

## *From Pastor Moira's Desk... Team Joy & Team Hope*

There was an opinion piece in the New York Times recently titled "Joy Is Not A Strategy". The author, Patrick Healy, was talking about campaign themes during this election year, about how inviting people to joy isn't a good (winning) political approach.

But it got me to thinking about our lives as Jesus' disciples, what slogans we might use, what strategies we could best employ in order to be more faithful to the path Jesus walked.

I wonder if joy, and it's companion hope, might not just be the slogans, the strategies we need most in these days.

Whether or not these are the most difficult times in history I'm not sure, but they are our times, the ones we are living in, and they are indeed full of all kinds of things that challenge us as individuals and communities. You know the list ~ wars, violence, political and social division, climate change, heat, drought, fires, floods, storms, inflation, job losses, health problems, money worries, relationship problems, and so much more.

There is simply A LOT that we are dealing with, and sometimes it feels like the only logical choice would be to give in to despair, to believe that there's nothing we can do about any of it so we should just go back to bed, pull the covers over our heads, ignore it all, and wait for the end of days. BUT, we are people deeply rooted in the promise of Emmanuel, that God knows what our lives are like, that God is with us always.

Whatever we face ~ ups and downs and in-betweens ~ Jesus is with us through the Spirit's presence and through the presence of our communities of faith, guiding and leading us, nurturing and guiding us, holding us up when we can't hold ourselves, and celebrating with us in the goodness of life.

That presence inspires in us the deepest joy and hope we could ever imagine, something this world cannot provide, and can never take away.

The joy isn't simple happiness, but a knowledge that even when the hard times come (because surely they come into all lives), even in the depths of the worst we face, then there is a spark of life leading us. The hope isn't naïve, it looks at the challenges and problems of the world and our lives and believes that we have what we need to face them, to do more than simply endure, to recognize that yes it is a lot of work sometimes, but we have what we need ~ creativity, love, and community ~ to make a better world.

We know all this because once there was a tomb sealed with a great and mighty stone that seemed to shut away all hope, all joy, all possibilities of the future, and yet three days later, the stone had been rolled away, the tomb was empty and Christ was risen.

As we go through these days I invite you to join me on Team Hope & Team Joy. We are a team that is real and honest about the situations and struggles we are facing, and a team that knows whatever the future holds we go with God and with each other. We are a team rooted in the promise of the Gospel, the promise of Emmanuel, the promise of an empty tomb that reminds us every day that in the face of death, destruction, and division, LOVE will always be stronger, will always have the last word.

*In joy and hope, and always in peace and grace,  
Pastor Moira*

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 November 5, 2024*

# Festival Sunday ~ September 8th

**Sunday School Begins ~ 9am  
in the Fellowship Hall**

**Worship Outside ~ 10:15am under the tents**

**Then ... it's Festival Time...**

## **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

### 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.

### September Focus Of Giving Community Garden

Our garden is doing amazing things helping provide beans, tomatoes, bell peppers & cucumbers to families in need through our area food pantries.

In addition, we've planted some perennials to keep the garden looking beautiful throughout the year, and lots of bulbs close to the church to remind us of life breaking through to us. Your generous gifts will help continue the work of the garden including landscape fabric & new mulch to reduce the need for weeding & converting one of the strawberry beds to a carrot bed next year. Look for the special envelopes.

### Stock The Pantry Shelves

"When I was hungry, you fed me."

Matthew 25.35

### September Focus Hamburger Helper



**This includes hamburger, chicken & tuna helpers all of which allow our families to stretch their protein items to better feed their families.**

**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 Black Creek ~ Council Meeting Minutes ~ August 6, 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 June 2024 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Lizzie, second by Trevor, motion passed.
- The financial secretary and treasurer's reports for June & July 2024 were reviewed; motion to approve by Brian, second by Trevor, motion passed.
- Pastor Moira presented her report including attending funerals for members of the parish's family who have passed; help with the rummage sale; vacation and trip to New Mexico for family concerns; and upcoming events including the Fall Festival and Kailhofer's Fall Festival
- Membership ~ a new directory will be available by the end of August
- Christian Education ~ next meeting is Wednesday August 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm
- Worship & Music ~ need to resume the search for a new musician;
- Building & Grounds
  - discussion of a calendar of maintenance for the church along with other routine building matters;
  - Elevator Service contract was discussed; motion to move from Kone to Otis effective 9/1/2024 by Lisa, second by Trevor, motion passed
- Cemetery ~ nothing to report
- Endowment ~ nothing to report
- Stewardship ~ September is Community Garden & hamburger helper; October is Neighbors in Need (NIN, a UCC offering) and canned fruit
- Women's Guild ~ August 7 is their annual planning meeting
- Garden Project ~ harvests have begun, will be putting down landscape fabric and more mulch to reduce weeding; thanks to As Schmidt for the welcome sign;
- SCRIP ~ need to work on publicity;
- Parish Relations ~ needs to meet end of October before a budget meeting in November;
- Old Business ~ Church Banking ~ continuing the process of moving accounts from BMO to Fox Communities Credit Union
- Old Business ~ Wisconsin Conference UCC Leadership Forward Campaign, continuing to discuss and will make a recommendation to the Council at the January 2025 annual meeting;

- Old Business ~ Memorial Fund; the current list (in no particular order): more white tables, redoing the narthex bathroom, working on improving the inside east entrance, and a wildflower/pollinator garden;
- Old Business ~ Fall Festival; plans are well underway and sign-ups are going well too;
- New Business ~ Electronic Giving ~ Moira will investigate with Breeze (our giving software) and our offering envelopes program (fees, etc.)
- Thanks & Prayers were shared
- Motion to adjourn by Lisa, second by Lizzie, motion passed
- The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer

Next meetings ~            Tuesday September 10 at 6:30pm  
                                          Tuesday October 8 at 6:30pm  
                                          Three Church Leadership Dinner, Tuesday November 12  
                                          (snacks 6pm, dinner 6:30pm)

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira

## **Women's Guild News & Events**

The new Guild program book is available at church and was sent out by email as well.

It contains our schedule including some changes to upcoming 2024-2025 programs like the rummage sale & all church Christmas party.

Wednesday September 4 at 1:30pm  
 Fall Festival Preparations  
 Refreshments ~ Vi Brown-Luebke

Wednesday October 2 at 1:30pm  
 Church First Aid Kit Refurbishment  
 Refreshments ~ Roberta Lorenz

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

	7/7/2024	7/14/2024	7/21/2024	7/28/2024		Direct Deposit	TOTAL
<b>Checking deposit</b>	2,684.00	396.00	2,756.00	1,742.00		300.00	7,878.00
<b>General Fund</b>	1,694.00	376.00	2,556.00	1,642.00		300.00	6,568.00
<b>Operating Funds</b>							
Building Fund	45.00		200.00				245.00
Endowment	5.00						5.00
<b>Total Operating Funds</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>0.0</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>250.00</b>
<b>Special Funds</b>							
School Supplies	50.00	10.00		50.00			110.00
Food Pantry	50.00	10.00		50.00			110.00
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>220.00</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING</b>	<b>1,844.00</b>	<b>396.00</b>	<b>2,756.00</b>	<b>1,742.00</b>		<b>300.00</b>	<b>7,038.00</b>
<b>Other Income</b>							
Tri-Jo Reimbursement (Conference Meeting)	840.00						840.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>840.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		<b>0.00</b>	<b>840.00</b>
<b>TOTAL CHECKING DEPOSIT</b>	<b>2,684.00</b>	<b>396.00</b>	<b>2,756.00</b>	<b>1,742.00</b>		<b>300.00</b>	<b>7,878.00</b>

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

<b>Building Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$16,044.27
	Deposits	\$653.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$0.00)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$16,697.27
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$10,559.73
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$0.00)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$10,559.73
<b>Organ Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$4,455.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$4,455.00
<b>General Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$20,314.32
	Interest	\$0.48
	Deposits	\$7,340.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$9,970.40)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$17,684.40
<b>Boiler/Furnace Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$1,800.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$1,800.00
<b>Plastering Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$6,999.72
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$6,999.72
<b>Gardening Project</b>	Beginning Balance	\$4,4134.36
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$77.91)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$4,256.45

**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**

<b>YTD Membership Giving</b>	<b>\$63,376.00</b>
<b>YTD Expenses</b>	<b>(\$66,061.69)</b>
<b>Net Amount*</b>	<b>(\$2,685.69)</b>

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

<b>FUND TOTALS</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$64,507.40
Deposits	\$7,993.00
Interest	\$0.48
<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$10,048.31)</u>
Ending Balance	\$62,452.57



## 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 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

### Sunday October 5 ~ Communion

Reader Sally Dickinson  
Greeters Kelly Stevens  
Lisa Waterstradt  
Steve Hanson & Barry Zuleger

### Sunday October 13

Reader Sue Biese  
Greeters Joe & Sue Biese

### Sunday October 20

Reader Vi Brown-Luebke  
Greeters Duane & Carol Henke

### Sunday October 27

Reader Robin Schmidt  
Greeters Robin Schmidt & Carol Schmidt

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

Once again we're having an incredible year in the church garden. We've harvested tons of tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumbers & beans for our community food pantry to provide fresh veggies to people in need.

There must be something extra holy in the water, or the dirt, or the location because everything is producing in abundance. We've got beefsteak tomatoes, but also two kinds of cherry tomatoes and the yellow ones are the sweetest things you'll ever eat. The beans aren't

producing like last year, but they're still doing wonderfully, and the peppers and cucumbers (both new plants for us) are doing very well too. In October we'll be putting down some landscape fabric & new mulch to hopefully make for less weeding next year & planting some more bulbs along the church to brighten the first days of spring.



## Scripture Readings

### Sunday September 1, 2024

*Communion*

Psalm 15

James 1.17-27

Sermon ~ Do

### Sunday September 8, 2024

*Fall Festival ~ Worship OUTSIDE*

*under the tents*

Psalm 146

Sermon ~ Happy Are Those

### Sunday September 15, 2024

Psalm 116

Mark 7.24-37

Sermon ~ Even The Dogs

### Sunday September 22, 2024

Psalm 1

Mark 9.30-37

Sermon ~ True Greatness

### Sunday September 29, 2024

Psalm 19

James 5.13-18

Sermon ~ Powerful & Effective

## Parish Celebrations

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

### September Birthdays

3rd ...	Paul Schmidt
4th ...	Justin Biese
7th ...	Robin Schmidt
18th ...	Trudy Koon
19th ...	Steve Hanson
20th ...	Lisa Waterstradt
26th ...	Mike Dickinson
27th ...	Don Henning
28th ...	Ethan St John

### September Anniversaries

6th ...	Mike & Sally Dickinson
12th ...	Trevor & Sarah Rohloff
13th ...	Brandi & Ryan Schomisch, Sr.
30th ...	Sharron & Josh Affedt

## SAVE THE DATES...

♥ Trinity Fall Bazaar ~  
Saturday October 12

♥ Cecil Fall Soup Sale ~  
Sunday November 10

## Contribute To The Cemetery Fund

Maintaining the dignity of our church cemetery is an ongoing process, making sure the grass is well kept, the stones are in good condition, the access is well maintained, and more. You are invited to contribute to the upkeep by making a check to church with **“Cemetery Fund”** in the memo line, and look for the envelopes at church. If you have questions, please talk with Steve Hanson.

# September 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 ~ Christian Education 9am & Worship 10:15am  
Cecil ~ 7pm through September 1st

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Communion</i>  SCRIP Order  <i>Cecil begins 4pm worship</i>	2  <i>Labor Day</i>	3	4  1:30pm BC Guild  6:30pm BC Choir	5	6	7  9am BC Fall Festival Prep
8  <b>Fall Festival</b> 9am Sunday School 10:15am worship outside 11:30-1:30pm Food & Fun	9	10  10am ALC Pantry board  2pm T Circle Chicken prep  6:30pm BC Council	11  6:30pm BC Choir	12  5:30pm T Council	13	14  Kailhofer's Fall Fest (Seymour) BC selling drinks & more
15	16  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <b>Key to locations:</b>                      BC = St. John's Black Creek                      T = Trinity                      C = St. John's Cecil                      ALC = Ascension Lutheran                 </div>	17	18  4-6pm ALC Pantry  6:30pm BC Choir	19  9am C Closet work day	20	21  9-11am ALC Pantry
22	23	24  12-3pm C Closet	25  6:30pm BC Choir	26	27	28  Student Pastor Mark's Ecclesiastical Council, 1pm Two Rivers
29	30	<i>October 1</i>	<i>October 2</i>  1:30pm BC Guild  6:30pm BC Choir	<i>October 3</i>	<i>October 4</i>	<i>October 5</i>  Afternoon ... BC Garden Work Day

September  
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](mailto:stjcreek@gmail.com)  
Website [www.stjucbc.com](http://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](mailto:pastormoira73@gmail.com)

**Wisconsin Conference UCC**  
[www.wiucc.org](http://www.wiucc.org)

**United Church of Christ**  
[www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)



## New Church Directory

A new directory was sent out by email a few weeks ago, and paper copies are available at church.

PLEASE check your entries and let Pastor Moira know of corrections in writing.

We will publish a corrections page soon.

If you would like a copy mailed to you, please be in touch with Pastor Moira.

**US Mass Shootings  
in 2024**

**1/1 - 8/28**

**370**

*According to the  
Gun Violence  
Archive*