

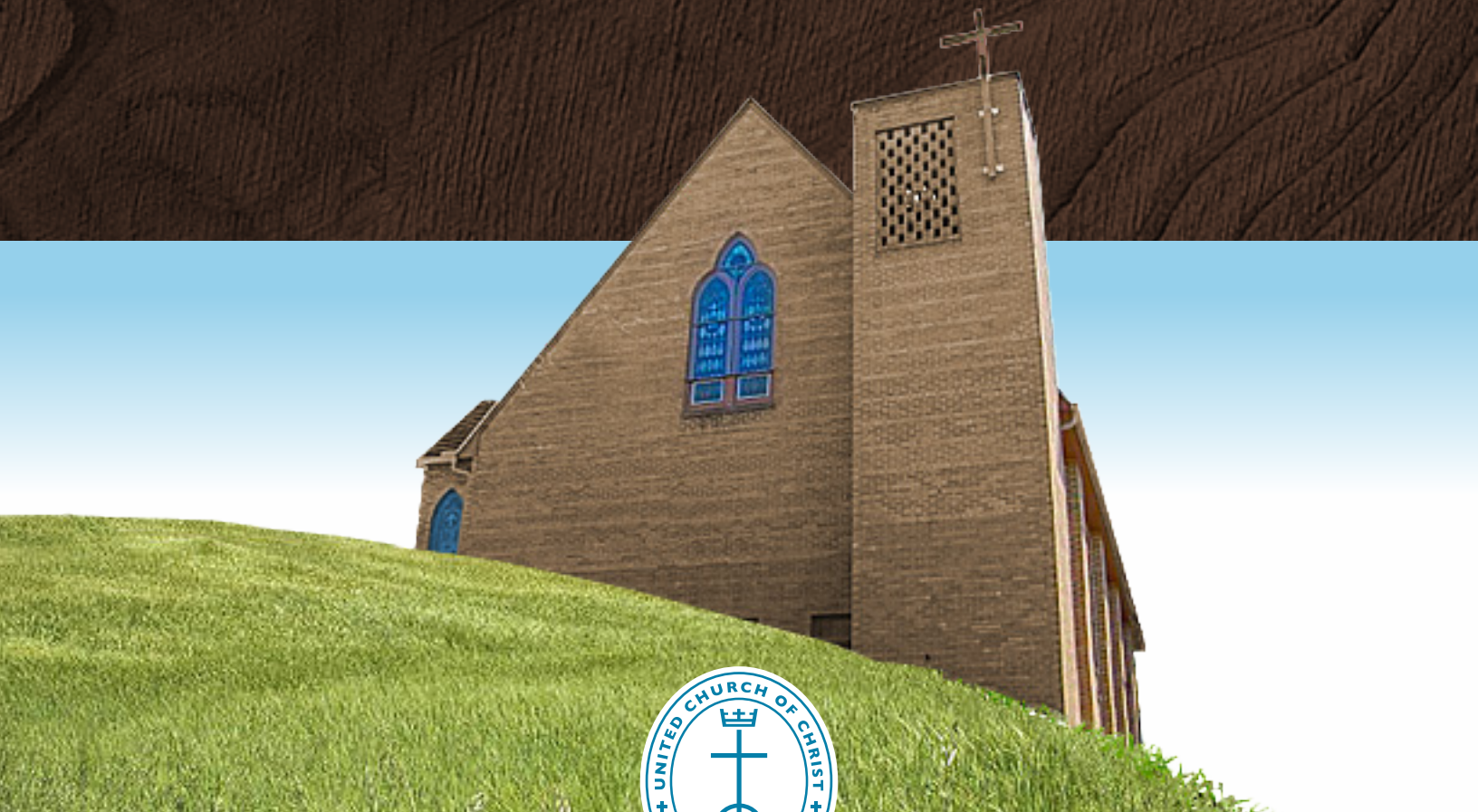


St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

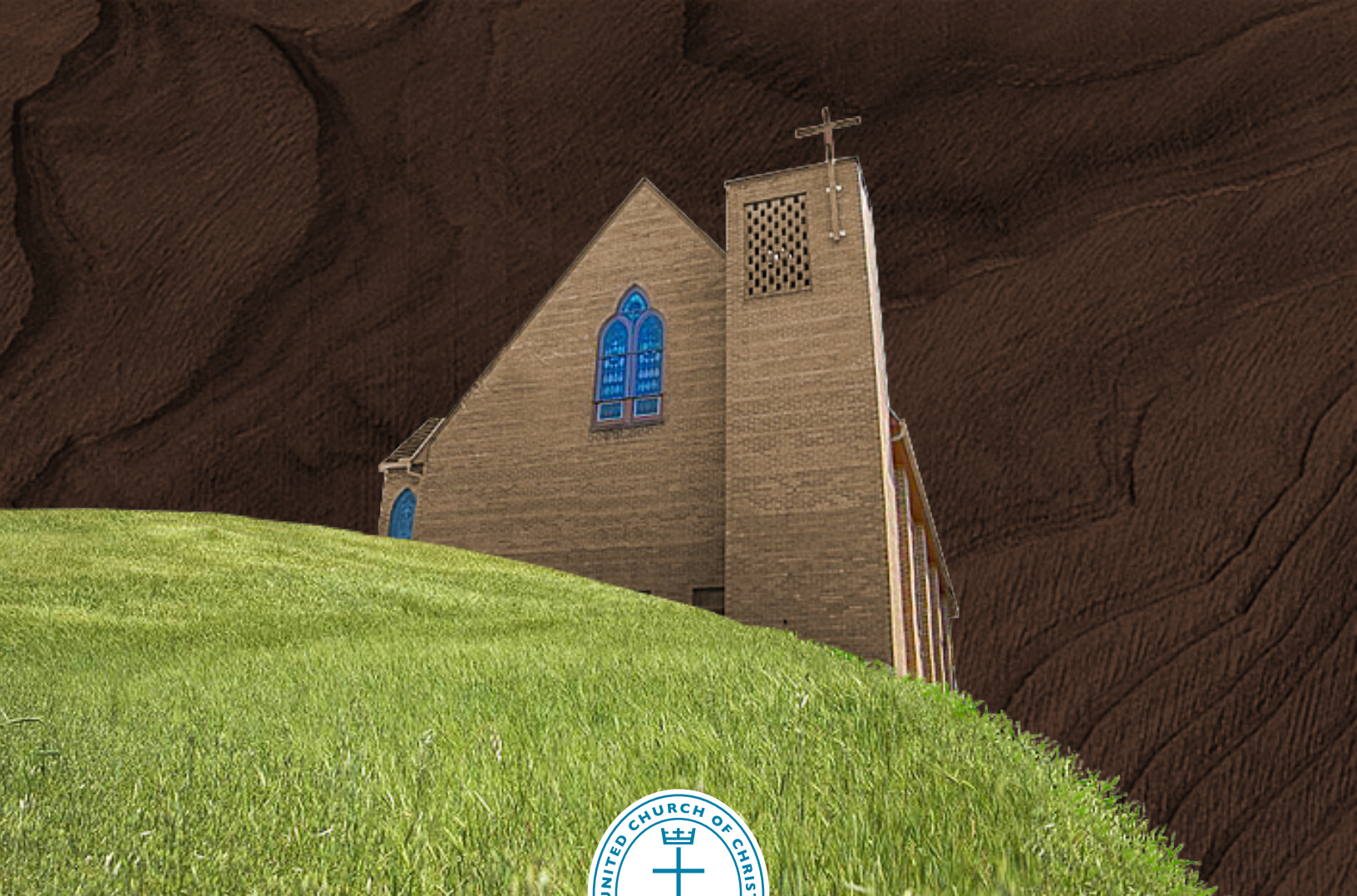
SJC Issue 1023 - October 2023



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!

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Letter From The Pastor

October 2023

As I write this the second Presidential candidate debate for the upcoming 2024 election has yet to happen. But based on what I've seen from both political parties, I don't doubt it will be more talking past each other than a debate.

This style of discussion has spilled over from Presidential debates to everyday life. Conversation skills including listening atrophied due to the necessity of limited social contact during the pandemic. Why is this important? Because how can we love our neighbors as we would be loved if we can't even talk and listen to each other.?

I shared in a sermon a few weeks about a scene from the TV show "Ted Lasso" that reflects the problem with this. In it Ted talks about how people usually underestimate him. One day he realized that it wasn't about who he was. It was that the others weren't curious about learning about him. Instead of asking him questions, they prejudged. (For those who you who haven't seen it, search online for it – the kicker in it is worth it even if you've never watched the show.) And of course Jesus was curious, asking people questions, listening to them, and seeing them for who they were, not how others labeled them.

So this month I'm offering a sermon series "I've Been Meaning to Ask you..." Through scripture passages we'll be looking at four questions. First "...where are you from?" - which is more than about your hometown. Second "...where does it hurt?" Next, "...what do you need?". Then finally, "...where do we go from here?" And for St. Johns and Hope joint "Fifth Sunday" service at the end of the month, we'll have a "creative" worship service to tie this all together.

The writers of the resources for this series describe why they decided to create it: "We started by asking ourselves questions: "How can we listen to one another?"

Continued on next page...

Letter From The Pastor

October 2023

How do we find connection despite distance? How do we create space for compassionate dialogue and for seeking holy in one another? We landed on our leading question, “I’ve been meaning to ask...” because it conveys intentionality, warmth, curiosity, and consideration. In essence, this question also implies ... “I’ve been thinking about you, and I’ve been wanting to check in... You’ve been on my mind... I haven’t known how to have this conversation, but I’m getting started with a question.” (T)he main objective of this series (is)to cultivate courageous conversations—and to keep having them, even if we need to pause.”

For smaller communities like Fountain City and Cochrane, it may seem like “everyone knows everyone.” Yet the pandemic and the spillover of political ideological divisions at times may still stretch the ability to fully talk and listen to each other. At the very least, reflecting on this may help individuals feel comfortable listening or know that they are heard, even if disagreement remains. At the very best, it can spill over into our world so that there are less divisive, judgmental conversations, and more relationship building, reconciling, and healing ones taking place.

God’s grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

Cell: 239.994.2528

pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

See All Letters & Messages Online Under The Worship Tab

stjohnsfcwi.org

Prayer Requests

Prayer Requests For Inclusion In The Bulletin

There have been many requests for prayers requests to once again be placed in the bulletin. And so in September we will start to do so. There will be prayer request slips left out by the bulletins each Sunday that can be put in the offering plate or on Pastor Deb's desk. Please note that these will only be for those requests you wish to have put in the bulletin.

Because of HIPPA and confidentiality concerns, for inclusion in the bulletin, prayer requests must be from an immediate family member, and/ or indicate that the person the request concerns has indicated it is okay that it can be shared in the bulletin. They should also have the name of the person requesting the prayer so that there is someone to check with, if needed, if after a period of time the request is still needed. Of course, if the request is for you personally, simply let Pastor Deb know it can be included in the bulletin.

Please note that we will continue to accept all prayer requests for inclusion in the pastoral prayer during the service, and that you can also lift the request up at the time. However, Pastor Deb will need the written slip to verify spelling etc., especially if the person is not part of the congregation. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Pastor Deb.

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

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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, October 1, 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.

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Stewardship

Stewardship Moment from the Deacons

The 2023 all encompassing continuing Stewardship Theme “Because of YOU our Church Changes Lives”, encourages us to focus on our collective day to day actions. “We are the Church”, so how we change our life, and how we change the lives of those around us is the basis for the “Our Church Changing Lives”. Reflect on your examples of “changing lives” and share your stories in the coming months.”

~ Deacon John Stettler



Sunday School Kickoff

School Education

School age children are welcome to join our Sunday School classes during Sunday morning services at 10:30am. St. John’s Church has two groups Pre-K to 2nd grade and 3rd to 6th grade. Through weekly lessons we learn about our Savior Jesus Christ. Each year the Sunday School students rehearse and perform the Children’s Christmas Service in December celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. For more information, contact Karen Knospe.

During Sunday Morning Service

- ✓ **Sundays @ 10:30am**
- ✓ **Pre-K to 2nd Grade**
- ✓ **3rd to 6th Grade**

Feeding C-FC Families

The “Backpack Program” Is Now “Feeding C-FC Families”

The “Backpack program” for C-FC school families is being restarted as “Feeding C-FC Families”. Kayla Engel began the “Backpack Program” as an FAA project to provide breakfast and lunch for school kids on days that they wouldn’t receive breakfast and lunch at school. Mom Kalene Engel and Grandmother Bev Engel then took on responsibility for the program when Kayla went off to college. However the program paused during the pandemic.

While appreciative, the families who participated in the “Backpack Program” gave feedback that their students having an extra backpack each week was cumbersome, as well as made it easy for other students to identify who was taking part in the program. So with Kalene’s help, the program occurs monthly, and is distributed at the Milton Town Hall. So far 17 families have signed up through the school. Monthly we will provide food for families for weekends and holidays to cover for the lack of school breakfast and lunches. In addition, “Feeding C-FC Families” will supplement the families normal food supply. Currently we need volunteers to provide this vital service. Please let Pastor Deb know if you would like to help in November or in the future with any of the below tasks.

- ✓ **Wednesday, October 4, 2023**
- ✓ **Wednesday, November 1, 2023**
- ✓ **Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

1) On The 1st Wednesday Of The Month:

The truck with the food order for that month from “Feed My People” needs to be unloaded at Milton Town Hall, then brought into the Town Hall to store in the designated spots. Sometimes this will coincide with the delivery for the Food Shelf. Other times the Food Shelf may not need order that month, but the “Feeding C-FC Families” will still get a delivery.

Continued on next page...

Feeding C-FC Families

2) On The Following Tuesday: (Usually The 2nd Tuesday Of The Month)

- 1:00-2:00pm: Set out the food for packing - There will be a set “menu” that everyone receives.
- 2:00-3:00pm: Pack the food in paper grocery bags for each family.
- 3:00-5:30pm: Be available for families to come pickup their bags.
- Possibly delivery drivers for after 3:00pm (when the bags are finished) to deliver to any families that cannot come to pick theirs up. This will be offered only when it is impossible for the family to pick up their food.

3) For The Short Term...

Kalene and Pastor Deb are handling administrative tasks, such as food ordering, contacting families monthly, and reporting to Feed My Families the statistics from each month. However both have schedules that preclude doing this on an ongoing basis, and so would love will a volunteer to take over these tasks.

This is not intended as a replacement for our Food Shelf, but as a supplement and bridge. The brochure for the Food Shelf will be placed in each bag in case families aren't aware that St. John's Church has one, or that they can pick their own items from a shopping list. The hope is that they would consider using the Food Shelf, especially for long-term needs. However, some people might not be able to come during operating hours, don't want to 'bother' someone for an appointment, and/or go into a church. Feeding C-FC Families would continue to fill that gap. If you would like to volunteer for these or future dates, please contact Pastor Deb.

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C-FC Area Food Shelf

Report For September 2023

Can you give a couple hours a month and volunteer at the C-FC Area Food Shelf located at St. John's Church in Fountain City, WI? 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!

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



- ✓ 539 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 22 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 25 Total People Helped
- ✓ 06 Children
- ✓ 17 Adults
- ✓ 13 Seniors
- ✓ 21 Households (4 Came Twice)

Hope 4 U

C-FC Area Food Shelf Table

Our C-FC Area Food Shelf volunteers staffed a table at the Hope 4 U walk in the Fountain City Park on Saturday September 9, 2023. They were able to help let people know about our Food Shelf and had bags of pre-packed food available for those in need. Thank you to Jo Muench, Cindy Ziegler, Sue Schaffner & Pastor Deb for helping make this day possible. If you want to learn more about Hope 4 U, please check us out on Facebook or go to hope4ubc.com

Thank You To All The Volunteers



Volunteers: October

Ushers

Linda Clark, Tom Clark, John Stettler & Mary Stettler

Greeters

10.01.23 Karen Knospe & Mary Schmitt
10.08.23 John & Mary Stettler
10.15.23 Kristy & Bob Bauers
10.22.23 Cleo Losinski
10.29.23 Fifth Sunday at Hope United Church

Counters

Dale & LuAnn Schmidtknecht

Communion & Flowers

Mary Schmitt & Karen Knospe

Financial Report

For detailed information regarding the financial standing of St. John's Church, contact the office to review financial documents.

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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.



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



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3:30pm - 5:00pm
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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.



St. John's Church Penny Collection

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



St. John's Church Consistory Meeting

303 S Hill Street
Fountain City, WI
Starts @ 5:30pm



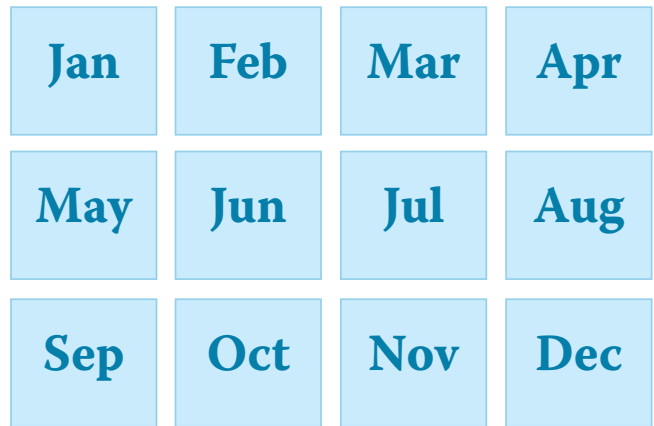
St. John's Church Joint Consistory Meeting

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



Hope United Church Fifth Sunday

210 Michaels Street
Cochrane, WI
Starts @ 10:30pm



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.

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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

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St. John's

United Church of Christ

Church Office:

stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

Newsletter:

stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com

Pastor Deb's Office Hours:

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

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