

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

It's spring in Wisconsin. I know this because the tulips are poking through the snow, and we're back to wearing our winter coats while the orange barrels have come out for road construction just about everywhere, they're playing baseball and the kids are starting to run track at school. Spring is one of those seasons in our lives that seems to come and go, teasing us with warm temperatures, encouraging us to put away the gloves and hats, and then sending the cold back and sending us scrambling as we find our scarves again. It's been like that for every spring I've lived in Wisconsin so it's no great surprise that we've had snow, and rain, and so much wind since the official meteorological beginning of the season. But, we're also now into the season of Easter, or at least we will be by the time you read this after we move through the last days of this week (I'm writing on Thursday), and after our incredible parish celebrations of the resurrection on Sunday. Unlike Spring, Easter comes and doesn't leave. Just like the promise at Christmas of *Emmanuel*, God always with us, Easter comes and reassures us that whatever life brings, whatever challenges we face and joys we celebrate, the tomb is empty, Christ is risen, and life and love will always have the final word.

That's the great good news of our faith, even in the middle of these complicated days in our lives and in the life of the world. While we continue to call for unconditional cease fire in Palestine and Ukraine, we know war and violence continue in Haiti, Sudan, Syria, and so many other places. We are all stunned by the Holy Week collapse of the Francis Scott Key bridge in Baltimore and we pray for the families of those whose lives were lost while we give thanks for the rescue workers and those who worked to save lives. And we're in the middle of the long slog towards November and the presidential (and in Wisconsin US senate) election with all its bitterness and fighting from every side. But still, even now, even with all those challenges and the things we face closer to home as individuals, and families, and local communities, even now the power of life is at work in us and through us. We are people of the resurrection, not just on Easter Sunday, but in all our lives as Jesus' people. Death, despair, violence, and hopelessness will not, will never have the final word. In the beautiful chaos of our lives we will always be people who say "Christ is Risen!" not just with our words, but with our every deed, our every action, our every prayer, our every breath. For that, for YOU, and for the amazing strength and creativity of our parish, even in the midst of the yo-yo spring of the world, I give thanks.

In peace and grace, Pastor Moira

April Focus Of Giving ~ Break The Silence Sunday

Break The Silence Sunday (BTSS) is Pastor Moira's work to help churches better support survivors of sexual violence, creating resources about how congregations can support survivors in their communities, and advocates on behalf of survivors in the wider United Church of Christ (UCC) and other faith communities. Look for the envelopes at both entrances to the sanctuary.

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 April 7, 2024 ~ Communion

Reader As Schmidt
Greeters Mark Hooyman
Steve Hanson
Mike & Sally Dickinson

Sunday April 14, 2024

Adult choir sings
Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning

Sunday April 21, 2024

Children's choir sings
Reader Ethan Bohn
Greeters Gene & Audrey Blake

Sunday April 28, 2024

Break The Silence Sunday
Reader Sue Biese
Greeters Joe & Sue Biese

Sunday May 5, 2024 ~ Communion

Confirmation Sunday
Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Pat & Steve Schomisch
Robin Schmidt
Jan Rohloff

Sunday May 12, 2024 ~ Mother's Day

Childrens choir sings
Reader Nate Seefeldt
Greeters Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

Sunday May 19, 2024

Celebration Sunday ~ farm & garden theme
Adult choir sings
Reader Jan Rohloff
Greeters Mike & Connie Rohloff

Sunday May 26, 2024

Memorial Day Weekend
Reader Vi Brown-Luebke
Greeters Vi Brown-Luebke
Darwin Ethington

Sunday June 2, 2024 ~ Communion

Reader Audrina Bohn
Greeters Gary & Bonnie Vander Linden
Randy Miller
Lisa Waterstradt

Sunday June 9, 2024

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Barry Zuleger
Steve Hanson

Sunday June 16, 2024

Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning

Sunday June 23, 2024

Reader As Schmidt
Greeters As Schmidt & Kelly Stevens

Sunday June 30, 2024

Reader Sally Dickinson
Greeters Mike & Sally Dickinson

St. John's UCC Black Creek ~ Council Meeting Minutes ~ March 11, 2024

- Present were Sally Dickinson, Trevor Rohloff, Lizzie Tesch, Lisa Waterstradt, Connie Rohloff, Brian Holz, and Pastor Moira
- President Sally Dickinson called the meeting to order and Pastor Moira led us in prayer.
- The minutes of the February 2024 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Lisa, second by Connie, motion passed.
- The financial secretary and treasurer's reports were reviewed; Lisa Waterstradt noted that the IRS is no longer accepting check payments so she is in the process of setting up the electronic payment system; motion to approve by Brian, second by Connie, motion passed
- Pastor Moira presented her report including the beginning of Lent, the "Let's Talk About Death" gathering, and upcoming dates and events
- Christian Education ~ discussed confirmation classes and the fundraising competition for the backpack meals and rebuilding in Hawai'i; next meeting March 19, 2024 at 6:30pm
- Worship & Music ~ need to resume the search for a new musician;
- Building & Grounds ~ discussed clock winding (waiting for a proposal from Lee Manufacturing), as well as ways to protect the new fellowship hall flooring (felt pads for tables & chairs); discussion about the old dumpster, motion to allow Duane to take by Lisa, second by Lizzie, motion passed; discussed the need for some small electrical projects around the church, Pastor Moira to connect with Steve Mullen about coming;
- Cemetery ~ discussion about ideas for moving forward with the cemetery committee including getting documents, policies, etc. organized in a central place in the church office;
- Endowment ~ nothing to report
- Stewardship ~ April focus Break the Silence Sunday and food pantry cake & brownie mixes; May United Church Camps (focus will be cabin restoration at Moon Beach) and food pantry SPAM and tuna
- Women's Guild ~ have begun discussing the rummage sale, will have a work day on May 15th (9am with lunch provided) to begin set up
- Garden Project ~ new beds purchased to be more functional than last year's tomato beds; working on a rock border project for the side near the church;
- SCRIP ~ need to work on publicity;
- Parish Relations ~ needs to meet in May 2024 to discuss staff salaries;
- Delegates for Wider Church Meetings
 - As Schmidt and Pastor Moira to attend association meeting on April 20th;
 - Gary Vander Linden and Pastor Moira to attend conference meeting June 7-9

- Old Business ~ Plastering; waiting on bell tower portion
- Old Business ~ Sassman Memorial; all items are here, All Pro does not do the metal memorial tags; Brian will take care of getting these
- Old Business ~ Lawn Mowing; discussed a sign up for the church and getting scrip for the gas (at the BP) and a “fill it before you garage it” process; Steve Hanson and Brian are working on the cemetery mowing;
- Old Business ~ Easter Breakfast; the sign up is going well; will do some set up on Thursday 3/38 at 5pm and then again on Saturday 3/30 in the afternoon
- New Business ~ Where to send the fire fighter/rescue funds ~ Trevor mentioned the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) that supports all our regional volunteer forces, Moira will connect with them and possibly have them come to the Fall Festival;
- New Business ~ Dartball Trophy Case; Jan Rohloff has offered to donate funds towards this; Steve Hanson and Darwin Ethington are working on the project;
- New Business ~ Church Insurance; our insurance agent at Oconto Falls brought to our attention a change in the way policies are being written with regards to the deductible for wind & hail damage; we discussed, called for more information, and agreed to have further discussion at the next meeting, but will continue with our current insurance company;
- New Business ~ Changing banks; there was discussion about moving our banking to the credit union in Black Creek; Pastor Moira will work on gathering information about their business account services before the next meeting;
- New Business ~ Altar candles; they are burning unevenly; Jan Rohloff and Pastor Moira are investigating;
- New Business ~ Box Elder bugs; there was discussion about them, and we are unsure where they are coming in from, but will continue to monitor;
- Thanks & Prayers ~ Lizzie’s boss’ mom who is on hospice;
- Motion to adjourn by Trevor, second by Lizzie, motion passed
- The meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer
- Next meeting ~ Monday April 7, 2024 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira

2024 Church Council Members

Sally Dickinson ~ President, 920-525-2137

Connie Rohloff ~ 920-228-0940

Trevor Rohloff ~ Vice-President, 920-228-0950

Brian Holz ~ 920-585-0078

Lizzie Tesch - financial secretary, 920-370-8692

Pastor Moira ~ 715-851-3080

Lisa Waterstradt - treasurer, 920-422-0933

St. John's United Church of Christ Financial Secretary's Report ~ FEBRUARY 2024							
	2/4/2024	2/11/2024	2/14/2024	2/18/2024	2/25/2024	Direct Deposit	TOTAL
Checking deposit	2,329.00	2,197.00	1,208.00	885.00	822.00	300.00	7,741.00
General Fund	2,164.00	2,164.00	198.00	780.00	777.00	300.00	6,383.00
Operating Funds							
Building Fund	30.00	3.00					33.00
Endowment	5.00						5.00
Total Operating Funds	35.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.00
Special Funds							
Firefighters	80.00	10.00	10.00	105.00	45.00		250.00
Food Pantry	50.00	20.00					70.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	130.00	30.00	10.00	105.00	45.00	0.00	320.00
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING							
	2,329.00	2,197.00	208.00	885.00	822.00	300.00	6,741.00
Other Income							
Ralph Sassman Estate			1,000.00				1,000.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00		0.00	1,000.00
TOTAL CHECKING DEPOSIT							
	2,329.00	2,197.00	1,208.00	885.00	822.00	300.00	7,741.00

St. John's United Church of Christ Treasurer's Report ~ FEBRUARY 2024

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$21,953.27
	Deposits	\$33.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$1,994.00)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$21,953.27
Memorial Fund	Beginning Balance	\$10,390.47
	Deposits	\$1,000.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$11,390.47
Organ Fund	Beginning Balance	\$4,455.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$4,455.00
General Fund	Beginning Balance	\$26,480.98
	Interest	\$0.52
	Deposits	\$6,708.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$9,423.60)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$23,765.90
Boiler/Furnace Fund	Beginning Balance	\$1,800.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$1,800.00
Plastering Fund	Beginning Balance	\$6,923.72
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$6,923.72
Gardening Project	Beginning Balance	\$4,728.71
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$0.00)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$4,728.71

**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	\$14,602.00
YTD Expenses	(\$17,768.36)
Net Amount*	(\$3,166.36)
* excludes contributions and disbursements for special offerings	

FUND TOTALS	
Beginning Balance	\$76,732.15
Deposits	\$7,741.00
Interest	\$0.52
<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$11,417.60)</u>
Ending Balance	\$73,056.07

Scripture Readings

Sunday April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

Psalm 133

Luke 24.13-35

Sermon ~ Revealed

Sunday April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 4.32-35

John 20.19-29

Sermon ~ Show Us

Sunday April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Psalm 23

John 10.11-18

Sermon ~ Sheep

Sunday April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Break The Silence Sunday

Isaiah 43.1-2

Matthew 15.10-11, 15-20

Sermon ~ Undefined

Sunday May 5, 2024

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday

John 15.9-17

Sermon ~ Friends

Coming Soon

Sunday April 28th

Break The Silence Sunday

This service will include several prayers to stand in support of and solidarity with survivors of rape and sexual violence.

Please talk with Pastor Moira if you have questions or concerns.

Sunday May 5th

Confirmation Sunday

Join us as Ryan Schomisch, Jr, Audrina Bohn, and Ethan Bohn affirm their faith.

Sunday May 12th

Celebrating The Christian Family Home & Mother's Day

Join us as we celebrate the Christian family home and all the kinds of families that nurture & support us.

There will be a combined Sunday school class for children of all ages at 9am and then the children will also be singing during worship at 10:15am

Sunday May 19th

Celebration Sunday

We have a FARM & GARDEN theme this year so get out those overalls and straw hats and get ready to celebrate everyone who makes our parish so amazing. The Adult Choir will be singing.

Women's Guild News

In March the guild met with devotions and delicious refreshments provided by Roberta Lorenz. We started discussing the summer rummage sale and agreed we would make more plans at our next meeting. Our April meeting is Wednesday April 3rd at 1:30pm with program by Pastor Moira and refreshments by Vi Brown-Luebke. Our May meeting is Wednesday May 15th at 9am with lunch provided to begin rummage sale set-up!

SCRIP CORNER

SCRIP is a wonderful way to help you with your regular expenses like gas, groceries, dining out & entertainment. Plus you get to support the church with a percentage of the value of the cards you purchase (generally 2-10%).

We order on the first Sunday of the month and when we have enough other orders to offset shipping costs!

Look for the SCRIP station in the Gathering Room.
Questions?

Talk with Brandi or Pat Schomisch

Youth Group Outings

Cup of Joy ~ April 13th
Meet at church at 5:45pm
to go to Cup of Joy in Green Bay
for an evening of music & fellowship

Bowling ~ April 21st
**After worship we'll go to
Wally's in Seymour.**

Families are invited.
Questions? Talk with
Gary Vander Linden or Sue Biese

Church Camp Scholarships

Remember that camp isn't just for kids!
Scholarships are available for members of UCC churches, and financial assistance is also available through the church.
If you have questions, please talk with Pastor Moira or Gary Vander Linden

Parish Celebrations

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

April Birthdays

1st	...	Elton Wendt
2nd	...	Jeff Rasmussen Grace Krull
3rd	...	Val Abel
4th	...	Sadie Fenske
9th	...	Denis Shepard
14th	...	Bernie Shepard
16th	...	Noah St. John
17th	...	Tanner St. John
19th	...	Steve Sassman
21st	...	Tim Bohn
23rd	...	David Tesch
24th	...	Marian Goodwin
25th	...	Bridget Shepard
28th	...	Esther Meyer David Rohloff

April 2024

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	2	3 1:30pm BC Women's Guild 6:30pm BC Choir	4	5	6
<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>						
7 <i>Communion</i> SCRIP 11:30am BC Confirmation	8 6:30pm BC Council meeting	9 9am ALC Pantry board 2pm T New Hope Circle	10 6:30pm BC Choir	11 5:30pm T Council	12	13 BC Youth Group to Cup of Joy
14 BC Choir sings 11:30am BC Confirmation 2nd years only	15	16	17 4-6pm ALC Pantry 6:30pm BC Choir	18 9am C Closet work day	19	20 9-11am ALC Pantry Association Annual Meeting
21 BC Kids sing BC Youth Group Bowling after worship	22	23 Noon-3pm C Closet	24 6:30pm BC Choir	25	26	27
28 <i>Break The Silence Sunday</i>	29	30	May 1 6:30pm BC Choir	May 2	May 3	May 4 Tomorrow... Communion SCRIP Confirmation Trinity work day

April
2024

"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



Stock The Pantry Shelves

"When I was hungry, you fed me."
Matthew 25.35

April Focus Items Cake & Brownie Mixes

Help our pantry families have a sweet treat.
Yellow & chocolate cake mixes are the best,
but anything you bring is most appreciated.



Remember, it never needs to be name brand &
you can always send a monetary contribution
as well with "food pantry" in the memo.

US Mass Shootings

1/1 - 3/28/2024

86

*According to the
Gun Violence
Archive*