

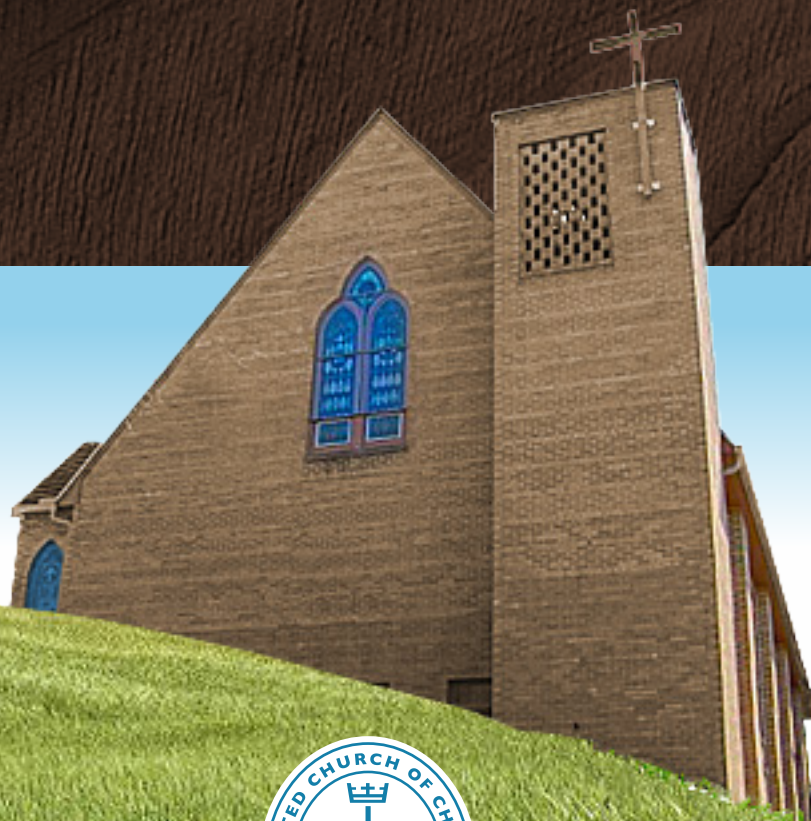


St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

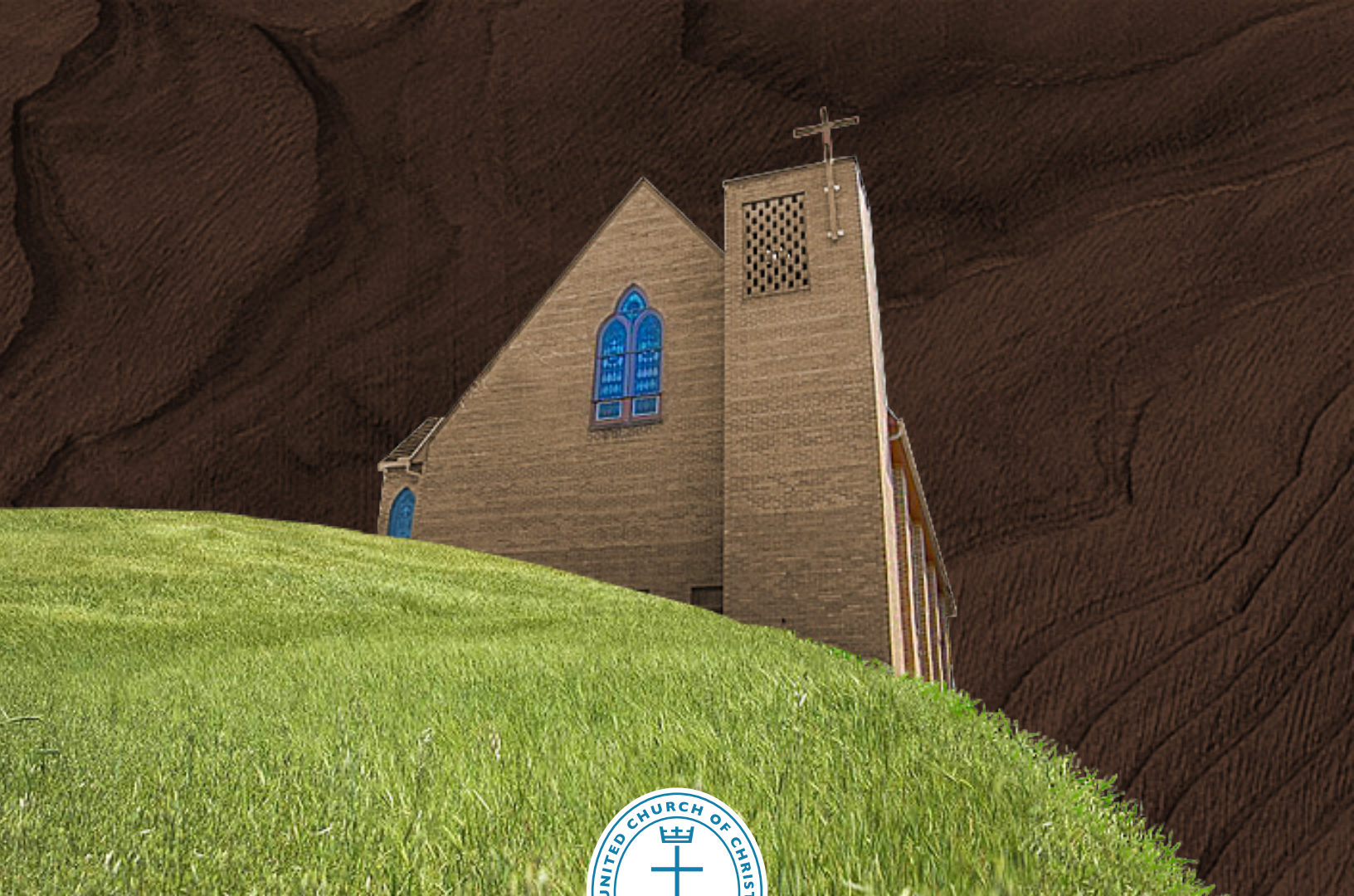
SJC Issue 0226 - February 2026



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

February 2026

We will start Lent on February 18 with an Ash Wednesday service at 6:30pm at St. John's Church. Those who wish can receive ashes on their forehead or back of a hand. Elsewhere in this newsletter are possible options for Lenten studies for you to consider.

I see Lent as an invitation to reflect and look around. These seven weeks encourage Christians to reflect: reflect on where they are and where they want to be as Christians. More importantly it is a time to look for all the little and large ways death invades our lives and world. Bad habits that injure us or others. Values that don't align with our understanding of who Jesus is and what God desires. One customary spiritual practice during this time is to give something up.

Some think of Lent as another shot at failed New Year resolutions. Another time to try to give up sugar, smoking etc. Others see it as a time to sacrifice something we intend to pick up again once Easter comes. (Oreos, especially double-stuffed, were what I gave up for several Lents.) Still others see it as making a sacrifice to honor Jesus' own. While these have merit, I feel they don't fully capture the spirit of "fasting" that the practice entails.

We are invited to give up something so that we have more for God. More time, devotion, and resources. Examples are giving up to-go coffee so that one can give that money to help those facing financial challenges (which is why 'alms giving' is another practice of Lent.) Giving up social media so that time can be spent in Bible reading, study or prayer, or in spending time helping others. Giving up swearing so that you make space to be more loving toward our neighbor as Jesus commands. Making room for the new life that comes from God that we celebrate Easter morning.

The paradox is that we are invited to give up something so that we gain so much more. We gain a deeper relationship with God.

Continue...

Letter From The Pastor

February 2026

We may realize at a deeper level that we are beloved by God, who through Christ comes to be with us, as one of us, even experiencing death. The God who does for us what we could not, cannot do for ourselves. We gain the opportunity to love our neighbors, expanding our understanding of who our neighbor really is (hint- it's everyone.)

These aren't prizes or rewards. It doesn't amass brownie points for us to bank so that we spend eternity with God. It is about allowing room for God's love and grace to grow within us; for our love of God and others to expand. At a time when it can feel as if too many in the world are making room to grow more chaos and despair, giving up something (or taking something up) to make room for God's love of all doesn't seem like such a bad idea.

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

P.S. I write this as many are troubled by what is happening in Minnesota, including the deaths of Renee Good and Alex Prette. I feel such thoughts should be part of a conversation or a sermon where people can easily share their thoughts with me in return, not a brief article in a newsletter. Do know that I pray for God's love, justice and reconciliation to come to this time, to Minnesota, as well as this nation and world.

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

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, February 1, 2026



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



Annual Meeting

The St. John's Church Annual Meeting will be after Sunday Worship Service.

Sunday, February 1, 2026

- ✓ Annual Meeting @ After Worship
 - ✓ Fountain City, WI
-

Consistory Meeting

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

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

- ✓ Consistory Meeting @ 6:00pm
 - ✓ Fountain City, WI
-

Ash Wednesday

The St. John's Ash Wednesday will start at 6:30pm in Fountain City, Wisconsin.

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

- ✓ Starts @ 6:30pm
 - ✓ Fountain City, WI
-

Lenten Study

Lenten Studies Being Offered

Pastor Deb will offer a five-or six-week Lenten Study starting the week of February 22, 2026 at St. John's Church for both congregations.

The Three Possible Options Pastor Deb May Present:

“The Last Supper”

Explores the parables and stories Jesus told at tables along the way to his final meal.

“An Unlikely Lent Extraordinary People of the Easter Story”

The resurrection was not witnessed in isolation; it unfolded before a crowd. What might the stories of those women and men teach us today?

“The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels”

Each Gospel offers a different lens through which we understand Jesus' Passion.. These different perspectives aren't a reason to dismiss the Gospels; rather they reveal an abundant, diverse, and complementary picture of God's work in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The options are based on books which Pastor Deb will have available for purchase.

Possible Day & Time

Please check all that work - All held at St. John's Church in Fountain City, Wisconsin.

Tuesdays:.....1:30pm-3:00pm

Tuesdays:.....6:00pm-7:30pm

Thursdays:.....10:00am-11:30am

Thursdays:.....5:30pm-7:00pm

Sundays:Noon-1:30pm

Please email Pastor Deb at pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com the options and times you are interested in. She will announce the final Lenten Study by February 8, 2026.

Food Shelf

Businesses Of The Month: Girl Scouts

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

Girl Scouts | Linda Hesch, Troup Leader

Thank you very much!




St. John's
United Church of Christ

girl scouts 

Food Shelf

Businesses Of The Month: C-FC PTO

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

C-FC PTO | Fountain 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 | Fountain City, Wisconsin

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 | Fountain City, Wisconsin

Thank you very much!




St. John's
United Church of Christ

Tres Ecclesiae

Food Shelf

Businesses Of The Month: The Matthias & Nehemiah Little Free Pantry

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

The Matthias & Nehemiah Little Free Pantry | Alma & Cochane, Wisconsin

Thank you very much!



C-FC Area Food Shelf

Report For January 2026

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 past year 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 | ✓ Spam |
| ✓ Canned Frosting | ✓ V8/Tomato Juice | ✓ Salad Dressing |
| ✓ Instant Oatmeal | ✓ Boost | ✓ Ketchup |
| ✓ Cereal (Healthier) | ✓ Ensure | ✓ BBQ Sauce |

1st & 3rd Monday: 4:30pm - 6:30pm
2nd & 4th Wednesday: 3:00pm - 5:00pm



- ✓ 1704 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 30 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 57 Total People Helped
- ✓ 13 Children
- ✓ 25 Adults
- ✓ 19 Seniors
- ✓ 29 Households (8 Came Twice)

Volunteers: February

Ushers

Bill Krause, Brady Krause, & Adam Krause

Greeters

02.01.26 Karen Pehler

02.08.26 Faye Strelow & Ron Novak

02.15.26 Neal & Diane Schaffner

02.22.26 Mary Schmitt & Karen Knospe

03.01.26 Randy & Judy Boehm

Counters

Cindy Ziegler

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.

St. John's Church
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303 S Hill Street
Fountain City, WI

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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

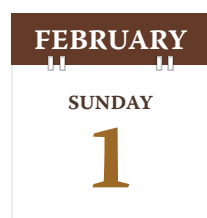
Carl & Sara Brommerich

Dan & Karen Knospe

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 @ 6:00pm



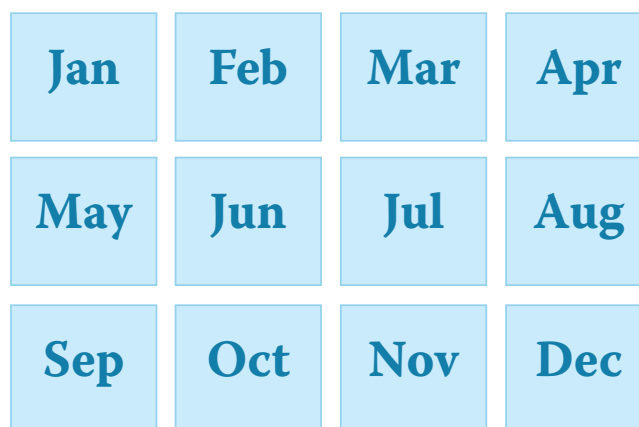
Ash Wednesday St. John's Church

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



Lenten Study St. John's Church

303 S Hill Street
Fountain City, WI
Schedule TBA



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

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United Church of Christ
303 S Hill Street, PO Box 130
Fountain City, WI 54629-0130

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St. John's

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Church Office:

stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

Newsletter:

stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com

Pastor Deb's Office Hours:

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

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