

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

I seem to say this rather often lately, but there is A LOT going on in the world. As I write this, it's the last few days before the presidential election, a campaign that feels like it's been going on for a decade. It's fall, and the leaves are changed, but we've had some really warm weather. They're still playing baseball, but we've also got football, basketball, rugby, and all the college sports going on too. The aggression of Israel's war against Palestine has spread to Lebanon and Iran raising fears of the possibility of so much more violence. Ukraine, Syria, Sudan, Haiti, and other places continue to deal with their ongoing wars and violence. Friends are struggling with their health, and work stuff, and relationship stuff, and all kinds of life stuff.

There was a day last week when it was a few more things than I felt like I could handle—the internet at home was out, the dishwasher wasn't working, the cats were being naughty, there was road construction again in Black Creek, and I had an early call from someone needing help from our clothes closet who was most insistent that I should drop everything to help them, and all this before 10am.

As I sat in my office a little later in the day I remembered a lesson from my preschool days at Congregational Preschool (housed in the church I grew up at). It was Thanksgiving time and we did what lots of little kids do, we made turkeys out of our handprints. But for every feather on the turkey, one for each of our fingers, (and for the turkey's head too) we had to tell our teacher something we were grateful for so they could carefully print those things all around our turkey. Then after, sitting around on the rug, we each showed our pictures and our teachers helped us share our gratitudes, counting them off on our fingers.

So on that overwhelming day last week, sitting at my desk, I held up my hand and searched my heart and mind for five things to be grateful for. I silenced my phone, closed the computer, and tried to slow down my breathing, to focus on that moment, on that very second and what it was I was truly grateful for. In the end, it wasn't all that hard to figure out five things I was grateful for, even in the middle of the chaos of that day.

The gratitude practice didn't make the chaos go away, but it gave me some perspective, that even while things are raging around us, and sometimes within us, there is a way to be grateful, and thankful. As we live into whatever the next season in our lives, and the life of our country, and the life of our world will bring us, I invite you to slow down, and think, really consider what it is you're grateful for, what blessings you have in this very moment, that we might all live from the place of that gratitude, sharing its hope with all we meet.

*In gratitude, peace, and grace, Pastor Moira*

### 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

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



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 is <https://auctria.events/2024sjbcturkeyauction>

**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



## SCRIP CORNER

The holidays are just around the corner & SCRIP can help make your gift-giving easier!

Nephew in college who loves coffee?

Granddaughter working on their first hunting shack?

Have a friend who loves the movies?

Planning a get-away vacation & need gas money?

Family coming for Thanksgiving & need all the fixings?

Thinking about buying a boat, new carpet for your living room, or a new snowblower before the flakes start to fall?

Need a gift for the driver who delivers all your packages? Or your mail person?

Or your garbage collector? Or your hair dresser?

We can help you with ALL of these things.

SCRIP is the easiest way you can support our church ~ buy gift cards that you & your recipient get the full value of, and the church gets a percentage of the value (generally 2-10%).

*We generally order on the first Sunday of the month (11/3 & 12/1) and when there are enough orders to offset the shipping.*

Look for the SCRIP station in the Gathering Room.

Questions? Talk with Brandi Schomisch or Pat Schomisch



# Church Christmas Decorating Party

Tuesday November 26th  
beginning at 5pm

Join us as we decorate  
the church for the  
Advent & Christmas  
season.



There are trees in the  
sanctuary & entrances to  
decorate, garland to  
hang, banners to put up  
and so much more.

There will be cookies to decorate (and  
eat), cocoa and tea to drink, carols to sing,  
and friends to visit with along with a  
couple of very simple decorations to  
make for the tree in the gathering room.

**We'll have food (yes, actual dinner)**  
starting at 5pm!

Come if you want to help decorate.

Come if you like carrot cake, sugar  
cookies, and cocoa.

Come if you want dinner you didn't have  
to prepare yourself.

It will be great fun for all ages & will help  
get us all into the spirit of the season.

Questions? Talk with Pastor Moira

**"If the only prayer  
you ever say is  
'Thank You'  
that will be enough"**

Meister Eckhart.

## Stock The Pantry Shelves

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

**November Focus**

**Ketchup &  
Mustard**



**Condiments make  
everything tastier!**

**Help stock the shelves  
of the pantry with ketchup  
(we go through LOTS) and  
happy yellow mustard.**

***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 ~ October 8, 2024

- Present were Sally Dickinson, Trevor Rohloff, Lizzie Tesch, Connie Rohloff, Brian Holz, Pastor Moira Finley; absent was Lisa Waterstradt; special guest Barry Zuleger was also present to represent the Men's Dartball Team
- The meeting was called to order by Sally and Pastor Moira offered a prayer
- Barry came with a request for \$72 for two new boxes of darts; motion by Trevor, second by Brian, motion passed;
- The minutes of the September 2024 meeting were reviewed; there was some discussion about the lawn mowing sign ups for next year and we will start personally asking for volunteers earlier in the season with a better description of the work to be done; motion to approve the minutes by Brian, second by Lizzie, motion passed;
- The September 2024 financial secretary and treasurer's reports were reviewed; motion to approve by Trevor, second by Connie, motion passed;
- Pastor Moira presented her report including work with a student at Eden seminary, two funerals for community members, and Student Pastor Mark's ecclesiastical council; his ordination is scheduled for Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at Grace UCC Two Rivers; she also discussed her trip to New Mexico in January and worship coverage for Sunday January 12, 2025 – after discussion, we will have lay folks help lead worship and Pastor will provide a video sermon;
- Membership ~ nothing to report
- Christian Education ~ Sunday school has begun & Confirmation begins shortly; there are 13 adults and 7 kids going to work camp at Daycholah for 10/18-10/20
- Worship & Music ~ keeping track of the number of bulletins used each week so we can consider the quantity of our subscription to the cover service;
- Building & Grounds
  - Ralph's Flooring came and repaired a piece of the floor in the basement where the ramp is that had been lifting up;
  - New batteries will be put in thermostats at Daylight Savings time change;
- Cemetery ~ there were considerable expenses for lawn mowing this season so an appeal for donations has been included in the newsletter;
- Endowment ~ nothing to report
- Stewardship ~ discussed starting online giving beginning in January 2025 with Breeze (our church management software) and will investigate other companies that provide giving envelopes to compare costs
- Women's Guild ~ next meeting will be 11/6 about prayer and then on 12/1 all are invited to a Christmas potluck after worship;
- Garden project ~ working on laying landscape fabric & mulch before the winter and repairing the greenhouse panel;
- SCRIP ~ need to publicize
- Parish Relations ~ need to meet before the end of October
- Old Business ~ Church Banking; plan is to have the new account at Fox Communities Credit Union fully functioning in the new year;
- Old Business ~ Wisconsin Conference Leadership Forward campaign ~ including in the 2025 budget and annual meeting discussion;



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

	9/1/2024	9/8/2024	9/15/2024	9/22/2024	9/29/2024	Direct Deposit	TOTAL
<b>Checking deposit</b>	1,259.00	1,860.00	2,499.00	1,621.10	921.00	300.00	8,460.00
<b>General Fund</b>	1,149.00	1,760.00	683.00	1,381.00	805.00	300.00	6,078.00
<b>Operating Funds</b>							
Building Fund	10.00	45.00		220.00	10.00		285.00
Endowment		5.00			5.00		10.00
<b>Total Operating Funds</b>	10.00	50.00	0.00	220.00	15.00	0.00	295.00
<b>Special Funds</b>							
Food Pantry	100.00			10.00			110.00
Fall Festival		50.00					50.00
School Supplies			4.00				4.00
Community Garden				10.00	25.00		35.00
Plastering					76.00		76.00
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS</b>	100.00	50.00	4.00	20.00	101.00	0.00	275.00
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING</b>							
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING</b>	1,259.00	1,860.00	687.00	1,621.00	921.00	300.00	6,648.00
<b>Other Income</b>							
Fall Festival (including start up cash)			1,812.00				1,812.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	0.00	0.00	1,812.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,812.00
<b>TOTAL CHECKING DEPOSIT</b>							
<b>TOTAL CHECKING DEPOSIT</b>	1,259.00	1,860.00	2,499.00	1,621.00	921.00	300.00	8,460.00

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

<b>Building Fund</b>	Beginning Balance	\$16,740.27
	Deposits	\$285.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$17,025.27
<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	\$15,550.60
	Interest	\$0.44
	Deposits	\$6,202.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$7,043.81)
Ending Balance	\$14,709.23	
<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	\$76.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$7,075.72
<b>Gardening Project</b>	Beginning Balance	\$4,196.90
	Deposits	\$35.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$4,231.90

**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>\$63,309.00</b>
<b>YTD Expenses</b>	<b>(\$77,158.11)</b>
<b>Net Amount*</b>	<b>(\$8,849.11)</b>

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

<b>FUND TOTALS</b>	
Beginning Balance	\$60,302.22
Deposits	\$6,598.00
Interest	\$0.44
<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$7,043.81)
Ending Balance	\$59,856.85



## 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 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

*Reign of Christ & Thanksgiving Sunday*

Reader As Schmidt  
Greeters Mark Hooyman  
As Schmidt

### Sunday December 1 ~ Communion

*First Sunday of Advent*

Reader Randy Miller  
Greeters Trevor & Sarah Rohloff  
Gary Vander Linden  
Robin Schmidt

### Sunday December 8

*Second Sunday of Advent*

Reader Jan Rohloff  
Greeters Ryan & Stephanie Julius

### Sunday December 15

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*Christmas Program Sunday*

Reader Audrey Blake  
Greeters Gene & Audrey Blake

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

The tree that attached the garden fence has been removed, along with two other trees that were in danger of falling soon, and perhaps causing damage to the church building itself. Council is in the process of finding a replacement tree that we'll plant further away from the building.

The fence will be repaired when our contractor has an opening in their scheduling (they're understandably taking advantage of the warm weather to do projects that require digging into the ground). We've also repaired (we hope) the greenhouse panels that came loose in the storm and planted a whole lot of bulbs close to the church so our late winter and early spring should be beautiful. We're finishing work on end of season tasks like laying landscape fabric and new mulch and dreaming of next year's planting ... cucumbers, beans, peppers, tomatoes, and maybe even carrots!



## Scripture Readings

### Sunday November 3, 2024

*All Saints Sunday & Communion*

Psalm 146

Mark 12.28-34

Sermon ~ Laws & Love

### Sunday November 10, 2024

*Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Pentecost*

Psalm 119.1-8

Mark 12.38-44

Sermon ~ Two Cents Worth

### Sunday November 17, 2024

*Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Pentecost*

1 Samuel 1.9-20

1 Samuel 2.1-10

Sermon ~ Hannah

### Sunday November 24, 2024

*Reign of Christ & Thanksgiving Sunday*

Psalm 65

Matthew 6.25-33

Sermon ~ A Kingdom Of...

### *All Church Christmas Potluck*

*Sunday December 1st*

after worship join us for food, fun & fellowship, hosted by the Guild

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

**Tuesday December 24th**

Cecil ~ 3pm

Trinity ~ 5pm

Black Creek ~ 7pm

## Parish Celebrations

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

### November Birthdays

1st	...	Michael Flaherty
2nd	...	Lila Hooyman Timothy Rihm
5th	...	Bev Kruse
6th	...	Connie Wheeler Duane Henke
7th	...	Randy Miller
8th	...	Abbie Flaherty Keith Kruse Samantha Scott
11th	...	Seija Neff
18th	...	Ethan Bohn
19th	...	Paul Henning
20th	...	Audrey Hooyman Blake
22nd	...	Adam Rihm
28th	...	Jaiden Wheeler Maddelyn Holz
30th	...	Ava Hooyman Joe Biese

### November Anniversaries

7th ... Steve & Pat Schomisch

## *Christmas Program 2024*

### Recording

Saturday December 7th at 10am  
at Black Creek with food provided

### Program Sunday

Sunday December 15th

*Parts will be available November 17th*

# November 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 ~ 4pm Worship

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>BC Youth Group Turkey Fundraising Auction through 11/24 online &amp; in gathering room!</p>			<p>Key to locations: BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran</p>		1	2 Daylight savings time ends ... clocks back!
<p>3 <i>Communion</i> <b>All Saints Sunday</b> 11:30am Confirmation</p>	4	<p>5 <b>Election Day</b> Polls open 7am—8pm</p>	<p>6 1:30pm BC Guild 6:30pm BC Choir 7pm BC Budget</p>	<p>7 6pm BC Christian Ed</p>	8	<p>9 Student Pastor Mark's ordination 1pm at Grace UCC Two Rivers</p>
<p>10 BC Choir sings</p>	<p>11 <i>Veteran's Day</i></p>	<p>12 10am ALC Pantry board 2pm T Circle 6pm BC Leadership Dinner</p>	<p>13 6:30pm BC Choir</p>	14	15	16
<p>17 BC Kids sing 11:30am Confirmation</p>	18	19	<p>20 4-6pm ALC Pantry 6:30pm Choir</p>	<p>21 9am C Closet work day</p>	22	<p>23 9-11am ALC Pantry</p>
<p>24 Reign of Christ &amp; Thanksgiving Sunday  BC Youth Turkey Auction ENDS</p>	25	<p>26 Noon-3pm C Closet  5pm BC Church decorating</p>	<p>27 No Choir practice</p>	<p>28 <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b></p>	29	<p>30 <i>Tomorrow...</i> BC All Church Potluck  Cecil Business meeting</p>

November  
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, and in Florida following Hurricane Milton.

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.

Send checks made out TO CHURCH with "hurricane relief" or "emergency relief" in the memo or look for the envelopes at church.

**US Mass Shootings  
in 2024**

**1/1 - 10/29**

**435**

*According to the  
Gun Violence  
Archive*