

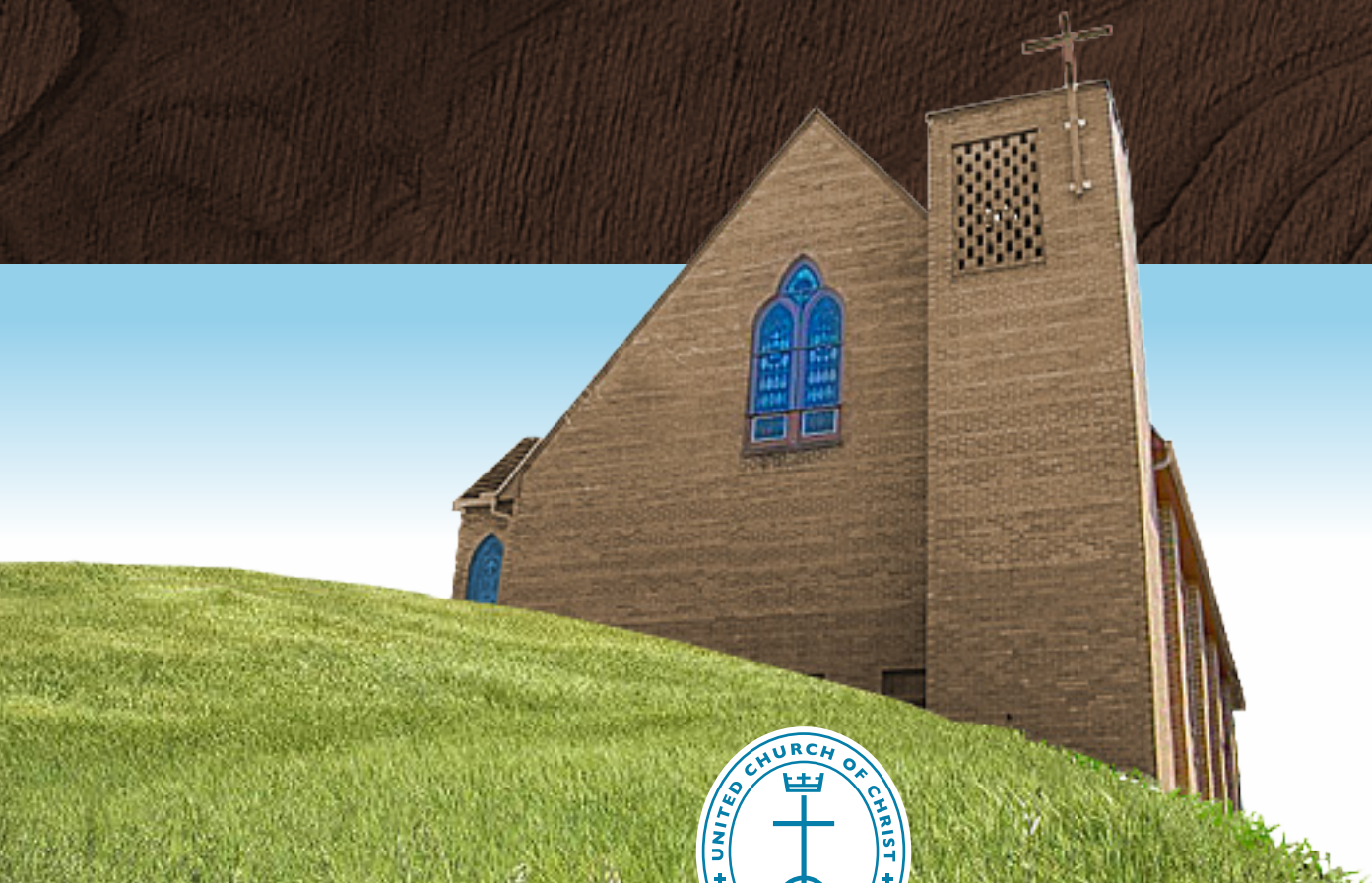


St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

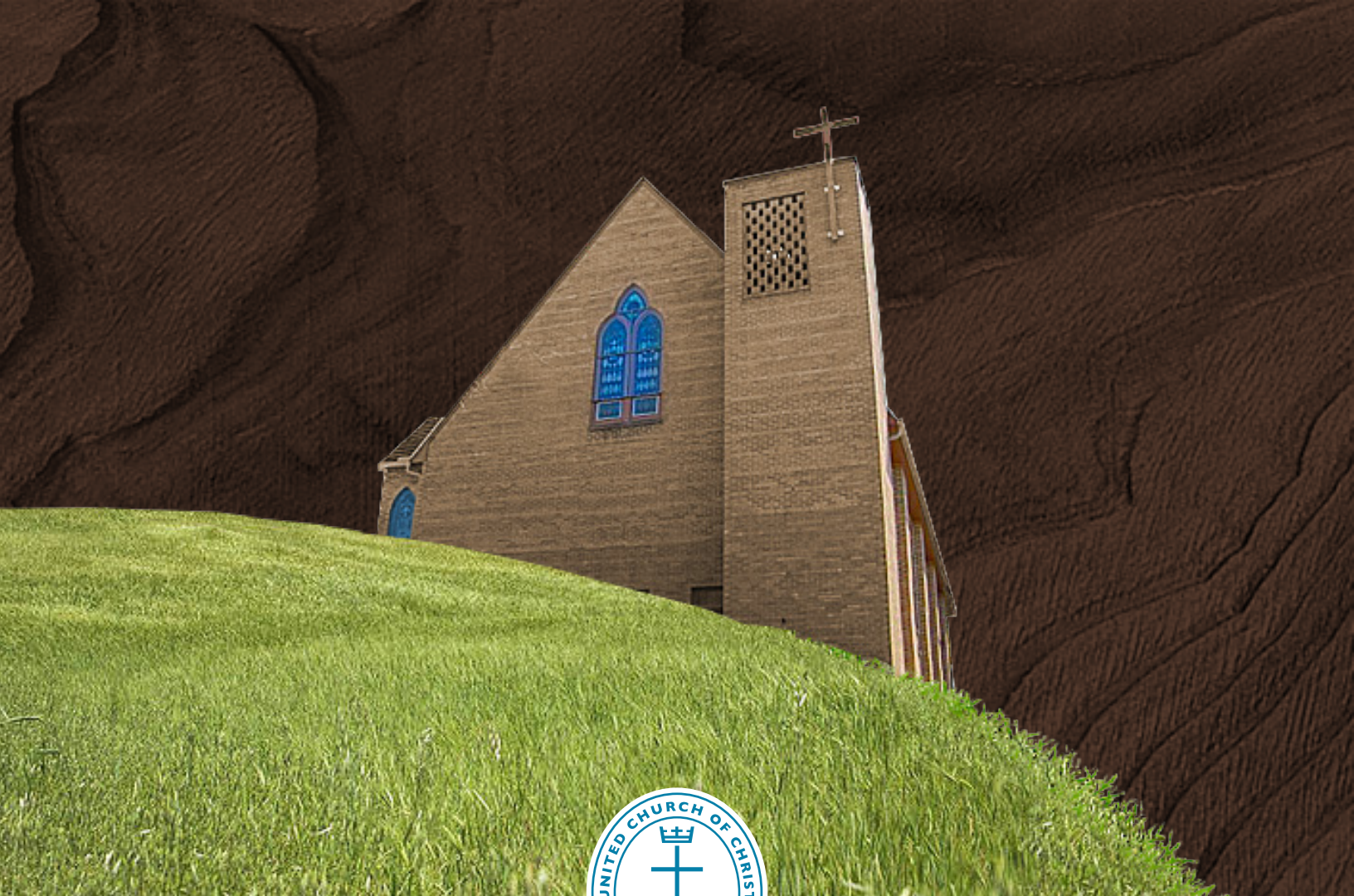
SJC Issue 0323 - March 2023



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 2023

We have entered the season of Lent. As a child I saw Lent as seven weeks I had to give up something I liked, usually chocolate and later Diet Pepsi, and meatless Fridays. When I was in my mid-twenties in the UCC, I switched to trying to give up what I viewed as bad habits, such as swearing, or too much time watching TV. Most ended in failure, and even if I did somehow hold out until Easter, I would usually go back to the way things were before Lent began.

I feel that the reason these attempts didn't last beyond Easter was because I viewed Lent through a distorted lens. I dreaded the approach of Lent. I thought I had to spend the next seven weeks feeling guilty and ashamed about how bad I was that Jesus had to die. It was a time of penance for my mistakes and failings, a psychological flogging to echo the flogging Jesus would take on Good Friday.

Now I view Lent differently. Lent comes from the Old German word for "springtime" or "new beginnings." So now I see Lent as a time for some "spring cleaning." Just as each year we go into those hidden corners of our homes to clear out all the dust bunnies and whatever else has accumulated there unseen, Lent is a time set apart to look at ourselves and our lives, see what has accumulated that is hindering relationship with God and with others. Fasting, praying, and giving during this time isn't penance. They are Lent's tools to free up our spirit and lives by turning our attention from "me" and "ours" towards God and service in love (not servitude) towards others.

Lent is intended to impact the rest of the year. These seven weeks can help us to see where "death" has crept into the way we live our lives, and then provide ways to let go of it, trusting God will lead us in the next steps. Steps that bring us closer to God and to each other. Through these tools God works to reconcile us with God, with each other, and even with our true selves. They prepare us to receive the joy and abundance of love that God offers us on Easter.

Continued on next page...

Letter From The Pastor

March 2023

When Lent is over, well, sometimes we may be a little more diligent in getting those spiritual dust bunnies out of the corner every week. Or we may forget or decide it's too much trouble. But Lent will come again, and maybe that will be the year you can let go of what blocks you, even just a small piece. Know that even before you do, you are always held in the love and care of God, who longs to draw all Creation closer, so came to us in Emmanuel, Jesus.

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

Contact Our Pastor

St. John's Church - Pastor Deb Kunkel

2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesday
Of The Month @ 10:00am

239.994.2528
pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

St. John's Church
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303 S Hill Street
PO Box 130
Fountain City, WI 54629



Sunday Penny Collection

First Sunday of the Month

The Church School Students will be collecting pennies the first Sunday of every month. We haven't done this in a long time and are anxious to start again. This money enables us to do donations to people or needy projects in our area or throughout the world.

Sunday, March 05, 2023



Online Calendar

Visit Us Online 24/7

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.

stjohnsfzwi.org



Stewardship

Stewardship Moment from the Deacons

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – Is a special UCC offering during Lent. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provide immediate aid and long term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world. OGHS envelopes will be in Sunday bulletin. Thank You. ~ Deacon John Stettler



Sunday, March 26, 2023

Bible Study

Jesus' Journey Towards The Cross

Lent itself is a time of spending time with the story of Jesus' journey towards the cross, as well as the impact his ministry still has today.

As part of diving deeper into that story, I am offering a 6-week Bible Study starting Tuesday, February 28 at 1:00pm at St. John's Church on the story of the last week of Jesus' life as told through the Gospel of Matthew. I hope you will join me. ~ Pastor Deb

6-Week Bible Study

6-Week Bible Study

Tuesdays

Starts @ 1:00pm

- ✓ Tuesday, February 28, 2023
- ✓ Tuesday, March 07, 2023
- ✓ Tuesday, March 14, 2023
- ✓ Tuesday, March 21, 2023
- ✓ Tuesday, March 28, 2023
- ✓ Tuesday, April 04, 2023

St. John's Church
303 S Hill Street
Fountain City, WI

The Cake Auction Is Back!

Sunday, May 7, 2023

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.



Food Shelf

Report For February 2023

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



- ✓ 477 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 22 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 22 Total People Helped
- ✓ 00 Children
- ✓ 14 Adults
- ✓ 08 Seniors
- ✓ 12 Households (1 Came Twice)

Volunteers: March

Ushers

Richard Ruben, Cindy Ziegler, Neal Schaffner

Greeters

03.05.23 Randy and Judy Boehm

03.12.23 Jennifer Hansen

03.19.23 Bev Engel

03.26.23 Sue Kreher

04.02.23 Mary Schmitt & Donna Beck

Counters

Cindy Ziegler

Communion & Flowers

Sandy Ruben

Financial Report

For detailed information regarding the financial standing of St. John's Church, contact the office to review financial documents.

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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

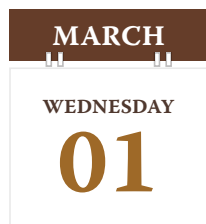
Mike & Chris Fetting

Bryan & Laura Madsen

Confirmation

Confirmation Class Schedule

We offer Confirmation class for middle or high schoolers. This process which includes class meetings, service opportunities, leading worship, and other activities created to fit the needs and interests of each particular class. Our youth will be enriched by these conversations and planning so that we can welcome them into the journey of our life together.



Confirmation Class

3:30pm - 5:00pm
St. John's Church
Education



Confirmation Class

3:30pm - 5:00pm
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Confirmation Class

3:30pm - 5:00pm
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Confirmation Class

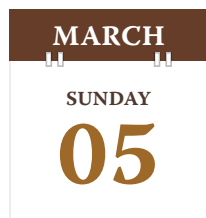
3:30pm - 5:00pm
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Education



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.



St. John's Church Penny Collection

303 S Hill Street
Fountain City, WI
Starts @ 8:30am



St. John's Church Consistory Meeting

303 S Hill Street
Fountain City, WI
Starts @ 6:00pm



St. John's Church One Great Hour of Sharing

303 S Hill Street
Fountain City, WI
Starts @ 8:30am



St. John's Church Bible Study

Final Class
Fountain City, WI
Starts @ 1:00pm



Online Calendar

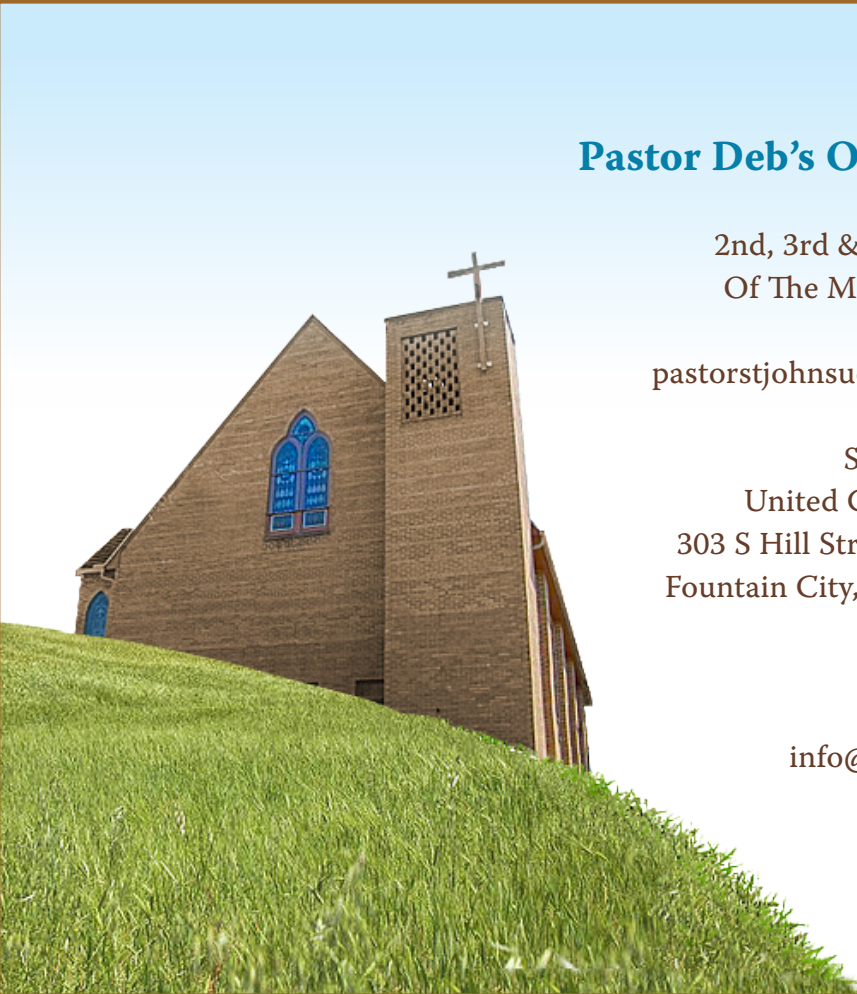
Please go online and visit our NEW easy to use website for current up-to-date, detailed event information. Our calendar is updated daily. Email us with any questions or comments.

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:

2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesday
Of The Month @ 10:00am
239.994.2528
pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

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St. John's

United Church of Christ

Church Office:

stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

Newsletter:

stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com

Pastor Deb's Office Hours:

2nd, 3rd & 4th Wednesday Of The Month @ 10:00am

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