

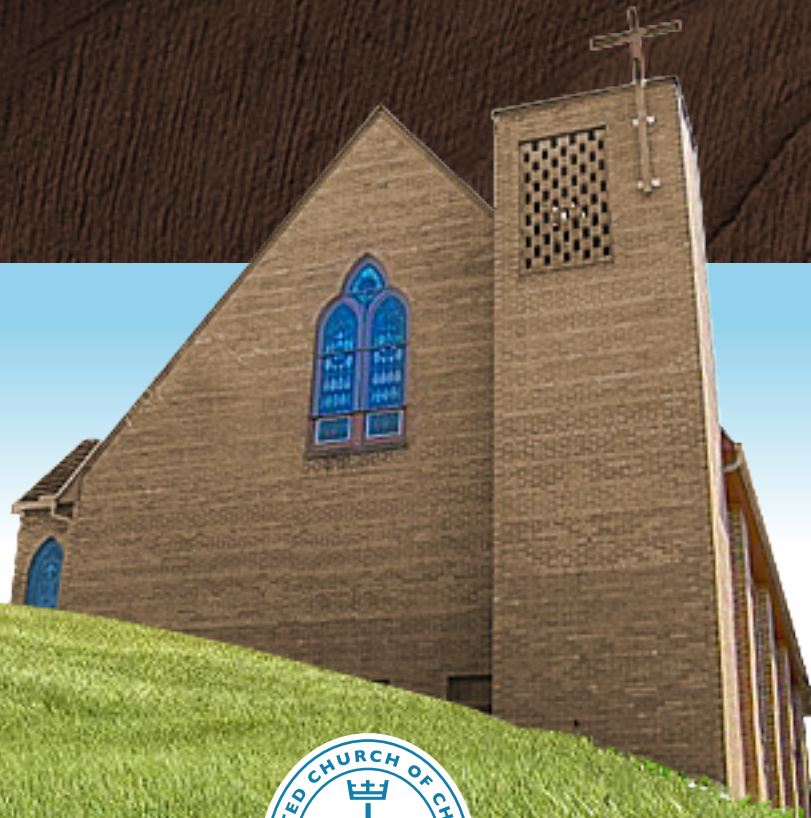


**St. John's**

United Church of Christ

# Digital Newsletter

**SJC Issue 1225 - December 2025**

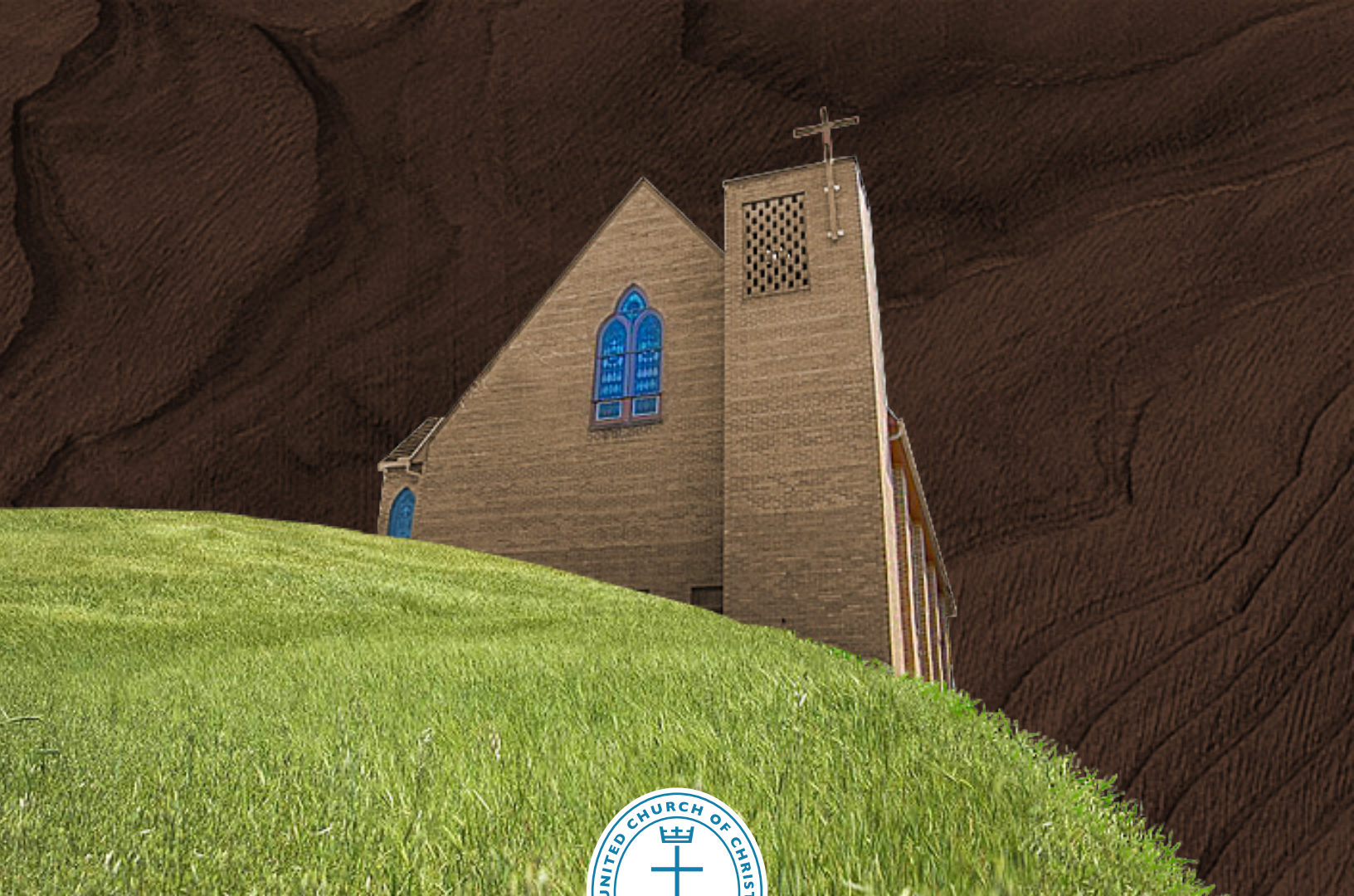


**[stjohnsfcwi.org](http://stjohnsfcwi.org)**

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

**608.687.3277**





# Sunday Worship @ 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!

## **stjohnsfcwi.org**

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# Letter From The Pastor

**December 2025**

By the time you read this Advent will have begun. It will be the first week, and we'll have lit the first candle in the Advent Wreath. The candle of Hope.

During Advent through to Epiphany we'll be asking a question each Sunday: What do you fear? But instead of trying to drive out our fears, we are going to ask: Can we hold a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Is there any way to catalyze our fears into love and action?

For the four Sundays of Advent we will join one or more of the characters from our Advent and Christmas story: Zechariah and Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Mary, Joseph, and the Magi. And of course, Jesus. Looming in the background will be King Herod and the Romans.

Each of these people face fear in different forms. Some fear larger events beyond their control. Some are faced with fear from deeply personal events and experiences. And some are confronted simultaneously with both macro and micro level fears. Yet as they take part in this story of Good News, we will remember that they do not deny or ignore their fears. They don't diminish them as foolish, but nor do they catastrophize to the point of paralysis or withdrawal. They acknowledge their fears and move through them. Move through them with hope and joy. Because they experienced God entering their world and lives in ways that gave them hope.

We believe God entered a sometimes-frightening world to bring us Good News. That's the promise of the Christmas season.

God chose to become one of us among us – a real human being in history when Herod and the Romans ruled. Instead of donning armor or bringing an army, God chose vulnerability by coming as an infant. Instead of being born in the seat of power where a child had more protection, such as to King Herod, God chose to be born to Mary and Joseph.

Continued...

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# Letter From The Pastor

**December 2025**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” lyrics proclaim “the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” Hope can only meet the fears of all the years if we take a few moments, and in the light of God’s love and promises, acknowledge fears. Emmanuel comes not to take away all fears, but to show us how to meet those fears with hope, integrity, and compassion. The lyric prior to the one above “yet in the dark street shineth the everlasting light.” Hope and fear meet, Emmanuel comes and we are reminded of the Light that cannot be overcome.

God’s grace and peace.

**Pastor Deb Kunkel**



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## Christmas Decorating

**Church Event**

St. John's Church will Decorate the Church for Christmas on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Hope to see you there!.

**Wednesday, December 3, 2025**

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Page 3

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



# Sunday School

## 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**

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# Confirmation Exploration

## Classes for Seventh Graders

More details are coming soon, please contact Pastor Deb if you have any questions.

- ✓ **Wednesday December 3, 2025**
- ✓ **Wednesday December 10, 2025**
- ✓ **Wednesday December 17, 2025**



# Sunday Penny Collection

## First Sunday of the Month

The Church School Students will be collecting pennies the first Sunday of every month. This money enables the children to choose how their donations go to people or projects in our area or throughout the world.

**Sunday, November 7, 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.

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



# Consistory Meeting

## Church Event

The St. John's Church Consistory Meetings are scheduled on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025**

✓ **Consistory Regular Meeting @ 6:00pm**

~ St. John's Church



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# Eagle Valley Church

## Annual Advent Vespers Service

There will be an open invitation for all members of St. John's Church and Hope United Church to attend the Advent Vespers with Christmas Hymn Service on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at the Eagle Valley Church at 4:00pm. We'll share the Christmas story, sing favorite Christmas hymns and experience together this special time of the year. We hope you can join us.

**Saturday, December 13, 2025**  
**Starts @ 4:00pm**

- ✓ **St. John's Church & Hope United Church**
- ✓ **Invitation - Christmas Hymn Service**
- ✓ **S2664 Co Rd G, Fountain City, WI**



# Poinsettia Orders

## Place Your Order Today!

We will be taking orders December 7 and 14 for Poinsettias to adorn our channel for the Christmas Eve Service. There will be order forms in the bulletin for those you would like to order a Poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is to be determined, but is expected to run \$15-\$20 per plant depending on availability. You will be able to take the plants with you after the Christmas Eve Services. If you are unable to use the order form in the bulletin, please email the following information to the church office ([stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com)) by December 12. (please note difference in date) the following information: Your name and phone number, the number of Poinsettias you would like to order, then for the bulletin whether this is in memory or in honor of, how you want their names to appear, and how you want the "given by" to appear. You will be contacted after December 15 with the cost for the plant(s).

**Deadline: Sunday, December 14, 2025**

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# Children's Christmas Program

## Church Event

St. John's Church will have the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 21, 2025. School age children are welcome to join our Sunday School classes during Sunday morning services at 10:30am. St. John's Church has 1 group Pre-K 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.

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

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# Christmas Fund Offering

**Sunday, December 21, 2025**

Among the many letters and notes the Pension Boards receives from recipients of gifts made possible by contributions to the Christmas Fund were these words:

As a lifelong member of the UCC, I have fond memories of the Annual Christmas Fund. I never thought we would be in a situation where we too would need assistance as medical expenses and caregiving costs increase. We are grateful that Christmas Fund is here to assist us.

Reverend Christopher Gilmore Lead Pastor Sixth Avenue –  
United Church of Christ in Denver, CO



Thanks to your generosity, last year the Christmas Fund provided over \$1.9 million in pension and health benefits, emergency grants, and thank-you checks to retired church servants and their families. Every gift came from people like you. This year, please give what you can to continue supporting those who've devoted their lives to serving others.

God's grace and peace.

**Pastor Deb Kunkel**

# Christmas Eve Worship

## Special Service

St. John's Church will have Christmas Eve Evening Candlelight Services on Wednesday, December 24, 2025 at 6:00pm.

**Wednesday, December 24, 2025**  
**Starts @ 6:00pm**



# C-FC Area Food Shelf

## Report For November 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 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       | ✓ 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**



- ✓ 767 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 17 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 43 Total People Helped
- ✓ 9 Children
- ✓ 18 Adults
- ✓ 16 Seniors
- ✓ 18 Households (4 Came Twice)





## Most Needed Donation Items For December 2025

✓ Cereal (Healthier)

✓ Stews & Chili

✓ Spaghetti Sauce

**Cash to buy cheese blocks or other  
needed items we can't get from Feed My People.**

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.

# Emergency Food Drive

## Sponsors: St. John's Church & Hope United Church

Our emergency food drive for November was a wonderful success! Thank you to our community - church members - Hope United Church members, \$2420.00 was donated plus food, so much needed food!

We will be able now to supplement what we can't get from our distributor and help those of our neighbors in need in our area!

**Total Cash Raised**  
**\$2420.00**

THANK YOU!

Monetary donations checks can be mailed and made out to:

C-FC Area Food Shelf - St. John's Church,  
PO Box 130, Fountain City WI, 54629.



# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: Alliance Bank

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

Alliance Bank | Cochrane, Wisconsin

Thank you very much!





# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: C-FC Elementary Student Council

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

C-FC Elementary Student Council & C-FC School

Thank you very much!



COCHRANE-FOUNTAIN CITY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: DHHS

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Thank you very much!



**BUFFALO COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
AND WAUMANDEE STATE BANK ARE TEAMING UP  
TO HOST A FOOD DRIVE TO HELP SUPPORT LOCAL  
FAMILIES IN NEED.**

**NOVEMBER 14-21, 2025**

**DROP OFF LOCATIONS:**

<b>WAUMANDEE STATE BANK</b>	<b>BUFFALO COUNTY DHHS</b>
<b>WAUMANDEE BRANCH</b>	407 S. 2 <sup>ND</sup> ST. ALMA, WI
52021 COUNTY RD U	MONDAY- FRIDAY 8-4:30
WAUMANDEE, WI 54422	
<b>FOUNTAIN CITY BRANCH</b>	<b>BUFFALO COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE</b>
46 SOUTH MAIN ST.	407 S. 2 <sup>ND</sup> ST. ALMA, WI
FOUNTAIN CITY, WI 54429	OPEN 24 HOURS
<b>MONDOVI BRANCH</b>	<b>BUFFALO COUNTY SOUTH ENTRANCE</b>
600 EAST MAIN ST.	407 S. 2 <sup>ND</sup> ST. ALMA, WI
MONDOVI, WI 54755	OPEN 24 HOURS
<b>LOBBY: M-F 9-4</b>	
<b>DRIVE-UP: M-F 8-5 &amp;</b>	
<b>SAT. 8:30-NOON</b>	

AT THE END OF THE WEEK, BUFFALO  
COUNTY DHHS WILL PICK UP FOOD  
DONATIONS FROM THE DROP OFF SITES  
AND DISTRIBUTE TO PANTRIES WITHIN  
BUFFALO COUNTY.





# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: Hope United Church & St. John's Church

Hope United Church & St. John's Church - Volunteers

C-FC Elementary Student Council & C-FC School

Thank you very much!





# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: Keller Williams Premier Realty

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

Keller Williams Premier Realty

Thank you very much!





# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: River Ratz Saloon

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf  
River Ratz Saloon | Buffalo City, Wisconsin  
Thank you very much!





# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: St Michael's Lutheran Church

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf  
St Michael's Lutheran Church - Ladies Aide  
Thank you very much!





# 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!



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

*Tres Ecclesiae*



# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: Waumandee State Bank

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

Waumandee State Bank

Thank you very much!



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

  
Waumandee  
STATE BANK

# Choir Pratice

## 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Of The Month

Choir practice will begin in November. We generally practice twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays. Practice will be for around an hour, depending on how much material we are learning.

We are an informal group. We laugh a lot. We learn things together, often with the help of a giant knitting needle keeping time on the music stand. We have some simple pieces, and usually, one or two “challenge pieces” that we work on for months before we actually sing those pieces in public. Most of us are not young. We make up for our average age by inviting the church’s kids (mentored beautifully by Elizabeth Hoffmaster) to join us a few times a year.

If you have a secret ambition to sing in a church choir, we will welcome you. You can simply show up for a choir rehearsal, or if you have questions, please talk to Betsy Miller-Ruben, or organists LuAnn and Faye.

~ St. John’s Church



### St. John’s Church Choir Practice

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



### St. John’s Church Choir Practice

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





# Volunteers: November

## Ushers

Dale Schaffner, Dale Schmidtknecht

## Greeters

12.07.25 Weldon & Cheryl Kuhn Family

12.14.25 Bryan Guenther & Rebecca

12.21.25 Steve & Sue Prussing

12.24.25 TBA - Christmas Eve

12.28.25 TBA

## Counters

Donna Beck & Mary Schmitt

## Communion & Flowers

LuAnn Schmidtknecht & Amy Hammer

# 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

Emma Kuhn

Tina Fetting

Ryan Engel

Tessah Ely

Mary Stettler

Bella Beck-Walters

Alexis Yapp

Baylee Osborn

Dylan Wolfe

Bill Ruben

Ron Schutz

Laura Madsen

Joan Felting

Natalie Fetting

Danielle Felting

John Schowalter

John Sutter

Randy Boehm

Andrew Wolfe

Izaiah Knecht

Veronica Fetting

Richard Wicka

Tiffany Schaffner

Denise Yapp

Lucas Walth

Miles Walth

Mary Ziegler

## Anniversaries

Reggie & Jeanne Franz

Chris & Kendra Ritscher

Werner & Jolene Engel

# 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.



### Christmas Decorating St. John's Church

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 5:00pm



### Consistory Meeting St. John's Church

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



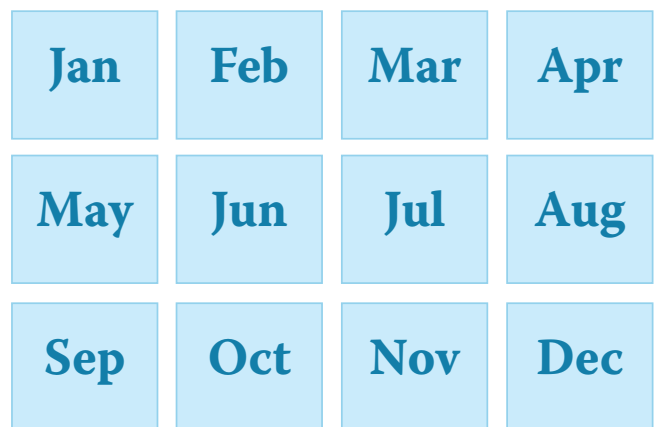
### Christmas Hymn Service Eagle Valley Church

S2664 Co Rd G  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 4:00pm



### Christmas Eve (Evening) St. John's Church

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



## 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 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)

Pastor Deb's Office Hours:

Monday's Noon to 2:00pm | Wednesday's 10:00am - Noon

239.994.2528

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



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