

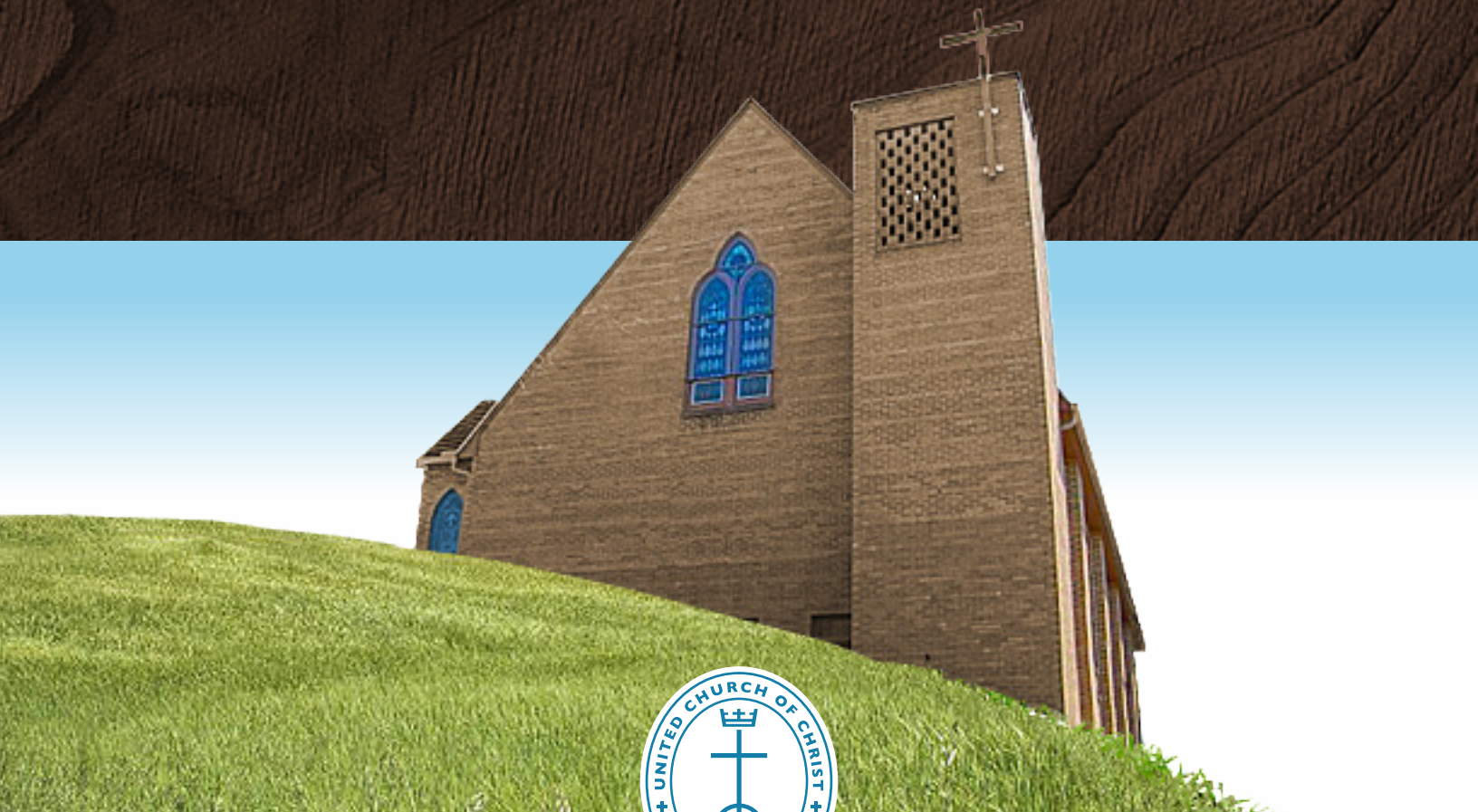


St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

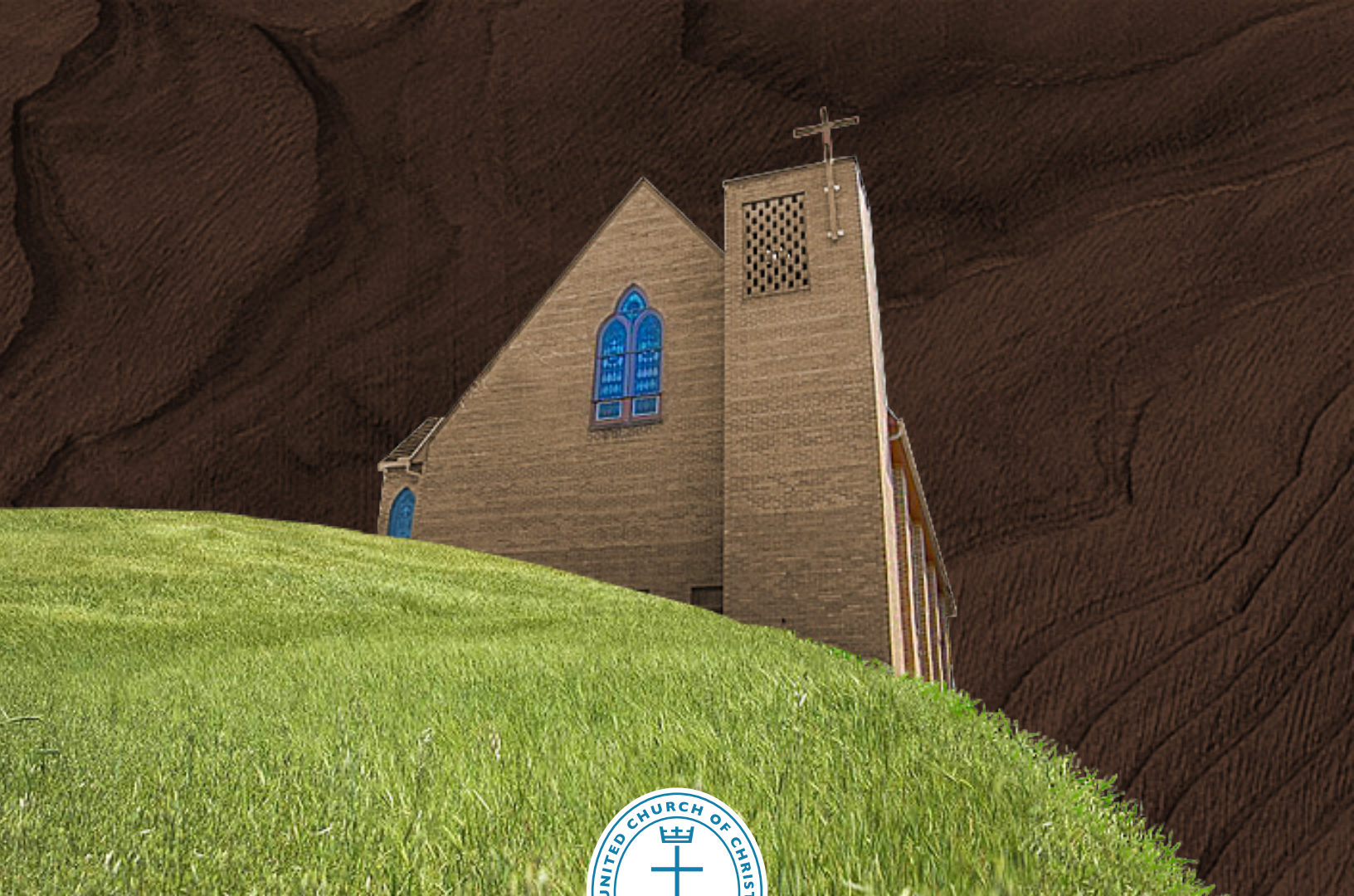
SJC Issue 0225 - February 2025



stjohnsfzwi.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!

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Letter From The Pastor

February 2025

February is the month of love! St. Valentine's Day is the day to celebrate the love for your sweetheart, with roses or special dinners or chocolate. For young ones (or young of hearts) it's a day to exchange Valentine Day Cards to all their classmates, and Candy Conversation Hearts declaring "BFF" "Be Mine" or "Cutie".

Which got me thinking: if someone were to make love conversation hearts with symbols of our love for others as Jesus loves, what would they say? Maybe things like "grace", "forgiveness" "welcome"? Or "compassion", "mercy" or "joy".

Some of the words from I Corinthians 13 would fit "patient" and "kind". Others from the passage might need one of those kid's size Valentine's Day cards: "not envious or boastful or rude", "does not insist on it's own way", "is not irritable" "keeps no record of wrongs" and 'it does not rejoice in wrongdoing." "The greatest of these is love" would need the card or two sides of a candy heart.

The larger candy hearts might work for "rejoices in truth", "bears all things", "hopes all things", and "love never fails".

We could keep a bowl on our desk or by the couch where we watch TV. When we are getting depressed watching or reading the news, we could look over and pick out "love never fails" or "the greatest of these is love." Someone annoys you for the tenth time that day, and you pick up the ones that say "patient" or "not rude." If tempted to return one hurt for another, even it all we plan to do is give the "silent treatment", we could dig through for the "keeps no record of wrongs" or "does not rejoice in wrongdoing."

I could probably use a bowl or two of those around. For the love that we are called to share with others, the second greatest Commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves out of the love God shares through Jesus, is more than just words and candy, or romance. This love requires a choice, deciding to love, and continuing to love in our words and deeds, even when it is hard, or impossible.

Letter From The Pastor

February 2025

In situations when you need to make the choice that it is healthier to not be in active relationship with someone, or when you vehemently disagree with an action or decision, that still can be done while choosing to also love. Here the choice to love looks like empathizing where you can, seeing them as another fallible (even hurting) human being, and then choosing to limit or end contact without malice. Or it may be actively pushing back when their actions continue to hurt others, but to do so in ways that focus on behaviors and not labeling the whole person as evil, a threat, inhuman etc.

Of course this is hard. And of course it is impossible to do perfectly. Which is why we can only do this if and when we accept that God's love for us is full of mercy and compassion, of joy and abundance. No matter how it may seem or what we may or may not have done, God calls us beloved. So wants good for us, for all people, the good God creates us to live out with each other, for all God's children. That for God, every month, every day, every moment is the time of love.

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

Pastor Deb's Office Hours:
Wednesday's 10:00am - Noon
239.994.2528
pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

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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, February 2, 2025



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



Consistory President Message

February 2025

This past Sunday we had our annual meeting. We covered many issues including committee members remaining in office until the By Laws are completed. We handed out the Mission Statement which we will be voting on soon in a special meeting. We received word that Hill Street will be blacktopped this spring, so we will be looking into blacktopping our parking lots at that time. The budget was also approved at this meeting and will increase by 1.43%. Thanks to Deacons for working on this. A few things we will be looking into in the coming year is runoff problems around the church and establishing a task force to look into a Safe Sanctuary Policy. In closing, I again want to thank everyone who works for St. John's to make our church better. If everyone does their part, we can all follow Christ's word in our lives and community.

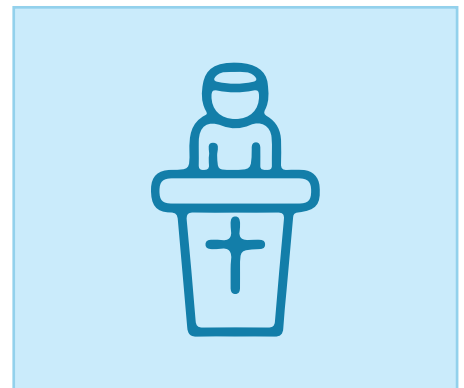
God's grace and peace.

Karen Knospe

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.)



Food Shelf

Businesses Of The Month: Girl Scout Troop 4641 & Troop 7497

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

Girl Scout Troop 4641 & Troop 7497

Thank you very much!




St. John's
United Church of Christ


girl scouts

Food Shelf

Businesses Of The Month: St Michael's Brass Concert

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

St Michael's Lutheran Church

Thank you very much!



Food Shelf

Businesses Of The Month: C-FC FFA Organization

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

C-FC FFA Organization

Thank you very much!



C-FC Area Food Shelf

Report For January 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. 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



- ✓ 897 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 21 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 43 Total People Helped
- ✓ 7 Children
- ✓ 20 Adults
- ✓ 16 Seniors
- ✓ 22 Households (5 Came Twice)

Volunteers: February

Ushers

Bill Krause, Brady Krause, & Adam Krause

Greeters

02.02.25 Karen Pehler

02.09.25 Faye Strelow & Ron Novak

02.16.25 Neal & Diane Schaffner

02.23.25 Mary Schmitt & Karen Knospe

03.03.25 Randy & Judy Boehm

Counters

Randy & Judy Boehm

Communion & Flowers

Sandy Ruben

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

Kayla Knospe

Elaina Jo Conners

Cindy Ziegler

Adam Krause

Delaney Yapp

Mark Schaffner

Rev. Betsy Miler-Ruben

Dawn Fiedler

Alicia Knecht

Ron Novak

Jerrild Kreher

Erik Sutter

Doris Ruben

Joy Pehler

Susan Fons

Tom Risley

Dan Wicka

Drew Schaffner

Logan Schaffner

Anniversaries

Becky K & Bryan Guenther

Carl & Sara Brommerich

Dan & Karen Knospe

Confirmation

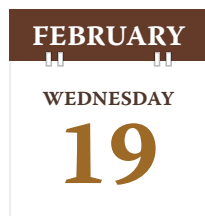
Confirmation Class Schedule

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.



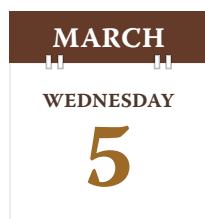
Confirmation Class

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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Education



Confirmation Class

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.



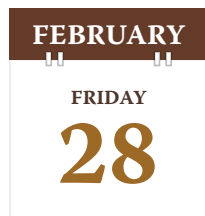
Penny Collection St. John's Church

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



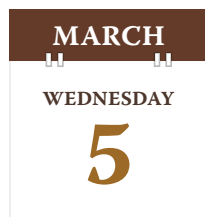
Consistory Meeting St. John's Church

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



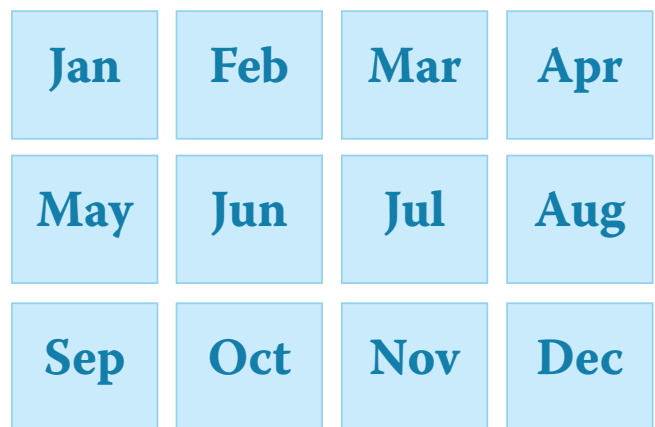
UCC Wisconsin Confirmation Retreat

W1010 Spring Grove Rd
Ripon, WI
Daycholah Center



Ash Wednesday St. John's Church

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



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.

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:

Wednesday's 10:00am - Noon
239.994.2528
pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

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St. John's

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Church Office:

stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

Newsletter:

stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com

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