

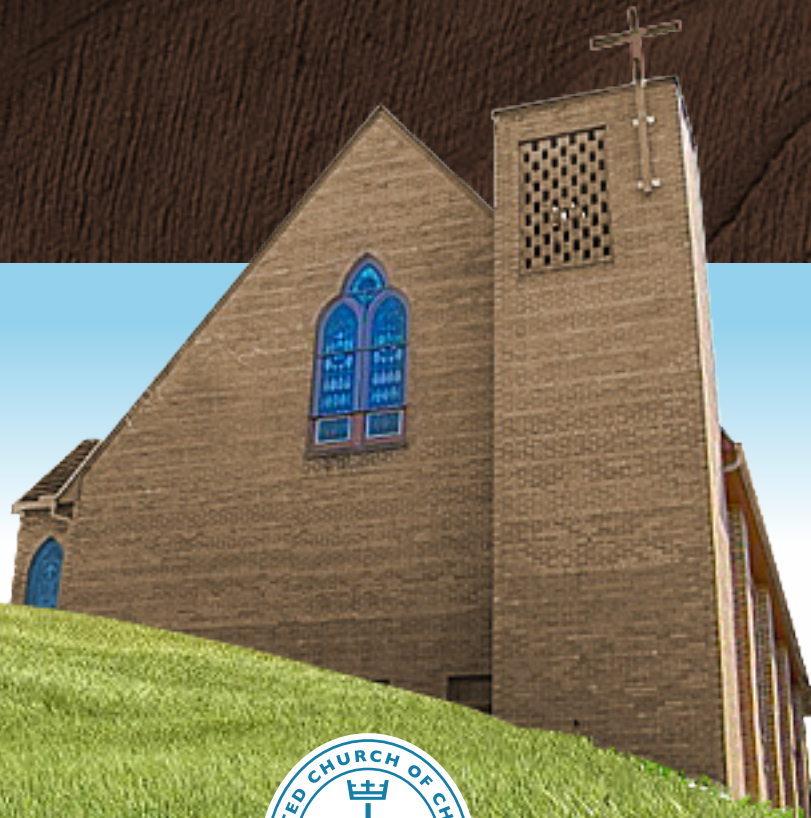


**St. John's**

United Church of Christ

# Digital Newsletter

**SJC Issue 0524 - May 2024**

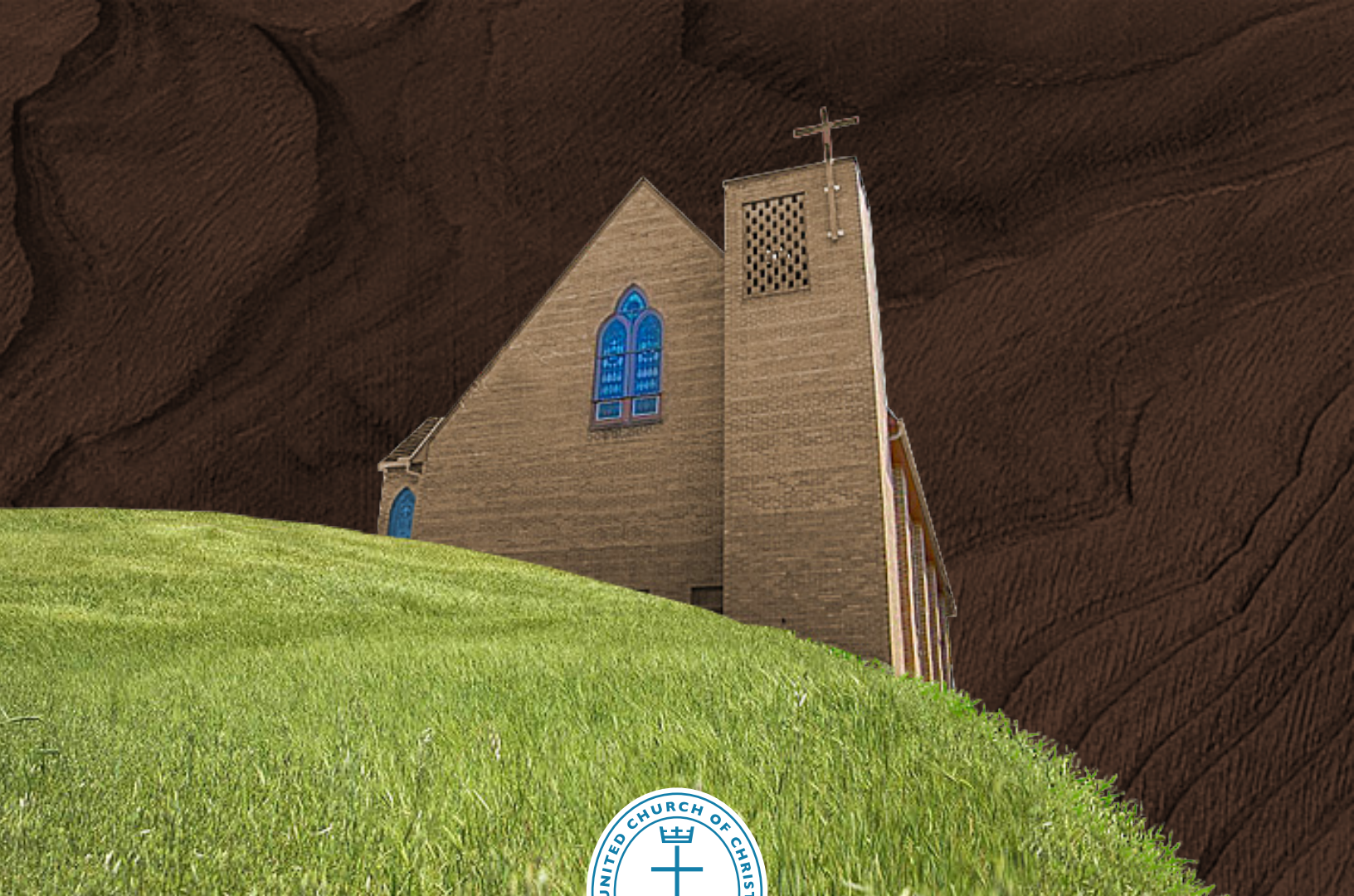


**[stjohnsfzwi.org](http://stjohnsfzwi.org)**

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**

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

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

# Letter From The Pastor

May 2024

This month's letter from me is a little different. I want to provide an update on some decisions my husband and I have made regarding his ongoing health care while I continue as your Pastor.

As most of you know, my husband has a form of arthritis that has left him on disability for most of our marriage. His original diagnosis predicted he would be in a wheelchair by the age of 35, and thankfully that still has not happened even though we are both well past that age. Yet it still has been degenerative, and has led to other related health challenges.

The modifications you made in the parsonage before we moved have been a significant help, especially in these last six months. We are grateful. However, over the last year the chronic, degenerative nature of his illness has taken another step down. He has reached a point where he needs further assistance than I can currently provide at home if he is to have a good quality of life. We knew that he would get to this stage at some point, just not when it would be.

After much prayer and discussion together we both agree that I still have ministry to do here with your two churches. Therefore we are currently looking for an assisted living facility in Winona that provides the level of assistance that he needs, which includes the ability to assist in transfers when he is in a flare up. It is possible that we may have to broaden the search to LaCrosse. Our last resort would be for him to return to Florida to an assisted living facility there, while I remain here until I retire, or you get tired of me. I shared this with the joint Consistory meeting in April with St. Johns and Hope's leadership.

**I share this for several reasons:**

1) I believe in being as transparent as possible and appropriate with the congregations. There is less chance for misunderstandings this way.

2) Related to this, if you remember playing the game of "telephone", you understand how messages convey through multiple times and multiple ways become nothing like what was originally shared.

Continued on next page...



# Letter From The Pastor

**May 2024**

So if you start hearing about “Pastor Deb’s husband is moving out” or “Pastor Deb and her husband are separating”, you know what is really happening. (Ask me sometime to share the story of how in one church people were looking at me strange when I came in all happy to church one Sunday because they had heard my husband had “died”- which he certainly did not. I don’t want a similar occurrence of misunderstanding here.)

3) We have made this choice in order that I can continue here. I feel that we still have much to offer each other, and I am not ready to leave here, or take an early retirement. It is our intention that this decision will extend my time in ministry here.

4) Once we do find a place, it may necessitate me taking time off on short notice.

5) There may be a tendency to think “I don’t want to bother Pastor Deb with this- she’s got so much on her plate.” Please ask. After over three decades of helping my husband, and over two decades of ministry, I have learned when I am reaching my limit. Please trust I will let you know if I am unable to meet a particular ask, or if I need assistance in meeting my responsibilities to you. I love ministry, and I love being your pastor, and it gives me joy. I will remain at the parsonage. This makes sense due to its proximity to the two churches and your members.

Many of you have already walked a similar path or are in the midst of considering similar decisions for your loved ones or yourself. My husband and I are not unique. I hope that we are also not unique in our faith that even in the most difficult decisions, and the inevitable changes in life, we have a God of love who desires a good and joyful life for all God’s family. And as God did with raising Jesus from the dead, God’s love will not abandon you even in times of pain, or challenges. For like the Apostle Paul, I firmly believe and have experienced that nothing, absolutely nothing, is able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus.

God’s grace and peace.

**Pastor Deb Kunkel**

# The Cake Auction Is Back!

**Sunday, May 5, 2024**

Bring your checkbooks and your appetites with you for the Annual Cake Auction which will be held in Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Tasty cakes, pies, and other goodies will be available for purchase. We look forward to your participation in baking and bidding. This is one of our favorite events & proceeds go to our Sunday School Program. A light lunch will be served by your Christian Education Committee.



# Consistory President Message

**May 2024**

It's been several years since I had the opportunity to serve St. John's as its president so please bare with me as I once again get into the groove.

I would like to start by THANKING Dale for the great job he did over the last six years! His patience and determination led our church through the most troublesome time in my 74 years of belonging to this church. Many things have changed, many policies rewritten, many things learned and more changes are forth coming. May God be with us as we slowly make the necessary changes to get and keep our church strong.

On another subject, we still have some vacancies on a couple of committees, those being the deacons(two people needed) and the investment (one person needed). We really need to have these positions filled as soon as possible so our church can function as good as possible. Pastor Deb or myself would be most happy to answer any questions you might have.

On another note, the consistory is beginning to study making structural changes to our constitution. These changes will stream line how our church works and in the process "modernize" it. The last time the constitution was updated was when pastor Fritz West was here.

The trustees are dealing with a collapsing parking lot wall. the south side parking lot wall has a HUGE bulge in it. A study committee has been formed to study the problem and possible solutions. The members are the trustees, also included are Randy Bohm, Paul Duellman and myself.

Wednesday, April 17 a joint consistory was held at Hope. Discussed were church time changes (Sunday, July 7) and the next joint meeting Wednesday, October 9 which will include finance negotiations for pastor.

One last item... it was decided that the church needs a good clean out and inventory of church property.

Continued on next page...

# Consistory President Message

**May 2024**

To accomplish this, it was decided to do it in place of a Sunday morning worship service; this is what is called a “hands on” worship thanking God for what He has given us over the years and also where these things are located in the church building. Upon completion, a list will be compiled and kept in the church office for everyone’s use.

Any questions about anything, please call... if I don’t know, I will do my best to find out.

Hope everyone has a great month of May.

God’s grace and peace.

**Steve Prussing**

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
PO Box 130  
Church: 608.687.3277  
Cell: 239.994.2528



# 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, May 5, 2024**



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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)**





# Leadership Positions

## Leadership Positions Are Available For 2024

St. John's Church is seeking the following Leadership Positions for the upcoming year. Please contact us if you are interested!

- ✓ **PRESIDENT (Steve Prussing)**
- ✓ **TREASURER (Dale Schmidtknecht)**
- ✓ **DEACON (Dale Schaffner)**  
**DEACON (Open Position)**
- ✓ **INVESTMENT (Randy Boehm)**
- ✓ **INVESTMENT (John Stettler)**  
**INVESTMENT (Open Position)**
- ✓ **SMAT (Linda Clark)**

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**Volunteers Are Needed...**  
**Contact Us Today To Volunteer For Any Open Position.**

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# Confirmation Sunday

**Sunday, May 12, 2024 @ 10:30am**

Please join parents, mentors, and families as we celebrate our students affirmation of their baptismal vows and as they join as members of our congregation during the Sunday, May 12th worship service. The worship service will be followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall immediately after the service to give St. John members an opportunity to congratulate our newest Confirmands (and there will be a cake to share.)

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

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# Baccalaureate Sunday

**Sunday, June 2, 2024 @ 10:30am**

We will celebrate St. Johns' graduates from High School, Tech or Vocational Schools, Colleges, and Postgraduate degree recipients on Sunday June 2 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please let Pastor Deb know of any graduates in your immediate family even if they are unable to attend that day so she may include them by name in her blessing. Fellowship after the service will be in honor of our graduates so you can offer your personal congratulations to any graduates present, and share in cake.

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

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# 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.)



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## Stewardship

### Stewardship Moment from the Deacons

Stewardship is as important in today as it is in December.

From the Stewardship Theme last year we are reminded that stewardship is all year long.

**“Because of You our Church changes lives”.**

~ St John’s Church



# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: Alliance Bank

✓ 03.29.24

A shout out to Alliance Bank here in Cochrane for thinking of the Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf for their Jeans for Charity this quarter! The wonderful donation of food and \$452.06 in cash is much appreciated! Thank you!





# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: St Mary's Catholic Church

✓ 03.01.24

The Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf was fortunate to receive a wonderful donation of a pull wagon, paper and plastic bags, and generous food donation from our neighbors up the street at St Mary's Catholic Church. We really do appreciate their generosity! Thank you!



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

*Tres Ecclesiae*



# Food Shelf

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

✓ 01.22.24

Eric Horstman from St Michael's Lutheran Church in Fountain City, just down the street, brought in a wonderful monetary donation and food items they had collected at their Brass Concert in December. Thank you again for all the support.





# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: Waumandee State Bank

✓ 12.18.23

Thanks to Waumandee State Bank for their donation along with cookies and milk for our volunteers! Left to Right: Vice President and Branch manager Heather Grotjahn presents a donation of \$250.00 to the Linda Clark of the Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf.



# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: C-FC Parent Teacher Organization

✓ 12.15.23

We would like to thank Karla Patzner and the C-FC Parent Teacher Organization for collecting food at the Holiday Craft Fair at school in December. These donations help the Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf are appreciated.



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

**PTO** 



# Food Shelf

## Businesses Of The Month: The Grove Golf Course

✓ 12.04.23

A big thank you to The Grove Golf Course for thinking of the Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf. They collected food during their 1st Annual Grove Gobbler Run/Walk Event! These donations are much appreciated.



# C-FC Area Food Shelf

## Report For April 2024

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 bin at church by coat rack 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**



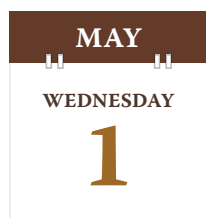
- ✓ 1082 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 19 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 57 Total People Helped
- ✓ 07 Children
- ✓ 32 Adults
- ✓ 18 Seniors
- ✓ 26 Households (6 Came Twice)



# Choir Practice

## 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Of The Month

St. John's Church will have Choir Practice on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays Of The Month starting at 6:30pm in Fountain City, WI. Do you have ideas of things the Choir could try? Please share your thoughts on new ideas for musical offerings for our congregation. Please contact us with any questions or comments.



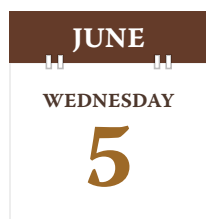
### St. John's Church Choir Practice

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



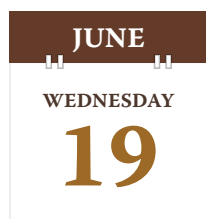
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303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 6:30pm



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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: May

## Ushers

Steve Prussing, R. Boehm, J. Boehm, Sue Prussing

## Greeters

05.05.24 Karen Pehler

05.12.24 John & Naomi Schmidtknecht

05.19.24 Erick & Liz Hoffmaster

05.26.24 Dave & Sue Schaffner

06.02.24 Dale & LuAnn Schmidtknecht

## Counters

Sandy & Tom Ruben

## Communion & Flowers

Sherry Guenther

# 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

Faye Conners

Riley Ratz

Bert Schaffner

Ivy Mohlke

Beverly Engel

Michelle Holliman

Don Stettler

John Stettler

Paul Ehmcke

Jan Schaffner

Kashes Franz

Jo Muench

Sandy Ruben

Byron Hoch

Kathy Bowman

Angeli Engel

Luke Schaffner

Tyson Ely

Blake Maier

Chelsea Clark

Deanna Wiersgalla

Loren Ziegler

Mike Schmidtknecht

Tina Schowalter

Jacob Jandro

Gunner Eckelberg

Jeanne Fugina

Ken Engel

Carl Brommerich

## Anniversaries

Paul & Ruth Ehmcke

Marvin & Carol Colbenson

Mark & Tiffany Schaffner

Brian & Lisa Wolfe

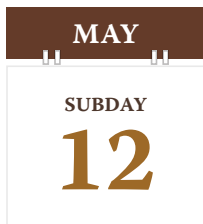
Neal & Diane Schaffner



# 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 Sunday Service

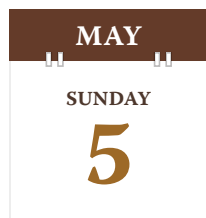
During Service  
St. John's Church  
Education



# Other Special Events

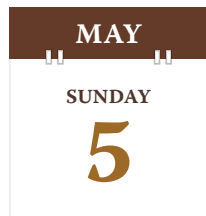
## St. John's Church

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.



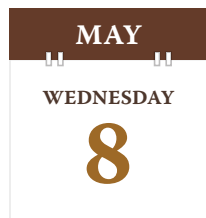
### **Penny Collection St. John's Church**

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



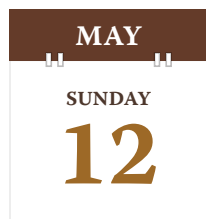
### **Church Cake Auction St. John's Church**

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
After Worship



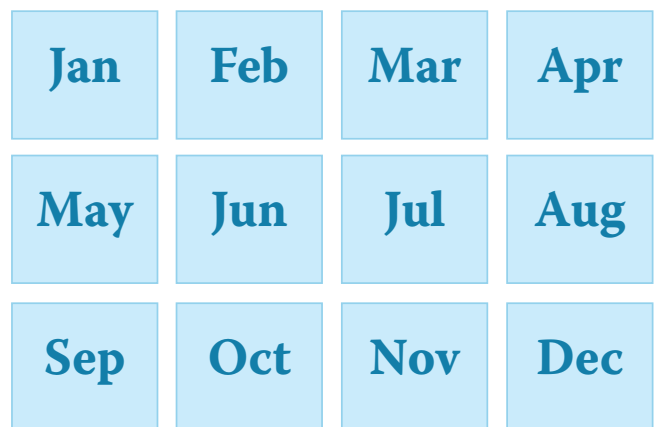
### **Consistory Meeting St. John's Church**

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



### **Confirmation Sunday St. John's Church**

Hope United Church  
Cochrane, WI  
Worship @ 10:30am

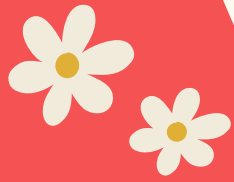


## Online Calendar

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)**





# VOLUNTEER DRIVER OPPORTUNITY



**Buffalo & Pepin Counties Transportation Program provides non-emergency transportation for those who do not have access to transportation.**

**This is a unique, personal and flexible volunteer opportunity that works around YOUR schedule.**

**Volunteer drivers receive a mileage reimbursement of \$0.67 per mile when using your own vehicle**

**\*NEW\***

**EASY TO APPLY ONLINE**

**[HTTPS://WWW.ADRC-BCP.COM/VOLUNTEER](https://www.adrc-bcp.com/volunteer)**



*Aging and Disability Resource Center  
of Buffalo and Pepin Counties*

**QUESTIONS: CONTACT ANGIE SCHLOSSER  
715-672-8941 EXT 187 OR EMAIL  
ASCHLOSSER@CO.PEPIN.WI.US**

The ADRC of Buffalo & Pepin Counties does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, sex, age, religion, income status or limited English proficiency (LEP). For more information and on the procedures to file a complaint, contact 866-578-2372, (for hearing impaired, please use Wisconsin Relay 711 service) If Information is needed in another language, contact 866-578-2372

# 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

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:

Wednesday's 10:00am - Noon

239.994.2528

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



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