

SAVE THE DATES

**Black Creek Fall Festival
Sunday October 5th**

**Trinity Fall Bazaar
Saturday October 11th**

To Help You Laugh...

How does a hamburger wear its hair?
In a bun!

When do you go at red and stop at green?
When you're eating a watermelon.

What do you get when you combine an
elephant with a fish?
Swimming trunks!

July Focus Of Giving ~ School Supplies

Yes, it's mid-summer, and there's a lot of vacation time left, but the supplies are already in stores. Help us gather basic supplies for our students so they can have a successful year of learning starting in the fall. There is a suggested list of supplies included in this newsletter, and copies are available at church as well. If it's easier, you can make a monetary contribution with the special envelopes at the sanctuary doors.

US Mass Shootings in 2025

1/1 - 6/29: 189

According to the Gun Violence Archive

Stock The Pantry Shelves

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



**July Focus Items
PEANUT BUTTER &
JELLY/JAM**

Creamy or crunchy, either is great, and please don't forget the jelly or jam (stick to the usual flavors like strawberry & grape).

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

Suggested School Supplies

pens
pencils (mechanical & regular)
spiral notebooks
notebook paper
binders
highlighters
dry erase markers
folders (paper, with pockets)
folders (paper, with prongs)
glue & glue sticks
colored pencils
crayons
watercolor paints

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

I'm writing this while watching a storm move over the Sandia Mountains in Albuquerque, bringing a gusty wind and a welcome cooling in the air. I've been here since the middle of last week, helping my father through the first days of grief, and all that it requires with memorial services and more, after his wife Judith passed away. Thank you all for your understanding, love, and support as I made this emergency trip, and a special thank you to everyone who helped lead worship while I was away at the weekend. It means more than I can really say.

As it's July, I'm thinking about independence. That's what all the parades, and cookouts, and fireworks will be celebrating at the end of the week, the separation of the colonies from English rule, the first steps towards what would eventually be the United States. In those early days there was a lot of debate about what independence would mean. None of the colonies could survive as a country on their own, and the nation's founders knew that. They wanted independence, but they knew it would also require relationships with one another, connections, and community. Independence from England could come, but it would also require a new dependence on one another as they formed this "more perfect union".

And, of course, for those of us who put our faith in Jesus, independence isn't part of our vocabulary. Our faith is one of community and relationship. We are made for interdependence, relying on one another. We were created by God to be connected. We are made to share our joys and struggles, the things that make our heart soar and the things that make our hearts ache. We do that, not because we think that we can "fix" them by sharing them, but because we know that a shared burden is lighter, and a shared joy is multiplied.

So what does that mean in these particular days we are living in? How do we embrace the dependence of our faith while everything around us is urging us to be more independent, to fight for "our" piece of the pie, to protect "our" own? I think it means that we remember ~ in every decision we make, in every interaction we have, with every vote we cast, with every policy issue we lobby for (or against), in every part of every aspect of our lives ~ we remember we do not exist for ourselves (or our families) alone, we exist together, united and connected, one people whatever our differences might seem to be, on one planet. So while you have your cookout, and enjoy the fireworks (though remember, not everyone does), remember that in faith we are called to work to build relationships, increase connections, and nurture our dependence on God and on one another.

In hope, peace, and love, Pastor Moira

Readers & Greeters Schedule

Big thanks to Connie Wheeler who coordinated this list for many years.

She's taking a well deserved break.

The complete schedule is posted on the calendar bulletin board in the Gathering Room.

If you need to make a change, please find a substitute & let Pastor Moira know.

Sunday July 6 ~ Communion

Reader Vi Brown-Luebke
Greeters Connie & Mike Rohloff
Trevor & Sarah Rohloff

Sunday July 13 ~ Pastor Vacation

Reader Isaac Schmidt
Greeters Steve & Pat Schomisch

Sunday July 20 ~ Pastor Vacation

Reader Randy Miller
Greeters Duane & Carol Henke

Sunday July 27

Reader Sue Biese
Greeters Joe & Sue Biese

Sunday August 3 ~ Communion

Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning
Randy Miller & Barry Zuleger

Sunday August 10

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Robin Schmidt
Kelly Stevens

Sunday August 17

Reader Sally Dickinson
Greeters Mike & Sally Dickinson

Sunday August 24

Reader Jan Rohloff
Greeters Vi Brown-Luebke & Jan Rohloff

Sunday August 31 ~ Labor Day Weekend

Reader Isaac Schmidt
Greeters Ryan & Stephanie Julius

Sunday September 7 ~ Communion

Sunday School starts

Reader Audrina Bohn
Greeters Steve Hanson & Keith Kruse
Gary & Bonnie Vander Linden

Sunday September 14

Reader Nate Seefeldt
Greeters Lisa Waterstradt
Mark Hooyman

Sunday September 21

Reader Ethan Bohn
Greeters Randy Miller & Jan Rohloff

Sunday September 28

Reader Lindsay Seefeldt
Greeters Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

SCRIP NEWS ...

Remember
SCRIP can be a wonderful way to plan
your budget—for groceries, gas, and
other regular expenses.
Questions? Pat or Brandi Schomisch

St. John's United Church of Christ Financial Secretary's Report ~ MAY 2025							
GIVING BREAKDOWN							
	5/4/2025	5/11/2025	5/18/2025	5/25/2025		Direct Deposit	TOTAL
Checking deposit	2,267.00	890.00	784.00	2,316.00		300.00	6,557.00
Online Giving	680.30						680.30
MEMBERSHIP GIVING							
General Fund	2,837.30	714.00	784.00	1,740.00		300.00	6,375.30
Operating Funds							
Building Fund	10.00	76.00					86.00
Endowment							0.00
Total Operating Funds	10.00	76.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	86.00
Special Funds							
Break The Silence		100.00					100.00
Food Pantry	50.00						50.00
Leadership Forward	50.00						50.00
Plastering Fund				76.00			76.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	100.00	100.00		76.00			276.00
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING	2,947.30	890.00	784.00	1,8816.00		300.00	6,737.30
Other Income							
Black Creek Lions (for Community Garden)				500.00			500.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME				500.00			500.00
TOTAL GIVING	2,947.30	890.00	784.00	2,316.00		300.00	7,237.30

St. John's United Church of Christ Treasurer's Report ~ JUNE 2025

Building Fund	Beginning Balance	\$19,548.27
	Deposits	\$86.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$0.00)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$19,634.27

Memorial Fund	Beginning Balance	\$6,744.73
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$0.00)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$6,744.73

Organ Fund	Beginning Balance	\$4,455.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$4,455.00

General Fund	Beginning Balance	\$21,289.77
	Interest	\$0.34
	Deposits	\$6,525.30
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$9,833.30)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$17,982.11

Youth Group	Beginning Balance	\$1,222.00
	Deposits	\$0.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$1,222.00

Plastering Fund	Beginning Balance	\$7,227.72
	Deposits	\$76.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
	Ending Balance	\$7,303.72

Gardening Project	Beginning Balance	\$4,058.29
	Deposits	\$500.00
	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$0.00)</u>
	Ending Balance	\$4,558.29

**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	\$37,271.51
YTD Expenses	(\$48,422.53)
Net Amount*	(\$11,151.02)

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

FUND TOTALS

Beginning Balance	\$64,545.78
Deposits	\$7,187.30
Interest	\$0.34
<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>(\$9,833.30)</u>
Ending Balance	\$61,900.12

St. John's UCC Black Creek Council Meeting Minutes ~ May 13, 2025

- Present were Sally Dickinson, Lisa Waterstradt, Connie Rohloff, Sue Biese and Pastor Moira Finley; absent were Trevor Rohloff, Brian Holz
- The meeting was called to order by Sally and Pastor Moira gave a prayer
- Minutes of the May 2025 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Sue, second by Connie, motion passed
- The May 2025 financial secretary & treasurer's reports were reviewed; there was discussion about the amounts of online giving recorded and how this is affected by the fees associated with the giving, we will investigate; motion to approve by Sue, second by Connie, motion passed;
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including Celebration Sunday, work on the history project, attending the Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting, and upcoming summer, and work in the garden;
- Membership ~ a new directory is being worked on;
- Christian Education & Youth Group ~ nothing to report
- Worship & Music ~ need to consider next year's Lenten series
- Building & Grounds
 - Box Elder Bugs – Denis Shepard has acquired the materials and will do when the weather allows;
 - Sealing the parking lot – work completed, downpayment from Endowment, remainder from Building Fund;
 - Clock ~ keeping good time, one part still to be replaced;
 - Plastering – need to find a new plastering contractor;
 - Cleaning Out The Junk – old humidifiers were taken for recycling;
 - Lawn Mowing – sign up sheet in the west entrance; have acquired the weed trimmer & leaf blower;
 - Trailer in Shed –we will put on a silent auction with a minimum bid;
- Cemetery ~ some trees will likely need to come down
- Endowment ~ nothing to report;
- Stewardship ~ online giving transfers are happening as they are supposed to;
- Guild ~ paid for the entire kitchen fire service including a new extinguisher; working on quarterly thank you gifts to the workers at Good Shepherd;
- Garden Project ~ have ordered a year-round bench and everything planted seems to be growing well, greenhouse panel was repaired after wind damage;
- SCRIP ~ paid for the new lawn equipment; will pay for pulpit supply in July; need to help folks understand SCRIP can be used for regular expenses;

- Parish Relations ~ nothing to report
- Memorial Projects List ~ the Council is keeping a list of projects & dreams; We will get ideas together for the remodeling of the narthex (east) bathroom; Sarah Rohloff has applied for a grant for an AED (defibrillator)
- Continuing Business ~ Church Banking ~ we will sort out the problems with the address on the account (needs to be the PO Box not street address);
- Continuing Business ~ Annual Meeting Follow-Up; Sue & Pastor have begun interviews and they are going well; looking to make a visual timeline & memory book, gathering pictures & stories;
- Continuing Business – Wisconsin Conference Leadership Forward; three year goal of \$3,000
- Continuing Business ~ Stop sign at Clark Street – the village will put in a YIELD sign on the existing street sign
- Prayers and thanks were shared;
- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Lisa, second by Sue, motion passed
- The meeting ended with the Lord's prayer.

Because of summer travel schedules, there will be no in-person July meeting; reports will be circulated by email. **The next meeting will be held on Tuesday August 12th at 6:30pm.**

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

Garden of Eatin News ... Things are growing & sprouting and the garden looks wonderful. We've planted beans (2 kinds), bell peppers (a favorite at the food pantry last year), cucumbers, and four kinds of tomatoes. Plus, we've planted some radishes and carrots as an experiment in a bed where the strawberry plants didn't make it through the winter.



Speaking of strawberries, though ... we've finally got lots, or at least lots more than the three we picked last year. They've escaped their bed and are taking over the fence line, producing beautiful sweet berries. We also have some critters (chipmunks we think) who are feasting on the berries, but we think that's ok if they eat the berries and leave the rest of our crops alone. We also have a new year-round bench in the garden, made from recycled plastics and plastic bags, plus our perennials are growing and beginning to bloom. Our sunflowers might or might not make it this year. They don't seem to have sprouted very well, but maybe they just need a little extra time. The greenhouse panel that blew off in the wind storms has been repaired, and soon we're counting days to harvest season. Stop out and visit the garden as there are lots of nice places to sit,

July 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 ~ Worship 10:15am
Cecil ~ 4pm (*year-round time from here forward*)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> Key to locations: BC = St. John's Black Creek T = Trinity C = St. John's Cecil ALC = Ascension Lutheran </div>		1	2 1:30pm BC Guild Outing ~ meet at church	3	4 Happy Fourth Of July	5
6 Communion CECIL WORSHIP AT 4pm	7	8 10am ALC Pantry Board	9	10	11	12
Pastor Moira at UCC's General Synod in Kansas City & then vacation through 7/24 ... for pastoral care & emergencies, call Pastor Jill Meyer from Clintonville at 715-460-4254						
13 Guest preacher Lou Norsetter NO Cecil Worship	14	15	16 4-6pm ALC Pantry	17 9am C Closet work day	18	19 9-11am ALC Pantry
Pastor Moira away						
20 Guest preacher Lou Norsetter NO Cecil Worship	21	22 Noon-3pm C Closet	23	24	25	26
Pastor Moira away						
27 NO TRINITY morning worship CECIL at 4pm	28	29	30	31	August 1	August 2
<div> Trinity Pie & Ice Cream Social Worship 1pm Dessert & fellowship 2pm </div>						<i>Tomorrow... Communion SCRIP</i>

Parish Celebrations

If your special day is incorrect let Pastor Moira know.

July Birthdays

1st	...	Barb Volkman
2nd	...	Roberta Lorenz
7th	...	Audrina Bohn
10th	...	Stanley Jochman
11th	...	Elly Menning Judy Marcks
12th	...	Wyatt Lison
13th	...	Emma Holz
14th	...	Cole Marcks
15th	...	Aspen Janke Jason Kruse Lizzie Tesch
17th	...	Maya Holz
18th	...	Ashley Lison Samantha Rasmussen
19th	...	Peggy McDermott
22nd	...	Anders Waterstradt
23rd	...	Tori Erickson
24th	...	Sarah Rohloff
27th	...	Gary Helein
28th	...	Pat Schomisch

July Anniversaries

5th	...	Stanley & Sue Jochman
6th	...	Don & Diane Henning

Guild News

The Guild met on Wednesday June 4th and talked about ways to show our appreciation to the staff and workers at Good Shepherd for the care they give the residents & children in their care. They devised a plan to show their gratitude throughout the year with various seasonal gifts.

The next meeting is our outing for ice cream on Wednesday July 2nd, meet at church at 1:30pm and then our planning meeting will be held on Wednesday August 13th at 1:30pm (please note the schedule change to the second week of the month).

Lawn Mowing Help

We have all the equipment you'll need. The lawn needs mowing about once a week (depending on the weather) and takes about 2 hours to complete.

Trevor Rohloff is happy to help you learn about our equipment.

The sign up sheet is in the WEST entrance.

Online Giving...

You can now give to the church online, with a credit/debit card or by electronic check. If you'd like help, have questions, or need more specific instructions, Pastor Moira & Lizzie Tesch are more than happy to help.

<https://stjbcucc.breezechms.com/give/online>

July
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 stjccreek@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



Trinity U.C.C. Pie & Ice Cream Social



Sunday July 27th ~ 2pm

All are also welcome to join us
for worship at 1pm

**Enjoy delicious desserts &
community fellowship**



**A free-will offering will be received,
but it's not required.**

**This is a gift of food & fellowship
for our community!**

*Everyone is welcome &
our church is accessible!*