From Pastor Moira's Desk…

It's nearly Halloween as I write this, the lawns are filled with crunchy leaves and spooky decorations, and soon lots of folks will sit down to scoop out the guts of pumpkins and give away candy to little ghouls and goblins, superheroes and cartoon characters, and more.

We're also all busy here celebrating the incredible season of the Milwaukee Brewers which ended last night in their first World Series win in 44 years. They had an incredible season, the best record in baseball (114 wins and 61 losses including the post-season), and the pure joy of watching Wisconsin fans throughout this series reminds me so much of my Red Sox in 2004. Plus we had the excitement of the first ever sausage race in World Series history!

Soon, however, our hearts and minds will turn towards the rush of things that fill the end of the year ~ Thanksgiving, deer season, Advent and Christmas. There will be rushing and worrying about menus, and decorating, and if we have enough x and who doesn't like pie y, and if the cousins are coming from out of state.

There will be buying and wrapping gifts, and stretching maybe already stretched budgets to make sure everyone gets something, and worrying about how it might be with the family all together this year, or if they can't (or won't) get together, and what will happen if the turkey doesn't cook properly, and the dog licks the pies before they get to the table, and … a lot of other things.

Plus we have to do all of that in the darkening of the year here in northern Wisconsin. As we have Halloween this weekend, we'll also set the clocks back for daylight savings time to end, and the cold will start to come along with longer, darker nights, and shorter days where the suns rays don't seem to warm us.

I've definitely said this more than once in my time as your pastor, but it's ok to slow down, to not get caught up in the rush and hoopla of it all. You can celebrate the holidays in your own way, on your own schedule. The turkey dinner and all the eleventeen sides aren't required. An elaborately decorated tree or a million outside lights aren't required. A thousand presents, including trying to find the "perfect one" for everyone, isn't required.

The season of gratitude that leads us to Thanksgiving and then naturally into Advent and the greatest gift of all time, the gift of God coming to earth as Jesus to know our lives, this season isn't about the stuff, and the trimmings, but about how we take it into our hearts.

I'm a huge fan of the Muppet Christmas Carol and about this time of year I always think of a line at the end, after Scrooge has had his ghostly visitors and a change of heart. They say of him that he knew how "to keep Christmas". He took it into his life and lived it every day.

Maybe that's the goal with Thanksgiving and Christmas, that we learn to keep it, for it to be something not just at this time of year, but in every season, in every moment of our lives. May we learn to keep gratitude and thanks, generosity and faith, courage and hope alive in us in this season and always.

In peace, grace, and love, Pastor Moira

Stock The Pantry Shelves ~ November Focus
Ketchup & Mustard

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

We go through lots and lots of condiments. However you spell it (ketchup or catchup), it helps our families season their meals. Any size bottle is good because we have all kinds of sizes of families. Remember, it never has to be name brand, and you can always make a monetary contribution with "food pantry" in the memo.

Cecil Worship Schedule

In person worship at 4pm on the following dates:
November 1, 22 & 29
December 6 & December 13
December 24 ~ *Christmas Eve worship at 3pm*
We are going to be working on the January to May schedule soon!

St. John's UCC Black Creek Council Meeting Minutes ~ October 13, 2026

- Present were Sue Biese, Lisa Waterstradt, Connie Rohloff, Trevor Rohloff, Brian Holz, and Pastor Moira; absent was Lindsay Seefeldt
- The meeting was called to order by Sue and Pastor Moira gave a prayer
- Minutes of the September 2026 meeting were reviewed; motion to approve by Brian, second by Trevor, motion passed;
- The September 2026 financial secretary & treasurer's reports were reviewed; there was discussion about the disbursement of special funds which will be done before end of year; motion to approve by Brian, second by Trevor, motion passed;
- Pastor Moira reviewed her report including the Trinity bazaar and preparations for the Fall Festival, plus her trip to New Mexico for her dad, and helping with the Guild's fire fighter appreciation gifts;
- Membership ~ picture directory with the anniversary celebrations is planned;
- Christian Education & Youth Group ~ confirmation classes began with four students (2 Black Creek, 2 Trinity), 12 people attended work camp, turkey auction is 10/18 to 11/15 in-person and online;
- Worship & Music ~ new ear mic has not yet been installed;
- Building & Grounds
    - Shed door lock – door will need replacing;
    - Wiring To Shed ~ waiting on a written quote ~ on hold until 2027;
    - Gathering Room Floor ~ humidifier is here and set to 50%, it has a 90 hour tank so it needs to be filled on Sundays & mid-week;
    - Thermostats ~ choir loft thermostat replaced and now all are programmed and running the schedule;
    - East entrance sign ~ waiting for repairs, Trevor will get quotes;
    - Pollinators for the north lawn ~ will be done in the next few weeks;
    - Fire alarm panel at west entrance ~ will be removed;
    - Rear (east) sanctuary fan & east sanctuary light is out again ~ need to investigate (Brian & Trevor), the light is the priority before Christmas Eve
    - Sanctuary windows ~ discussion of replacing the veneer around them, will investigate further;
    - Snow plowing – quotes were reviewed, motion to approve the quote from Stingle after a few clarifying questions (plowing just the south side of Burdick St vs. plowing the entire area); motion to approve by Brian, second by Connie, motion passed;
- Stewardship, SCRIP, Endowment ~ nothing to report

- Parish Relations ~ needs to meet in November (before the open enrollment period ends on 11/15) so budget can meet before the December council meeting;
- Cemetery ~ Brian sprayed the sign for weeds;
- Guild ~ thank you gifts to our area fire departments (Black Creek, Seymour, Shiocton & Nichols) have all been delivered
- Garden Project ~ just about done for the season, had another great year, interested in getting a scale so we can weigh the produce we donate, just to have an idea of how much we produce;
- 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;
- Continuing Business ~ Church Banking ~ working on moving all except the Organ Fund to Fox Communities CU;
- Continuing Business ~ 155th anniversary celebrations
    - a few more events including a photo booth at the fall festival, sealing the time capsule on November 1st, and honoring veterans on November 15th;
    - there was also discussion about two items:
        - coffee set ~ no one seems to know where it came from, and there is no record of it in the memorial book; Council recommends selling it (it is silver plate);
        - Melchert altar ~ the Council recommends the respectful disposal of the altar, pending approval of the congregational meeting in January;
- 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; we will move inside and many other details were discussed;
- 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: Tuesday December 8 at 6:30pm (there will not be a November meeting because of various council member schedules)
- Respectfully submitted, Pastor Moira Finley

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

SEPTEMBER | 2026

GIVING BREAKDOWN

DATE	9/6/2026	9/13/2026	9/20/2026	9/27/2026		DIRECT DEPOSIT	TOTAL
CHECKING DEPOSIT	$1,522.00	$436.00	$811.00	$275.00		$300.00	**$3,344.00**
ONLINE GIVING	$673.00			$150.00			**$823.00**

MEMBERSHIP GIVING

GENERAL FUND	$2,019.00	$406.00	$811.00	$425.00		$300.00	**$3,961.00**

OPERATING FUNDS							
BUILDING FUND							**$0.00**
ENDOWMENT							**$0.00**
TOTAL OPERATING FUNDS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	**$0.00**

SPECIAL FUNDS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)							
155th Anniversary Fund		$30.00					**$30.00**
Food Pantry	$100.00						**$100.00**
Stained Glass Windows	$76.00						**$76.00**
							$0.00
							$0.00
							$0.00
							$0.00
							$0.00
							$0.00
							$0.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	**$176.00**	**$30.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$206.00**

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP GIVING	**$2,195.00**	**$436.00**	**$811.00**	**$425.00**	**$0.00**	**$300.00**	**$4,167.00**

OTHER INCOME

							$0.00
							$0.00
							$0.00
							$0.00
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**

TOTAL GIVING	**$2,195.00**	**$436.00**	**$811.00**	**$425.00**	**$0.00**	**$300.00**	$4,167.00

Remember …

We can help you set up on-line giving with a check or card (debit or credit) at any time. Please reach out to Pastor Moira or Lizze Tesch for more information.

ST JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST TREASURER REPORT				
MONTH Of September 2026				
		Budget Related	**Other Income**	**Total**
BUILDING FUND	Beginning Balance	$17,061.27	$0.00	$17,061.27
	Deposits	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Disbursements	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Ending Balance	$17,061.27	$0.00	$17,061.27
MEMORIAL FUND	Beginning Balance	$0.00	$8,194.84	$8,194.84
	Deposits	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Disbursements	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Ending Balance	$0.00	$8,194.84	$8,194.84
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	$7,942.68	$17,482.69	$25,425.37
	Interest	$5.02	$0.00	$5.02
	Deposits	$3,961.00	$130.00	$4,091.00
	Disbursements	($8,675.00)	$0.00	($8,675.00)
	Ending Balance	$3,233.70	$17,612.69	$20,846.39
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	$1,087.72	$1,087.72
	Deposits	$0.00	$76.00	$76.00
	Disbursements	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Ending Balance	$0.00	$1,163.72	$1,163.72
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Beginning Balance	$0.00	$1,323.74	$1,323.74
	Deposits	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Disbursements	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Ending Balance	$0.00	$1,323.74	$1,323.74
GARDEN PROJECT	Beginning Balance	$0.00	$3,672.79	$3,672.79
	Deposits	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Disbursements	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
	Ending Balance	$0.00	$3,672.79	$3,672.79
TOTAL	Beginning Balance	$25,003.95	$37,640.58	$62,644.53
	Deposits	$3,961.00	$206.00	$4,167.00
	Interest	$5.02	$0.00	$5.02
	Disbursements	($8,675.00)	$0.00	($8,675.00)
	Ending Balance	$20,294.97	$37,846.58	$58,141.55
	YTD Membership Giving			71,301.00
	YTD Expenses			(87,341.52)
	NET AMOUNT			**(16,040.52)**

* excludes contributions and disbursements for special offerings

Readers & Greeters Schedule

If you aren't able to participate on your day, please find a substitute and let Pastor Moira know.
On Communion Sundays, Greeters are also communion Servers

November 1 ~ Communion
Reader Jan Rohloff
SERVERS Robin Schmidt
Nate Seefeldt
Bonnie Vander Linden
Gary Vander Linden

November 8
Reader Emma Holz
Greeters Ryan & Steph Julius

November 15
Reader Melissa Rohloff
Greeters Steve & Lindsay Seefeldt

November 22
Reader Isaac Schmidt
Greeters Duane & Carol Henke

November 29
Reader Robin Schmidt
Greeters Steve & Pat Schomisch

December 6 ~ Communion
Reader Nate Seefeldt
SERVERS Keith Kruse
Barry Zuleger
Mike Rohloff
Trevor Rohloff

December 13 ~ Program Sunday
Greeters Mark Hooyman
Connie Rohloff

December 20
Reader Lindsay Seefeldt
Greeters Kelly LaValley
Lisa Waterstradt

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
Worship with communion at 7pm
Reader Bob Menning
SERVERS Bob & Carla Menning
Tom Rihm
*we are looking for **five** more servers, please be in touch if you're interested in helping*

December 27
Greeters Ryan & Steph Julius

January 3 ~ Communion
Reader Sue Biese
SERVERS Sue Biese
Steve Hanson

January 10
Reader Ethan Bohn
Greeters Kelly LaValley
Lisa Waterstradt

January 17
Reader Nate Seefeldt
Greeters Steve & Path Schomisch

Parish Celebrations

If your special date is incorrect, or is not listed, please talk with Pastor Moira

November Birthdays

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

November Anniversaries

7th … Steve & Pat Schomisch

Church Christmas Decorating ~ Tuesday November 24

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 all starting at 5pm.

Christmas Program Day & More ~ Sunday December 13

After our children & youth's Christmas program,
all are invited to join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall
for a Christmas Party & Potluck (coordinated by the Guild)

November 2026

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

Sundays: Trinity (T) ~ Worship 8:45am
Black Creek (BC) ~ Sunday School 9am & Worship 10:15am
Cecil (C) ~ Worship 4pm AL = Ascension Lutheran Navarino

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 *Communion* All Saints Sunda YES CECIL	**2**	**3** **Election Day**	**4** 1:30pm BC Guild 6:30pm BC Choir	**5**	**6**	**7**
8 BC Kids sing 11:30am Confirmation NO CECIL	**9** 6:30pm BC Decorating Committee	**10** 10am AL Pantry Board	**11** 6:30pm BC Choir	**12** 5:30pm T Council	**13**	**14**
15 Turkey auction ends NO CECIL	**16**	**17**	**18** 3pm T Circle to Schinke 4-6pm AL Pantry 6:30pm BC Choir	**19** 9am C Closet work day	**20**	**21** 9-11am AL Pantry
22 **Reign of Christ** 11:30am BC Confirmation YES CECIL	**23**	**24** Noon-3pm C Closet BC All Church Decorating Party	**25** NO BC Choir practice	**26** **Happy Thanksgiving**	**27**	**28**
29 **Advent 1** YES CECIL	**30**	**December 1**	**December 2**	**December 3**	**December 4**	**December 5** **Tomorrow… Advent 2 Confirmation YES CECIL**

Pastor Moira to NM, call in an emergency

Deliver To:

November 2026 Parish News

St. John's U.C.C. Cecil
Trinity U.C.C. Shiocton
St. John's U.C.C. Black Creek

St. John's United Church of Christ
324 S. Warrington Cecil, WI 54111
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St. John's United Church of Christ.
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(920) 984-3845
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Trinity United Church of Christ
W6712 County Road F Shiocton, WI 54170
(920) 525-2132

Pastor Moira Finley
pastor & teacher
(715) 851-3080
pastormoira73@gmail.com
YouTube: search Moira Finley

Parish Christmas Program

Pastor Moira is almost finished with this year's script and soon we'll be recording. Parents & families should have received an email (or a message in the Facebook group) about what dates & times will work best for your family's participation. If you haven't responded, please do so as soon as possible and stay tuned for a recording schedule.

SCRIP NEWS

Gift giving season is 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 have restaurants, shops, and even online retailers, all delivered right to you.
SCRIP is also a great way to plan your budget for gas & groceries.
At Trinity & Cecil ~ talk with Karla Blumreich or Pastor
At Black Creek ~ talk with Pat or Brandi Schomisch