

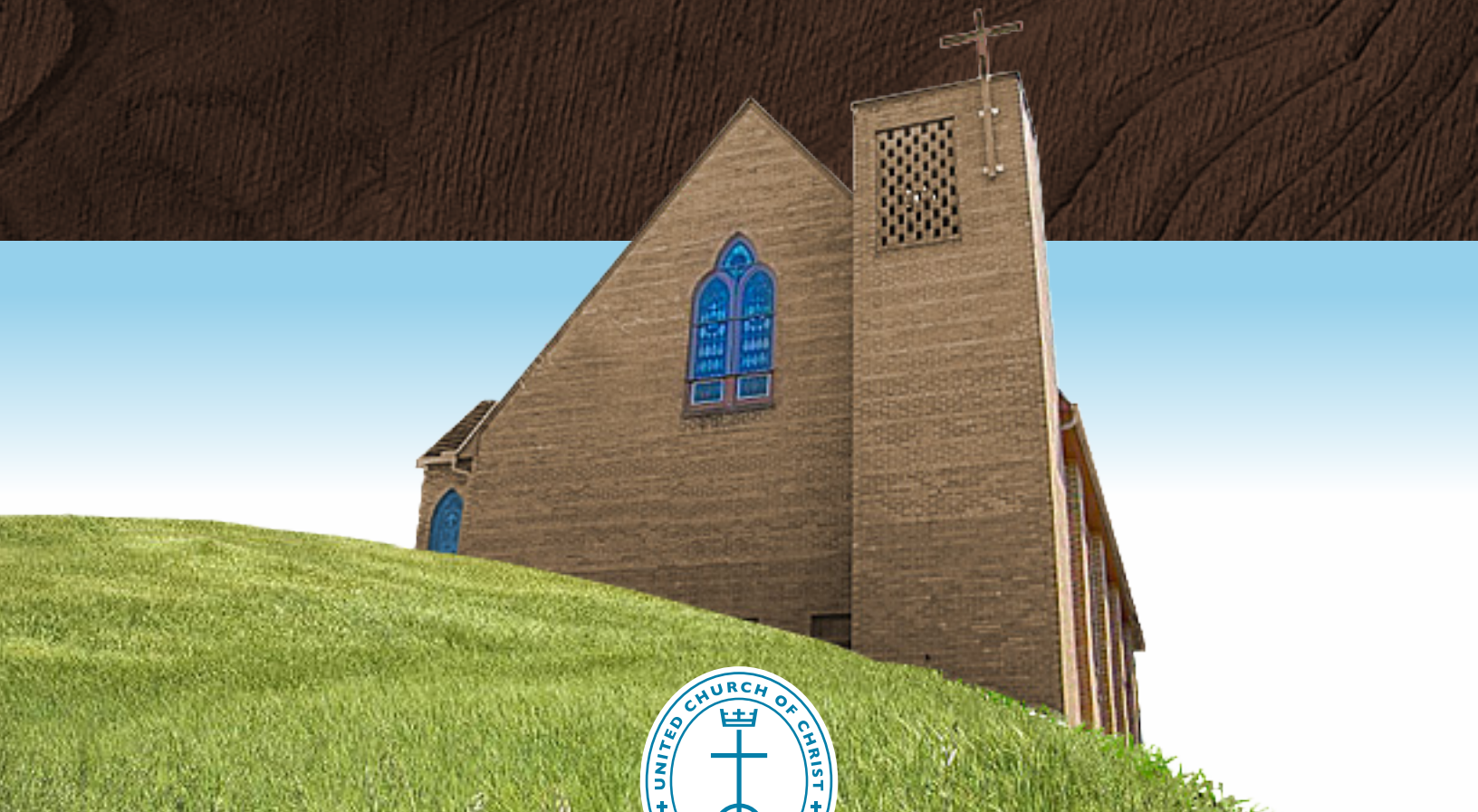


**St. John's**

United Church of Christ

# Digital Newsletter

**SJC Issue 0623 - June 2023**

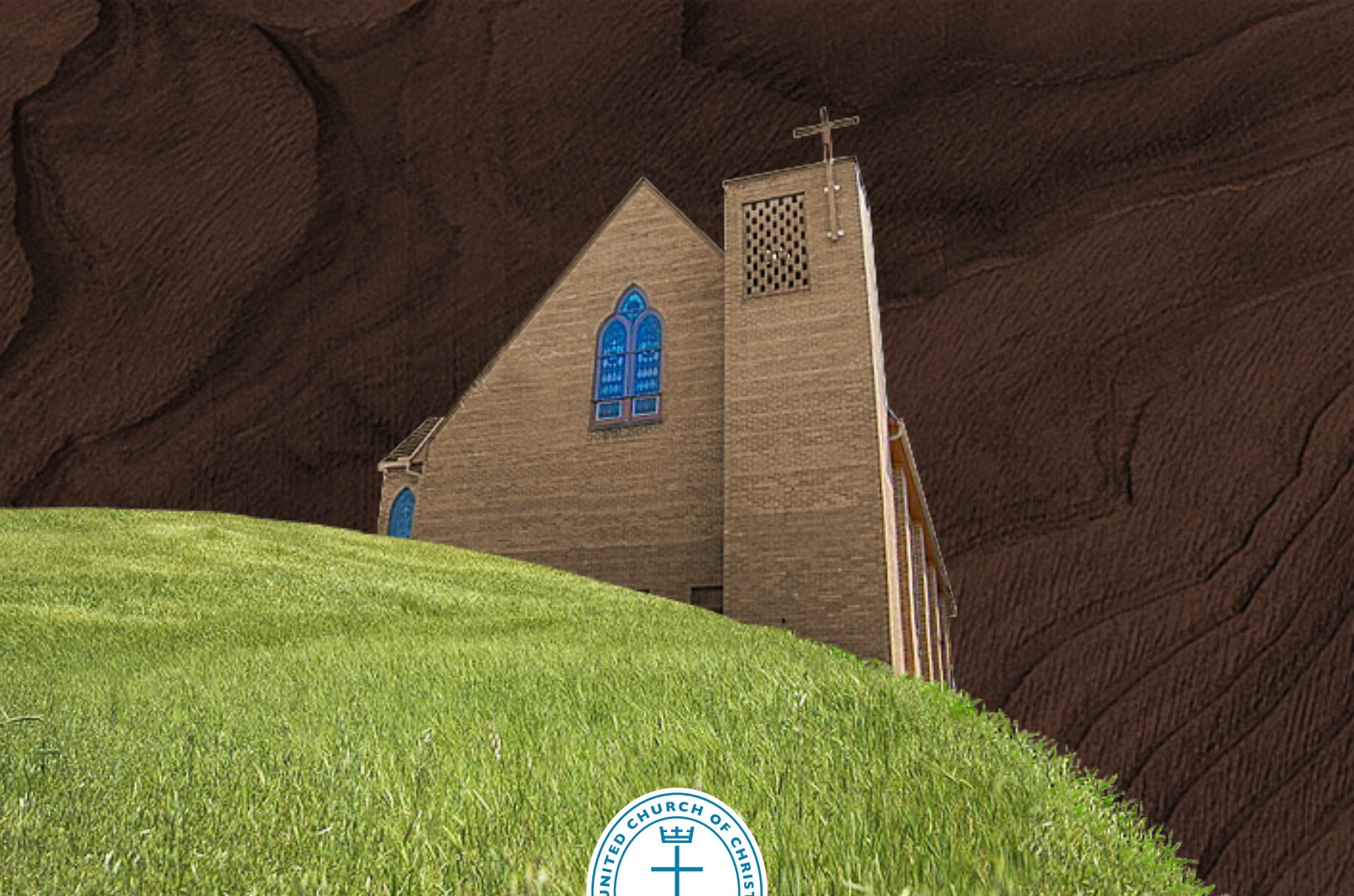


**[stjohnsfcwi.org](http://stjohnsfcwi.org)**

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)

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

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

# Letter From The Pastor

June 2023

I attended the “Festival of Homiletics” in Minneapolis for as part of my continuing education this year (“Homiletics” is the ten-dollar word for “preaching”.) This annual event is described as “summer camper for preachers.” The best preachers and preaching teachers from around the nation provide lectures and sermons reflecting theologically on preaching, worship, and how that fits into 21st century church life. This year’s theme was “Preaching Hope for a Weary World.”

The most impactful I attended was “Hope Punk and the Gospel: Narrating Hope When All Seems Lost” given by Rev. MaryAnn McKibben Dana (how could I not attend with a title like that.) “Hope Punk” is loosely defined as literary, artistic, and spiritual efforts that support positives aims in the face of destruction and despair, especially when a “win” is not imminent or foreseeable. It is the decision to fight as Sam from “The Lord of the Rings” movies: “(we do this) because there is good in the world worth fighting for.” Hope Punk, while having an ethic of gentleness and kindness, is not “nice” or “keeping the peace” but is resistant to what is wrong or life draining. It emphasizes community over competition, right over winning, and acting over results.

Hope Punk says that we do our part, and then leave it for the next generation to take it up and move it forward. It is the Good News that we fight, fight, lose, and fight again, not because we eventually will win but because we know God wins in the end. It is what allows hope in the face of desperate circumstances, resistance to injustices, wrongs, and oppression, especially when we wonder if what we do will have any impact. Jesus lives out Hope Punk by resisting the way things are by acting in the ways of God. This isn’t a hope of denial of pain or suffering or injustice, nor is it pie in the sky that nothing matters because it all works out okay in the end. Instead, it affirms their reality while declaring that it is not the way it should be. Kindness becomes a political act that says we will not act in the ways of anger, fear, hate that tear down others even as we stand with and for others. It looks like John Lewis causing “Good Trouble” and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letters from Birmingham Jail.” It forms a community of those who look to see what they can do, even if it is “only” doing the right thing and leaves the rest for those who come after.

Continued on next page...

---



# Letter From The Pastor

**June 2023**

Already another contentious political season has kicked off, I wonder how different our actions and reactions would be if we consciously express our faith as “Hope Punk. Then whether “our” candidates or “our” side ends up winning, we continue to do what is right just because it is the way God calls us to live. It is a hope that knows that God’s will resists death and destruction and refuses to let them have the final word. It is the hope founded in God’s promises, not our efforts. It is whenever we “fight the good fight” because it is right, not because we think we can win it. Because we know that God already has that in hand.

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  
303 S Hill Street  
PO Box 130  
Fountain City, WI 54629

---



# Consistory President Message

**June 2023**

We welcome the coming of summer with the green grass, green trees, and blue skies. I must let you know that the gutters on the church are finally fixed. We have hired a young man to do the lawn mowing and that is going well.

I want to thank everyone that participated in the Christian Education Cake Auction either by making cakes or bidding and buying cakes. It was a big success and helps our Christian Education programs a lot.

Please keep watching for the summer schedule. There are many things going on. Rhubarb Fest is coming up on June 10th. All you wonderful bakers come out to help us raise money for the Women's Guild and church. We will be having Vesper Services this summer out in Eagle Valley. The first one will be Saturday, June 17, 2023. This is a change from the 4th Saturday of each month, so mark your calendars. People have asked me if there is a service in the park. This service, with the blessing of the animals, has been moved to the fall. So there is not a service in the park over summer. There may be other events this summer that I am missing, so keep alert for events scheduled.

The biggest thing that I want to remind everyone on is the change in worship time coming up. Per our Shared Covenant Agreement, we will be changing worship times from 8:30am to 10:30am beginning SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2023. Mark your calendars! This new time will continue for the next 12 months.

Everyone enjoy your summer!

God's grace and peace.

**Dale Schmidtknecht**

# Annual Cake Auction

## Thanks To All Who Contributed

The Christian Education committee would like to thank all those who contributed or purchased cakes at our Auction. It was a lot of fun and a huge success. We raised \$1,382.00 for St. John's youth programs. Thanks to Linda Clark for taking the great pictures.





# Taylor Baures

## Confirming Baptismal Vows

Taylor Baures celebrated confirming her baptismal vows on Thursday, May 18 at the 8:30am service at St. John's Church in Fountain City, WI. Taylor's mentor for her Confirmation Exploration process was LuAnn Schmidtknecht. Her parents are Kristy and Bob Baures.



# Easter Lily Remembrance

## **The Clark Family**

In Memory of Our Loved Ones No Longer Here on Earth with Us

## **Faye Conners**

In Honor of Jeremy Ahrndt Family

In Memory of Marvin & Alethea Fugina

## **Susan Kreher**

In Memory of Loved Ones

## **Pastor Deb & Greg Kunkel**

In Memory of Pastor Deb's Parents, Lois & Joseph Pennimpede

In Memory of Greg's Parents, Doris & Greg Kunkel

## **Ruth & Paul Ehmcke**

In Memory of Our Parents

## **Baylee & McKenna Osborn**

In Memory of Grandpa Jerry Osborn

## **Ron Novak & Faye Strelow**

In Memory of Loved Ones

## **Heidi, Kevin, Jordan & Katie Wachowiak**

In Memory of Merton & Delores Sutter

## **Cindy Ziegler**

In Honor of Loved Ones



# 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, June 4, 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.

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



# Stewardship

## Stewardship Moment from the Deacons

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s grace”. We each have different God given gifts. Let us share the gift(s) God has given each of us so that others might benefit. It could be a neighbor needing help mowing the lawn, or someone having a tough time that needs someone to talk with. Summer is a great time to be out and about to share our gifts. ~ Deacon John Stettler



**1 Peter 4:10**

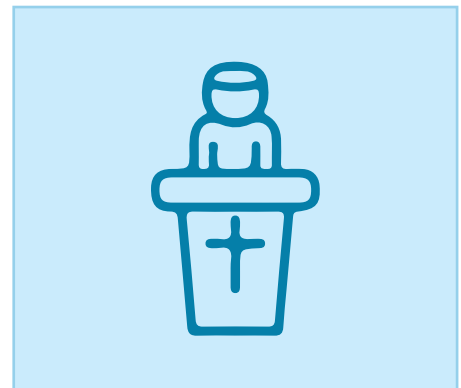
---

# 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 this year. 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.)

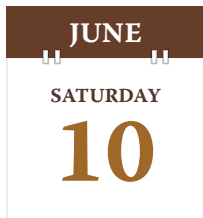




# Rhubarb Fest

**Saturday, June 10, 2023**

The St. John's Church Women's Guild is sponsoring a booth for the Annual Rhubarb Fest on Saturday, June 10 from 9:00am to 3:00am located at the Fountain City Park. We need your support and your baking skills to fill the tables with your favorite rhubarb recipes. If you're not into rhubarb, surprise us with your favorite recipe. Start bringing your donations at 8:00am. The tent will be set up near the shelter building. Please have all items wrapped and they will be priced when you drop them off. If you would like to donate your time and help in the booth for an hour or two, or six, contact Sue Schaffner. A tent and a set-up crew are already established. Food sales go quick, and we are usually sold out by noon, so come early. Bring your friends and check out our booth starting at 9:00am.



## St. John's Church Rhubarb Fest

Annual Event  
Fountain City Park  
Starts @ 9:00am



- ✓ We Need Your Support
- ✓ Bring Your Favorite Recipe
- ✓ Please Have All Items Wrapped
- ✓ Please Volunteer Today
- ✓ Come & Make A Purchase



[Donate or Volunteer](#)

# Food Shelf

## Report For May 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
- ✓ 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**



- ✓ 390 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 17 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 23 Total People Helped
- ✓ 00 Children
- ✓ 15 Adults
- ✓ 08 Seniors
- ✓ 14 Households (3 Came Twice)



# Volunteers: June

## Ushers

Bill Ruben, Greg Osborn & Ron Novak

## Greeters

06.04.23 Dale & John Schmidtknecht

06.11.23 John & Mary Stettler

06.18.23 Bill & Betsy Ruben

06.25.23 Karen Knospe & Donna Beck

07.02.23 Randy & Lori Maier

## Counters

Donna Beck & Mary Schmitt

## 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  
PO Box 130  
303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI 54629  
608.687.3277  
stjohnsfcwi.org

## Birthdays

Summer Wooden

Cara Lee Wiersgalla

Jon Fetting

Dirk Wilson

Robert Guenther

Ryan Maier

Jeannette Beck

John Schmidtknecht

Betsy Semling

Penny Hohmann

Bryan Conners

Jaysen Conners

Dan Knospe

Cheryl Kuhn

Dale Schmidtknecht

Sandra Wunderlich

Janet Blank

Mike Fetting

Cally Ligman

LuAnn Schmidtknecht

Wake Madsen

Jenna Krueger

## Anniversaries

John & Tina Schowalter

Bill & Karen Krause

Richard & Linda Wicka

Bert & Ruth Schaffner

Bill & Betsy Ruben

George & Joyce Schowalter

Tom & Linda Clark

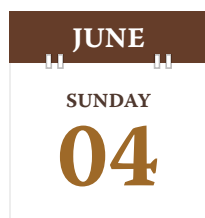
Pete & Janet Blank

Cody & Amber Morse

# Other Special Events

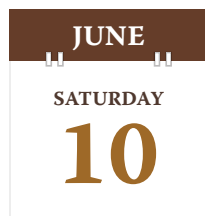
## St. John's Church

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 Rhubarb Fest

Annual Event  
Fountain City Park  
Starts @ 9:00am



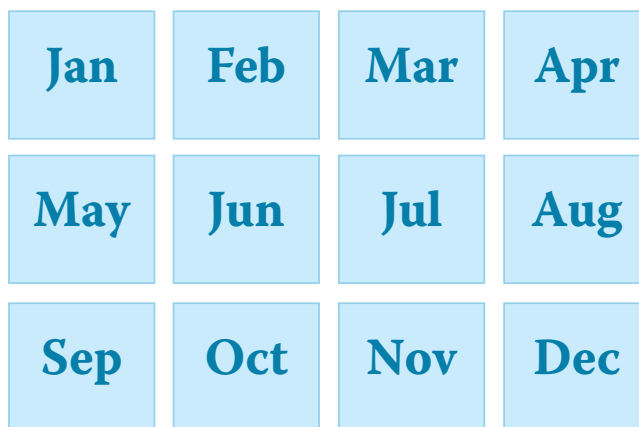
### Eagle Valley Church Special Evening Worship

S2664 Co Rd G  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 7:00pm



### St. John's Church Sunday Worship

Father's Day  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 8:30am



## 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.

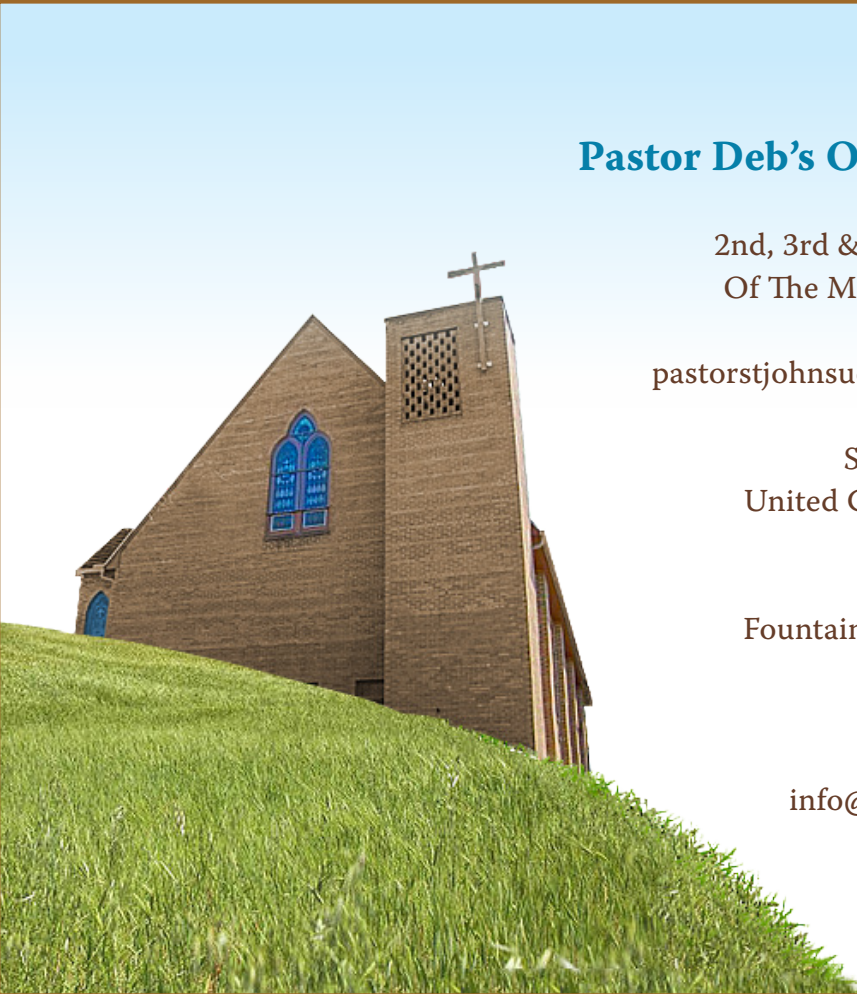
[stjohnsfcwi.org](http://stjohnsfcwi.org)  
[info@stjohnsfcwi.org](mailto:info@stjohnsfcwi.org)



# 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:**

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

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:**

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

**239.994.2528**

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



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

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

**608.687.3277**