

Grilled Cheeses For Jesus

Join the youth group on
Sunday March 16th
after worship for a soup
& sandwich fundraising
luncheon.

Downstairs in the
fellowship hall.

We'll have **grilled cheese**
sandwiches, a variety of
soups, and desserts!

Questions? Talk with
Gary Vander Linden
or Sue Biese

Women's Guild News

Our February gathering to talk about hospice care has been rescheduled because of the snows. We will gather with representatives from Theda Care hospice on Wednesday May 7th at 6:30pm with light refreshments.

The Guild is planning to participate in the Black Creek Village-wide Rummage Sale on Saturday April 26th and so we will need to have a meeting in March to make sure we have a good plan for that day. Members of the Guild will be in touch to make plans for that meeting.

Coming Soon

Sunday April 27th

Break The Silence Sunday

This service will include several prayers to stand in support of and solidarity with survivors of rape and sexual violence.

Please talk with Pastor Moira if you have questions or concerns.

Sunday May 4th

Confirmation Sunday

Join us as Haydan Schmidt & Seija Neff (along with Avery Conradt at Trinity) affirm their faith.

Sunday May 11th

Celebrating The Christian Family Home
& Mother's Day

Join us as we celebrate the Christian family home and all the kinds of families that nurture & support us.

The children's choir will be singing.

Sunday May 18th

Celebration Sunday

We have a TRAVEL & ADVENTURE theme this year so get out those suitcases & maps and get ready to celebrate everyone who makes our parish so amazing.

The Adult Choir will be singing.

US Mass Shootings in 2025

1/1 - 2/28: 39

According to the Gun Violence Archive

Giving News ~ Envelopes & Online Options

Envelopes

The church is changing envelope companies. If you receive envelopes, they'll still be delivered to your home, but the new company sends them 3 months at a time. You should already have received a March-April set from the current company. You will be receiving an April-May-June set from the new company. Either April envelopes are just fine to use. The new envelopes will come from a company called Cokesbury. Please ask if you have any questions or concerns.

Online Giving

- ★ We have organized a way for you to give online, with a credit/debit card or by electronic check. You can set up recurring giving as well as designate your giving to special funds or projects. If you've been giving by bank draft (having the bank send a check on your behalf) this is another wonderful way to contribute. It's also a great way to make sure your giving gets to church if you're traveling, or unable to get to church.
- ★ There is also a place on the giving form where you can add to your giving to offset the costs associated with online giving (through a credit/debit card there is a small percentage based fee).
- ★ Contributions accumulate and are transferred into the church accounts on a weekly basis. So if you give on Wednesday, it goes into the church accounts on Friday and will be credited in the giving for the following Sunday.
- ★ When you've made your offering you will receive a confirmation email which will come from Breeze (our church finance management software).
- ★ If you'd like help, have questions, or need more specific instructions, Pastor Moira & Lizzie Tesch are more than happy to help.
- ★ **To give visit: <https://stjbcucc.breezechms.com/give/online>**

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

The season of Lent is upon us again, beginning with Ash Wednesday this week where we'll gather with communion, prayer, and the receiving of ashes to remember our mortality, that we come from God and we return to God. Lent will take us through March and into late April this year with Easter Sunday being April 20th when we gather together and celebrate the incredible good news of Jesus' resurrection. In many parts of Christianity there is a tradition of fasting, or giving something up during the season of Lent. It's meant to focus our hearts, minds, and spirits on God's presence in our lives. So folks will give up sweets, or sodas, or meat, or something during this time that they might grow in faith.

I don't come from fasting people so that's never quite been a thing for me (but I am trying to get my love of desserts under control so please don't be offended if I turn down your cookies ~ my body will be happier if I am more selective). But I have been thinking about the kind of world I want to live in and how we might create it, what we might do in our every day lives, in the places we find ourselves, with the time and talents and resources we have, to help bring about the world we want. Personally, I want to live in the world Jesus wanted for us, and for all (truly all, no exceptions ever). It's a world where compassion, love, and generosity are the rule rather than the exception; where people are cared for not because they can do something for us, but because they are humans in need; where there is freedom to love, and learn, and live regardless of how different the way you do those things might be from the way I would do them; a world of real peace (not just the absence of violence), where people feel included, and nurtured, and listened to. There's probably more, but that seems like a good place to start.

So here's what I'm going to do during Lent. I'm going to ask myself every morning ... *what kind of world do you want to live in?* I'm going to review my priorities and goals, the things I want to see happen in the world, the way I want us to structure our societies and our lives. Then I'm going to go out and live and try to do things that will bring about that world, offering kindness and hope, love and compassion wherever I can, advocating for justice and peace, working to include rather than exclude, looking for who is missing from the conversations and the table, sharing and caring and trying to walk in Jesus' footsteps, to live and love as he would have. Then, at the end of the day I'm going to review, spend some time in prayer asking myself ... *what did I do today to bring about the world I want to live in?* How did I offer hope, bring peace, work for justice, and all those things. Perhaps if we can build this into our lives as a daily habit, focusing our hearts, minds, and spirits along with our actions on building the world we want we might also learn to see it more, notice the kingdom of God becoming real in our very midst.

Join me in the work for the kingdom that the words we pray each week ... *thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven ... might come true in all their fullness.*

In hope, peace, and grace, Pastor Moira

St. John's UCC Black Creek Council Meeting Minutes ~ February 11, 2025

- Present were Sally Dickinson, Trevor Rohloff, Lisa Waterstradt, Connie Rohloff, Brian Holz, Sue Biese and Pastor Moira Finley; the meeting was held entirely by zoom (online)
- The meeting was called to order by Sally and Pastor Moira gave a prayer
- Council Organization ~ a motion was made to approve the financial secretary as a "council adjacent" position with Lizzie Tesch continuing to serve in that capacity (to be evaluated after one year) and to approve Sue Biese to fill the vacant council position with other council officers remaining as they are; motion by Trevor, second by Brian, motion passed;
- Minutes of the January 2025 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Lisa, second by Trevor, motion passed
- The January 2025 financial secretary & treasurer's reports were reviewed; motion to approve by Trevor, second by Brian, motion passed.
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report congregational meetings, the Cecil soup sale, new members at Trinity & Black Creek, and upcoming plans for Lent;
- Membership ~ new members to be received in February;
- Christian Education ~ next meeting Thursday April 3 at 6pm
- Worship & Music ~ discussed the plan for the Wednesday Lenten series to be held upstairs using the sanctuary screens for watching "The Chosen"
- Building & Grounds
 - Box elder bugs – we have an infestation; we will contact someone to treat/spray;
 - Clock ~ Mark Hooyman is working on it; two parts to be replaced;
 - Plastering – need to move forward on this asap;
 - Dartball Trophy Case – Darwin Ethington has begun work; funds are being given in memory of Larry Rohloff;
- Cemetery ~ same mowing company as last year;
- Endowment ~ nothing to report
- Stewardship
 - Online giving – set up and works easily; will publicize soon;
 - Giving Envelopes – moving to a new company, people will receive duplicate April envelopes;
- Guild ~ One day rummage sale in conjunction with the village wide sale on Saturday April 26th; need to put up signs that we are not having a summer sale and to not leave donations as we've had some dump & run;
- Garden Project ~ bought seeds & waiting
- SCRIP ~ need to work on publicizing & discuss what to do with the accumulated funds

- Parish Relations ~ nothing to report
- Memorial Projects List ~ the Council is keeping a list of projects & dreams;
- Continuing Business ~ deposits are being made to the Credit Union, conversation was had about when to close the BMO accounts and getting a credit card at the credit union;
- Continuing Business – Wisconsin Conference Leadership Forward; need to publicize, a giving envelope will be included with offering envelopes for the beginning of May;
- Continuing Business ~ Fire extinguisher service; Trevor is investigating alternatives;
- New Business ~ Contact & prayer chain – Pastor talked about expanding it to include more of the church, she will work on how to do this
- New Business ~ Annual Meeting follow-up; there was discussion about concerns raised at the annual meeting about the sanctuary furnishings; Pastor will do some investigation about the history & tradition of altar furnishings, we will do some small group and individual interviews about the stories & history of our church and its furnishings and how it has evolved and changed over the years; Sue will help Pastor coordinate this history/learning project;
- Prayers and thanks were shared;
- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Connie, second by Sue; motion passed
- The meeting ended with the Lord’s prayer.
- Next meeting ~ Tuesday March 11th at 6:30pm
- Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

Easter Flowers For The Sanctuary

To celebrate Jesus’ resurrection we would like to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20.

Kailhofer’s in Seymour (920-833-2321) will deliver to church, but you should call early for the best selection. *You are also welcome to bring your own plants or flowers.*

Dedications must be received by Sunday April 13th to be included in the Easter worship bulletin.

Everything **MUST** be at church by Friday April 18th

Questions? Talk with Pastor Moira



2025 Easter Flower Dedication Form

Please PRINT clearly

Your name:

How you would like your dedication to read:

Return to Pastor Moira by Sunday April 13th

St. John's United Church of Christ Financial Secretary's Report ~ JANUARY 2025

GIVING BREAKDOWN

	1/5/2025	1/12/2025	1/19/2025	1/26/2025		Direct Deposit	TOTAL
Checking deposit	1,652.00	555.00	2,168.00	1,738.00		300.00	6,413.00
Online Giving							

MEMBERSHIP GIVING

General Fund	1,527.00	545.00	2,083.00	1,718.00		300.00	6,173.00
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Operating Funds

Building Fund	20.00	10.00	40.00				70.00
Endowment	5.00		25.00				30.00
Total Operating Funds	25.00	10.00	65.00	0.00		0.00	100.00

Special Funds

Food Pantry	50.00			10.00			60.00
Menstrual & Hygiene	50.00		20.00	10.00			80.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	100.00	0.00	20.00	20.00		0.00	140.00

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING	1,652.00	555.00	2,168.00	1,738.00		300.00	6,413.00
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Other Income

TOTAL OTHER INCOME	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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TOTAL CHECKING DEPOSIT	1,652.00	555.00	2,168.00	1,738.00		300.00	6,413.00
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St. John's United Church of Christ Treasurer's Report ~ JANUARY 2025

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$17,323.27
	Deposits	\$70.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$17,393.27
Memorial Fund	Beginning Balance	\$6,669.73
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$6,669.73
Organ Fund	Beginning Balance	\$4,455.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$4,455.00
General Fund	Beginning Balance	\$29,723.21
	Interest	\$0.41
	Deposits	\$6,343.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$8,960.60)
	Ending Balance	\$27,106.02
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	\$7,227.72
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$7,227.72
Gardening Project	Beginning Balance	\$3,958.29
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$0.00)
	Ending Balance	\$3,958.29

**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	\$6,273.00
YTD Expenses	(\$8,940.19)
Net Amount*	(\$2,667.19)
* excludes contributions and disbursements for special offerings	

FUND TOTALS	
Beginning Balance	\$71,157.22
Deposits	\$6,413.00
Interest	\$0.41
<u>Disbursements</u>	(\$8,960.60)
Ending Balance	\$68,610.03

Readers & Greeters Schedule

Please note—Pastor Moira put together the April-June calendar while Connie is caring for her mom, Audrey. The complete schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the gathering room.

If you have questions, concerns, or need to make a change, please be in touch with Pastor.

Sunday March 2 ~ Communion

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Mike & Connie Rohloff
Robin Schmidt
Kelly Stevens

Sunday March 9

Reader Nate Seefeldt
Greeters Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

Sunday March 16

Reader Ethan Bohn
Greeters Gary & Bonnie Vander Linden

Sunday March 23

Reader Connie Wheeler
Greeters Connie Wheeler
Lisa Waterstradt

Sunday April 6 ~ Communion

Reader Ethan Bohn
Greeters Trevor & Sara Rohloff
Gary & Bonnie Vander Linden

Sunday April 13 ~ Palm & Passion Sunday

Reader Lindsay Seefeldt
Greeters Carol Schmidt
Robin Schmidt

Sunday April 20 ~ Easter Sunday; Communion

Breakfast at 8:30am & worship 10:15am
Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning
Keith Kruse & Denis Shepard
Connie & Mike Rohloff
Randy Miller & Steve Hanson

Sunday April 27 ~

Break The Silence Sunday

Reader Pastor Moira

Sunday May 4 ~ Communion

Confirmation Sunday
Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Robin Schmidt & Seija Neff
Sue Biese & Hayden Schmidt

Sunday May 11 ~

Celebrating The Christian Family Home

Reader Nate Seefeldt
Greeters Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

Sunday May 18 ~ Celebration Sunday

Reader Audrina Bohn
Greeters Mike & Sally Dickinson

Sunday May 25

Reader Vi Brown-Luebke
Greeters Vi Brown-Luebke & Jan Rohloff

Sunday June 1 ~ Communion

Reader Sue Biese
Greeters Kelly Stevens & Steve Hanson
Lisa Waterstradt & Sue Biese

Lent, Holy Week & Easter Opportunities

Ash Wednesday ~ March 5

Worship with communion, receiving of ashes & time for reflection
as we begin our Lenten journey together
Trinity at 5pm & Black Creek at 7pm

Wednesday Lenten Worship ~ March 12 through April 9

Join us for fellowship, food & a discussion of portions of the TV miniseries
"The Chosen" about Jesus' life. We'll be upstairs in the Gathering Room &
Sanctuary to make use of the best technology for video watching.
5:30pm ~ heavy snacks (sandwiches, cheese & sausage, desserts)
6-6:45pm ~ video & discussion
7pm ~ choir practice

Palm & Passion Sunday ~ April 13

Worship at all three parish churches at the usual time
as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem & the last week of his earthly life.

Maundy Thursday ~ April 17

Remembering the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples ~ Cecil at 6pm

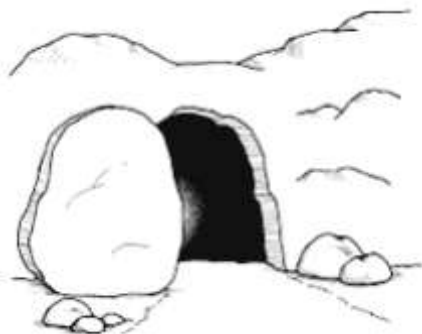
Holy Friday ~ April 18

Remembering Jesus' arrest, trial & crucifixion ~ Black Creek at 7pm

Easter Sunday ~ April 20

Celebrating the good news of the resurrection
Worship with communion
Breakfast sign-ups will be available soon!

Tri-Jo AT Trinity ~ Worship at 8:30am with breakfast after
Black Creek ~ Breakfast at 8:30am and worship at 10:15am



Garden of Eatin News

The snows are off the garden beds (though more may come) and we're starting to dream of a painted rock border on the church side of the sidewalk to keep the mulch in place, and looking for tulips & more to blossom soon.



March 2025

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
Wednesday Lenten Worship ~ upstairs at Black Creek 5:30pm ~ heavy snacks in gathering room 6-6:45pm ~ video & discussion 7pm ~ choir practice			Key to locations: BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran			1
2 Communion SCRIP	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday Trinity ~ 5pm Black Creek 7pm	6	7 Pastor out of town all day; available by phone	8 Daylight Savings begins ... clocks ahead 1 hour
9 Lent 1 BC Choir sings	10	11 10am ALC Pantry board 2pm T New Hope Circle 6:30pm BC Council	12 Wednesday Lenten Worship <i>(see box)</i>	13 6pm T Tri-Jo Council meeting	14	15
16 Lent 2 BC Kids sing BC Youth Fundraiser Confirmation	17	18	19 Wednesday Lenten Worship <i>(see box)</i> 4-6pm ALC Pantry	20 9am C Closet work day	21	22 9-11am ALC Pantry
23	24	25 Noon-3pm C Closet distribution	26 Wednesday Lenten Worship <i>(see box)</i>	27	28	29
30 Confirmation	31	April 1 10am ALC Pantry board	April 2 Wednesday Lenten Worship <i>(see box)</i>	April 3 6pm BC Christian Ed Meeting	April 4	April 5 Tomorrow... Communion SCRIP

Parish Celebrations

If your special day is incorrect let Pastor Moira know.

March Birthdays

3rd ...	Kody Holz Timothy Arnold
5th ...	Kelly Stevens
10th ...	Haydan Schmidt
12th ...	Vi Brown-Luebke
13th ...	Ember Waterstradt Jack Holz
15th ...	Sami Bohn
16th ...	Bob Menning John Wheeler
17th ...	Saxton Werner
21st ...	Wyatt Samson
23rd ...	Brent Boettcher
25th ...	Carl Menning Corbin Rohloff Darwin Ethington
27th ...	Averie Werner Ryan Schomisch, Sr.
30th ...	Donna Stucki Wes Biese

March Anniversaries

14th ...	Gary & Bonnie Vander Linden
25th ...	Randall & Kris Vande Corput
30th ...	Paul & Taycie Schmidt

Humor for your days...

What is a feline's favorite class in school?
Catculus

Why did Adam & Eve get kicked out of the garden? They didn't' read the Apple terms & conditions

SCRIP CORNER

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

Look for the SCRIP station in the Gathering Room.

Questions? Talk with Brandi Schomisch or Pat Schomisch

Let's Talk About Death

Making plans for the end of life is a gift you can give your loved ones.

RESCHEDULED to

Wednesday May 7

at 6:30pm

with representatives from

TheDaCare Hospice

Light refreshments will be served

St. John's U.C.C. Black Creek

(101 S. Clark St.)

Upstairs in the sanctuary &

Our facility is accessible

March
2025

"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



Focus of Giving - OGHS

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is an offering of the entire United Church of Christ to support international aid & development (clean water, sanitation, health care, refugee resettlement & more) as well as provide funds to respond to international & domestic disasters and emergencies. Funds are pooled with other denominations through Church World Service to make a greater impact.

Look for the special envelopes at the sanctuary doors!

Stock The Pantry Shelves

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

February Focus: Toilet Paper



**We know how important it is!
Go ahead and buy the big packs ...
we divide them up into smaller
packs before distributing.
Remember, it never needs to be name
brand & you can always make a
monetary contribution as well with
"food pantry" in the memo.**