

St. John's United Church of Christ Black Creek

Parish News ~ April 2026

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

How does the Easter bunny
stay in shape?

He gets lots of egg-ercise.

What happened to the Easter Bunny
when he misbehaved at school?

He was eggspelled!

Where does the Easter Bunny live?

No bunny knows.

What do you call a rabbit with fleas?

Bugs Bunny

Why did Cinderella get thrown
off the baseball team?

She always ran away from the ball.

Deliver To:

Well this looks different?

Yes, the program we've used for the
newsletter for many years is being retired,
so we're learning new things.

Your patience is appreciated &
suggestions and ideas are most welcome
about how to improve the layout.

Stock The Pantry Shelves

"When I was hungry you fed me.

Matthew 25.35

April Focus ~ Brownie & Cake Mixes

Help make life a little sweeter for our
pantry clients with brownie & cake
mixes (and frosting is great too).

Remember, it never has to be name
brand, and if it's easier for you, you can
make a monetary contribution with
"Food Pantry" in the memo line.

Next Wisconsin Election

Tuesday April 7th

Check your voter registration & ballot
information with your village or town
clerk or at myvote.wi.gov

St. John's U.C.C.

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Black Creek, WI 54106

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Pastor Moira Finley

Pastor & Teacher

(715) 851-3080

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YouTube: search Moira Finley

Facebook ~ St. John's UCC Black Creek

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

We had that “lovely” March blizzard (more than 30” at my house, before drifts), then some days of sunshine, then rain, and now it’s snowing again while baseball plays on my radio. That means it is surely spring in Wisconsin. I’m dreaming about planting the gardens, thinking about fresh tomatoes, and long walks in the abundant sunshine. I’m not going to put the jacket and boots away just yet, but I hope we’ve got the snow out of our system for another year.

As winter loosens its grip and gives way to spring, we gather as Christ’s people to celebrate the miracle of the resurrection with Easter on Sunday April 5th. The gospel writers each have their own perspective, but it’s nearly the same story every year ~ Jesus is arrested and “tried” before the temple leaders and the Roman governor; he’s led out to Calvary and crucified between two criminals; he’s buried in a borrowed tomb that’s sealed with a great big stone; three agonizing days later the women find the stone rolled away, the tomb empty, and Jesus risen from the dead. Many of us have heard the story before, time and time again throughout our lives. So why do we bother telling it again this year?

We tell the story every year because we are different people than we were last Easter. A lot has happened in our lives, and in the life of the world. We’ve had celebrations and struggles, joys and grief, hopes and heartache, and a lot of just everyday living stuff. We tell the story every year because we come, every year to the cross and the tomb as different people, changed by the experiences we have had, the world we are living in, and all that we carry in our hearts and minds.

We tell the story that we might open ourselves to the miracle in this moment, as the people we are right now, in April of 2026 in northeast Wisconsin (or wherever you’re reading this). We tell the same story again, and again, and again because it’s never the same story. It is timeless, but it changes with the world around us, and the lives within us. We tell the same story because we need to hear the promise again, over and over again, the promise that not even the worst that humanity can do, not even the powers of violence and death, will ever, ever be enough to stop God’s love from breaking through, reaching into our lives and the world to bring us hope and courage. I pray that we might each open ourselves to the miracle, to this ancient story of love and grace poured out for us and for all the world.

In hope and peace, Pastor Moira

Readers & Greeters Schedule

If you need to make a change, please find a substitute & talk with Pastor Moira

Sunday April 5 ~ Easter

Communion & Choir

Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning
Steve Hanson
Keith Kruse
Robin Schmidt
Gary Vander Linden

Sunday April 12 ~ kids sing

Reader Emma Holz
Greeters Steve & Pat Schomisch

Sunday April 19 ~

Break The Silence Sunday

Reader Pastor Moira

Sunday April 26 ~

Confirmation & Communion

*155th Anniversary ~ celebrating Christian
Education*

Reader Ethan Bohn
Greeters Nate Seefeldt
Keira Neff
Carson Schmidt
Ethan Bohn

Sunday May 3 ~ Communion

Reader Isaac Schmidt
Greeters Mike & Connie Rohloff
Trevor & Sarah Rohloff

Sunday May 10 ~ Christian Family

Home; kids sing

Reader Emma Holz
Greeters Mark Hooyman
Lisa Waterstradt

Sunday May 17 ~ Celebration Sunday

SPACE theme!

Reader Nate Seefeldt
Greeters Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

Sunday June 7 ~ Communion

Reader Lindsay Seefeldt
Greeters Barry Zuleger
Gary Vander Linden

Sunday June 14

Reader Audrina Bohn
Greeters Duane & Carol Henke

Sunday June 21 ~ Father's Day

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Robni Schmitdt
Randy Miller

Sunday June 28

155th Anniversary ~ weddings

Reader Jan Rohloff
Greeters Ryan & Stefanie Julius

St. John's UCC Black Creek Council Meeting Minutes ~ March 10, 2026

- Present were Sue Biese, Trevor Rohloff, Lisa Waterstradt, Connie Rohloff, Lindsay Seefeldt, and Pastor Moira; absent was Brian Holz
- The meeting was called to order by Sue and Pastor Moira gave a prayer
- Council Organization ~ a motion was made by Connie and seconded by Trevor to accept Lindsay Seefeldt to serve the vacant position on the Council; motion passed; we thank Lindsay for her willingness to serve;
- Minutes of the February 2026 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Lisa, second by Trevor, motion passed;
- The February 2026 financial secretary & treasurer's reports were reviewed; motion to approve by Lindsay, second by Connie, motion passed;
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including the plan for Holy Week and Easter as well as the Salvation Army food pantry using our space for a luncheon on Tuesday April 21st at 1pm, and attending the Rural Ideas Conference in Arkansas during June (following vacation to see her dad in New Mexico);
- Membership ~ receiving a new member (Melissa Rohloff) soon, and looking towards a new picture directory with the anniversary celebrations;
- Christian Education & Youth Group ~ met on February 5th; and updated plans for confirmation (April 26) and celebration of the Christian family home (5/20)
- Worship & Music
 - Lenten series is going well so far with about 14 attending each week;
 - motion to have Allison Schultz from Cecil play on Easter Sunday (4/5) for \$100; motion by Lindsay, second by Trevor, motion passed;
 - the altar cloths are being tailored to fit by Dawn Shepard (Trinity), and we are adding a new white set to the memorial wish list (approximately \$1,000)
- Building & Grounds
 - Plastering will begin March 30th (*note, this was delayed by the blizzard and will now begin on April 6th*)
 - Thermostats ~ to replace all of the existing ones with updated programmable units will be approximately \$33 each; motion to approve by Lisa, second by Connie; motion passed;
 - West door (north) was repaired by Packerland Glass;
 - East entrance sign ~ waiting for repairs until better weather;
 - Gathering Room floor ~ will check with Gary Vander Linden about connected with Ralph's Flooring;

- Lawn Mowing – need to coordinate power to the shed, working with Steve Mullen on this;
- Fire alarm panel at west entrance ~ will be removed;
- Stewardship ~ working to promote online giving;
- Guild ~ met March 4th and discussed the village wide rummage sale for Saturday April 25th;
- Cemetery, Endowment, Garden Project, SCRIP & Parish Relations ~ nothing to report;
- Memorial Projects List ~ the Council is keeping a list of projects & dreams;
 - tree replacement & west parking lot landscaping (above ground planters) ~ Spring 2026
 - narthex bathroom ~ FINISHED! (except for decorating); many thanks to everyone who helped including the emergency plumbing work;
 - AED (external defibrillators) ~ Sarah Rohloff is working on this;
 - New white parament set for the altar ~ about \$1,000;
- Continuing Business ~ Church Banking ~ moving all the funds (except the organ fund) to the credit union is in progress;
- Continuing Business ~ 155th Anniversary Karneval was well attended, and the next event is the gospel & bluegrass band on Sunday March 29th during worship (followed by the youth group soup fundraising luncheon); next meeting of the committee is Thursday March 26th at 6:30pm;
- Continuing Business – Wisconsin Conference Leadership Forward; three-year goal of \$3,000; need to tell the stories of why this is important and consider the proceeds of the 2026 Fall Festival to go towards this goal;
- Continuing Business ~ Congregational Meeting follow-up; will decide after the August anniversary celebration how to get congregational input on the sanctuary furnishings;
- New Business ~ Easter Breakfast; there was discussion of cooks, set up & décor, serving & cleaning; the offering will go to the anniversary fund (have table stands with save the date information on it for anniversary events);
- Prayers and thanks were shared including thanks to the Women’s Guild for their appreciation gifts to the workers at Good Shepherd;
- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Lisa, second by Trevor, motion passed
- The meeting ended with the Lord’s prayer.
- Next meeting: April 14th at 6:30pm
- Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

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

FEBRUARY | 2026

GIVING BREAKDOWN

DATE	2/1/2026	2/8/2026	2/15/2026	2/22/2026	DIRECT DEPOSIT	TOTAL
CHECKING DEPOSIT	\$3,725.00	\$1,214.00	\$729.00	\$1,169.00	\$300.00	\$7,137.00
ONLINE GIVING		\$673.00	\$20.00			\$693.00

MEMBERSHIP GIVING

GENERAL FUND	\$3,575.00	\$1,672.00	\$659.00	\$1,169.00	\$300.00	\$7,375.00
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OPERATING FUNDS

BUILDING FUND	\$50.00					\$50.00
ENDOWMENT						\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00

SPECIAL FUNDS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Anniversary Fund		\$165.00	\$50.00			\$215.00
CERT	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$20.00			\$120.00
Food Pantry	\$50.00		\$20.00			\$70.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	\$100.00	\$215.00	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$405.00

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING	\$3,725.00	\$1,887.00	\$749.00	\$1,169.00	\$300.00	\$7,830.00
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OTHER INCOME

						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

TOTAL GIVING	\$3,725.00	\$1,887.00	\$749.00	\$1,169.00	\$300.00	\$7,830.00
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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.

ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TREASURER REPORT				
MONTH Of February 2026				
		Budget Related	Other Income	Total
BUILDING FUND	Beginning Balance	\$16,811.27	\$0.00	\$16,811.27
	Deposits	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$16,861.27	\$0.00	\$16,861.27
MEMORIAL FUND	Beginning Balance	\$0.00	\$7,950.84	\$7,950.84
	Deposits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$7,950.84	\$7,950.84
ORGAN FUND	Beginning Balance	\$0.00	\$4,455.00	\$4,455.00
	Deposits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$4,455.00	\$4,455.00
GENERAL FUND	Beginning Balance	\$16,126.50	\$7,290.07	\$23,416.57
	Interest	\$0.53	\$0.00	\$0.53
	Deposits	\$7,375.00	\$405.00	\$7,780.00
	Disbursements	(\$9,940.17)	\$0.00	(\$9,940.17)
	Ending Balance	\$13,561.86	\$7,695.07	\$21,256.93
YOUTH GROUP	Beginning Balance	\$0.00	\$780.80	\$780.80
	Deposits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
PLASTERING FUND	Beginning Balance	\$0.00	\$12,531.72	\$12,531.72
	Deposits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$12,531.72	\$12,531.72
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Beginning Balance	\$0.00	\$304.86	\$304.86
	Deposits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$304.86	\$304.86
GARDEN PROJECT	Beginning Balance	\$0.00	\$3,784.08	\$3,784.08
	Deposits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$3,784.08	\$3,784.08
TOTAL	Beginning Balance	\$32,937.77	\$37,097.37	\$70,035.14
	Deposits	\$7,425.00	\$405.00	\$7,830.00
	Interest	\$0.53	\$0.00	\$0.53
	Disbursements	(\$9,940.17)	\$0.00	(\$9,940.17)
	Ending Balance	\$30,423.13	\$37,502.37	\$67,925.50
	YTD Membership Giving			14,758.00
	YTD Expenses			(20,670.36)
	NET AMOUNT *			(5,912.36)

* excludes contributions and disbursements for special offerings

155th Anniversary Events



Church Timeline Now Up...

Look on the walls upstairs near the gathering room & leading to the sanctuary. Thanks to Sue Biese for all her hard work & coordinating the labor involved in getting the timeline organized.

We need your help with pictures of church events like baptisms, confirmations, weddings & more, plus your church memories.

Sunday April 26th ~ Growing In Faith

Celebrating baptism, confirmation & our Christian education with this year's Confirmation students

Sunday May 31st ~ Honoring Our Ancestors

Remembering our Founding Families & tending to our church cemetery

Sunday June 28th ~ United In Love

Celebrating weddings & renewal of vows

Sunday July 26th ~ Building Blocks Of the Past, Present & Future

Looking back at our historical buildings, remodeling & more

Sunday August 30th ~ 155th Anniversary Celebration Worship

Join us for worship and a semi-catered* fellowship meal

(*we'll order chicken and some fixings and pies, but we'll need other things too!)

This isn't Labor Day Weekend ... we checked, promise!

155th Anniversary Planning Committee

Sue Biese, David Tesch, Jan Rohloff, Steve Hanson, Pastor Moira

Parish Celebrations (for all three churches)

If your special date is incorrect, please let Pastor Moira know

April Birthdays

2 nd	Doug Hoppe Grace Krull Jeff Rasmussen	9 th	Denis Shepard 10 th	Steve Schmidt Carla VanDeraa	20 th	Dan Zuiches
3 rd	Val Abel	13 th	Corina Wegner	23 rd	Dave Tesch	
4 th	Elton Wendt Sadie Fenske	14 th	Bernie Shepard	24 th	Marian Goodwin	
6 th	Alex Carpenter	15 th	Mike Knapp Abby Demerath	25 th	Bridget Shepard	
7 th	Jessica Peeters	16 th	Heather Busik	26 th	Gloria Bonnin	
8 th	Lane Witterholt	19 th	Steve Sassman	28 th	David Rohloff Esther Meyer	

April Anniversaries

14th Pete & Sue Witterholt

Online Giving

An easy guide to the church's online giving is now available. We'd be happy to send it to you by email, or walk you through the process. If you'd like to investigate this simple way to make your contributions to church, particularly when you won't be able to attend, both Pastor Moira & our financial secretary Lizzie Tesch would be happy to help. If you'd like to explore for yourself, visit the online giving website at <https://stjbcucc.breezechms.com/give/online>

Rummage Sale ~ Saturday April 25th from 8am to 2pm

In the east entrance (and hopefully outside).

Because of the small space, we are having limited clothing, no electronics (including lamps), and no junk!

We are also having a bake sale and need help with set-up, working the sale & clean up.

You can bring items to donate to the east entrance at any time.

Questions? Talk with a member of the Guild or Pastor Moira

April 2026

How to reach Pastor Moira: phone 715-851-3080 and email pastormoira73@gmail.com

Sunday Schedule: Trinity ~ Worship 8:45am

Black Creek ~ Sunday School 9am & Worship 10:15am

Cecil ~ Worship 4pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30pm BC Choir	2 Maundy Thursday Worship at Black Creek 7pm	3 Holy Friday Worship at Cecil 6pm	4
5 <i>SCRIP</i> Easter Tri-Jo At Trinity Worship 8:45 Breakfast after Black Creek Breakfast 8:30 Worship 10:15	6 4:30pm BC Confirmation	7 10am A Pantry Board Wisconsin Primary Election Day	8 1:30pm BC Guild ~ rummage sale prep 6:30pm BC Choir	9 5:30pm T Council	Pastor at Conference Meeting ~ call for emergencies	
12 Black Creek kids sing	13	14 6:30pm BC Council	15 4-6pm A Pantry 6:30pm BC Choir	16	17	18 9-11am A Pantry
19 Break The Silence Sunday	20 4:30pm BC Confirmation	21	22 2pm T Circle 6:30pm BC Choir	23 9am C Closet work day	24	25 Black Creek Rummage Sale, 8am- 2pm
26 Confirmation Sunday	27	28 Noon-3pm C Closet	29 6:30pm BC Choir	30 6:30pm BC Anniversary Committee	May 1	May 2 <i>Tomorrow... Communion SCRIP order</i>