

From Pastor Moira's Desk... Football (or Soccer, I suppose)

In June, Boston, Massachusetts was invaded ... by 30,000 Scots. They're called the Tartan Army, supporters of the Scottish National Football Team, and they were in town because Scotland were playing in the World Cup for the first time since 1998 (28 years). They came in kilts, carrying bagpipes, drinking the town dry, and turning every street and corner into a party. They danced, and laughed, and shared the beauty of Scottish culture. The sound of pipes were heard on Sunday mornings, across the Boston common, and at Fenway Park (though it didn't help the Red Sox win). But more than anything, the Scots also learned about the cultures of the teams they were playing against. They learned the Haitian national anthem on the pipes (Haiti playing for the first time since 1974), they ate with the Moroccans, and danced the samba with the Brazilians. It wasn't just in Boston. Everywhere the Tartan Army found themselves (including Miami), they opened themselves up to American culture, being their big-hearted selves, genuinely curious and interested in what made each place they were special, what each group of people they encountered had to teach them.

It wasn't just limited to the Scots either. In Lawrence, Kansas, the university marching band learned the Algerian national anthem (their team was using the university as their training ground), and the entire town became fast friends with the Algerian community and in Mexico City (the tournament being hosted in Canada, the US, and Mexico), the Korean fans found fast friends, sharing tacos and kimchi, laughing and celebrating wins, mourning losses, and being human together. Songwriter David Law wrote "When The Tartan Came To Boston" about the whole experience including the line,

"It took 30,000 strangers to remind us we were neighbors."

As the United States celebrates its 250th birthday this month, and as the world struggles with all kinds of divisions, wars, and uncertainty, that line stuck in my heart ... we are neighbors, dependent on one another, on the strength we can believe in the humanity and dignity of all people everywhere with no exceptions, that everyone we meet, no matter how much they seem to be different from us is a beloved child of God. We are neighbors and there is a strength that is ours if we can share our gifts, talents, traditions, culture, heritage, faith, food, and more with openness and curiosity. We can, and should, be proud of who we are, and where we come from, but not arrogant. The world we know is only one version, and there are people out there who can teach us about another, and another, and another, all of it adding to the beautiful mosaic that is the world, bringing us tacos, and pipes, Viking rowing chants from the Norwegians, the anthem of the Democratic Republic of Congo (the last time they played, 1974, the country was called Zaire) Algerians in Kansas, Ghana and New Zealand playing in Toronto, and so much more. We are neighbors, all of us, just as God dreamed for us to be, if only we would open ourselves to the beauty of God's incredibly diverse & glorious creation.

Peace and grace, Pastor Moira

Readers & Greeters Schedule

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

Sunday July 5 ~ Communion

Reader Vi Brown-Luebke
Greeters & SERVERS Keith Kruse
Barry Zuleger

Sunday July 12

Reader Melissa Rohloff
Greeters Vi Brown-Luebke
Mark Hooyman

Sunday July 19 ~ pastor vacation

Pastor Mark Schmitt preaches

Reader Isaac Schmidt
Greeters _____

Sunday July 26

155th Anniversary ~ buildings

Reader Jan Rohloff
Greeters Duane & Carol Henke

Sunday August 2 ~ Communion

Reader Sue Biese
Greeters & SERVERS Sue Biese
Steve Hanson

Sunday August 9

Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Robin Schmidt
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

There are sign-up sheets at church for help with preparations, worship & the meal. Please talk with Pastor Moira if you would like to help out.

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 July Focus

Peanut Butter & Jelly

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

Get those sandwiches ready!

Help out with these important pantry staples ~ peanut butter & jelly or jam.

Creamy or crunchy, either is ok,
and please stick with the more usual
jams/jellies like strawberry, raspberry &
grape. 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 ~ June 10, 2026

- Present were Sue Biese, Lisa Waterstradt, Connie Rohloff, Trevor Rohloff, Brian Holz, Lindsay Seefeldt, and Pastor Moira;
- The meeting was called to order by Sue and Pastor Moira gave a prayer
- Minutes of the May 2026 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Brian, second by Trevor, motion passed;
- The May 2026 financial secretary's report was reviewed; a gift to the church as a thank you for our shelter work during the flood was received from First Congregational UCC Appleton (thank you has been sent); motion to approve by Lisa, second by Connie; the May 2026 treasurer's report was not available (and is therefore not included in the newsletter);
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including upcoming celebrations and time away; she also reviewed the current state of our flood relief efforts for the community;
- 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;
- Building & Grounds
 - Shed door lock – door is rotting & will need replacing;
 - Wiring To Shed ~ will pursue (cost in the \$1000-1500 range);
 - Gathering Room Floor ~ waiting to see what happens when the humidity increases;
 - Thermostats ~ will replace the one in the choir loft this fall;
 - East entrance sign ~ waiting for repairs until better weather;
 - Lawn Mowing – schedule is in the west entrance; will get \$200 in BP gas cards for gasoline; pollinator garden to be sprayed & tilled before seeding in late summer/early fall;
 - Fire alarm panel at west entrance ~ will be removed;
- Guild ~ pizza & ice cream outing on 6/3 & meeting 7/1 to plan our thank you project for firefighters;
- Cemetery ~ burial of Sara Melchert on 6/5 & sign is being relandscaped as part of the anniversary celebrations
- Endowment ~ furnishing funds for new ear piece microphone;

- Garden Project ~ planted carrots, tomatoes, bell peppers, beans & cucumbers; planted the experimental bed with broccoli; planted herbs and some additional perennials; working to remove the strawberry plants that are taking over;
- Stewardship, SCRIP & Parish Relations ~ nothing to report
- Memorial Projects List ~ the Council is keeping a list of projects & dreams;
 - west parking lot landscaping ~ planters were purchased & will be planted after spraying;
 - kitchen remodeling/renovation ~ discussed a new (deeper) sink, new faucets, and replacing the ceiling tiles
 - AED (external defibrillators) ~ equipment has arrived and Trevor will coordinate installation;
- Continuing Business ~ Church Banking ~ moving all the funds (except the organ fund) to the credit union is in progress; trouble getting the WE bill set up to autopay, but are investigating;
- Continuing Business ~ 155th anniversary celebrations
 - our next celebration is at the end of June to celebrate weddings & there will be a renewal of vows;
 - 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 June 26
- 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;
- New Business ~ Fall Festival 2026 ~ looked at the Packer's schedule and determined that Sunday October 18th is our best possible choice, we will move forward with that and begin planning;
- 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: July 14th at 6:30pm
- Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

St. John's United Church of Christ Financial Secretary Report							
MAY 2026							
GIVING BREAKDOWN							
DATE	5/3/2026	5/10/2026	5/17/2026	5/24/2026	5/31/2026	DIRECT DEPOSIT	TOTAL
CHECKING DEPOSIT	\$1,731.00	\$1,764.00	\$2,700.00	\$389.00	\$957.00	\$300.00	\$7,841.00
ONLINE GIVING	\$173.00	\$500.00					\$673.00
MEMBERSHIP GIVING							
GENERAL FUND	\$1,283.00	\$1,731.00	\$750.00	\$379.00	\$907.00	\$300.00	\$5,350.00
OPERATING FUNDS							
BUILDING FUND	\$50.00						\$50.00
ENDOWMENT							\$0.00
TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
SPECIAL FUNDS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)							
Leadership Forward	\$445.00						\$445.00
Shiocton Flood Relief	X						\$0.00
Stained Glass Window	\$76.00						\$76.00
155th Annivesary Fund	\$50.00		\$100.00		\$50.00		\$200.00
Youth Group		\$50.00					\$50.00
Food Pantry				\$10.00			\$10.00
							\$0.00
							\$0.00
							\$0.00
							\$0.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	\$571.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$10.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$781.00
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING	\$1,904.00	\$1,781.00	\$850.00	\$389.00	\$957.00	\$300.00	\$6,181.00
OTHER INCOME							
Conference Reimbursement		\$483.00					\$483.00
Memorial Fund (for Gloria Daelke)			\$350.00				\$350.00
First Congregational UCC			\$1,500.00				\$1,500.00
							\$0.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	\$0.00	\$483.00	\$1,850.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,333.00
TOTAL GIVING	\$1,904.00	\$2,264.00	\$2,700.00	\$389.00	\$957.00	\$300.00	\$8,514.00

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.

155th Anniversary Celebrations

We have one more monthly celebration before the big day. Please join us as we look back at the various buildings & changes we've made through the years



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

Looking back at our historical buildings, church furnishings, remodeling & more
Ice cream & fellowship after worship (outside if the weather allows)

155th Anniversary Celebration Worship & Meal

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!**

**Pastor Moira will make all the crusts, but you need to fill them,
and bring them back by Saturday August 29th.**

**Sign up sheets are available at church for help with preparations
on Saturday, worship on Sunday,
the meal & kitchen on Sunday and pie baking.**

**TO RSVP ... message, email or call Pastor Moira with the number
who are attending (we need youth/children under 10 and adults)**

**TO HELP ... do the same, reach out to Pastor Moira and she'll
know what help we're looking for.**

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

July Birthdays

1 st	...	Barb Volkman	14 th	...	Cole Marcks
		Chad Lison	15 th	...	Jason Kruse
		Midge Pues			Lizzie Tesch
2 nd	...	Roberta Lorenz	16 th	...	Eyan Peeters
5 th	...	Evelyn Peeters	17 th	...	Nikki Schmidt
		Lexi Conradt	18 th	...	Ashley Lison
6 th	...	Lucas Ashenbrenner			Samantha Rasmussen
7 th	...	Audrina Bohn	19 th	...	Peggy McDermott
9 th	...	Jill Baxter	20 th	...	Paula Stapel
10 th	...	Stanley Jochman	21 st	...	Dale VanGheem
		Kathryn Leeman			Hannah Hert
11 th	...	Elly Menning	22 nd	...	Anders Waterstradt
		Judy Marcks	24 th	...	Sarah Rohloff
12 th	...	Wyatt Lison	27 th	...	Gary Helein
		Addi Conradt	28 th	...	Pat Schomisch
13 th	...	Emma Holz	31 st	...	Adisyn VanSwol
		Joe Stilen			

July Anniversaries

1 st	...	Corina & Tom Wegner	13 th	...	Karla & Chuck Blumreich
5 th	...	Stanley & Sue Jochman	22 nd	...	Angie & Tom Neubert
6 th	...	Don & Diane Henning	25 th	...	Lisa & Matt Dazell
12 th	...	Mary Lou & Andy Olson			

July 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
			1 1:30pm BC Guild	2	3	4 Happy 250th Independence Day ... Be safe!
5 Communion Tri-Jo SCRIP order	6	7	8 6:30pm BC Anniversary committee	9	10	11
12	13	14 6:30pm BC Council	15 2pm T Circle 4-6pm AL Pantry	16	17	18 9-11am AL Pantry
Pastor vacation, 7/15-7/24						
19 NO Cecil Worship	20	21	22	23 9am C Closet work day	24	25
Pastor vacation, 7/15-7/24						
26 Black Creek Anniversary ~ buildings NO Cecil Worship	27	28 12-3pm C Closet	29	30	31	August 1st Tomorrow... Trinity Pie & Ice Cream (worship 1pm, pie at 2pm)

Deliver To:

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

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Black Creek, WI 54106

(920) 984-3845

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Facebook – St. Johns' UCC Black Creek

Pastor Moira Finley

pastor & teacher

(715) 851-3080

pastormoira73@gmail.com

YouTube: search Moira Finley

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

If you cross a patriot with a curly-haired
dog what do you get?

A Yankee Poodle

What do you call a snow man on the
Fourth of July?

A puddle.

What do you drink on the Fourth of July?

Liber-tea

Where was the Declaration of
Dependence signed?

At the bottom

**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:

July 5 & 12 and August 9 & 16