been doing it thus far
 - Other Tasks ~ Bernie & Denis Shepard will take on some of the smaller additional tasks
 - Cleaning the furnace room & getting in supplies ~ Pastor Moira & Trevor will work on this
- Old Business ~ Bell Tower Motor; Joe Biese worked on it and it is working again;
- Old Business ~ Elevator Phone; need to contact Kone now that we have the phone number for the elevator, Pastor Moira will do this;
- New Business ~ Garbage Collection; the village is changing their procedures but we have no information yet;
- New Business ~ Copier; the current machine will not be serviceable after this month; the new contract proposal was reviewed; motion to approve the lease of the new copier by Trevor, second by Sally, motion passed
- Prayers and thanks were shared including Todd St. John (torn tendon in knee), the passing of Bob Menning's mother, the war in Israel & Palestine, Ryan Schomisch Sr (tear ducts blocked), and the joy of 13 folks going to Daycholah for work camp this coming weekend;
- Next meetings ~ Three Church Leadership Dinner (Tuesday November 14 at BC with snacks at 6pm and dinner at 6:30pm); regular meeting Tuesday December 12th at 6:30pm
- The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

Women's Guild News

The Guild thanks everyone for their help with our first Fall Family Festival on October 1st. It was wonderful to see everyone who came out to help in so many different ways. Moving forward, we are going to merge this event with Rally Day, one event to unite our church and community for a day of fun. Stay tuned!

The Guild met on Wednesday October 4th for clean up day, taking care of the kitchen & fellowship hall. We meet this month on Wednesday November 1st at 1:30pm with program and snacks provided by Jan Rohloff. And mark your calendar for the All Church Christmas Party potluck on Thursday December 7th at 6:30pm! All are welcome!

Scripture Readings

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

Sunday November 12, 2023

Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

Matthew 25.1-13

Sermon ~ Foolishness & Wisdom

Sunday November 19, 2023

Thanksgiving Sunday

2 Corinthians 9.6-15

Sermon ~ Enriched

Sunday November 26, 2023

Reign of Christ Sunday

Matthew 25.31-46

Sermon ~ That's a funny kind of kingdom

Sunday December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 60.1-5, 17b-22

Luke 1.67-79

Sermon ~ The tender mercy of our God

Sunday December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40.1-5

Luke 1.46-55

Sermon ~ Turning the world upside down

Youth Group Turkey Fundraiser through 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 ~ SEPTEMBER 2023						
	9/3/2023	9/10/2023	9/17/2023	9/24/2023	Direct Deposit	TOTAL
Checking deposit	2,049.50	1,457.00	680.95	1,733.50	300.00	6,220.05
Total General Fund	1,614.50	1,377.00	665.50	1,713.50	300.00	5,670.50
Operating Funds						
Building Fund	35.00					35.0
Endowment	5.00					5.00
Total Operating Funds	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00
Special Funds						
School Supplies	50.00	30.00				80.00
Disaster Aid ~ Hawai'i	200.00	50.00				250.00
Fall Family Festival	145.00		10.00	20.00		175.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	395.00	80.00	10.00	20.00	0.00	505.00
Total Membership Giving	2,049.50	1,457.00	675.50	1,733.50	300.00	6,215.50
Other Income						
Bright Speed refund			4.55			4.55
Total Other Income	0.00	0.00	4.55	0.00	.00	4.55
Total Checking Deposit						
Total Checking Deposit	2,049.50	1,457.00	680.05	1,733.50	300.00	6,220.05

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

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$20,652.27
	Deposits	\$35.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$20,687.27
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	\$24,906.47
	Interest	\$0.67
	Deposits	\$6,185.05
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$7,878.25)
	Ending Balance	\$23,213.94
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	\$5,025.45
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$5,025.45

**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	\$74,107.74
YTD Expenses	(\$79,530.68)
Net Amount*	(\$5,422.94)

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

FUND TOTALS

Beginning Balance	\$90,565.38
Deposits	\$6,220.05
Interest	\$0.67
<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$7,878.25)
Ending Balance	\$88,907.85

St. John's UCC Cecil 2023 Fall Soup Sale

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Location/Church: _____

Type of Soup	Number of Quarts
Chicken Noodle	
Beef chili w/ noodles	

All soup is \$9 per quart

Quarts _____ x \$9each = _____ Paid

Soup will be delivered to Trinity,
Black Creek & Lakeshore Woods OR
will be available for pick up at St. John's in Cecil
on Sunday November 12th from 10am to 2pm

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 order on: Sunday November 5th & Sunday December 3rd.

Look for the SCRIP station in the Gathering Room.

Questions? Talk with Brandi Schomisch or Pat Schomisch



This page was intentionally left mostly blank so you can return your Cecil soup order form.

November 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 1:30pm BC Women's Guild 6:30pm BC Choir	2 6:30pm BC Christian Education	3	4 9am BC Baptism Daylight Savings Ends
5 <i>Communion</i> SCRIP All Saints Sunday 11:30am BC Confirmation	6	7 9am ALC Pantry Board 6:45pm BC Budget meeting	8 6:30pm BC Choir	9 6:45pm BC Parish Relations	10 Cecil ~ Soup Prep	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> Cecil ~ Soup Cooking
12 Cecil Soup Sale Turkey Auction Ends	13	14 2pm T New Hope Circle Leadership Dinner at BC 6pm Snacks 6:30pm Dinner	15 4-6pm ALC Pantry 6:30pm BC Choir	16 9am C Closet work day	17	18 9-11am ALC Pantry
19 Thanksgiving Sunday	20	21 5pm BC Church Decorating Party	22 NO BC Choir	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24	25
26 Reign of Christ Sunday	27	28 Noon—3pm C Closet distribution	29 6:30pm BC Choir	30	December 1	December 2 Tomorrow... Advent One Cecil Business Meeting SCRIP Confirmation

November
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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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!*

US Mass Shootings

565

January 1, 2023
to
October 26, 2023

*According to the
Gun Violence
Archive*

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 form in this newsletter & at church!