

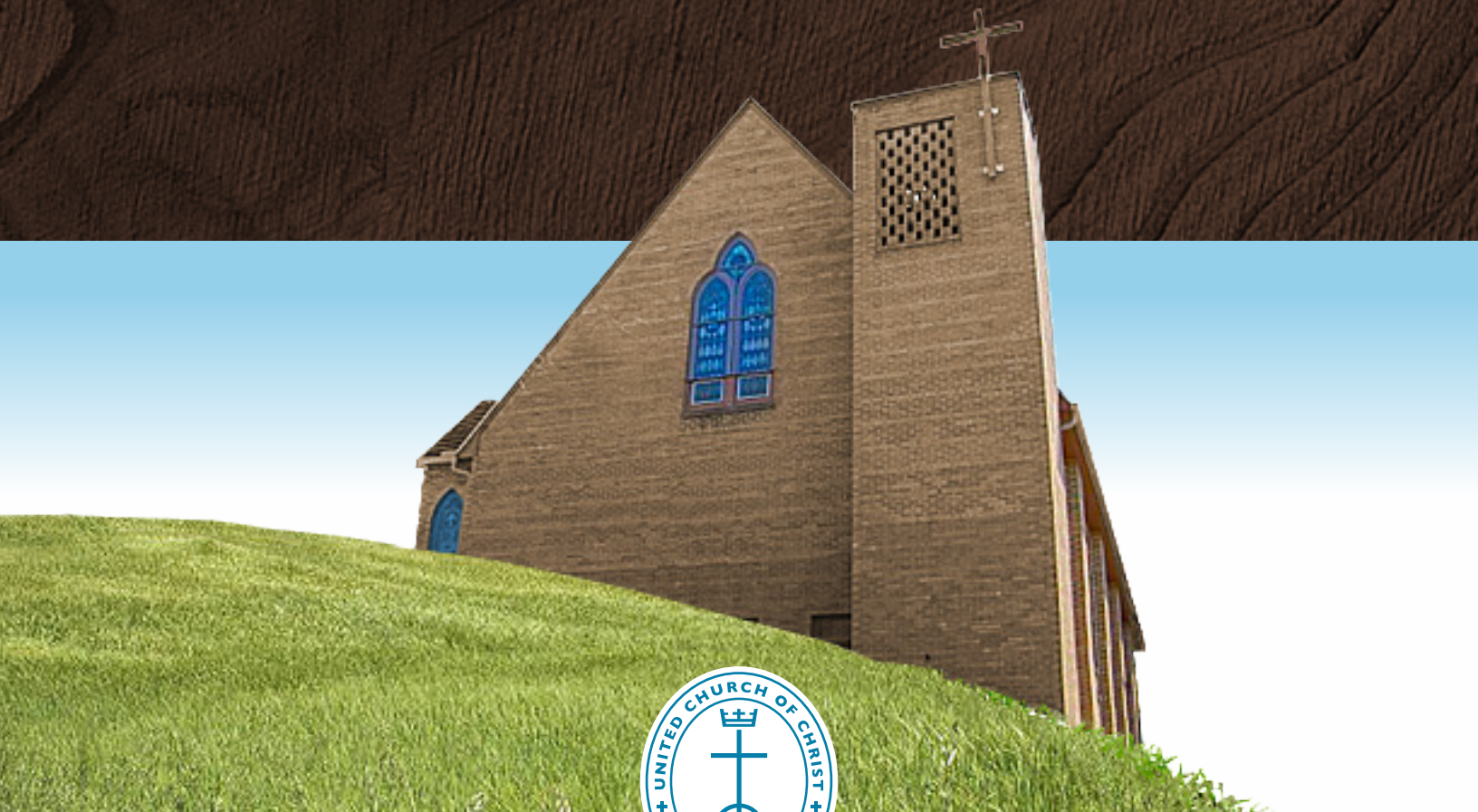


**St. John's**

United Church of Christ

# Digital Newsletter

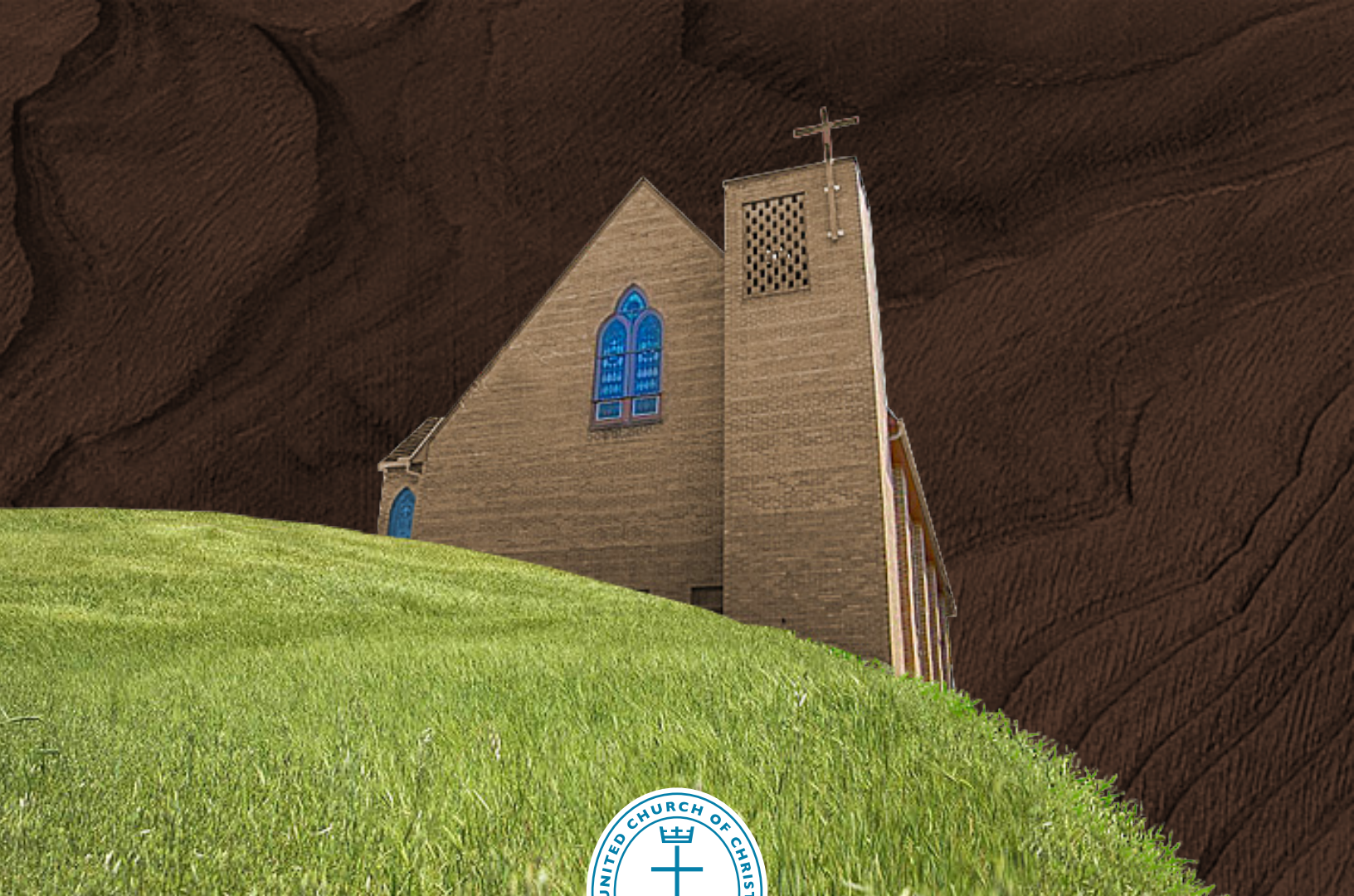
**SJC Issue 0324 - March 2024**



**[stjohnsfcwi.org](http://stjohnsfcwi.org)**

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

**608.687.3277**



# Sunday Worship @ 10:30am

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 10:30am 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!

## [stjohnsfcwi.org](http://stjohnsfcwi.org)

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# Letter From The Pastor

March 2024

What does it mean to forgive? Are we required to forgive someone? Is it true we need to forgive and forget? Can God forgive what I did? These are just a few of the questions that I've been asked about forgiveness over the years, and that I've grappled with myself.

Which is why this Lent I have been offering a Lenten Study on Forgiveness and Reconciliation. (It meets on Thursdays at 2:30pm thru Holy Week. You are welcome to join anytime.) While I can't fit the complete program in this space, I thought I'd share some misconceptions about forgiveness, and some of the things that forgiveness is about.

Forgiveness isn't:

- ✓ **letting someone off the hook.**
- ✓ **for the other person.**
- ✓ **permission to repeat the harm.**
- ✓ **saying what happened doesn't matter.**
- ✓ **forgetting.**
- ✓ **weakness.**
- ✓ **being a doormat.**
- ✓ **letting bygones be bygones.**
- ✓ **isn't easy.**
- ✓ **isn't necessarily quick.**

Continued...

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St. John's Church | United Church of Christ | PO Box 130 | 303 S Hill Street | Fountain City, WI

[stjohnsfcwi.org](http://stjohnsfcwi.org)

Forgiveness is:

- ✓ **for the benefit of the one doing the forgiving.**
- ✓ **freedom from the past, from a perpetrator, from future victimization.**
- ✓ **healing to individuals, families, and communities.**
- ✓ **recognition of our shared humanity.**
- ✓ **a gift we give to ourselves.**

Christians are urged to forgive others because God has forgiven us. Yet that doesn't mean it will be easy. Some things take a long time to forgive. Something that one person forgives easily another may struggle to forgive. There are those actions, those harms that are so great that even if you find a way to forgive, it isn't healthy to resume a relationship. But reconciliation is only one option after forgiveness. The other option is release: release with serenity and lack of ill will the relationship, the person, and/or the possibility of change. This why forgiving someone who has died, or whom we don't know where to find them, or who isn't safe for us to meet with can still be done. Because when we forgive, we are releasing ourselves from trying to change what has already happened, from taking revenge, or paying back in kind. We release ourselves from letting what happened in the past determine our future. Even if can't get to the point of forgiving, engaging in the process can help us move forward.

Lent is a time to reflect on forgiveness, what we offer to others and most importantly the grace that God offers us. We recall on Good Friday, Jesus says "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" as he dies on the cross. We are heading toward the ultimate act of forgiveness, where through Jesus God refuses to repay violence with violence. Instead God brings a new life resurrected from death and pain. The wounds are still there, the pain was real. But they no longer have the final word for Jesus or for us. God's forgiveness does the same for us. And through our humble and awestruck acceptance of that grace, we are given the ability to let go of the hurts and harms in our lives and find a resurrected new life ourselves. Both on this side of death, and after death when we reside fully in God's love. I pray that this Lenten Season allows you to embrace whatever newly resurrected life is awaiting you on Easter, and every day.

God's grace and peace.

**Pastor Deb Kunkel**

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# Bible Study

## Lenten Bible Study

Starting Thursday, February 15, 2024, I am offering Lenten Bible Study on “Forgiveness and Reconciliation: How we find peace by letting go.” The Study will be from 2:30pm to 4:00pm at St. John’s Church. More details are coming...

**Thursdays**  
**2:30pm-4:00pm**

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



- ✓ **Thursday, February 15, 2024**
- ✓ **Thursday, February 22, 2024**
- ✓ **Thursday, February 29, 2024**
- ✓ **Thursday, March 7, 2024**
- ✓ **Thursday, March 14, 2024**
- ✓ **Thursday, March 21, 2024**
- ✓ **Thursday, March 28, 2024**



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See All Letters & Messages Online Under The Worship Tab  
**[stjohnsfcwi.org](http://stjohnsfcwi.org)**

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# 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 3, 2024**



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# 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.

[stjohnsfcwi.org](http://stjohnsfcwi.org)



# One Great Hour Of Sharing

St. John's Church  
Sunday, March 10 @ 10:30am

# Lily Order Deadline

St. John's Church  
Sunday, March 17 @ 10:30am

# Palm Sunday

St. John's Church  
Sunday, March 24 @ 10:30am

# Maundy Thursday

St. John's Church - Supper & Service  
Sunday, March 28 @ 6:00pm

# Good Friday

Hope United Church  
Sunday, March 29 @ 6:00pm

# Easter Sunraise

Eagle Valley Church  
Sunday, March 31 @ 6:30am

# Easter Sunday

St. John's Church  
Sunday, March 31 @ 10:30am

# Leadership Positions

## Leadership Positions Are Available For 2024

St. John's Church is seeking the following Leadership Positions for the upcoming year. Please contact us if you are interested!

- ✓ **PRESIDENT (Steve Prussing)**
- ✓ **TREASURER (Dale Schmidtknecht)**
- DEACON (Open Position)**
- DEACON (Open Position)**
- ✓ **INVESTMENT (Randy Boehm)**
- ✓ **INVESTMENT (John Stettler)**
- INVESTMENT (Open Position)**
- ✓ **SMAT (Linda Clark)**

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**Volunteers Are Needed...**  
**Contact Us Today To Volunteer For Any Open Position.**

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# Liturgists & Others Wanted

## Do you like to read during the service?

Then you will be happy to know that Pastor Deb is seeking liturgists to start the first week in November. Liturgists will lead the Call to Worship and read the first Scripture Reading. If you would like to be included in the pool of liturgists or readers, please let Pastor Deb know or look for the sign-up sheet. Or do you like the spotlight or have a little bit of “ham” in you? Pastor Deb would love to have you join her in skits or dramatic monologues used on occasion during the service. Please let her know (all ages welcome.)



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## Stewardship

### Stewardship Moment from the Deacons

This month, on Sunday, March 17, 2024, we will participate in the wider UCC yearly offering of One Great Hour of Sharing or OGHS. One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. Please prayerfully consider supporting this offering.



~ St. John's Church

# C-FC Area Food Shelf

## Report For February 2024

As part of our Stewardship as a church please consider a monetary donation or food donation for our Food Shelf here at Church. See list below of our most needed items. This summer and fall we have been much busier than usual providing food to people in need in our community. If we want to continue this service we do need your assistance to continue. Please put your donation of food in the bin at church by coat rack or your monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to church with checks made out to C-FC Area Food Shelf - St. John's Church, PO Box 130, Fountain City WI, 54629.

### Donations Most Needed:

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

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

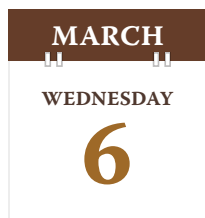


- ✓ 616 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 24 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 26 Total People Helped
- ✓ 07 Children
- ✓ 11 Adults
- ✓ 08 Seniors
- ✓ 14 Households (3 Came Twice)

# Choir Practice

## 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Of The Month

St. John's Church will have Choir Practice on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays Of The Month starting at 6:30pm in Fountain City, WI. Do you have ideas of things the Choir could try? Please share your thoughts on new ideas for musical offerings for our congregation. Please contact us with any questions or comments.



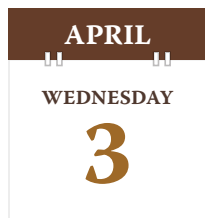
### St. John's Church Choir Practice

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 6:30pm



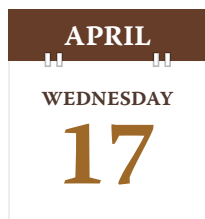
### St. John's Church Choir Practice

303 S Hill Street  
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303 S Hill Street  
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Starts @ 6:30pm



### St. John's Church Choir Practice

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 6:30pm



# Volunteers: March

## Ushers

Richard Ruben, Cindy Ziegler, Neal Schaffner

## Greeters

03.03.24 Randy & Judy Boehm  
03.10.24 Jennifer Hansen  
03.17.24 Bev Engel  
03.24.24 Sue Kreher  
03.31.24 Bob & Sherry Guenther

## 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.

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

608.687.3277  
stjohnsfcwi.org

## Birthdays

Nick Pehler  
Tucker Pozanc  
Carly Schaffner  
Calvin Stettler  
Everett Engler  
Sue Kreher  
Malliry 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

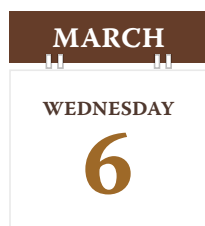
## Anniversaries

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  
St. John's Church  
Education



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



**Confirmation Class**  
NO CLASS  
St. John's Church  
Education



# St. John's

United Church of Christ



# 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.

MARCH  
SUNDAY  
**24**

### Palm Sunday St. John's Church

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 10:30am

MARCH  
THURSDAY  
**28**

### Maundy Thursday St. John's Church

Supper & Service  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 6:00pm

MARCH  
SUNDAY  
**29**

### Good Friday Hope United Church

210 Michaels Street  
Cochrane, WI  
Starts @ 6:00pm

MARCH  
SUNDAY  
**31**

### Easter Sunday St. John's Church

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 10:30am

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

## 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](http://stjohnsfcwi.org)  
[info@stjohnsfcwi.org](mailto:info@stjohnsfcwi.org)

# Winona Volunteer Services



IRS Certified Volunteers Providing  
**FREE TAX PREPARATION**

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is sponsored by the IRS and Minnesota Department of Revenue. Income limits apply as follows: VITA INCOME LIMIT (Adjusted Gross Income plus untaxed investment income)

<b>\$35,000</b>	Dependents (Student Working Sependent For Parents)
<b>\$45,000</b>	Single (No Dependents)
<b>\$55,000</b>	Family size 2 (Married Couple or Single With 1 Dependent)
<b>\$65,000</b>	Family size 3 (or More)

To find out if you are eligible for the free tax service, look at your 2022 tax returns and find the 1040 IRS form, Line 11 Page 1. If your adjusted gross income falls within the guidelines above and your income has not significantly increased, you are eligible to have your taxes done free at our tax site. For more information go to [www.winonavs.org](http://www.winonavs.org). Additional instructions will be given when you call for an appointment. Tax preparation procedures will provide maximized safety for clients and volunteers while assuring all standards for the completeness, accuracy and security of returns.

## Winona

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
1717 West Service Drive  
January 31-April 13  
Mondays: 4:00-7:00 PM  
Tuesdays & Wednesdays:  
8:30-11:30am & 12:30-3:30pm  
Saturdays: 9:00-Noon

## St. Charles

**Senior Center**  
830 Whitewater Ave  
February 8-April 11  
1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays  
1:00-4:00pm  
2nd & 4th Thursdays  
3:30-6:30pm

## La Crescent

**Public Library**  
321 Main Street  
February 8-April 11  
Thursdays  
9:00am-Noon

**All Locations by Appointment Only!**  
Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:00pm

CALL 507.474.7202  
[www.winonavs.org](http://www.winonavs.org)



Winona Volunteer Services

# 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 you 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

St. John's Church  
United Church of Christ  
303 S Hill Street, PO Box 130  
Fountain City, WI 54629-0130

608.687.3277  
stjohnsfcwi.org  
info@stjohnsfcwi.org





# St. John's

United Church of Christ

Church Office:

[stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com)

Newsletter:

[stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com)

Pastor Deb's Office Hours:

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

239.994.2528

[pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com)



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