

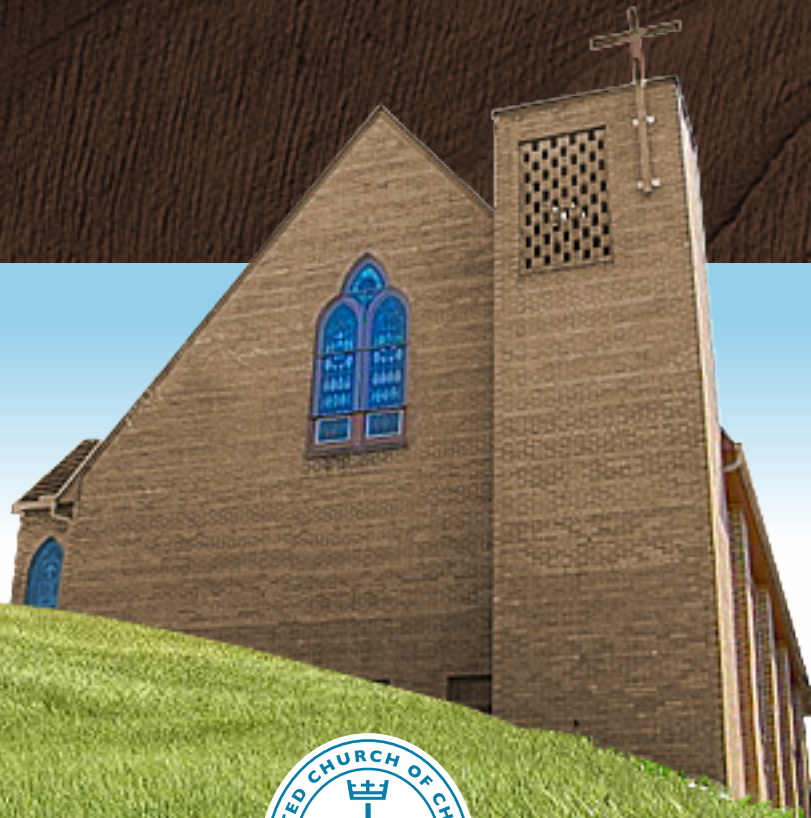


St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

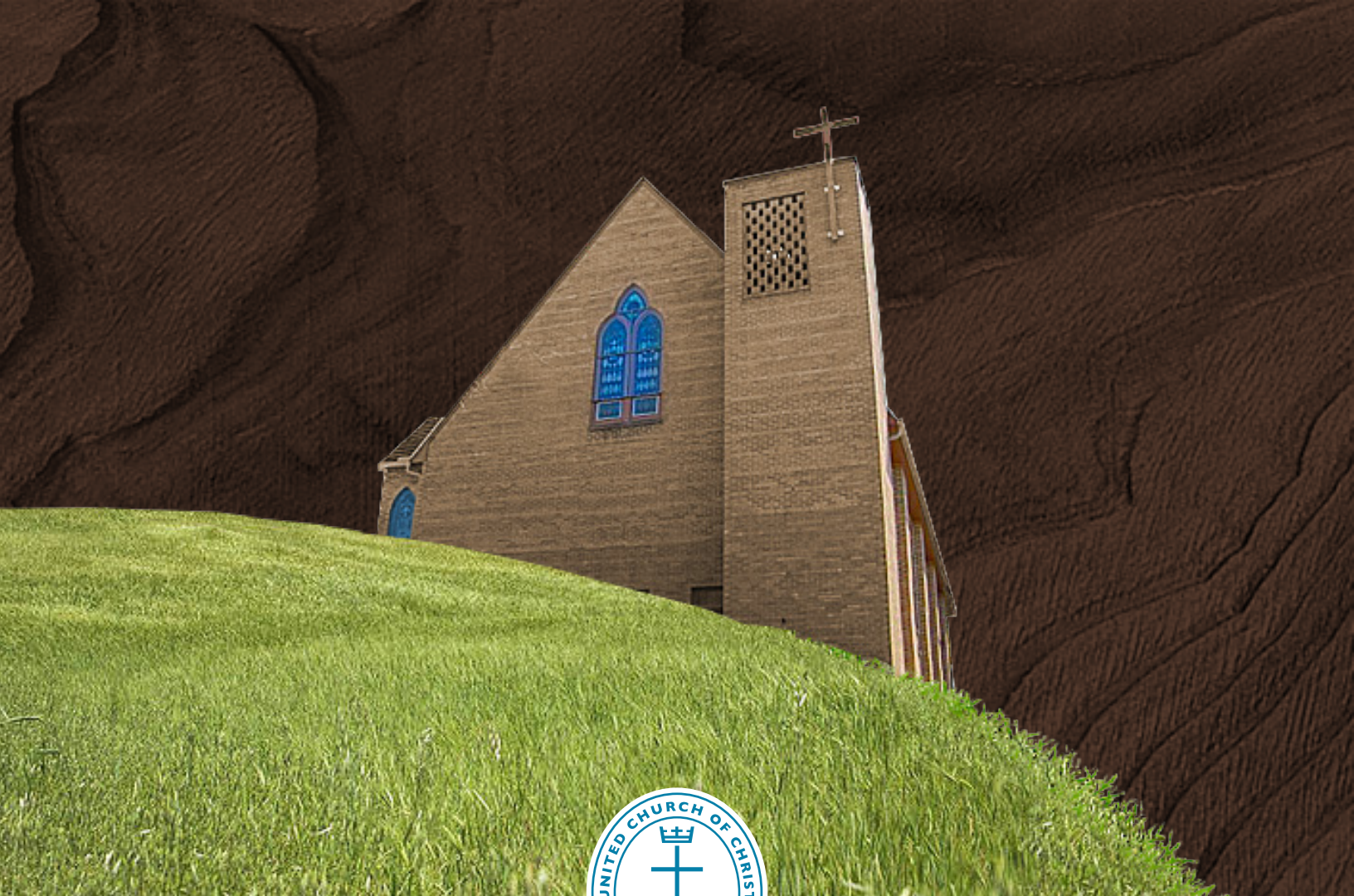
SJC Issue 1022 - October 2022



stjohnsfcwi.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!

stjohnsfcwi.org

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Letter From The Pastor

October 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

If March comes in like a lion, what did fall come in like this year – an elephant? Two days after an 85-degree day, we were treated to a twenty-degree drop in the temperature. As I write this the forecast is for a possible frost tonight or tomorrow night. Autumn's arrival means that things are picking up at the church. But after a CoVID-19 forced slowdown for two years, as well as pastoral transition, what does "picking up" mean? Well for one, Sunday School has resumed. It was joyful to see the number of kids attending this month. The first Confirmation Exploration Class will be held Wednesday October 5, at 3:30 p.m. Faye Connors, Ruth Ehmcke, and Luann Schmidtknecht are facilitating a group who are brainstorming ways to bring more music into the life of the church. Their efforts have led to the revival of the church choir which Betsy Miller-Ruben has graciously agreed to lead. People are returning to worship after weekends spent enjoying God's works of Creation boating, camping, or in summer cabins.

My question to you is: what else needs to be "picked up" this fall in the life of the congregation? Not cleaned up (though help with those tasks around the church would be appreciated.) What are the activities that were part of the congregation's life prior to CoVID that you hope you'll do again? I hope to have a book or Bible Study as we go through Advent and am open to suggestions for that or for others that you would like me to lead. Are there other opportunities for worship, study, prayer, or fun that you did together as a church family that you'd like people to "pick up" this fall? Please let me know. That also includes two other areas that you might need some help in picking up: spirits and relationships. It seems everywhere I look there are articles on the damage done to people's spirits, as well as their relationships, the necessary lockdowns and social distance has caused. Add in the stress as this congregation went through pastoral transitions during the same time, and I would not be surprised if some of you have found it harder to muster enthusiasm, even interest, in things that were important to you pre-CoVID.

Continued on next page...

Letter From The Pastor

October 2022

Including church. People throughout the country are experiencing a feeling of distance in relationships both inside and outside the church. They don't know how to navigate reconnecting, stressful situations, and/or where close relationships have been strained in this (almost) post-CoVID world. Even in their relationship with God.

If you find yourself feeling that way, that's okay. Know that God's relationship with you is a constant throughout this and any time. You may not feel that in a moment (or more) and may find yourself struggling to make that connection. That struggle is okay. It's part of faith. I've been through it myself. Part of being a member (official or not) of a church is for us to be with you in that time, holding you in love, and making room for whatever you may question, struggle with, or just not be sure what you believe. Especially if you aren't "feeling it" now. If you feel that all you have for God (and the church) right now is hurt, anger, doubt, or questions, that's okay. We are here for you. We don't do this perfectly. But we do our best to follow the lead Jesus of offering grace, connection, and welcome. And most importantly holding you in love no matter where you may be physically, spiritually, mentally, or emotionally.

Whether you need to pick-up the church again because it's been a busy summer, you got out of the habit during CoVID, or because your spirit is hurting, we will be here. Join us on a Sunday, a study or potluck, or a phone call to another member or to me. If you aren't quite there yet, that's okay. Reach out when you can, in the way you can, to whom you can. I'm available in person, by phone, email, or text, even if we haven't had the chance to meet yet. Especially to those of you who would love to come join us, but because of other factors can't make it to the church. What do we need to "pickup" again to flourish in life as God intends all of God's beloved to do? Let's take time this fall to discern together what the is next step for both the church and for you that God is urging us to take.

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

Consistory President

October 2022

It was brought to my attention that people missed hearing from me regarding what is going on with the Consistory, your governing board. This fall season will start the Consistory's annual budgeting process. The Deacons will be meeting to work out the budget for next year. I will also be looking into filling the vacant committee positions. Anyone interested in working with a committee please let me or anyone currently on the Consistory know.

We are also looking to start up a new committee or group to work with the "information technology (IT)" equipment. This would be working with computers, video taping equipment, running the power point on Sundays etc. Anyone interested, please let me know.

This October we will be meeting with the Consistory of Hope UCC for our semi-annual joint Consistory meeting. Please let me know of any issues or concerns that you feel should be brought up at our meeting. I know we will probably be discussing service times.

I want to remind everyone that we have started using ushers in our service again. If you are on the usher list, the greeter list, money counter or flower/communion list please be aware of your volunteer Sundays.

I would like to inform everyone that the new lift is installed and operational. I want to thank everyone that helped to get this going and also thank everyone for their patience during the construction process. The new lift works somewhat similar to the old lift in that you have to hold the inside buttons to make it go up or down. What is new is that the doors work automatically. To open them you press the button on the wall. Once you are on the level you want to go to, the door will open automatically to let you out. If you have any questions feel free to ask me.

Happy Fall to Everyone!

Dale Schmidtknecht

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.

Starts: Sunday, October 2, 2022



Archiving

Volunteers: Historians & Photographers

We are looking for a volunteer (or two) who would enjoy being the historian for the church. This would mean going through the old files and documents of the church, deciding what has value to keep. This can be done at your pace. This isn't an "official" position, so your term would be as long or brief as you decide.

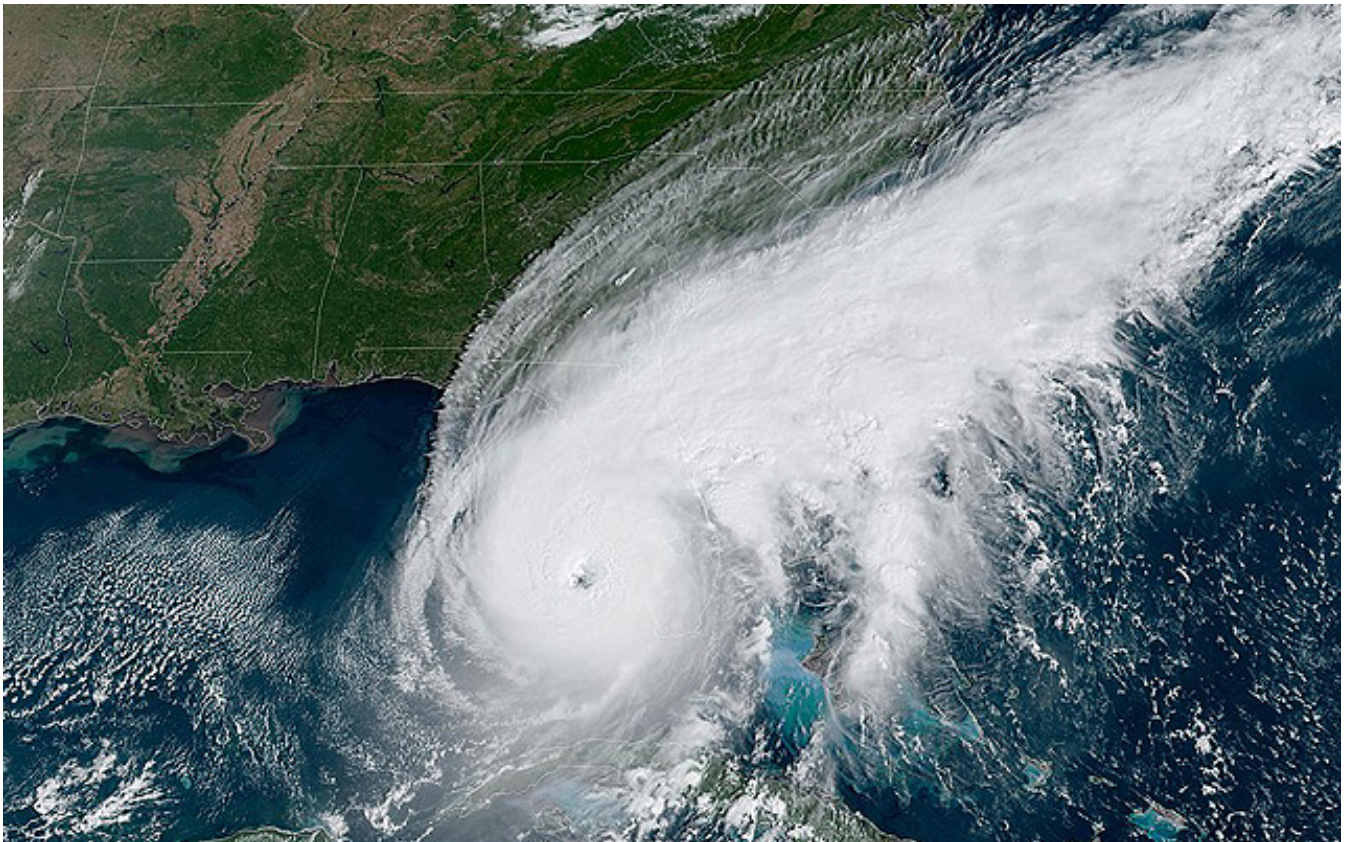


Pastor Deb is also hoping that there might be some photographers who be willing to be contacted to see if they would be available to take pictures at special services or events that could be used either in the church newsletter, website, or press releases. This also isn't an "official" position, so is based on your availability, and how often or long you choose to do this. If you are interested in either of these, please let Dale Schmidtknecht or Pastor Deb know.

Hurricane Disaster Relief

United Church of Christ

The United Church of Christ has issued an appeal to support immediate needs for families and communities affected by Hurricanes Fiona and Ian.



While this year's hurricane season started slow, the last two weeks have made it clear just how dangerous and destructive these storms can be. With wind speeds topping out at 130 miles per hour and 155 miles per hour, respectively, Hurricanes Fiona and Ian have left devastation in their wake. More than a week and a half after Fiona's winds left all of Puerto Rico in the dark, hundreds of thousands of people remain without power.

Hurricane Disaster Relief

Communities remain in crisis mode as the delivery of food, drinking water, and medical needs is challenged in hard-to-reach places cut off by downed trees, mudslides, and washed away bridges. Millions have lost power and access to clean drinking water. The need for emergency food support, medical care, and temporary shelter is high. Rev. Edward Rivera-Santiago, Pastor General of Iglesia Evangélica Unida de Puerto Rico shared that congregations across the island are reporting both church and community members whose homes are severely damaged, with some facing total loss. Solidarity grants from Global H.O.P.E. and Global Ministries have been sent to assist with immediate needs while basic infrastructure is repaired and more complete assessments can be made. Meanwhile, Hurricane Ian has brought significant damage to Cuba, Florida, and the Carolinas. It is way too early to know the full extent of damage in Cuba and in Florida, yet early indications point to a recovery that will take many years – perhaps a decade.

Donate Online: <https://www.ucc.org>

Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need, for relief and long-term recovery. If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to:

United Church of Christ
Memo: Hurricanes 2022 Fund
PO BOX 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194

Emergency response personnel are active. Relief agencies are meeting immediate needs where they can gain access to communities hard hit by the storm. United Church of Christ partners through National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster who focus on relief are implementing their plans. Global Ministries Area Executive for Latin America Angel Luis Rivera is in touch with bilateral partners. Conference leaders and Conference Disaster Coordinators are making contact, assessing needs, and communicating with the Global H.O.P.E. team so that help can be channeled, now and for the long term.

Stewardship

Stewardship Moment from the Deacons

Some say fall is the longest season of the year because it ends at the first snow. Fall at St. John's is a special time to focus on stewardship. The 2022 theme is "From Bread and Cup to Faith and Giving". The 2022 theme relates to the connection of God's generosity and our stewardship. God invites, God provides, God pours until our cup overflows. Stewardship ponders the question; how can we reflect God's abundance with what we have and can do. Our answer to that question and response will be important over the "long fall". ~ Deacon John Stettler



Creation Sermon Series

Sunday, September 25, 2022 (Four-Week Series)

This area is often referred to as "God's Country", but how often do we stop to reflect upon what that means? Pastor Deb's four-week sermon series on Creation and God as Creator will allow us to do that. The series will follow the optional church season of Creation. Just as traditional seasons of the church year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost) center around themes and periods in Jesus' life, the season of Creation is centered around God's relationship with all creation and with our relationship with creation (and with God through creation). This year the readings from the Creation Lectionary are "The Wisdom Series" with gospel readings from Luke, and "includes those texts where Wisdom is the designing force behind creation and the impulse that enables the parts of creation to fulfill their roles." They focus on the ocean, fauna, storm, and cosmos. What does it mean to say we live in God's country? Lets take some time to rejoice in this as we explore this together.

Sunday School

Rally Day 2022

Church School got off to a good start on September 11, 2022. We had a special cake and treats during coffee hour to help us celebrate with the congregation. We have a few changes this year. Liz Hoffmaster will be teaching some Sundays and also teaching the students some songs to share during the worship service. We have great plans for the students as we explore the bible stories with them. Everyone is welcome, so if you know someone who is looking for a church school experience, please invite them to join us at 8:30am Sunday mornings.



Pictured From Left To Right:

Cake & Treats | St. John's Sunday School Students Wyatt, Baylee, Lexi and Delaney

Food Shelf

Report For September 2022

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



- ✓ 193 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 13 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 15 Total People Helped
- ✓ 0 Children
- ✓ 4 Adults
- ✓ 11 Seniors
- ✓ 10 Households (2 Came Twice)

Blessing Of The Animals

Sunday, October 9, 2022 @ 10:30am

This Special Worship Service will start at 10:30am at the Fountain City Community Park. People are invited to bring their animals to the service as long as they are up-to-date on their vaccines and are leashed or crated/caged as appropriate. If someone would like a blessing for an animal that can't be easily transported to the park or is not safe around other animals, people can bring a picture of the animal, a stuffed animal, or something the animal uses (such as a harness.) People will be expected to clean up after their own pets and animals.



Joint Consistory Meeting

Thursday, October 6, 2022 @ 10:30am

The October Consistory meeting has moved to Thursday, October 6 starting at 5:30pm. The Joint Consistory Meeting with Hope United Church will start at 6:30pm.

Volunteers: October

Ushers

Linda Clark, Tom Clark, Mary Stettler, John Stettler

Greeters

10.02.22 Karen Knospe & Mary Schmitt

10.09.22 John & Mary Stettler

10.16.22 Bob & Kristy Baures

10.23.22 [Open](#)

10.30.22 Ryan & Cally Ligman

Counters

Dale & LuAnn Schmidtknecht

Communion & Flowers

Mary Schmitt & Karen Knospe

Contact us if you are interested in filling any of the **“OPEN”** volunteers positions.

Financial Report

Overview as of 09.29.22

Current Income: \$4,180

Other Income: \$1,700

Total Income: \$5,880

Current Expenses: \$5,959

Birthdays

Sharon Korb

Barbara Bollinger

Kevin Dietrich

Graham Schaffner

Karen Stettler

Hugh Drennan

Shirley Krause

Ryan Ligman

Greg Miller

Heroe Semling

William Knospe

Gunner Fetting

Sidney Franz

Nicholas Cummings

Michelle Pehler

Terry Miller

Quint Yapp

Kevin Keilholtz

Lisa Dietrich Stratton

Reggie Franz

Robin Lewit

Eric Schaffner

Karen Pehler

Triton Krause

Anniversaries

Bryan & Emily Conners

Derrick & Amy Hammer

David & Sue Schaffner

Dale & LuAnn Schaffner

Keith & Brooke Engel

Greg & Terry Miller

Gary & Cara Lee Wiersgalla

Confirmation

Confirmation Exploration Class

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.

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY

05

Confirmation Class

3:30pm - 5:00pm
St. John's Church
What is Confirmation

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY

12

Confirmation Class

3:30pm - 5:00pm
St. John's Church
Bible Old Testament

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY

19

Confirmation Class

3:30pm - 5:00pm
St. John's Church
Bible New Testament

OCTOBER

WEDNESDAY

26

Confirmation Class

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



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.

OCTOBER SUNDAY 02	Penny Collection St. John's Church 303 S Hill Street Fountain City, WI Starts @ 8:30am
OCTOBER SUNDAY 09	Choir Practice St. John's Church 303 S Hill Street Fountain City, WI After Worship Service
OCTOBER TUESDAY 11	Deacons Meeting St. John's Church 303 S Hill Street Fountain City, WI Starts @ 6:30pm
OCTOBER SUNDAY 30	Confirmation Sunday St. John's Church 303 S Hill Street Fountain City, WI Starts @ 8:30am

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
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:

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

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St. John's

United Church of Christ

Church Office:

stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

Newsletter:

stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com

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