

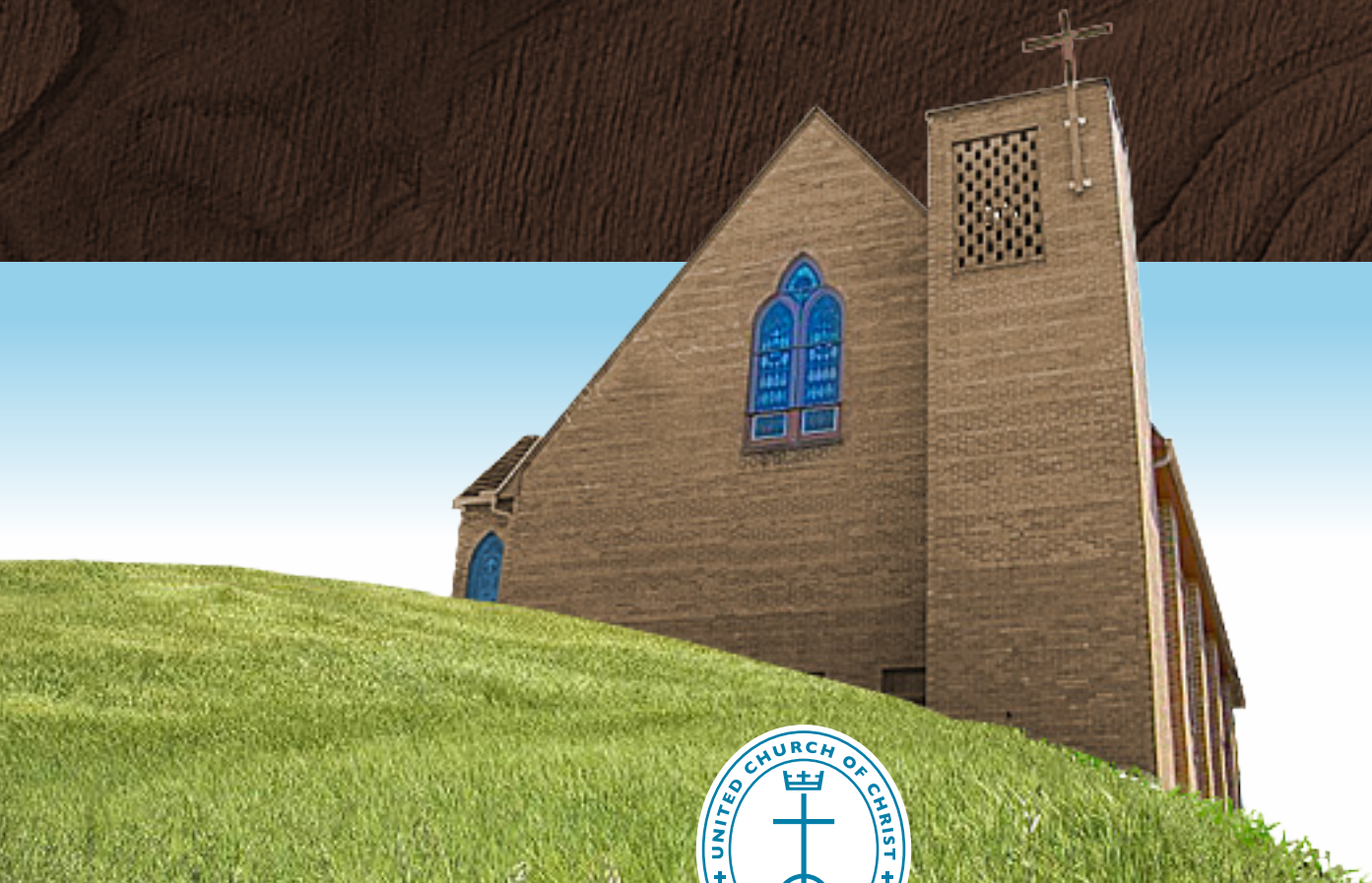


St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

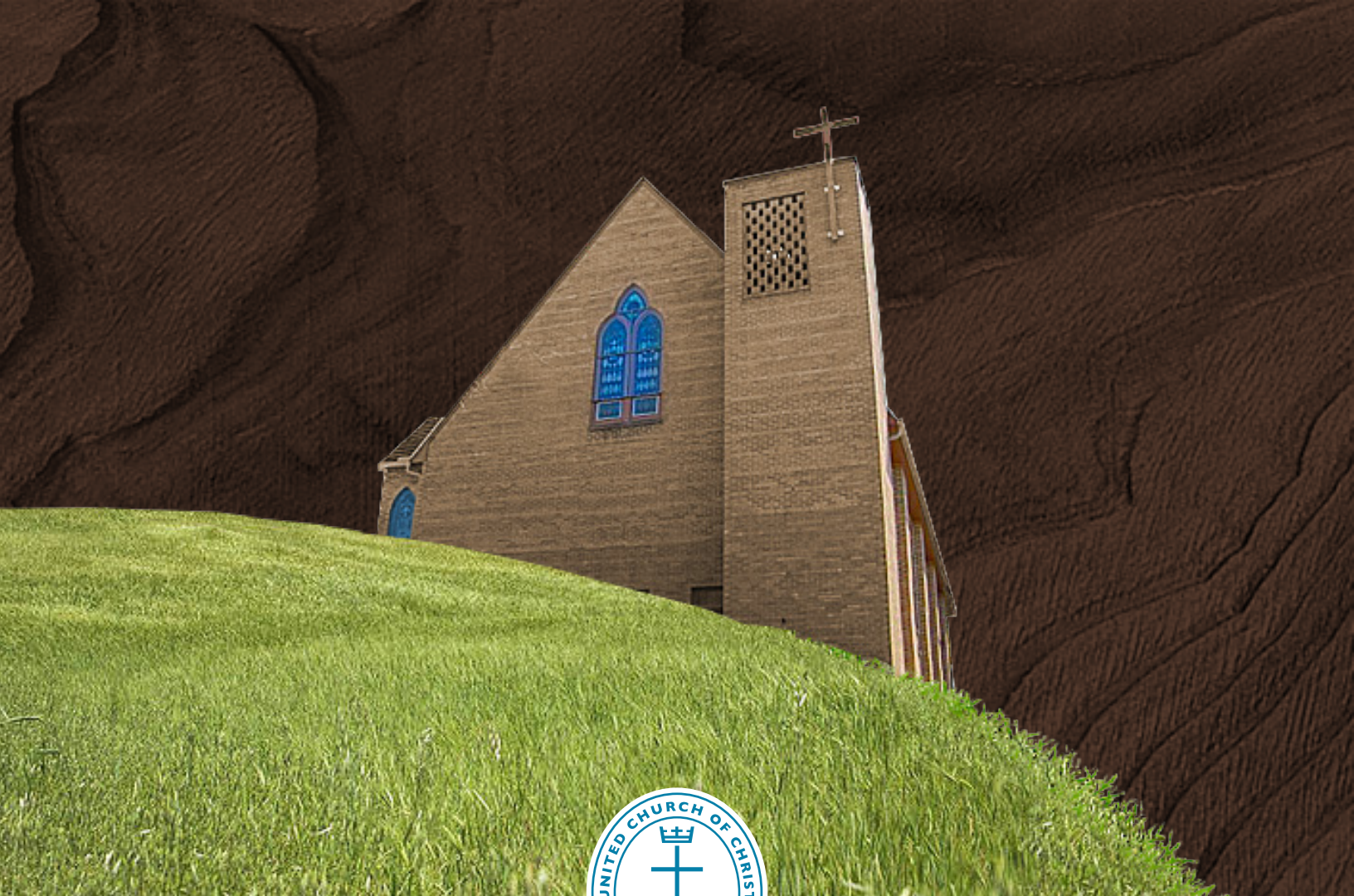
SJC Issue 0322 - March 2022



stjohnsfzwi.org

St. John's Church | United Church of Christ | 303 S Hill Street | Fountain City, WI

608.687.3277



Sunday Worship @ 8:30am

We offer two options for worship on Sundays: in person or online. Whether you prefer to worship from the safety of your home or with others, we at St. John's want to make sure you get the spiritual encouragement you need. Join us in person each Sunday at 8:30am or watch a video recording of the online service. The service is not recorded live but is uploaded after the service has ended. We look forward to worshipping with you!

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Letter From The Pastor

March 2022

The season of Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, March 2; that day St. John's and Hope will come together for an Ash Wednesday service at 6:00 p.m. at St. Johns. We will distribute ashes for all who choose to receive them on your forehead or the back of their hand.

Lent is a time of reflection and repentance. The "three pillars" or practices that traditionally connected to Lent are prayer, fasting, and giving. For some this may seem quaint. Others find this too hard, bringing up shame, or hurt, or the feeling that one is unworthy. And so, unless giving up chocolate or smoking in any attempt to improve health, for a good portion of the population Lent means merely another seven weeks to Easter.

I've come to understand Lent as a sort of spiritual spring housecleaning. These three pillars are some of the tools we use as we go about it. These seven weeks can become a time of reconciling or growing deeper in relationship with God, with our families, and with our communities. In a phrase used in Twelve Step programs Lent is an opportunity to "clear our side of the street." We are encouraged to let go of what keeps us from being the people we want to be, and more importantly, the people God created us to be.

For repentance isn't that we need to feel shame, or perpetual sorrowful for our actions; it is about turning around and going a different way. Repentance means looking honestly at what we wish we did or did not do, taking accountability, then asking God to show us a better way.

Organization specialist Kon Mari became popular suggesting to declutter we take each object in the home and ask, "Does this still give me joy?" If it did, keep it, repairing if needed. If not, either donate it or recycle/discard it. Lent invites us to do undergo a similar process with ourselves, our values, habits, choices, and relationships under the gaze of the Good News. We take the time to ask "Does 'this' (habit, action, value, judgement, inaction, etc.) bring God joy? is it part of living the abundant, joyful life God intends for us and with each other?"

Continued on next page...

Letter From The Pastor

March 2022

As a follower of Jesus, what in your life isn't bringing joy for you and for others? (Not happiness, but joy.) Sometimes what isn't sparking joy is a situation that we cannot change, but is there a way to find moments of joy and grace within it? Join me over the next seven weeks asking that question. Remember, out of the worst day, God has, can, and will always bring resurrection. So check under the couch cushions in your life to see what's there, find those cobwebs in the back rooms of your life that only you see, and then ask God's Spirit of love, grace, and new life to blow through. Who knows what may happen? Let's find out.

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

P.S. If you or someone you know would like a home visit, please reach out to me. I'd love to stop by.

Lets Talk About Confirmation

Wednesday, March 16 @ 6:30pm

Join Pastor Deb on planning our upcoming Confirmation program. During the time we will:

1. Discuss possible meeting times, 2. Determine where everyone is currently in the process, 3. Discuss a possible "accelerated" option for older students, 4. Learn what you hope for out of the classes (both students and parents), 5. Pastor Deb will share her views on the Confirmation classes (for example, she prefers calling these "Confirmation Exploration Classes"), and how together we can make this a faith enhancing experience for all.

If you have not already let Pastor Deb know that you plan on attending, please let her know.

Stewardship

Stewardship Moment from the Deacons

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of the special UCC mission offerings. One Great Hour of Sharing provides funds for emergency relief, health, education, and refugee ministries world wide, as well as disaster response domestically and internationally, such as aid to people of Ukraine.



Sunday, March 27, 2022 One Great Hour of Sharing donations will be collected in church. Donations will still be accepted either at church or mail your donation to:

St. John's UCC,
PO Box 103
Fountain City, WI 54629-0130

Specify OGHS on the check.
Thanks for your support.

God's grace and peace.

Dale Schmidtknecht



Food Shelf

Report For February 2022

Can you give a couple hours a month and volunteer at the St. John's Food Shelf? Put a note in the offering plate this Sunday or reach out to Pastor Deb or Linda Clark at 715.495.5282. Thank you to our current volunteers! We are trying to help as many people possible!

Donations Most Needed:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| ✓ Toilet Paper | ✓ Crackers (Saltines) | ✓ Canned Chili |
| ✓ Canned /Ham/Salmon | ✓ Rice/Pasta Pouches | ✓ Canned Stew |
| ✓ Cake/Brownie | ✓ Vegetable Spray | ✓ Spices |
| ✓ Muffin Mixes | ✓ Brown Rice | ✓ Applesauce |
| ✓ Canned Frosting | ✓ Juice Boxes | ✓ Salad Dressing |
| ✓ Instant Oatmeal | ✓ V8/Tomato Juice | ✓ Ketchup |
| ✓ Cereal (Healthier) | ✓ Boost/Ensure | ✓ BBQ Sauce |

1st & 3rd Monday: 4:30pm - 6:30pm
2nd & 4th Wednesday: 3:00pm - 5:00pm



- ✓ 524 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 21 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 25 Total People Helped
- ✓ 0 Children
- ✓ 10 Adults
- ✓ 15 Seniors
- ✓ ?? Households (? Came Twice)

Lenten Bible Study

St. John's UCC & Hope UCC

Pastor Deb will lead a Lenten Bible Study on the “Last Seven Phrases (Words) of Jesus” starting on Tuesday, March 8, at 1:00pm at St John's UCC. We will meet for an hour to hour and a half depending on interest. Pastor Deb will open with a brief intro of their place within the context of the gospel in which they appear as well as historical significance, then open for group discussion. Registration isn't needed, but please let Pastor Deb know that you plan to attend.

- ✓ **Tuesday, March 8 - Father, forgive them.**
- ✓ **Tuesday, March 15 - Today you will be with me in paradise.**
- ✓ **Tuesday, March 22 - Why have you forsaken me.**
- ✓ **Tuesday, March 29 - Woman, here is your son.**
- ✓ **Tuesday, April 5 - I am Thirsty**
- ✓ **Tuesday, April 12 - Into your hands, and It is finished.**



The Cake Auction Is Back!

Sunday, May 1, 2022

The Christian Education Committee is having their annual Cake Auction right after church in the Fellowship Hall. Tasty cakes, pies, and other goodies will be available for purchase. We look forward to your participation in baking and bidding. This is one of our favorite events & proceeds go to our Sunday School Program. A light lunch will be served by your Christian Education Committee.



Volunteers: March

Ushers

Werner Engel, Richard Ruben & Cindy Zieger

Greeters

03.06.22 Kevin & Heidi Wachowiak
03.13.22 Reggie & Jeanne Franz
03.20.22 Tom & Carol Risley
03.27.22 Brian & Lisa Wolfe
04.03.22 Mary Schmitt & Karen Knospe

Counters

Randy & Lori Maier

Communion & Flowers

OPEN

Contact us if you are interested in filling any
of the **“OPEN”** volunteers positions.

Financial Report

Overview as of 03.31.22

Income \$8,282

Expenses \$31.809*

*Lift Deposit: \$15,750 & Final Roof Payment: \$7,333

Birthdays

Nick Pehler
Tucker Pozanc
Carly Schaffner
Calvin Stettler
Everett Engler
Sue Kreher
Mallory Wicka
John Reiter
David Fugina
Macy Tennant
Isaac Wolfe
Jared Schaffner
Jason Schaffner
Greg Osborn
Margaret Dietrich
Werner Engel
Louis Kuhn
Austin Repinski
Tom Ruben
Heidi Wachowiak
David Schaffner
Ella Walth
Neal Schaffner
Bryan Guenther
Cienna Cheney
Brian Semling
Mary Schmitt
Sherry Hoch
Oliver Engler
Gina Guenther

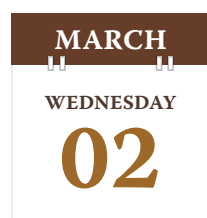
Anniversaries

Mike & Chris Fetting
Bryan & Laura Madsen

Other Special Events

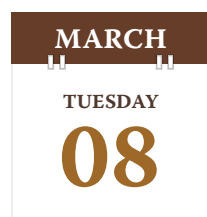
St. John's Church

Along with our Sunday Worship Service schedule, Pastor Deb's Office Hours, Consistory Meetings, Food Shelf Schedule and other recurring events. Below is a list of SPECIAL EVENTS located at St. John's Church and or the local area. Please contact us with any questions. Thanks again for all the support from volunteer and the community.



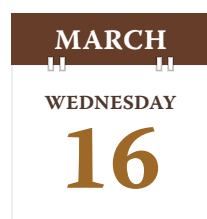
Ash Wednesday Worship Service

St. John's Church
Starts @ 6:00pm
W/Hope UCC



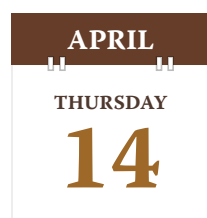
Lenten Bible Study Worship Service

St. John's Church
1:00pm - 2:30pm
The Seven Last 'Words'



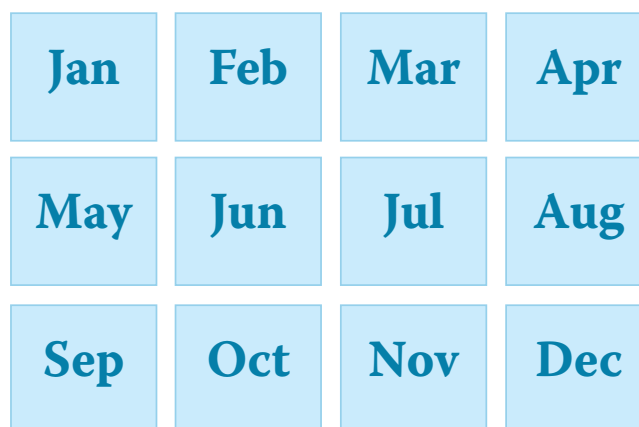
Confirmation Students & Parents

St. John's Church
6:30pm Downstairs
Planning & Information



Maundy Thursday Worship Service

St. John's Church
Starts @ 6:00pm
W/Communion



Online Calendar

Please go online and visit our NEW easy to use website for current up-to-date, detailed event information. Our calendar is updated daily. Email us with any questions or comments.

stjohnsfcwi.org
info@stjohnsfcwi.org

Prayer Requests

St. John's Church - Pastor Deb Kunkel

Congregation members and non-members are encouraged to request prayers for times of need, comfort, healing, celebration and joy. If you would like a visit from Pastor Deb, please call her to set up a time today!



Pastor Deb's Office Hours:

Monday's Noon to 2:00pm
Wednesday's 10:00am to Noon
239.994.2528
pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

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United Church of Christ
303 S Hill Street, PO Box 130
Fountain City, WI 54629-0130

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info@stjohnsfcwi.org



St. John's

United Church of Christ

Church Office:

stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

Newsletter:

stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com

Pastor Deb's Office Hours:

Monday's Noon to 2:00pm | Wednesday's 10:00am - Noon

239.994.2528

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