

From Pastor Moira's Desk...

In the last week of July, as most of you know, an incredibly powerful tornado touched down in Menasha. It brought an incredible amount of destruction to our communities. As I write this on August 1st, a lot of folks are still without power, roads are still limited access, and the assessment of what has been lost, and what can be rebuilt is truly just starting.

Our sister church, Congregational U.C.C. of Neenah Menasha, took considerable damage, but blessedly no one (including all the children at their daycare) was hurt. There were serious injuries, but no deaths have yet been reported. (Please see the note later in the newsletter about how to help!)

At the same time a powerful earthquake struck Japan, Venezuela is still digging out from strong quakes last month, Guam and the Pacific are digging out after a super typhoon (hurricane), fires are burning across Canada, Oregon, Spain, France, Greece, and other places.

The Ebola outbreak continues in Africa, the measles epidemic spreads in the U.S., and we have tainted lettuce that's making thousands sick. The war in Iran continues, and Ukraine, and Congo, and there's more violence here in the US including a police shooting in Madison. Prices are rising, but incomes aren't, and tempers are as high as the temperatures.

It's all just a lot. So take a breath. Seriously, right now as you're reading this. As slowly and as deeply as you are able. Then breathe out just as slowly. Maybe do that two or three times. It can't solve everything, but it's good to give our brains and hearts a little extra space sometimes.

Now, what else can we do with everything that seems so incredibly overwhelming, so much greater than our tiny ability to help out?

Children's TV legend Mr. Rogers (a hero of mine) said that in times of crisis we should look for the helpers. He was right. In every one of those situations I mentioned above, there are helpers, people offering of their time, talents, and resources to make the situation, to bring a moment of peace in the chaos, a listening ear, a helping hand, and more.

Firefighters and EMS workers rush in while storms are raging. Utility workers come from miles around to offer their particular skills. Nurses and doctors, orderlies and aides stay on shift when others can't get in. Folks reach out to each other, to neighbors whose names they maybe didn't know before.

Volunteers mobilize, offering what they have, sometimes just their muscles. Donations pour in. Menasha and surrounding communities have received so many bottles of water they are asking people to pause those just now because they don't have anywhere to store it! Having been there recently ourselves, with the Shiocton floods, we know what communities can do when they band together, remembering that we have more in common than anything we think divides us.

The poet Maya Angelou once said "every storm runs out of rain."

This isn't wide eyed optimism. Instead it is the deepest roots of our faith, that there is always, always a reason to hope. We are people of the incarnation, who believed that God so loved the world that they came to live among us. We are people of the abundance of feeding 5,000 by the shores of Galilee with five little loaves of bread and two even smaller fish. We are people of the Sermon on the Mount who know that peacemakers are blessed. We are people of Gethsemane, knowing God hears all our anguished prayers, and people of the pain of Calvary, and people of the Easter morning empty tomb because not even the powers of violence and death can keep God's love from being known, keep God's kingdom from being built here on earth.

Yes, there is a lot, but we are called by our faith to not give in to the despair of the world, to be beacons of hope, and love, and grace, and courage, and peace in this world, in all the places where we find ourselves, in all the ways we can, with words and actions, with time and resources, until our very last breaths.

So, my friends, as these days of summer start winding down, I invite you to join me in being a light, not hid under a bushel basket, but proudly standing on the lampstand of God's incredible love and grace made known to us in Jesus Christ. Join me in holding on to hope, and more than that, of sharing and creating hope in all we say and do.

Peace and grace, Pastor Moira

Help For Menasha

As the clean-up continues and steps start to be taken towards whatever demolishing & rebuilding need to take place, the most valuable resource we can offer our friends and neighbors in the Menasha area is money. We will receive funds for quite a while because the scope of the need will take some time to truly understand. There will be collection buckets at all three churches. You can make checks out to your particular church with "MENASHA" in the memo line. You are also welcome to mail checks to church. If you are interested in other ways to donate goods, or in volunteering, please be in touch with Pastor Moira. The list of needs is continuously updated on the Volunteer Fox Cities Facebook page.

Readers & Greeters Schedule

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

Sunday August 2 ~ Communion

Reader Sue Biese
Greeters & SERVERS Sue Biese
Steve Hanson

Sunday August 9

Reader Melissa Rohloff
Greeters _____
Jan Rohloff

Sunday August 16

Reader Bob Menning
Greeters Bob & Carla Menning

Sunday August 23

Reader Isaac Schmidt
Greeters Kelly LaValley
Lisa Waterstradt

Sunday August 30

Anniversary Celebration Worship

Sunday September 6 ~ Communion

Labor Day Weekend

Reader Ethan Bohn
Greeters & SERVERS Mike Rohloff
Connie Rohloff

Sunday September 13

Sunday school begins

Reader Nate Seefeldt
Greeters Gary Vander Linden
Nate Seefeldt

Sunday September 20

Reader Emma Holz
Greeters Ryan & Stephanie Julius

Sunday September 27

Reader Lindsay Seefeldt
Greeters Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

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>

Next Wisconsin Elections

Tuesday August 11th, 2026

Partisan (party) primary

Tuesday November 3rd, 2026

General election

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

Stock The Pantry Shelves

August Focus

Ramen Noodles

"When I was hungry you fed me. (Matthew 25.35)

An easy way for our families to make dinner, for kids to make a snack & more.

Chicken & beef are the best flavors,
and the packages instead of the cups.
Please give generously because hunger
doesn't take a summer break.

You can always make a monetary
contribution with "food pantry"
in the memo line.

School Supply Collection

It might be mid-summer, but it's time, time to start getting supplies ready for our students & teachers for this fall so they can have a wonderful year of learning together.

All contributions are welcome & a list of suggested items is available at church or by asking Pastor Moira.

Monetary gifts are also most welcome.

St. John's UCC Black Creek Council Meeting Minutes ~ July 14, 2026

- Present were Sue Biese, Lisa Waterstradt, Connie Rohloff, Trevor Rohloff, Lindsay Seefeldt, and Pastor Moira; absent was Brian Holz;
- The meeting was called to order by Sue and Pastor Moira gave a prayer
- Minutes of the June 2026 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Lisa, second by Lindsay, motion passed;
- The June 2026 financial secretary's report and the May & June 2026 treasurer's reports were reviewed; motion to approve by Trevor, second by Connie; motion passed;
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including her trip to New Mexico and attending the Rural Ideas Conference which was a wonderful experience with lots of other folks who love & appreciate the value of rural and small church ministry
 - There was discussion during Pastor's report about what to do with flood relief funds that were remaining after individual distributions were made; there is \$22,000 remaining; motion to distribute half (\$11,000) to the Friends of the Shiocton Bovina Fire Department and the other half (\$11,000) to individuals in need via \$1,000 grants each with Pastor & Cindy M. from the food pantry working to verify the need; any funds remaining on November 1st will then be forwarded to the fire department; motion by Trevor, second by Lindsay, motion passed;
- Membership ~ picture directory with the anniversary celebrations is planned;
- Christian Education & Youth Group ~ working on a confirmation schedule (3 students from BC and 2 from Trinity);
- Worship & Music ~ getting another ear mic for our system, funds to come from the endowment; new white paraments (altar cloths) in progress;
- Building & Grounds
 - Shed door lock – door will need replacing;
 - Wiring To Shed ~ waiting on a written quote;
 - Gathering Room Floor ~ the humidity this summer has resolved the problem so we need to run a small humidifier in there during the winter;
 - Thermostats ~ will replace the one in the choir loft this fall;
 - East entrance sign ~ waiting for repairs;
 - Lawn Mowing – BP gift cards for lawnmower gas have been received via SCRIP and we will find a place in the shed to keep them;
 - Pollinators for the north lawn ~ timeline is late summer/early fall
 - Fire alarm panel at west entrance ~ will be removed;

- Rear (east) sanctuary fan ~ need to investigate
 - Air conditioner ~ outside needed weeds removed from the equipment;
 - Sanctuary windows ~ discussion of replacing the veneer around them, will investigate further
- Stewardship, SCRIP, Parish Relations, Endowment ~ nothing to report
- Guild ~ met on 7/1 to plan fall thank you projects; annual planning meeting is 8/5;
- Cemetery ~ sign is being relandscaped in conjunction with 155th anniversary;
- Garden Project ~ GROWING & will be removing the strawberry plants that are taking over, making them available to take away;
- Memorial Projects List ~ the Council is keeping a list of projects & dreams;
 - kitchen remodeling/renovation ~ discussed a new (deeper) sink, new faucets, and replacing the ceiling tiles;
 - Changing table for the narthex bathroom was discussed;
 - Rugs for the kitchen ~ replacing the ones by the sink & stoves, will work on before 155th anniversary lunch;
- Continuing Business ~ Church Banking ~ working on moving all except the Organ Fund to Fox Communities CU;
- Continuing Business ~ 155th anniversary celebrations
 - our next celebration is at the end of July & we will celebrate our different buildings & remodeling;
 - August ~ the big event on August 30th with worship & a catered meal; RSVPs and sign-up sheets for help with preparations, worship & the meal are available; RSVP due by July 26;
 - Discussion of various needs for worship participants & kitchen help;
- Continuing Business – Wisconsin Conference Leadership Forward; three year goal of \$3,000;
- Continuing Business ~ Congregational Meeting follow-up; will decide after the August anniversary celebration how to get congregational input on the sanctuary furnishings;
- Continuing Business ~ Fall Festival 2026 on Sunday October 18th;
- Prayers and thanks were shared;
- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Lisa, second by Connie; motion passed
- The meeting ended with the Lord's prayer.
- Next meeting: August 11th at 6:30pm
- Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

St. John's United Church of Christ Financial Secretary Report						
JUNE 2026						
GIVING BREAKDOWN						
DATE	6/7/2026	6/14/2026	6/21/2026	6/28/2026	DIRECT DEPOSIT	TOTAL
CHECKING DEPOSIT	\$1,624.00	\$933.05	\$1,025.00	\$1,117.00	\$300.00	\$4,999.05
ONLINE GIVING	\$673.00					\$673.00
MEMBERSHIP GIVING						
GENERAL FUND	\$2,177.00	\$833.00	\$1,025.00	\$951.00	\$300.00	\$5,286.00
OPERATING FUNDS						
BUILDING FUND						\$0.00
ENDOWMENT						\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
SPECIAL FUNDS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)						
Food Pantry	\$70.00			\$10.00		\$80.00
Leadership Forward	\$50.00			\$15.00		\$65.00
Stained Glass Window Fund				\$76.00		\$76.00
155th Anniversary Fund				\$30.00		\$30.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$131.00	\$0.00	\$251.00
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING	\$2,297.00	\$833.00	\$1,025.00	\$1,082.00	\$300.00	\$5,537.00
OTHER INCOME						
IRS Refund		\$100.05				\$100.05
Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Flood Relief				\$35.00		\$35.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$0.00	\$100.05	\$0.00	\$35.00	\$0.00	\$135.05
TOTAL GIVING	\$2,297.00	\$933.05	\$1,025.00	\$1,117.00	\$300.00	\$5,672.05

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 June 2026				
		Budget Related	Other Income	Total
BUILDING FUND	Beginning Balance	\$16,911.27	\$0.00	\$16,911.27
	Deposits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$16,911.27	\$0.00	\$16,911.27
MEMORIAL FUND	Beginning Balance	\$0.00	\$8,300.84	\$8,300.84
	Deposits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$8,300.84	\$8,300.84
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	\$1,849.22	\$20,867.75	\$22,716.97
	Interest	\$0.18	\$0.00	\$0.18
	Deposits	\$5,286.00	\$11,528.93	\$16,814.93
	Disbursements	(\$10,003.45)	(\$110.00)	(\$10,113.45)
	Ending Balance	(\$2,868.05)	\$32,286.68	\$29,418.63
YOUTH GROUP	Beginning Balance	\$0.00	\$1,423.80	\$1,423.80
	Deposits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$1,423.80	\$1,423.80
STAINED GLASS FUND	Beginning Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	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	\$859.72	\$859.72
	Deposits	\$0.00	\$76.00	\$76.00
	Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$935.72	\$935.72
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Beginning Balance	\$0.00	\$304.86	\$304.86
	Deposits	\$0.00	\$1,018.88	\$1,018.88
	Disbursements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Ending Balance	\$0.00	\$1,323.74	\$1,323.74
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	\$18,760.49	\$39,996.05	\$58,756.54
	Deposits	\$5,286.00	\$12,623.81	\$17,909.81
	Interest	\$0.18	\$0.00	\$0.18
	Disbursements	(\$10,003.45)	(\$110.00)	(\$10,113.45)
	Ending Balance	\$14,043.22	\$52,509.86	\$66,553.08
	YTD Membership Giving			39,582.00
	YTD Expenses			(61,874.27)
	NET AMOUNT *			(22,292.27)
* excludes contributions and disbursements for special offerings				

155th Anniversary Celebrations

**The BIG celebration is here
Sunday August 30th**



**Join us for worship (with many of our previous clergy),
and a catered fellowship meal from Romy's.**

**The tradition of the church is for dessert
at these celebrations to be PIES!**

If you've signed up to bring a pie (or three),
Pastor Moira will be in touch when we get closer
and let you know crusts are ready to pick up & fill.

We would welcome help
on Saturday August 29th beginning at about 10am.

We've got things to do to get the fellowship hall ready for our
celebration meal (cutting pies, setting tables, prepping drinks, etc.)

We've got things to do upstairs to get the sanctuary ready as well.

We'll have jobs for every age & ability.

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

August Birthdays

1 st	...	Carson Schmidt	13 th	...	Rick Rosenberg
2 nd	...	Jeff Rohloff	17 th	...	Caylix Wernet
		Makenna Scott			Marshall Halvorson
		Karen Diemel			Jim Mitchell
		Kim Hess	18 th	...	Amanda Shepard
4 th	...	Megan VanSwol			Connie Ort
5 th	...	Mark Hooyman			Sara Drzewiecki
		Randal VandeCorput	19 th	...	Allan Zuiches
		Andy Olson	21 st	...	Carla Holz
6 th	...	Owen Sorenson			Jon Tesch
		Malcolm Leeman	22 nd	...	Pat Shepard
7 th	...	Avery Conradt	23 rd	...	Tom Neubert
9 th	...	Shirley Wegner	24 th	...	Erica Sorenson
		JoAnn Schneider	25 th	...	Karen Zuleger
12 th	...	Bryce Vander Linden			Karleigh Hooyman
		Kurt Boettcher	30 th	...	Ray Menning
		Steve Schomisch	31 st	...	Morgan Werner

August Anniversaries

2 nd	...	Cody & Kheenan Halvorson	15 th	...	Carla & Bob Menning
		Michael & Barb Flaherty			Jeff & Cindy Rohloff
		Nancy & Jim Mitchell	19 th	...	Mike & Connie Rohloff
		Carla & Ron VanDeraa			Jennie & Tom Hutchcraft
9 th	...	Julie Hein & Mark Suda	20 th	...	Cathie & Chris Hansen
		Amanda & Justin Schmidt	22 nd	...	Gary & Carla Lathrop
			31 st	...	Kathy & Doug Hoppe

August 2026

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

Sundays: Trinity (T) ~ Worship 8:45am

Black Creek (BC) ~ Worship 10:15am

Cecil (C) ~ Worship 4pm

AL = Ascension Lutheran Navarino

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Communion Trinity Pie & Ice Cream Worship 1pm Food 2pm NO CECIL	3	4	5 1:30pm BC Guild planning meeting	6 5:30pm T Council	7	8
9 YES CECIL	10	11 9am AL Pantry board 6:30pm BC Council	12 2pm T Circle	13	14	15
16 YES CECIL	17	18	19 4-6pm AL Pantry	20 9am C Closet work day	21	22 9-11am AL Pantry
23 NO CECIL	24	25 Noon-3pm C Closet	26	27	28	29
30 Black Creek 155 th Anniversary Worship & Lunch NO CECIL	31	September 1	September 2	September 3	September 4	September 5

Deliver To:

**St. John's
United Church of Christ
Black Creek Parish News
August 2026**

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

What do you call a magician
who has lost his magic?

Ian.

Why do bananas always use sunscreen?

Because they peel.

Why did the grill go to the doctor?

Because it was feeling a little burnt out.

What's a fisher's favorite game?

Catch.

What did the ocean say to the beach?

Nothing. It just waved goodbye!

**Trinity Pie & Ice Cream
Social**

Sunday August 2nd

Worship at 1pm

(no morning worship)

Pie, ice cream, toppings &
more at 2pm

**Invite your friends
& neighbors!**

Cecil Summer Worship Schedule

In person worship at 4pm
only on the following dates:

August 9 & 16