

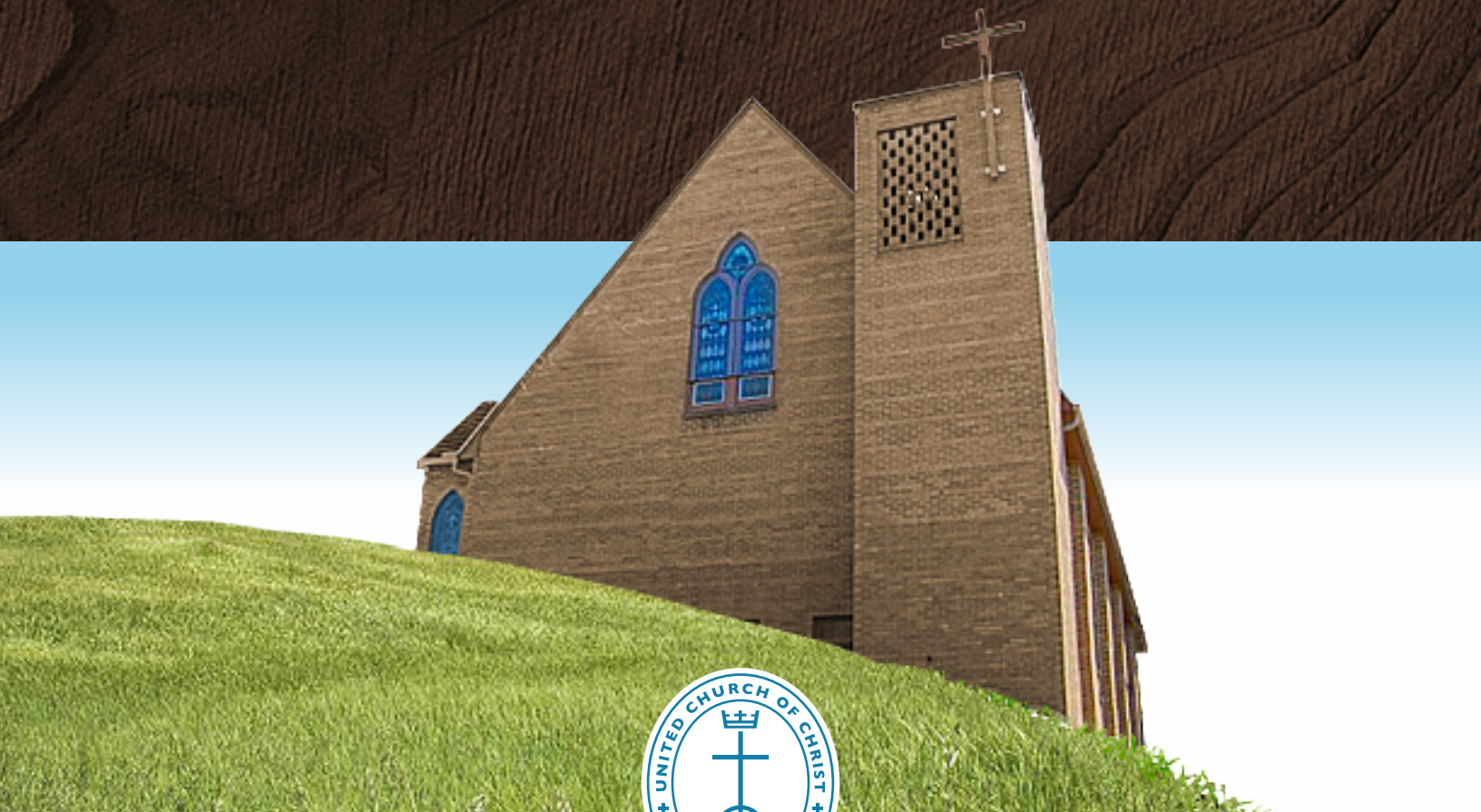


**St. John's**

United Church of Christ

# Digital Newsletter

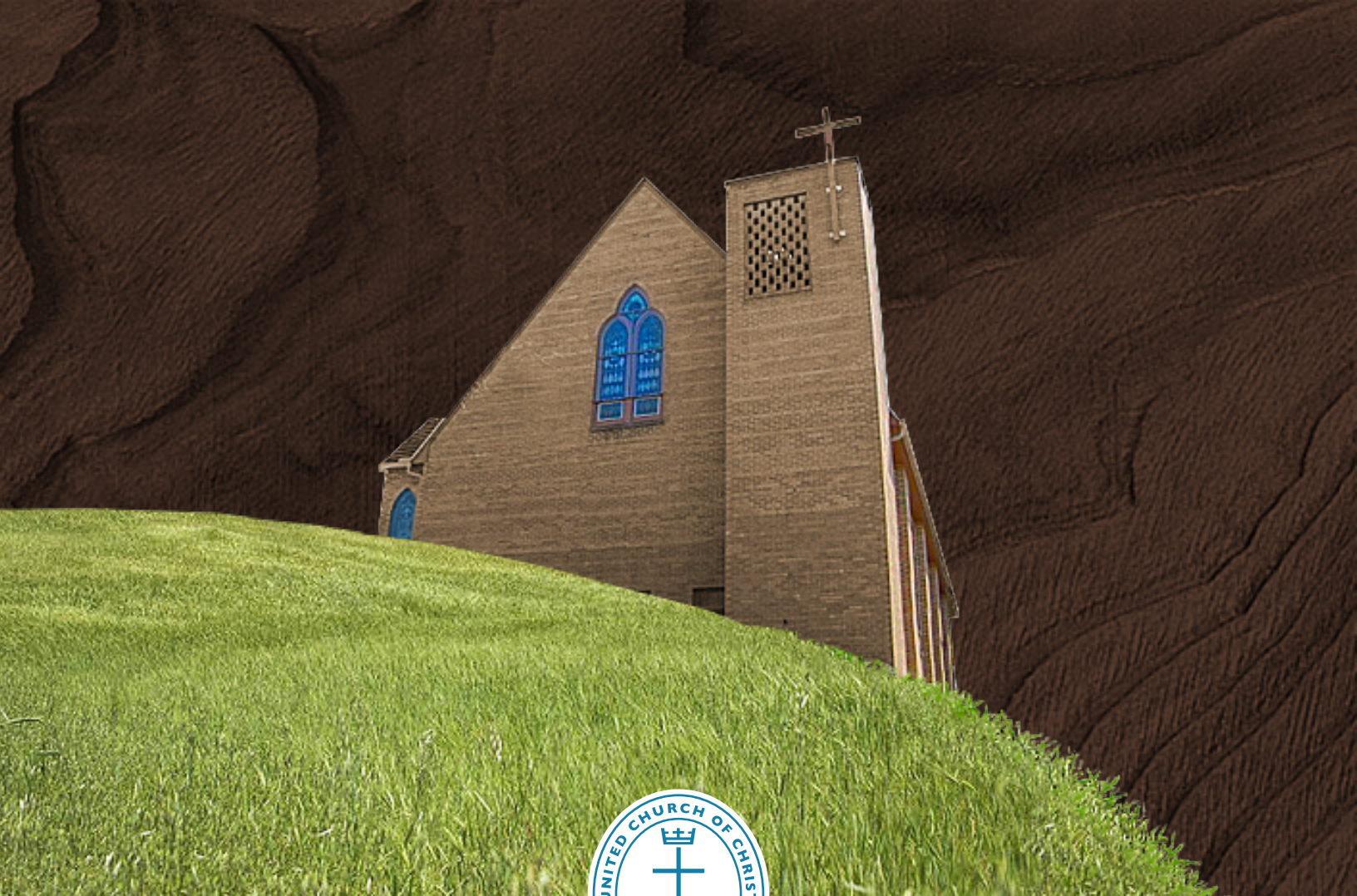
SJC Issue 0425 - April 2025



[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

April 2025

The first joint fundraiser for the community held by St. John's Church and Hope United Church was beyond a great success. Brats4Balances raised \$2,348.00 to pay off the outstanding balances at C-FC's lunch program. This was well beyond the initial goal of \$850.00. Thanks to the generosity and work of both congregations, the support of the community and several larger donations. Not only were we able to pay off the balances for this school year, the Food Service can now set up an account for the sole purpose of paying off outstanding balances going forward. A huge thank you to members, friends and to the wider community who supported this event.

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This got me thinking (I heard those of you who just thought "uh oh, that means trouble.") Your congregations worked together to address a real problem, even though I know we aren't all of the same political leanings. Yet the news and social media are filled with people and institutions that can't even agree on what the problem is, never mind the solution. What made this different?

First, I feel that because it was for children, that helped. More importantly there is a real sense of community around C-FC schools. We saw it on full display as the boys basketball team made their run to win the State Championship. And again with Brats4Balances. Even when there isn't agreement on how exactly to do it, there is a sense that most people in the area want to find ways that support the school and more importantly the kids and their families who attend. After all, they are part of our communities.

This may hold a ray of hope for these times. I've heard a sense of dread and depression for what the future might bring from some, while another group feels triumphant yet still enraged even as "those' people are finally" getting what they have had coming to them." Both blame the other while sure they are in the right. Where is the sense of community in that? As Christians we are called to join in as God builds communities of love, or the beloved community of God as some have called it. Even the first Christians didn't agree about how to go about certain things. (Read the Book of Acts to see.)

Continued...

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# Letter From The Pastor

**April 2025**

What they did have is unity that within their world- which was often divisive, fractious and violent- they were called to ways of love and care for each other and the wider community. They were to look for the beloved of God in all others, especially the ones they were sure had nothing beloved or good in them. Jesus promised it was there. Then they were to act accordingly, with love towards those God loves (hint: there seem to be few exceptions to that. I haven't discovered any yet.) People within your two congregations have different understandings, backgrounds and preferences. And within your congregations there is also a diversity of beliefs. (If you doubt that: try to determine what time Sunday worship should be.) Yet you continue to find ways to work together to share a minister, coordinate schedules of services, join together for worship and now you've done it to address a need in the community. I feel that's because you look to see what you do hold in common that brings us unity (not unanimity).

Good people can disagree on how to address problems, in beliefs and practices. As Christians we are called to disagree through the wider lens of God's love for each of God's children. One that recognizes that God loves them, that there is always a chance for transformation or growth within them (as unlikely as it may seem to us) because of God's love and Spirit moving through the world and their lives. All while holding in humility that possibility that maybe we too have something to learn, some way to grow, that God is waiting to bring to life in us.

When we do, we can find ways to work together that nurture communities of grace, one piece at a time. Such as where parents don't have to add trying to pay their child's outstanding balances to overstretched budgets and rising stress.

We need those communities of grace. The Good News is that God is already building them, as seen in the grace offered by the Resurrection. God is just waiting, hoping, urging us to pick up a hammer, or a brat, and join in.

God's grace and peace.

**Pastor Deb Kunkel**

# The Cake Auction Is Back!

**Sunday, May 4, 2025**

Bring your checkbooks and your appetites with you for the Annual Cake Auction which will be held in Fellowship Hall after the worship service. 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.



# Youth Education

## Good News Bibles

The Children all received a Good News Bible during the Sunday, March 16, 2025 service along with the group singing during the presentation.



# 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, April 6, 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)



# Palm Sunday

8:30am | Fountain City, WI  
Sunday, April 13, 2025

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# One Great Hour Of Sharing

During Worship | Fountain City, WI  
Sunday, April 13, 2025

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# Maundy Thursday

6:00pm | Fountain City, WI  
Thursday, April 17, 2025

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# Good Friday

6:00pm | Cochrane, WI  
Thursday, April 17, 2025

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# Easter Sunrise Worship

6:30pm | Eagle Valley Church | Fountain City, WI  
Sunday, April 20, 2025

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# Easter Sunday Worship

## Sunday Worship

St. John's Church will have Easter Sunday Worship on Sunday, April 20, 2025 at 8:30am in Fountain City, Wisconsin.

**Starts @ 8:30am**  
**Fountain City, WI**  
**Sunday, April 20, 2025**



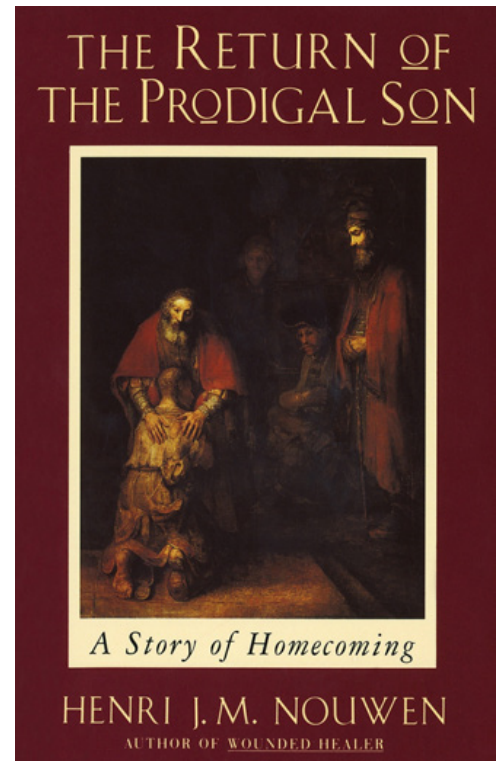
# Lenten Book Study

## The Prodigal Father & Sons

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, April 1**  
**Tuesday, April 8**  
**Tuesday, April 15**

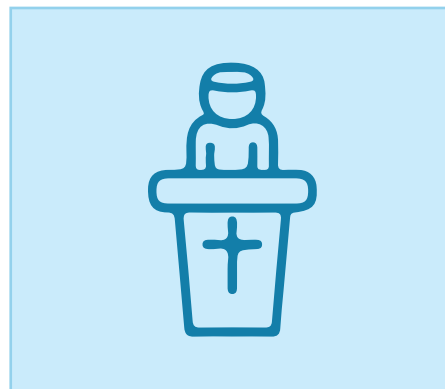
Starts @ 1:00pm  
St. John's Church  
303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI



# 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

Stewardship is as important in today as it is in December.

From the Stewardship Theme last year we are reminded that stewardship is all year long.

**“Because of You our Church changes lives”.**

~ St John’s Church



# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: Watkins & Bob Guenther

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

Bob & Sherry Guenther

Thank you very much!



  
**St. John's**  
United Church of Christ

**Bob & Sherry  
Guenther**

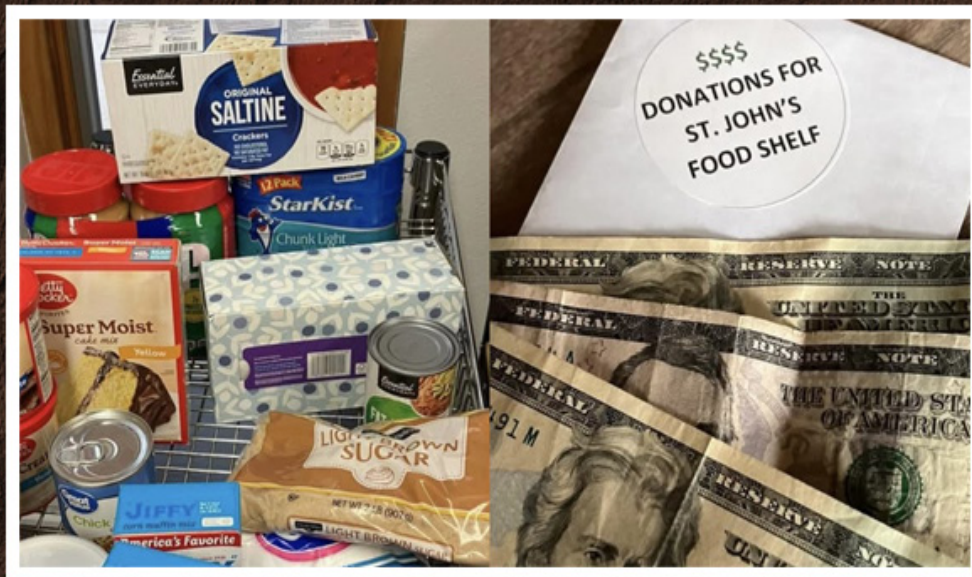
# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: Hope United Church

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

Hope United Church

Thank you very much!



# C-FC Area Food Shelf

## Report For March 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. 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**



- ✓ 868 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 16 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 53 Total People Helped
- ✓ 02 Children
- ✓ 32 Adults
- ✓ 19 Seniors
- ✓ 25 Households (7 Came Twice)



## Most Needed Donation Items For April 2025

- ✓ Protein Items
- ✓ Chili

- ✓ Beans
- ✓ Stew

- ✓ Chicken
- ✓ 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: April

## Ushers

Amy Hammer, John Schmidtknecht

## Greeters

04.06.25 Erich & Liz Hoffmaster  
04.13.25 Dale & Jenny Schaffner  
04.20.25 Larry & Joanne Muench  
04.27.25 Michelle & Ashlyn Kalmes  
05.04.25 Karen Pehler

## Counters

Dave & Sue Schaffner

## Communion & Flowers

Doris 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

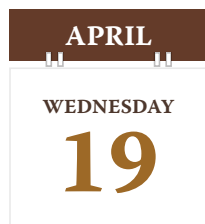
Autumn Schaffner  
Gary Sutter  
Donna Beck  
Jacob Guenther  
Jessica Osborn  
Mickki Prussing  
Amber Morse  
Ruth Ehmcke  
Jenny Schaffner  
Becky Vestal  
Sally Ratz  
Vira Mae Engel  
Jenny Krause  
Katie Wachowiak  
Brent Skroch  
Hale Madsen  
Becky Kamrowski  
Bob Baures  
Mary Kirchner  
Sherry Guenther  
Ethan Osborn  
Eyan Knecht



# Confirmation

## Confirmation Class Schedule

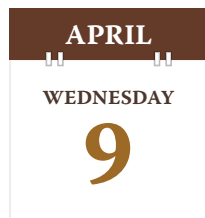
We offer Confirmation class for middle or high schoolers. This process which includes class meetings, service opportunities, leading worship, and other activities created to fit the needs and interests of each particular class. Our youth will be enriched by these conversations and planning so that we 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  
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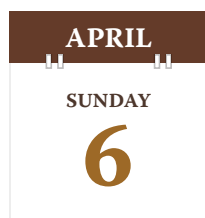
**Confirmation Class**  
3:30pm - 5:00pm  
St. John's Church  
Education



# 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.



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

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



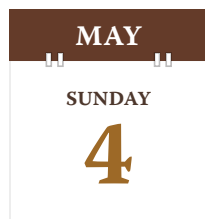
### **Consistory Meeting St. John's Church**

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



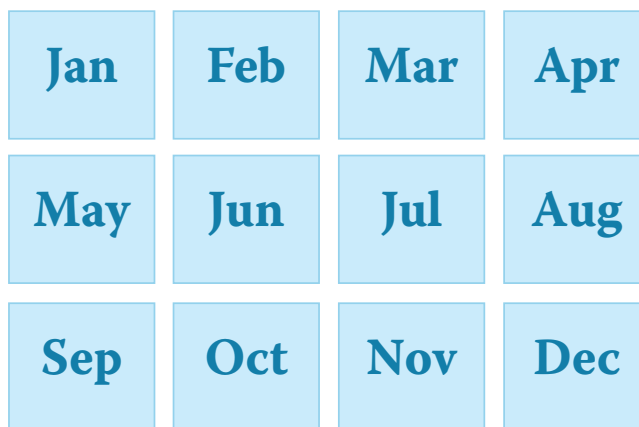
### **One Great Hour Of Sharing St. John's Church**

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
During Worship



### **Church Cake Auction St. John's Church**

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
After Worship



## 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:**

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)

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