

## *From Pastor Moira's Desk...*

I have some delicious Cortland apples from the Oneida orchard that I've been munching on recently, there has been a bit of a crispness in the air, and the leaves are surely starting to turn from green to golds and reds and more. I still miss the sights, sounds, and smells of fall in my childhood in Albuquerque ~ the whoosh of propane filling the hot air balloons, the glorious colors of early mornings as hundreds and thousands of balloons fill the sky, some Dixon's apples (a place where the university's agriculture department worked to grow apples that tolerated desert conditions including a champagne delicious), and the smell in every grocery store parking lot of roasting green chiles.

But recently I was talking to someone who said that when they got to heaven the first thing they were going to ask God was about the color green ~ why are there so many shades of green when there really wouldn't have to be? And it made me appreciate all over again the particular beauty that is our part of northeast Wisconsin. In the desert there are a few shades of green, most of them variations of sage, but here there are hundreds. And the fall treats us to a riot of colors as the fields are plowed revealing the rich, dark earth below, the pumpkins come out along with hunting gear splashing oranges everywhere, the evergreens stay just that, green, while the other trees treat us to leaves of fire that are extra gorgeous when they catch the early morning sun, or the last rays of sunset.

And that got me to thinking about being attentive, paying attention to our lives and the world around us. These days, attentiveness can be exhausting. There is SO MUCH ~ need and heartbreak, war and disaster, the presidential election which seems like it's been going on for forty years and might never end, more wars, floods that rival the story of Noah, earthquakes, friends with health concerns, worries about our own health, jobs, finances, and more, then more wars, and well, you know what I mean. It's a lot and paying attention to it all can become too much for our hearts & souls. As I've said for a while now, it really is ok to take a break from the endlessness of news and media coverage about all these things, to let the world keep spinning even if you aren't pushing it.

And that leads us to a different kind of paying attention ~ to the moving of our hearts and souls, and the world around us. I spent a happy ten or fifteen minutes on a recent day watching the bees & butterflies that were filling the last remnants of flowers in my summer garden. They were all so busy on gathering pollen and nectar that they simply flitted around me as I marveled at their colors and variation. I pulled over while driving on highway 47 to watch a field, freshly harvested of soybeans, that was simply covered with a couple hundred seagulls gleaning the last of the beans, and harvesting the aphids and beetles too. It was staggering to see so many in flight at the same time. I'm trying to pay

attention to the colors of the sunrise and the sunset as the season changes, and to how many shades of green there are even as the orange and red come to the trees. I'm trying to listen to my heart, my soul, and my body, what they need in this season of my life, our life together as Jesus' disciples, and this moment in the life of the world. I pray that this might be a season of paying attention for all of us, to the beauty of the world in the middle of all the challenges, a reminder always of God's presence that will never leave us.

*In peace and grace, Pastor Moira*

Ordination Invitation  
Saturday November 9th at 1pm

Grace UCC, Two Rivers

Student Pastor Mark Schmitt has been approved for ordination in the UCC.

Join us as we celebrate this important moment in his ministry. Carpools should meet at Black Creek at 11am to depart about 11:15pm.

**You're invited to wear RED**

Look for the cards & information about his gift from our parish at all our churches!

Questions? Talk with Pastor Moira

All Saints Sunday

November 3rd

Join us as we remember those we love who have gone on to life everlasting. Submit names to Pastor Moira in writing (text, email, note) by Sunday October 27th for them to be included in our remembrances.

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*

# Youth Group Turkey Fundraiser October 27 to November 24

Help us raise at least \$1500 to purchase turkeys for the Black Creek Food Pantry (Salvation Army) Thanksgiving meal! All the money raised goes to turkeys which 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.

The online auction site will be up at the end of the month.

**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 24th

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



# Trinity U.C.C. Fall Bazaar

**Saturday October 12, 2024  
9:00am to 12:30pm**

**Crafts, gifts, granny's attic,  
bucket and basket raffles  
& our amazing bake sale!**

**Hot Ham Sandwiches &  
Our Famous Chicken Soup!**

Dine-in (inside) or To-Go

**Everyone is welcome & our church is accessible!**

**We are located on  
County Highway F,  
between Nichols & Leeman  
Church Phone  
(920) 525-2132**

Funds from the bazaar  
will go to community  
programs & to help with  
church maintenance.



### 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.

### October Focus Of Giving Neighbors In Need (NIN)

Neighbors In Need is a special offering of the entire United Church of Christ that helps provide support to the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) with twenty-one tribal congregations across the US, and the work of justice & witness ministries to help churches address things like food & clothing ministries, refugee & immigrant advocacy, church camps & facilities, shelters & resources for homeless folks, programs for at-risk teens and youth, and accessibility of church facilities.

*Look for the special envelopes!*

### Stock The Pantry Shelves

*"When I was hungry, you fed me."*

Matthew 25.35

### October Focus Canned Fruit & Shelf-Stable Juices



**Help our families get fruits into their lives with canned fruit (applesauce & mandarin oranges are popular) and juices that don't have to be refrigerated until they're opened (apple & tomato are great).**

***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 ~ September 10, 2024

- Present were Sally Dickinson, Trevor Rohloff, Lizzie Tesch, Lisa Waterstradt, Brian Holz, Connie Rohloff, and Pastor Moira;
- Sally Dickinson called the meeting to order and Pastor Moira led us in prayer.
- The minutes of the August 2024 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Trevor, second by Lizzie, motion passed.
- The financial secretary and treasurer's reports for August 2024 were reviewed; Lizzie commented that the giving was nearly identical to 2023; motion to approve by Brian, second by Trevor, motion passed.
- Pastor Moira presented her report including the Black Creek Fall Festival, work towards the Trinity Fall Bazaar.
- Membership ~ a new directory was published in August, will print a corrections page soon
- Christian Education ~ Met on 8/14 and discussed classes, the schedule for the year, candy bar sales, the turkey auction, and the Christmas program; next meeting is Thursday 11/7 at 6pm
- Worship & Music ~ Dave Tesch is working on scheduling a meeting
- Building & Grounds
- discussion of a calendar of maintenance for the church along with other routine building matters;
- there is one piece of flooring in the hallway downstairs that needs to be re-glued; Pastor Moira will contact Ralph's to see if they will come;
- new batteries were acquired for all the church thermostats & will be put in at Daylight Savings Time
- Cemetery ~ have put an invitation in the newsletter to contribute to the cemetery fund, it has been a busy year with lawn mowing expenses;
- Endowment ~ nothing to report
- Stewardship ~ October is Neighbors in Need (NIN, a UCC offering) and canned fruit; November is turkey fund & ketchup & mustard
- Women's Guild ~ planning some new events (all church Christmas party on Sunday 12/1 after worship with potluck), and a Mardi Gras chili supper on 3/4 as well as no summer rummage sale, but a small sale along with the village wide sale on 4/26
- Garden Project ~ harvesting is going very well, will be working on repairing greenhouse damage and landscaping and end of season tasks on 10/5
- 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, a wildflower/pollinator garden, and kitchen refreshment (counter, ceiling, stove, flooring, wallpaper, dishwasher)
- Old Business ~ Elevator Contract; signed with Otis and will begin service with them 9/1
- Old Business ~ Fall Festival; reviewed the preliminary summary with profit of \$1453 before late sales & Kailhofer's; some suggestions for 2025 are a sign on the trail, a till box with slots for each bill, an explanation sign at the entrance, and getting worship to be louder (we had about 65 in worship);
- Continuing Business ~ Electronic Giving ~ Moira will investigate with Breeze (our giving software) and our offering envelopes program (fees, etc.)
- New Business ~ Snow Plowing; we have the new contract with small increases for this year; Pastor will check that it includes the sidewalks and then Sally will sign
- 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 October 8 at 6:30pm

Three Church Leadership Dinner, Tuesday November 12

Tuesday December 10 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira

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

Wednesday November 6th at 1:30pm

Patterns Of Prayer (Pastor Moira)

Refreshments ~ to be determined

Sunday December 1st after worship

All Church Christmas Potluck

Join us for a potluck lunch after worship along with some carol singing & a time of fellowship & community

Program ~ Sue Biese , Vi Brown-Luebke,

Connie Rohloff & Jan Rohloff

Decorations ~ Audrey Hooyman Blake & Roberta Lorenz

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

	8/4/2024	8/11/2024	8/18/2024	8/25/2024		Direct Deposit	TOTAL
<b>Checking deposit</b>	1,662.00	1,311.00	1,749.00	1,240.00		300.00	6,082.00
<b>General Fund</b>	1,609.00	1,035.00	1,359.00	1,220.00		300.00	5,523.00
<b>Operating Funds</b>							
Building Fund	43.00						43.00
Endowment	10.00						10.00
<b>Total Operating Funds</b>	53.00	0.00	0.00	0.0		0.00	53.00
<b>Special Funds</b>							
Fall Festival			120.00	20.00			140.00
Food Pantry		10.00					10.00
School Supplies		86.00					86.00
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS</b>		96.00	120.00	20.00			236.00
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING</b>	1,662.00	1,131.00	1,479.00	1,240.00		300.00	5,812.00
<b>Other Income</b>							
Fall Festival Non-Member Giving			270.00				270.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	0.00	0.00	270.00	0.00		0.00	270.00
<b>TOTAL CHECKING DEPOSIT</b>	1,662.00	1,131.00	1,749.00	1,240.00		300.00	6,082.00

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

<b>Building Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$16,044.27
	Deposits	\$43.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$16,745.27
<b>Memorial Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$10,559.73
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$10,559.73
<b>Organ Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$4,455.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$4,455.00
<b>General Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$17,684.40
	Interest	\$0.46
	Deposits	\$5,629.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$7,763.26)
	Ending Balance	\$17,684.40
<b>Boiler/Furnace Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$1,800.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$1,800.00
<b>Plastering Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$6,999.72
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$6,999.72
<b>Gardening Project</b>	Beginning Balance	\$4,564.50
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$59.55)
	Ending Balance	\$4,196.90

**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>\$61,936.00</b>
<b>YTD Expenses</b>	<b>(\$70,114.74)</b>
<b>Net Amount*</b>	<b>(\$8,178.74)</b>

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

<b>FUND TOTALS</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$62,452.57
Deposits	\$5,672.00
Interest	\$0.46
<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$7,822.81)
Ending Balance	\$60,302.22



## 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 October 5 ~ Communion

*World Communion Sunday*

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

### Sunday October 13

*Choir Sings*

Reader Robin Schmidt  
Greeters Robin Schmidt & Carol Schmidt

### Sunday October 20

*Children Sing*

Reader Vi Brown-Luebke  
Greeters Duane & Carol Henke

### Sunday October 27

Reader Sue Biese  
Greeters Joe & Sue Biese

### Sunday November 3 ~ Communion

*All Saints Sunday*

Reader Nate Seefeldt  
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning  
Mike & Connie Rohloff

### Sunday November 10

Reader Ethan Bohn  
Greeters Mike & Sally Dickinson

### Sunday November 17

Reader Connie Wheeler  
Greeters Connie Wheeler  
Randy Miller

### Sunday November 24

Reader As Schmidt  
Greeters Mark Hooyman  
As Schmidt

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

The tree won! We came to church on Sunday September 22nd to discover that the storm the previous night brought down several branches from one of the church's maple trees, right onto the garden fence. One panel, as well as the bench below, were damaged, and several of the garden beds are dented. The beds are easily repaired with the application of a mallet and some elbow grease. The folks at Valley Custom Fence who put in the fence will be coming to repair that section ... a tribute to the way the fence was built is that only one section gave way under the weight of the tree limb. The Council has arranged for the tree & two others to be removed beginning on Monday 10/7 which will include stump removal & repair of the grass. Meanwhile we'll be working on putting down landscape fabric & new mulch, and planting bulbs so we're all ready for next season..



# Scripture Readings

## Sunday October 6, 2024

*World Communion Sunday*

Psalm 8

Genesis 2.18-25

Sermon ~ It is not good to be alone

## Sunday October 13, 2024

*Choir sings*

Hebrews 4.12-16

Mark 10.17-27

Sermon ~ Getting In

## Sunday October 20, 2024

*Children sing*

Psalm 91

Mark 10.35-45

Sermon ~ Serving

## Sunday October 27, 2024

Psalm 126

Mark 10.46-52

Sermon ~ What do you want?

## Sunday November 3, 2024

*All Saints Sunday & Communion*

Psalm 146

Mark 12.28-34

Sermon ~ Laws & Love

# Parish Celebrations

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

## October Birthdays

2nd	...	Cecelia Rohloff
3rd	...	Brandi Schomisch Duane Zuleger
4th	...	Angie Biese Memphis Bohn
5th	...	As Schmidt
6th	...	Verla Pingel
7th	...	Jordy Seefeldt
13th	...	Joshua Holz
15th	...	Jennifer Sassman
17th	...	Barry Zuleger
21st	...	Ariel Quint
23rd	...	Kerri Samson
27th	...	Arcadia Holz
28th	...	Barb Sassman
29th	...	Sue Schneider
30th	...	Dallas Rihm

## October Anniversaries

1st	...	Katy & Brian Holz
12th	...	Bryce & Caittlyn Vander Linden
14th	...	William & Sue Schneider Travis & Ariel Quint
17th	...	Morgan & Lucas Werner
19th	...	Dale & Marilyn Gregorious
27th	...	Brent & Stephany Boettcher

## 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.

# October 2024

How to reach Pastor Moira: phone 715-851-3080  
email [pastormoira73@gmail.com](mailto: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
<div data-bbox="87 533 440 722" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <b>Key to locations:</b>                      BC = St. John's Black Creek                      T = Trinity                      C = St. John's Cecil                      ALC = Ascension Lutheran                 </div>		1	2 1:30pm BC Guild 6:30pm BC Choir	3 5:30pm T Council	4	5 1pm BC Garden work day
	6 Communion SCRIP  World Communion Sunday	7	8 10am ALC Pantry Board 6:30pm BC Council	9 5pm T Bazaar Set-up 6:30pm BC Choir	10	11 7:30am T Bazaar prep & soup cooking
13 BC Choir Sings  11:30am BC Confirmation	14	15	16 4-6pm ALC Pantry 6:30pm BC Choir	17 9am C Closet work day	18	19 9-11am ALC Pantry <div data-bbox="1179 1289 1563 1394" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">BC Work Camp at Daycholah through Sunday</div>
20 BC Kids Sing	21	22 Noon-3pm C Closet	23 6:30pm BC Choir	24	25	26
27 11:30am Confirmation	28	29	30 6:30pm BC Choir	31 Happy Halloween ... be safe!	November 1	November 2 <i>Tomorrow... Daylight Savings Ends &amp; All Saints Sunday</i>
BC Youth Group Turkey Fundraising Auction 10/27 through 11/24 online & in gathering room!						

October  
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)



Hurricane & Disaster Relief  
We've all seen the news of the terrible devastation, particularly in western North Carolina, following Hurricane Helene.

The UCC has an emergency fund established & we will be looking for other ways to get help to those most in need. Recovery will be a very LONG term project. Look for the envelopes at church.

**US Mass Shootings  
in 2024**

**1/1 - 10/2**

**411**

*According to the  
Gun Violence  
Archive*

**CHANGE OF DATE...**

**The Cecil Soup Sale has been moved to  
Sunday February 2nd, 2025**