

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

The world is exhausting. There was an assassination attempt on former President Trump; President Biden announced he will not continue his re-election campaign; hurricane Beryl made landfall across the Caribbean, Mexico, and the US Gulf Coast; a typhoon made landfall in the Philippines and Taiwan; Jasper, Alberta Canada is under evacuation orders because of wildfires; lots of the Midwest has flooded and local farmers are struggling with fields that probably won't yield crops this year; friends and family are struggling with their health, with work, and with so much more; the war in Ukraine continues to slog on; Israel's destruction of Palestine seems to be getting even more intense; international peacekeepers have arrived in Haiti; Sudan, particularly the Darfur region, is dying under the twin crises of drought and civil war; there are mass shootings, and mindless violence, and it all tears our hearts, minds, and spirits. It's just A LOT.

In the middle of this, particularly the contentious US elections, there are a lot of folks making claims about the Christian faith, who faithful Christians can (should/must) vote for or against, about who Jesus would endorse, who God is protecting, and more. It is heartbreaking to see and hear our faith used as a weapon to sow seeds of hatred, division, violence, and discrimination.

The test of if something is faithful to Jesus has to be the words and actions of Jesus in the gospels, and to me, the words of Jesus are clear ... "blessed are the peacemakers" (Matthew 5.9) When asked what the greatest commandment was (Matthew 22.34-40), Jesus quotes the laws of the Hebrew scriptures saying, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ... and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Later, nearing the end of his earthly life, Jesus gives his disciples a new commandment to follow (John 13.34-35), "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Our faith is supposed to enrich our lives, lead and guide us in this life, offer us support and encouragement, and make us better people, more like Jesus in all we say and do. Our faith cannot ever become a weapon. Following Jesus can never be used as an excuse for violence in word or deed. Hatred, bigotry, discrimination, arguing for the supremacy of any group of people over another, using faith to beat others up and force them to conform to your way of being, speaking, eating, dressing, worshipping, living, anything ~ all of that is against the path that Jesus showed us, the work that he entrusted to us as we live in this world.

My friends, we have challenging days ahead of us, but this is nothing new. We have lived through many challenging days already, and we have met those days with faith and courage, but most importantly we have met them with hope, and we have met them together.

This is precisely the moment when we need each other most, when we need to find our common faith, our shared humanity, when we need to dig deep into the promise of the gospel, the good news of Emmanuel, God always with us. Please, turn off the media, take some slow breaths, drink some water, reach out to me to talk through the challenges of these days, share your heart and your life with others, give of your time to someone or something, and remember, we really are in this together, whatever the future holds.

In hope, peace, and grace, Pastor Moira

2024 Fall Festival ~ Sunday September 8th 11:30am to 1:30pm

Last year we had a WONDERFUL first festival, and we're back again this year with a time of food, fellowship, games, community & more. Our date this year, September 8th, is much earlier than last year because of the Packer's schedule (they play the previous Friday), but we've still got lots of time to get organized with sign-up sheets (at church & sent by email) with items we need donated & volunteer opportunities as well.

We are making a few changes based on our experience last year:

- ★ Outside Worship ~ we'll have church outside, in the same space as we'll have the festival, so everyone can enjoy time together while we pray & get ready to welcome friends, neighbors & the community;
- ★ Bake sale instead of just desserts to eat in ~ two requirements for anything you'd like to bring (1) price it in an even dollar amount (we hope for no coins at the event) and (2) package everything in something that closes completely (like a zip bag) ... no just plastic wrap;
- ★ Sun Drop Slushies ~ we're renting a machine from Twig's in Shawano and we'll have delicious frozen Sun Drop;
- ★ Expanded games for kids & adults ~ we'll add some more kids games like giant bowling, have corn hole for everyone & bingo with great prizes;
- ★ Grass seating ~ we're working on some spots to sit on the grass near the prayer garden in addition to the seating under the tents like last year.

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 our second year another tremendous success.

Questions? Talk with Pastor Moira

P.S. Check out the flyer on the next page ~ we'll need some help getting posters up around our communities too ... look for the stack of posters and the list of places. Help out by taking posters to places you already go!

St. John's UCC Black Creek ~ Council Meeting News

The Council did not meet in person during July.

The next meeting is Tuesday August 6th at 6pm.

St. John's U.C.C. Fall Festival

Sunday September 8, 2024 11:30am to 1:30pm

**Blessed Brats,
Holy Hamburgers
& Heavenly Hot Dogs!
Sun Drop Slushies,
Cotton Candy,
Bake Sale & MORE!**



**Bouncy House, Games,
Face Painting & Bingo!**

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

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 August 4 ~ Communion

Reader Randy Miller

Greeters Randy Miller

Keith Kruse

Gary & Bonnie Vander Linden

Kelcie Hooyman

Steve Hanson

Darwin Ethington

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

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

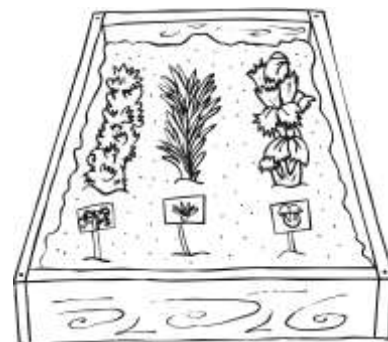
News From The Church Garden... The Garden of Eatin

Tomatoes, and pepper, and beans, OH MY!

Things are starting to come in. We had our first harvest for the food pantry ~ beans, tomatoes, and green peppers. Things are ready for a second picking as the plants of cherry tomatoes (red and yellow) are full to bursting, and the cucumbers are coming in too. As a reminder, everything we grow goes on to the local area food pantries to help provide nourishing fresh vegetables for our area families in need. We're also grateful to As Schmidt for the

beautiful welcome sign, a 4H project for the fair, that they donated to the garden.

**Look for the watering sign-up sheet in the gathering room
and help us grow another year of bounty & abundance.**



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

August Focus Item is
RAMEN



Packages please, not the cups
and beef & chicken
are the best flavors



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

Scripture Readings

Sunday August 4, 2024

Communion

Psalm 133

Ephesians 4.1-6

Sermon ~ In This Together

Sunday August 11, 2024

Psalm 121

1 Kings 19.1-12

Sermon ~ Nap Time

Sunday August 18, 2024

Psalm 111

1 Kings 3.1-15

Sermon ~ What You Ask For

Sunday August 25, 2024

Psalm 84

1 Kings 8.22-30

Sermon ~ God's House

Sunday September 1, 2024

Communion

Psalm 15

James 1.17-27

Sermon ~ Do

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.

August Birthdays

2nd ...	Jeff Rohloff Makenna Scott
5th ...	Randall Vande Corput Mark Hooyman
12th ...	Steve Schomisch Kurt Boettcher Bryce Vander Linden
17th ...	Marshall Halvorson Caylix Wernet
18th ...	Amanda Shepard
21st ...	Carla Holz Jonathan Tesch
25th ...	Karen Zuleger Karleigh Hooyman
29th ...	Marian Zuleger
30th ...	Raymond Menning
31st ...	Morgan Werner

August Anniversaries

2nd ...	Barb & Michael Flaherty Cody & Kheenan Halvorson
8th ...	Sheila & Scott Neff
9th ...	Julie Hein & Mark Suda
15th ...	Bob & Carla Menning Jeff & Cindy Rohloff
19th ...	Mike & Connie Rohloff
22nd ...	Gary & Carla Lathrop

August 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	
<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>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> Pastor Moira on trip to New Mexico for family needs Gone 7/9—8/3, back for worship on Sunday 8/4 If you have an emergency, please call her mobile </div>					3
4 <i>Communion</i> <i>SCRIP Sunday</i>	5	6 6pm BC Council	7 1:30pm BC Guild Planning Meeting	8 5:30pm T Council	9	10	
11	12	13 Election Day 10am ALC Pantry board 2pm T New Hope Circle	14 6:30pm BC Christian Ed	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21 4-6pm ALC Pantry	22 9am C Closet Work Day	23	24 9-11am ALC Pantry	
25	26	27 Noon-3pm C Closet	28	29	30	31 Tomorrow... Communion SCRIP Labor Day Weekend	

August
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



Check Your Voter Registration,
know what's on the next ballot,
check the names of your elected officials,
order an absentee ballot...

<https://myvote.wi.gov>
or contact your town/village clerk

Next election ~ Tuesday August 13th

**US Mass
Shootings
in 2024**

1/1 - 7/25

310

*According to the
Gun Violence
Archive*

Women's Guild

Annual Planning Meeting
Wednesday August 7th at 1:30pm