

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

Water seems to be the story of this summer. There's time at the lake, and in the swimming pool, and floating down the river, but it's a different kind of water I'm thinking of. Rain, and more rain, and then a tornado for variety (rather too close to my house for my taste), and then more rain. There's water everywhere, standing in fields and parking lots, providing lovely breeding ground for mosquitoes, and causing incredible headaches for farmers. In some places the corn is doing well, planted and rooted before the downpours came, and in other places, the fields are likely to be a washout, the tender seedlings unable to withstand so much. In Ruidoso (a town in southern New Mexico), there isn't enough water, fires forcing evacuations, burning through town, destroying homes and lives while wildfires rage in many other places including western Canada. A drought and heat wave have brought crippling temperatures of more than 130° F to parts of India and southern Asia, Mexico City is facing unprecedented water rationing, and the collision of war, drought, and famine are threatening the Darfur region of Sudan while my friends in Haiti are struggling to have enough water to drink, eat, and keep clean.

Water is something a lot of us take for granted. We turn on our taps and clean drinking water comes pouring out. We wash our clothes, and cars, and don't give a lot of thought to where or how we got the water. But even here in the US, it's not that way for many. Old pipes, many filled with lead, are a public health threat, and as we've learned with road construction projects, when the water lines get hit by diggers, it takes quite a while to get services restored.

I wonder what Jesus, who described himself as living water to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 7.37-39) would do with all our water related struggles this year. I don't have an answer, but I wonder if some attentiveness and attention to water might be an important first step. Unfortunately we can't load up an airplane here in Wisconsin with our excess rain and fly it down to New Mexico to put out fires, but we could send funds for drinking water to the firefighters and folks working to help those most affected; and we could investigate climate change and how it affects rising sea levels, and what could be done to conserve this precious resource before we too face water rationing, and how we mobilize to get water to people in need in places like Haiti and Michigan and so many other places. And more than anything we could be attentive to the water we use so freely, thinking about the life-giving power it brings us when we turn on our taps, when we reach for that bottle of water on a hot day, and when we turn on the hose to wash our car. I pray we might all be aware of the water we depend on that comes from our taps, and the spiritual water that comes so freely and abundantly to remind us of God's grace and love.

In peace and grace, Pastor Moira

St. John's UCC Black Creek ~ Council Meeting Minutes ~ June 12, 2024

- Present were Sally Dickinson, Trevor Rohloff, Lizzie Tesch, Lisa Waterstradt, Brian Holz, and Pastor Moira; absent was Connie Rohloff
- Sally Dickinson called the meeting to order and Pastor Moira led us in prayer.
- The minutes of the April 2024 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Lizzie, second by Trevor, motion passed.
- The financial secretary and treasurer's reports for May & June 2024 were reviewed; motion to approve by Trevor, second by Sally, motion passed.
- Pastor Moira presented her report including Celebration Sunday, and attendance at the Wisconsin Conference UCC annual meeting; she also looked at upcoming events including the Trinity Pie & Ice Cream Social (7/14) and upcoming parish fall fundraisers; she also talked about her planned vacation Sunday (July 15-24, worship on 7/21 will be with a recorded sermon and led by members of the parish)
- Membership ~ received three new members on 5/19; need to do a new church directory
- Christian Education ~ next meeting is Wednesday August 14th at 6:30pm
- Worship & Music ~ need to resume the search for a new musician;
- Building & Grounds
 - Various projects and situations around the church were discussed including basement dehumidifiers and the kitchen air conditioner as well as installing grab bars on the way up to the clock winding area;
 - There was discussion about the necessary elevator testing and inspections and are waiting for a proposal from the service company;
- Cemetery ~ nothing to report
- Endowment ~ nothing to report
- Stewardship ~ June focus is Strengthen the Church (a UCC offering) and food pantry is spaghetti sauce; July focus is school supplies (also for August) and food pantry is peanut butter & jelly; discussed disbursements of outstanding special offerings year to date;
- Women's Guild ~ rummage sale dates are June 20-22 and June 27-29; July is an outing and August is the planning meeting;
- Garden Project ~ discussed this year's plantings and other projects
- SCRIP ~ need to work on publicity;
- Parish Relations ~ met May 20th to discuss semiannual staff salaries and line items in the budget ideas for 2025;

- Old Business ~ Sassman Memorial; will dedicate in worship on Sunday 7/14
- Old Business ~ Church Banking ~ discussion about needs for deposit slips, stamps, new checks, etc. and other details related to the banking move; **motion to have Lisa write a check for \$500 from the BMO account to the Fox Communities account to get things moving; motion by Brian, second by Trevor, motion passed**
- Old Business ~ Dartball Trophy Case; in progress
- Old Business ~ Old Copier ~ we are still receiving bills for the old copier which was taken away and replaced in October 2023; the copier company is supposed to be investigating and has instructed us not to pay those bills;
- New Business ~ Wisconsin Conference UCC Leadership Forward Campaign; Pastor Moira presented information about this capital campaign from the conference and the Council will consider and make a recommendation to the Council at the January 2025 annual meeting;
- New Business ~ Memorial Fund; we need to generate a wish list rather than letting considerable funds accumulate in this fund with no purpose; current ideas of additional white tables, redoing the narthex bathroom, working on improving the inside east entrance, and a wildflower/pollinator garden were discussed, a list will be generated
- Thanks & Prayers ~ prayers for Gary Vander Linden's mom in her last days, Donna Stucki dealing with health challenges and doctoring, and Sammi Bohn's mother who has been hospitalized;
- Motion to adjourn by Lisa, second by Lizzie, motion passed
- The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer
- Next meetings ~ July ~ because of schedules, reports will be circulated by email
August 6th (Tuesday) at 6pm
September 10th (Tuesday) at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira

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 July 7 ~ Communion

Reader Vi Brown-Luebke
Greeters Vi Brown-Luebke
Kimberly Marcks
Kelly Stevens
Aubrey Stevens

Sunday July 14

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Robin Schmidt
Carol Schmidt

Sunday July 21

Reader Ethan Bohn
Greeters Eugene & Audrey Blake

Sunday July 28

Reader Steve Seefeldt
Greeters Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

Sunday August 4 ~ Communion

Reader Randy Miller
Greeters Randy Miller
Keith Kruse
Gary & Bonnie Vander Linden

Sunday August 11

Reader Jan Rohloff
Greeters Jan Rohloff
Trevor Rohloff

Sunday August 18

Reader Sue Biese
Greeters Joe & Sue Biese

Sunday August 25

Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning

Sunday September 1 ~ Communion

Reader As Schmidt
Greeters Mark Hooyman
Kelcie Hooyman
Steve Hanson
Darwin Ethington

Sunday September 8 ~ FALL FESTIVAL

Reader Connie Wheeler
Greeters Connie Wheeler
Cailey Wheeler

Sunday September 15

Reader Sally Dickinson
Greeters Duane & Carol Henke

Sunday September 22

Reader Nate Seefeldt
Greeters Mike & Connie Rohloff

Sunday September 29

Reader Audrina Bohn
Greeters Gene & Audrey Blake

Women's Guild News

Our July outing will be to the Trinity Pie & Ice Cream Social on Sunday July 14th at 2pm and our annual planning meeting will be on Wednesday August 7th at 1:30pm

2024 Church Council Members

Sally Dickinson ~ President, 920-525-2137
Trevor Rohloff ~ Vice-President, 920-228-0950
Lizzie Tesch - financial secretary, 920-370-8692
Lisa Waterstradt - treasurer, 920-422-0933

Connie Rohloff ~ 920-228-0940
Brian Holz ~ 920-585-0078
Pastor Moira ~ 715-851-3080

Parish Relations Committee Members

Sally Dickinson ~ 920-525-2137
Bob Menning ~ 920-268-8229
Steve Seefeldt ~ 715-573-3509

Lizzie Tesch ~ 920-370-8692
Steve Hanson ~ 920-984-3986

SCRIP News SCRIP is a wonderful way to help you with your regular expenses like gas, groceries, dining out & entertainment & you 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.

July & August Focus Of Giving School Supplies

It's not just crayons, pencils,
and notebooks anymore.

Our kids need to go to school with all
kinds of supplies and technology,
and many of those supplies get used
up during the school year.

Help us get our kids ready for a good
and productive year of school by
providing necessary supplies, and
stocking our school cupboards for
replacement as the year goes on.

There is a suggested list of supplies
available at church, and you can also
make a monetary donation with
"school supplies" in the memo line, or
using the special envelopes.

Stock The Pantry Shelves

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

July Focus Item is
**PEANUT BUTTER &
JELLY**



**Creamy or crunchy ... either is
good & for the jelly ... grape or
something red (strawberry or
raspberry) is best!**

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

St. John's UCC Fall Festival Sunday September 8th 11:30am to 1:30pm

We had a wonderful first year
and are looking forward
to another great event this year,
incorporating some changes
we learned from last year's event.



We've shortened our time by an hour,
we'll be expanding the desserts to a full bake sale,
and we'll be adding some crafts for sale, and bingo!

We're also praying for a lot fewer wasps & cooler temperatures.

Sign-up sheets for items we need donated &
for workers for set-up, the time of the event, and clean-up
will be available by the end of the month!

(If you have a special spot you'd like to work ...
talk with Pastor Moira as soon as possible)

Stay tuned for lots more information,
and talk with Pastor Moira if you have ideas & questions.

Yes, the date is really early, but that's because the Packer's schedule is
full of Sunday games well into November ...the Sunday we've chosen
there is no game so everyone should be able to come!

St. John's United Church of Christ Financial Secretary's Report ~ MAY 2024

	5/5/2024	5/12/2024	5/19/2024	5/26/2024		Direct Deposit	TOTAL
Checking deposit	1,693.00	1,287.00	1,000.00	2,652.00		300.00	6,932.0
General Fund	1,507.00	1,267.00	968.00	2,632.00		300.00	6,674.00
Operating Funds							
Building Fund	10.00		27.00				37.00
Endowment			5.00				5.00
Total Operating Funds	10.00	0.00	32.00	0.00		0.00	42.00
Special Funds							
Food Pantry	50.00						50.00
UCCI	126.00	20.00		20.00			166.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	176.00	20.00	0.00	20.00		0.00	216.00
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING	1,693.00	1,297.00	1,000.00	2,652.00		300.00	6,932.00
Other Income							
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
TOTAL CHECKING DEPOSIT	1,693.00	1,297.00	1,000.00	2,652.00		300.00	6,932.00

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

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$15,354.27
	Deposits	\$37.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$16,391.27
Memorial Fund	Beginning Balance	\$10,559.73
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$10,559.73
Organ Fund	Beginning Balance	\$4,455.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$4,455.00
General Fund	Beginning Balance	\$26,488.45
	Interest	\$0.50
	Deposits	\$6,895.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$10,439.71)
	Ending Balance	\$22,944.24
Boiler/Furnace Fund	Beginning Balance	\$1,800.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$1,800.00
Plastering Fund	Beginning Balance	\$6,999.72
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$6,999.72
Gardening Project	Beginning Balance	\$4,412.27
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$4,412.27

**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	\$42,105.00
YTD Expenses	(\$44,911.02)
Net Amount*	(\$2,806.02)
* excludes contributions and disbursements for special offerings	

FUND TOTALS	
Beginning Balance	\$70,609.44
Deposits	\$6,932.00
Interest	\$0.50
<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$10,439.71)
Ending Balance	\$66,562.23

Scripture Readings

Sunday July 7, 2024

Communion

Psalm 123

Mark 6.1-13

Sermon ~ Together

Sunday July 14, 2024

Psalm 85

Ephesians 3.14-21

Sermon ~ Love

Sunday July 21, 2024

Revelation 3.20-22

Sermon ~ by the Rev Christopher Grundy

Sunday July 28, 2024

Psalm 145.8-18

John 6.1-14

Sermon ~ Sharing

Sunday August 4, 2024

Communion

Psalm 133

Ephesians 4.1-6

Sermon ~ In this together

SAVE THE DATES...

♥ Trinity Fall Bazaar ~
Saturday October 12

♥ Cecil Fall Soup Sale ~
Sunday November 10

Parish Celebrations

If your special day is incorrect let Pastor Moira know.

July Birthdays

1st	...	Barbara Volkman Chad Lison
2nd	...	Roberta Lorenz
3rd	...	Skylar Stucki
7th	...	Audrina Bohn
10th	...	Sue Jochman
11th	...	Elly Menning
12th	...	Wyatt Lison
13th	...	Emma Holz
14th	...	Cole Marcks
15th	...	Jason Kruse Lizzie Tesch
16th	..	Kheenan Halvorson
18th	...	Ashley Lison Samantha Rasmussen
22nd	...	Anders Waterstradt
23rd	...	Tori Erickson
24th	...	Sarah Rohloff
26th	...	Ethan Biese
27th	...	Gary Helein
28th	...	Pat Schomisch

July Anniversaries

July 5th

Stanley & Sue Jochman

July 6th

Don & Diane Henning

July 22nd

Eugene & Audrey Hooyman-Blake

Trinity U.C.C. Pie & Ice Cream Social

Sunday July 14, 2024 ~ 2pm

All are also welcome to join us
for worship at 1pm



**Enjoy delicious desserts &
community fellowship**

**A free-will offering will be
received, but it's not required.**

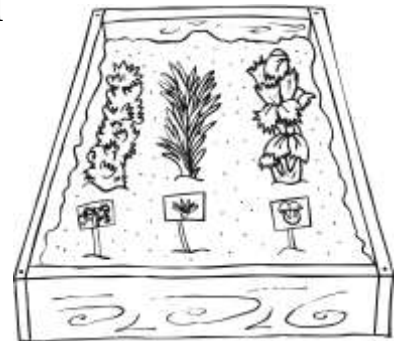


**This is a gift of food & fellowship
for our community!**

*Everyone is welcome &
our church is accessible!*

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

We were lucky & got everything planted early so it was pretty well rooted by the time the drowning rains came. Our tomato plants are growing in abundance in their new spot at the front of the garden, in the fullest of the sun. The bell pepper plants already have good sized vegetables on them & the beans and cucumbers are coming along well. We hope to really start harvesting in late July & early August. The perennial flowers we planted for beauty and to attract pollinators have been joined by some lovely flower sculptures and a few peacocks as well. There's even a table and chairs where you can sit and have a rest in the beauty of God's creation & grace. **Look for the watering sign-up sheet in the gathering room and help us grow another year of bounty & abundance.**




July 2024

How to reach Pastor Moira: phone 715-851-3080
email pastormoira73@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule: Trinity ~ 8:45am Worship
Black Creek ~ Worship 10:15am
Cecil ~ 7pm through September 1st

Pastor's In The Office
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays
Please call/text to make sure

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> Key to locations: BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran </div>						
7 Communion SCRIP	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 NO Trinity morning worship PIE & ICE CREAM!!!	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Pastor Moira on vacation; contact Council members for emergencies					
	Trinity Pie & Ice Cream Social Worship 1pm Dessert & fellowship 2pm		4-6pm ALC Pantry	9am C Closet work day		9-11am ALC Pantry
21 NO Worship at Cecil	22	23 Noon-3pm C Closet	24	25	26	27
	Pastor Moira on vacation;					
28	29	30	31	<i>August 1</i>	<i>August 2</i>	<i>August 3</i> <i>Tomorrow... Communion SCRIP</i>

July
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



Ways To Help

We have some periodic jobs around the church that could use your help.

Instructions are available for all these tasks, and there might even be treats too!

There are sign-up sheets in the Gathering Room!

Lawn mowing ~ takes about 3 hours when the lawn is long enough to need cutting (depends on the weather); we have a zero turn machine in the shed & string trimmer (weed eater)

Clock winding ~ takes about 20 minutes each week, preferably on Sundays after worship

Garden watering ~ takes about 20 minutes each week during the height of the season, again depending on weather

Reading & greeting at worship ~ talk with Pastor Moira for more details

**US Mass Shootings
in 2024**

1/1 - 6/27

254

*According to the
Gun Violence
Archive*