

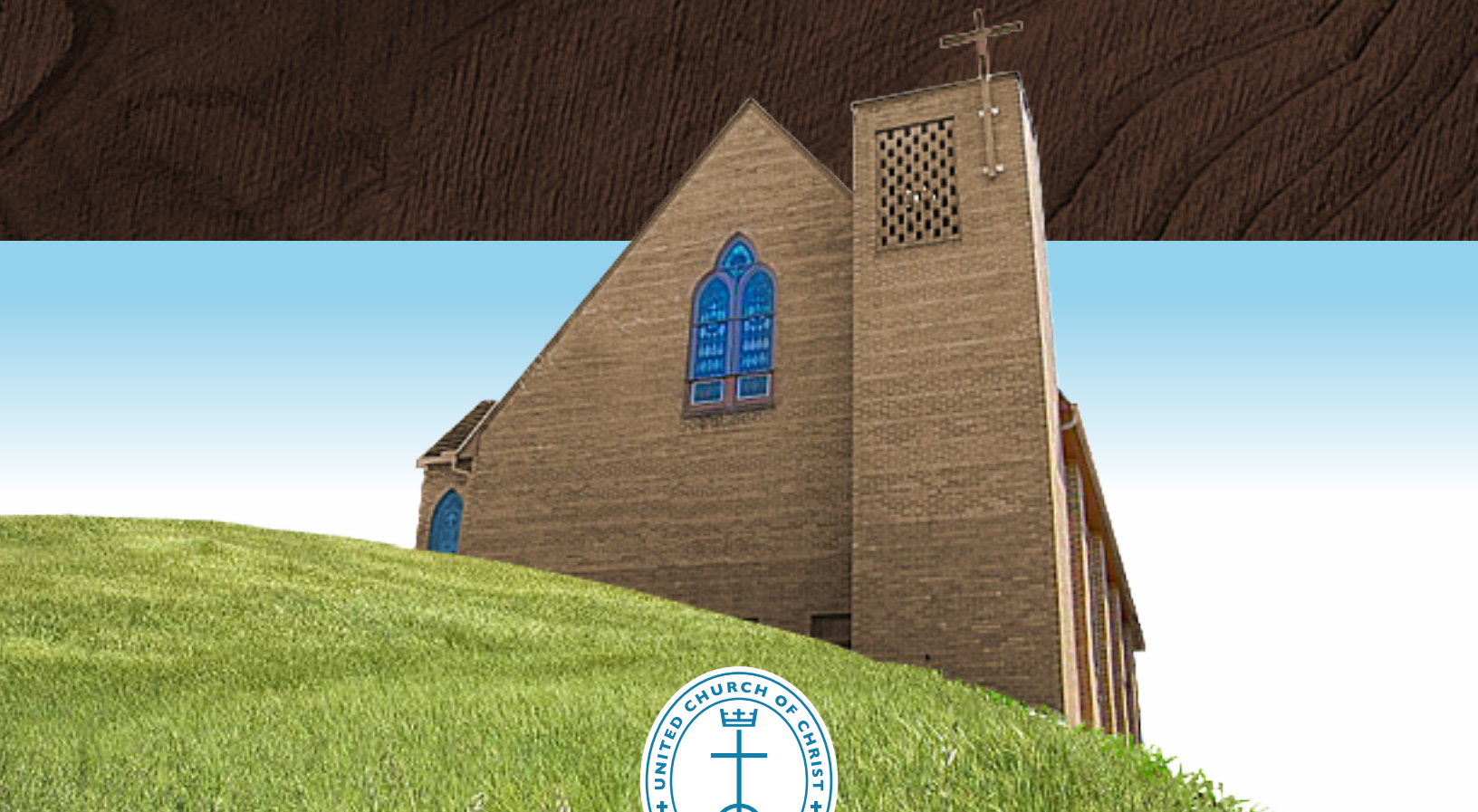


**St. John's**

United Church of Christ

# Digital Newsletter

SJC Issue 0325 - March 2025

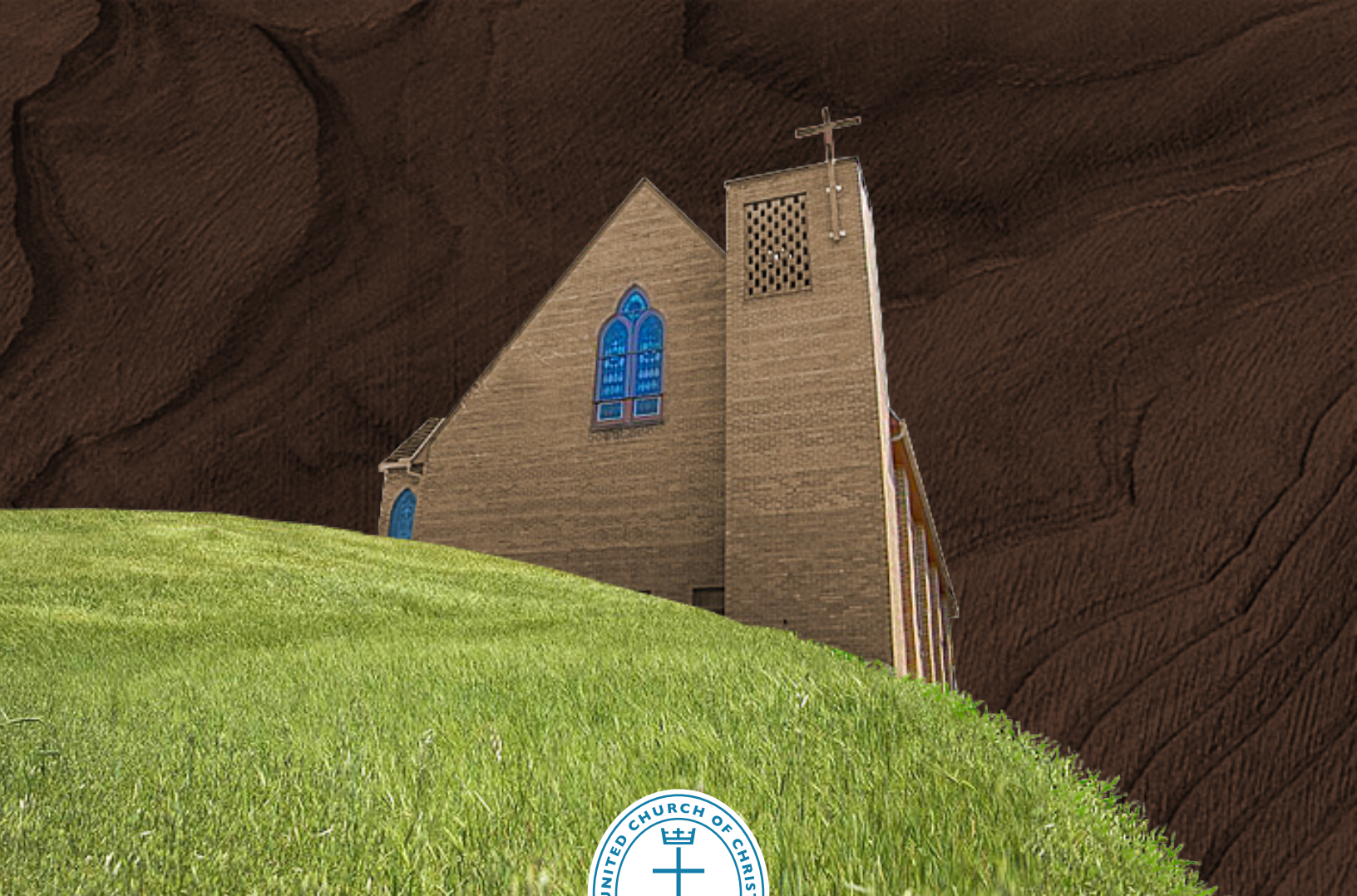


[stjohnsfcwi.org](http://stjohnsfcwi.org)

St. John's Church | PO Box 130 | 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!

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

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# Letter From The Pastor

March 2025

You've probably heard the old joke: "How do you get to Carnegie Hall?" "Practice, practice, practice."

Ask any accomplished musician or athlete how they got to where they are, they would probably have the same answer: "practice." They practice so when game or performance comes, they don't have to think about what they are doing. They can concentrate on the task, not the mechanics of the music or play.

That's true for our faith and relationship with God as Christians. Lent is a time we are invited to rededicate ourselves to our practices of faith, Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5, (we'll have a service at St. Johns with Hope at 6:30 p.m. that day) and continues through Holy Saturday.

I've come to understand Lent is more than giving up chocolate, restarting New Year's resolutions that only lasted 2 days, or taking up a new, healthy habit. Lent actually has nothing to do with "self-improvement".

During Lent we are invited to take up or devote more time to prayer and scripture reflection, fasting, and giving to those in need. Some consider these penance, a punishment for their sins and wrongs of the last year. Others look at them as ways to become better people, to earn "brownie points" or prove their faithfulness to God by keeping these practices faithfully. (I've found myself in one of these camps at one time or another.)

I've come to feel differently about Lent and these practices. These practices help clear out distractions that are roadblocks to me being closer to God. They help me turn my focus to my relationship with God, and God's love for us. This is why Jesus goes into the wilderness for forty days to fast and pray. He is going to spend time with God, to allow God's grace and love to fill and surround him. I don't believe the temptations he faces at the end are the point of this time: his ability to resist them is the result of this time. He is able to say no to them because during his time he has experienced the deepness of God's love for him and others and learned to rely on their relationship.



# Letter From The Pastor

**March 2025**

Lent is a period to consciously put aside additional time to practice our faith. Yes, that will mean giving something up for these forty days as there are only 24 hours in a day- and we need to sleep at some point. We put time aside to spend with God so God can reveal the obstacles, those actions or omissions, that keep us from being in full relationship with God and others (what we call sin.) And then we also will know who to turn to when we also want them to go away. Lent is a time of relationship building – both with God and others.

I invite you to take some time this Lent to engage in these practices – to pick up a new one or spend more time on one you engage in now. It can be as simple as reading and reflecting on a morning devotional for ten minutes while you drink your coffee, instead of picking up your phone or jumping on the computer to catch up on the day's news or watch cute puppy videos. Or it can be trying a new way of praying – the Ignatian Examen, Lectio Divinia, Contemplative are just some of the options. Sometimes engaging in these practices will seem as if nothing is happening, or your mind may wander to your to do list. That's okay. That's why it's called practice.

Lent is a time to experience God's love and grace in a new way, or to be reminded of the love and grace you know but have put into the back of your mind. Lent reminds us that even in the darkest or most terrifying times and situations, we are not alone. Lent ends with Easter Sunday- God's answer to all destruction and death: despite that it seems like they may win, no matter what it may seem like in the moment, God will have the final word and it will be good and life-giving. Lent is a time to let go of enough that we have space in our lives and spirits to recognize and enter into that reality 365 days a year.

God's grace and peace.

**Pastor Deb Kunkel**

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

# 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 2, 2025**



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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)



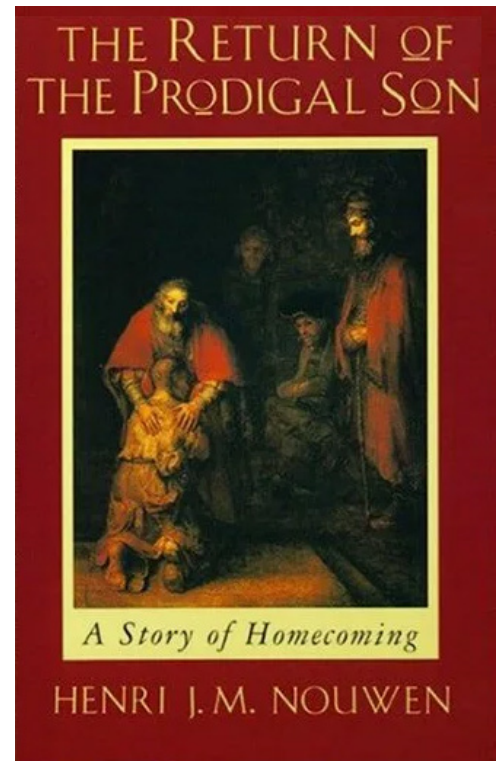
# Lenten Book Study

## First Sunday of the Month

Pastor Deb is offering a Lenten Study for both St. John's and Hope United Church starting with: The Prodigal Father and Sons. Luke's account of one of Jesus' most famous parables is often referred to as "The Prodigal Son" but what if all three are prodigals in their own way? We'll take time to consider the parable from each point of view, as well as what it reveals about God's love and grace. (Pastor Deb will be using as one of the primary resources Henri Nouwen's "The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming" but it is not necessary to have read the book.)

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 1:00pm**

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



# Youth Education

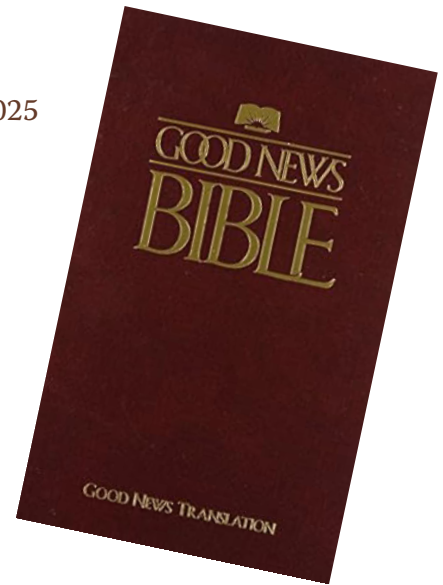
## Good News Bibles

The Children will all receive a Bible during the Sunday, March 16, 2025 Service. Check back for a more detailed message next month.

**Sunday, March 16, 2025**

God's grace and peace.

**Karen Knospe**

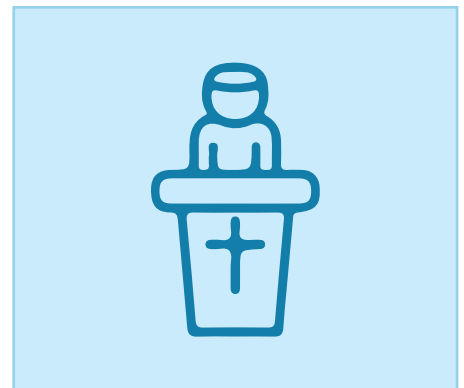


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# Liturgists & Others Wanted

## 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.)





# Ash Wednesday

## Joint Worship Invitation

Hope United Church is invited to join Ash Wednesday Worship Services with St. John's Church on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 6:30pm in Fountain City, Wisconsin.

**Wednesday, March 5, 2025 @ 6:30pm**

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# Brats 4 Balances

## Fundraiser for C-FC

St. John's Church of Fountain City and Hope United Church of Cochrane will have a Fundraiser event on Thursday March 6, 2025 from 5:00pm to 6:25pm at C-FC School. Prior to Pops Band and Choir Concert. Proceeds go to pay off students' outstanding school lunch accounts. Menu: Maloney's Brat or Hot Dog, Beans, Chips, Beverage and Dessert for \$7.00. Meals can be purchased ahead of time by contacting [stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com). Thanks to B&S Express in Buffalo City, Kwik Trip in Fountain City and Midtown Foods in Winona, MN for their donations towards this effort. Proceeds go to pay off students' outstanding school lunch accounts.

**Thursday March 6, 2025 @ 5:00pm**

- ✓ C-FC School
- ✓ 5:00pm - 6:25pm
- ✓ Meals: \$7:00
- ✓ Prior To Concert





# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: St. Mary's Catholic Church

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Thank you very much!



*Tres Ecclesiae*

# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: Watkins & Bob Guenther

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

Watkins & Bob Guenther

Thank you very much!





# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: Hope United Church

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

Hope United Church

Thank you very much!



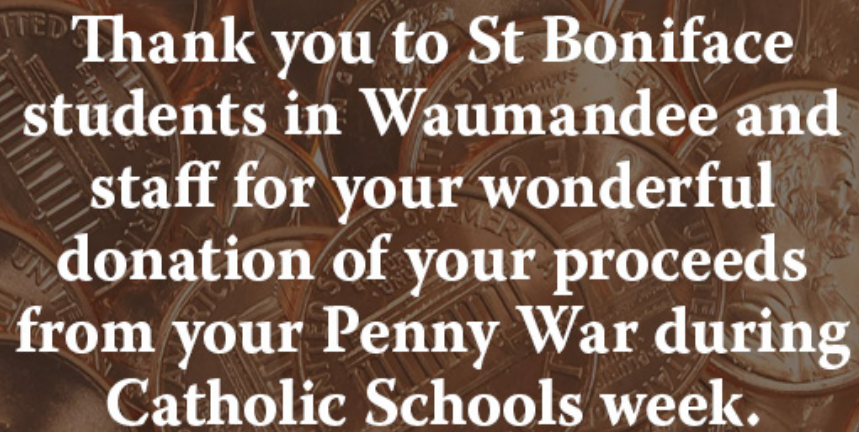
# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: St. Boniface Catholic School

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

St. Boniface Catholic School

Thank you very much!



Thank you to St Boniface  
students in Waumandee and  
staff for your wonderful  
donation of your proceeds  
from your Penny War during  
Catholic Schools week.





# C-FC Area Food Shelf

## Report For February 2025

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. 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 green bin at church located in the Food Shelf room across from Pastor Deb's office 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**



- ✓ 1078 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 20 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 53 Total People Helped
- ✓ 9 Children
- ✓ 26 Adults
- ✓ 18 Seniors
- ✓ 29 Households (10 Came Twice)



## Most Needed Donation Items For March 2025

- ✓ Toilet Paper
- ✓ Healthier Cereals
- ✓ Instant Oatmeal
- ✓ Brownie Cake Mixes
- ✓ Canned Frosting
- ✓ Volunteers

Please put your donation of food in the green bin at church located in the Food Shelf room across from Pastor Deb's office 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.



# Volunteers: February

## Ushers

Richard Ruben, Bill Ruben

## Greeters

03.02.25 Randy & Judy Boehm  
03.09.25 Bob & Sherry Guenther  
03.16.25 Bev Engel  
03.23.25 Sue Kreher  
03.30.25 Hope United Church

## Counters

Cindy Ziegler

## Communion & Flowers

Sue Schaffner

# 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  
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

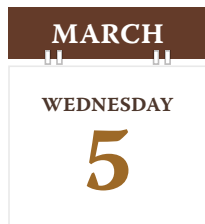
## Anniversaries

Mike & Chris Fetting  
Bryan & Laura Madsen

# Confirmation

## Confirmation Class Schedule

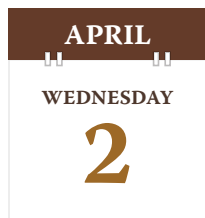
We offer Confirmation class for middle or high schoolers. This process which includes class meetings, service opportunities, leading worship, and other activities created to fit the needs and interests of each particular class. Our youth will be enriched by these conversations and planning so that we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



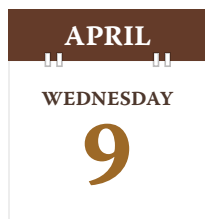
**Confirmation Class**  
3:30pm - 5:00pm  
St. John's Church  
Education



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



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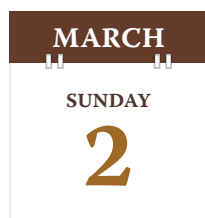




# Other Special Events

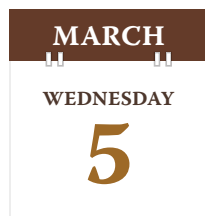
## St. John's Church

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.



### **Penny Collection St. John's Church**

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



### **Ash Wednesday St. John's Church**

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



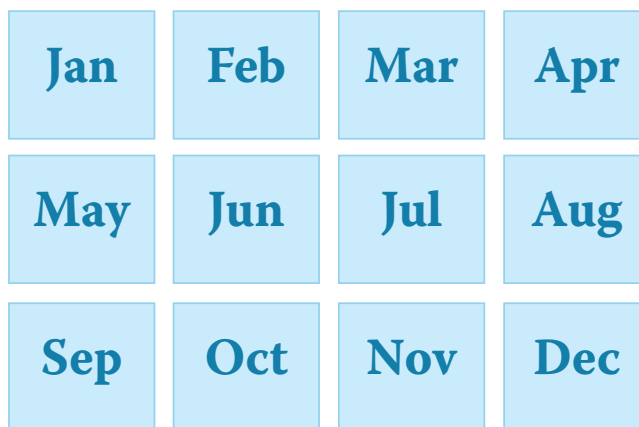
### **Brats 4 Balances Fundraiser For C-FC**

C-FC School  
Fountain City, WI  
5:00pm - 6:25pm



### **Consistory Meeting St. John's Church**

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



## 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)

# 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:**

Wednesday's 10:00am - 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:**

**Wednesday's 10:00am - Noon**

**239.994.2528**

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