

From Pastor Moira...

The leaves are fallen. The baseball is (almost) over. The Halloween candy is on sale. That must mean we're moving on to the next season ~ hunting? No, I'm thinking of Thanksgiving, of course. I'm a huge fan of stuffing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes (not the marshmallow stuff), and pie of just about every kind. But mostly, in these chaotic days, where there seems to be a new challenge for us to face as people, and communities, and a country ever minute of the day, I'm a fan of the idea that we should still be people of thanks-giving and gratitude. Sometimes what we're grateful for is that we don't have to live a particular day over again, but there is still, even on the hardest days, something to be grateful for. My October was full of all the extremes of life ~ five funerals, a baptism, and a wedding. It had all the usual things too, meetings, and classes, and conversations, and care, and a broken furnace at Cecil. And we had the incredible joy of our Black Creek Fall Festival & Trinity Fall Bazaar, both fundraisers, but more importantly, times for community and true fellowship. Through it all, I am grateful for my washing machine (seriously ... and having enough shirts to get through two weeks at a time), and most importantly for ALL OF YOU. Our parish wouldn't be what it is without every single one of you. We are, together, the community God needs in these places, at this time, and as Paul so often says, "I give thanks to my God for you." I truly do. You make my work, my life as your pastor, an incredible honor, and I am so grateful God brought us together.

In love and thanks, Pastor Moira

It's Important To Laugh (or groan)...

Which side of the turkey has the most feathers? *The outside*

What part of the turkey is the most musical? *The drumsticks*

How do you fix a broken pumpkin?
With a pumpkin patch

Who helps the little pumpkins cross the street? *The crossing gourd*

US Mass Shootings in 2025

1/1 - 11/1: 357

According to the Gun Violence Archive

Stock The Pantry Shelves

"When I was hungry, you fed me."

Matthew 25.35

November Focus Items

KETCHUP & MUSTARD

**It never needs to be
name brand.**

**If you are able to help
with any additional
items or monetary donations to
our pantries (please put "food
pantry" in the memo), it will be
most appreciated in these
challenging days.**



Readers & Greeters Schedule

The full October to December calendar is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room
If you need to make a change, please find a substitute & let Pastor Moira know.

Sunday November 2 ~ Communion

All Saints Sunday

Reader Emma Holz
Greeters Mike & Connie Rohloff
Trevor & Sarah Rohloff

Sunday November 9

Reader Sue Biese
Greeters Joe & Sue Biese

Sunday November 16

Reader Lindsay Seefeldt
Greeters Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

Sunday November 23

Reader Isaac Schmidt
Greeters Ryan & Stephanie Julius

Sunday November 30 ~ Advent 1

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

Sunday December 7 ~ Communion:

Advent 2

Reader Ethan Bohn
Greeters Steve Hanson
Sally Dickinson
Sue Biese
Bonnie Vander Linden

Sunday December 14 ~ Program Sunday

Greeters Kelly Stevens
Lisa Waterstradt

Sunday December 21 ~ Advent 4

Reader Audrina Bohn
Greeters Steve & Pat Schomisch

Wednesday December 24

Christmas Eve ~ Communion

Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning
Keith Kruse
Barry Zuleger
*we are looking for four more
communion servers for
Christmas Eve*

Church Christmas Decorating

Tuesday November 25

Food, fun, fellowship & so much decorating of the sanctuary & the rest of the church for the Advent and Christmas season. There will be food, cookies to decorate, and things for people of all ages, interests & abilities.
Starting at 5pm.



Guild News

At our planning meeting in August we crafted our schedule for projects, meetings & outings for 2025-2026. A full Guild book will be available soon, **but for the moment, here's the calendar of events.**

Gatherings are Wednesdays at 1:30pm unless otherwise noted.
The person bringing snacks is also in charge of a gathering prayer.

November 5, 2025

Program with the Pastor about gratitude
Snacks ~ Pastor

SUNDAY December 14, 2025

All Church Christmas Potluck & Program after worship

January 7, 2026

Popcorn snowman project
Snacks ~ Sally D.

February 2026 ~ No meeting

March 4, 2026

Garden theme project
Snacks ~ Vi B-L

April 8, 2026

Get ready for the rummage sale
Snacks ~ Roberta L.

May 6, 2026

Service Project Planning
Snacks ~ Judy S.

June 3, 2026

Pizza & Ice Cream Outing
Meet AT CHURCH at 1pm

July 1, 2026

Service Project Work Day
Snacks ~ Pastor

August 5, 2026

Planning Meeting
Snacks ~ Donna S.

Garden of Eatin News ...

The garden is nearly ready for its winter rest. The plants have come out, and things are being stored for the winter. But we're already dreaming of next season. Our experimental carrot bed was successful so we'll be planting more next year, giving one of the bean beds a rest. And the bell pepper plants that we get from Kailhofer's produce the most incredible peppers we've ever seen, big gorgeous vegetables on strong stems. We'll definitely have more of those next year. And there will be beans, and cucumbers, and tomatoes too. But for now, the garden can rest, taking a well deserved break from all that productivity, renourishing itself and getting ready for another year of providing for our families. We'll be planting some bulbs (in pots) to bring us hope during the cold of winter so stay tuned for more on their progress!



Parish Celebrations ~ for all three churches

If your special day is incorrect let Pastor Moira know.

November Birthdays

1st ...	Michael Flaherty	15th ...	Lori Westphal
2nd ...	Lila Hooyman	18th ...	Ethan Bohn
	Timothy Rihm		Greg Carpenter
5th ...	Bev Kruse	19th ...	Paul Henning
	Wayne Pues	20th ...	Jaelyn Englebert
6th ...	Connie Wheeler	21st ...	Phil Marcks
	Duane Henke	22nd ...	Adam Rihm
7th ...	Randy Miller		Bob Potasnik
	Dennis Peeters	24th ...	Angie Neubert
8th ...	Abbie Flaherty	28th ...	Jaiden Wheeler
	Keith Kruse		Maddelyn Holz
	Samantha Scott	30th ...	Ava Hooyman
11th ...	Seija Neff		Joe Biese
13th ...	Bonnie Marcks		

November Anniversaries

7th ... Steve & Pat Schomisch

Church Christmas Program ~ Sunday December 14



Pastor Moira is almost finished with the script for this year's program. Once again we'll be recording in advance so everyone from our parish churches can participate & enjoy the program. More information coming very soon.

All Church Christmas Party & Potluck

Sunday December 14th

It's our Christmas program Sunday upstairs in worship so just come on down after and enjoy even more food, fellowship & fun. (The Packers don't play until 3pm)



St. John's UCC Black Creek Council Meeting Minutes ~ October 7, 2025

- Present were Sally Dickinson, Lisa Waterstradt, Connie Rohloff, Sue Biese, Trevor Rohloff, Brian Holz, and Pastor Moira Finley;
- The meeting was called to order by Sally and Pastor Moira gave a prayer
- Minutes of the September 2025 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Brian, second by Trevor, motion passed;
- The September financial secretary & treasurer's reports were reviewed; motion to approve by Connie, second by Brian, motion passed;
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including the Fall Festival, recent funerals, and upcoming events including baptism, confirmation class, and weddings
- Membership ~ considering a new picture directory in conjunction with the 155th anniversary;
- Christian Education & Youth Group ~ next meeting Thursday November 6th at 6:30pm
- Worship & Music ~ need to consider next year's Lenten series
- Building & Grounds
 - Box Elder Bugs – Denis Shepard has sprayed for these and Asian beetles;
 - Clock ~ keeping good time, one part still to be replaced;
 - Plastering – continuing to work on finding a new contractor;
 - Banner Stand – Mark Shepard from Trinity will be making new banner stands for the store room;
 - East entrance sign ~ needs a few traces of bricks repaired; Trevor is working on it;
 - Lawn Mowing – need to coordinate power to the shed;
 - Fire alarm panel at west entrance ~ does not serve any purpose (per the state inspector), will disable and work towards removal;
 - West doors ~ need to reseal the northmost door & fix the bottom pin which does not properly lock;
- Cemetery ~ one previously unidentified grave has been identified by a family member as belonging to Walter Belleck and his family will arrange to lay a stone;
- Endowment ~ transferred \$5,000 to the checking account;
- Stewardship ~ a letter will go out in advance of Christmas with information about the anniversary events;
- Guild ~ next meeting November 5th at 1:30pm;
- Garden Project ~ have started painting the rock border;
- SCRIP ~ need to help folks understand SCRIP can be used for regular expenses;
- Parish Relations ~ need to schedule a meeting before budget time (November)
- Memorial Projects List ~ the Council is keeping a list of projects & dreams;
 - tree replacement ~ Spring 2025

- west parking lot relandscaping ~ tremendous thanks to the hard workers (Brandon Rohloff, Brian Holz, Trevor Rohloff, Sara Rohloff, Mike Rohloff); discussion about large planters rather than in-ground planting in the spring;
- narthex bathroom ~ vanity cabinet, mirror & faucet purchased, will use existing flooring; Bernie Shepard is working on wallpaper removal; need to get exhaust fan down to see what we need to replace it with;
- AED (external defibrillators) ~ Sarah Rohloff continues to work on this;
- Continuing Business ~ Church Banking ~ we have one direct deposit to address that currently goes to the BMO account and the internet bill that are still at BMO; will be leaving the organ fund there;
- Continuing Business ~ 155th Anniversary Project ~ meeting October 14th; discussion about monthly events, budget, inviting the community, and more including focusing perhaps on the most recent 30 years of our history;
- Continuing Business ~ Fall Festival Evaluation ~ Pastor Moira provided a preliminary summary with a profit of \$1,277 which is a bit lower because of the cost of meat and other supplies, but a wonderful day was had with members from the community & a lot of good fellowship; there has been discussion of a possible bingo night sometime in the winter
- Continuing Business – Wisconsin Conference Leadership Forward; three year goal of \$3,000
- New Business ~ Congregational Meeting ~ Sunday January 25, 2026
- 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.

Next meeting: November 11 ~ Three Church Leadership Dinner at TRINITY (snacks 6pm, dinner 6:30pm)

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

SCRIP NEWS ... Gift giving season is almost here!

Let us help you make your holiday shopping easier!

SCRIP is a great way to get gift cards for everyone on your list.

We've got something for everyone on your list ~ restaurants, stores, and even online retailers, all delivered right to you!

Remember SCRIP is a great way to plan your budget—for groceries, gas, and other regular expenses.

Talk with Pat or Brani Schomisch

November 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 ~ Worship 8:45am
Black Creek ~ Sunday School 9am & Worship 10:15am
Cecil ~ Worship 4pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 <i>Communion</i> SCRIP order All Saints Sunday	3 4:30pm BC Confirmation	4 6:30pm BC Anniversary Committee	5 1:30pm BC Guild 6:30pm BC Choir	6 6:30pm BC Christian Education Meeting	7	8
BC Turkey Auction ... through 11/16 ... online & in-person						
9 BC Choir Sings	10	11 9am A Pantry board 2pm T Circle Three Church Leadership	12 6:30pm BC Choir	13 <i>Pastor Moira in all-day training workshop</i>	14	15 11am C Baptism ~ Olivia Dazell
BC Turkey Auction ... through 11/16 ... online & in-person						
16 Turkey Auction ENDS BC Kids Sing	17	18	19 4-6pm A Pantry 6:30pm BC Choir	20 9am C Closet work day	21	22 9-11am A Pantry
23	24	25 Noon-3pm C Closet 5pm BC Decorating Party	26 6:30pm BC Choir	27 Happy Thanksgiving	28	29
30 First Sunday of Advent	December 1 4:30pm BC Confirmation	December 2	December 3 6:30pm BC Choir	December 4	December 5	December 6 <i>Tomorrow... Communion SCRIP</i>

Key to locations:
BC = St. John's Black Creek
T = Trinity
C = St. John's Cecil
A = Ascension Lutheran

November
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



Note: October financial secretary & treasurer's reports were not available at the time the newsletter went to press. They will be included in the next newsletter.

Youth Group Turkey Fundraiser ~ through November 16
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.

Items are available for viewing in the Gathering Room & our online auction
site: <https://auctria.events/stjucbcturkey2025>

All bids will be updated on Sunday afternoons and bidding in both forms
closes at 10am on Sunday November 16th.

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

