

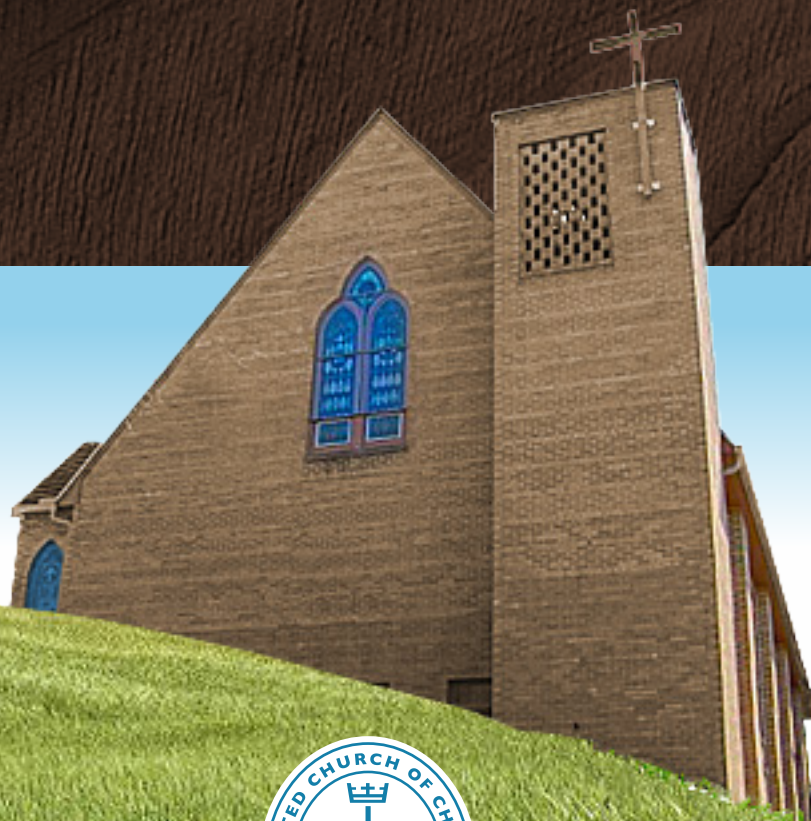


**St. John's**

United Church of Christ

# Digital Newsletter

**SJC Issue 0725 - July 2025**

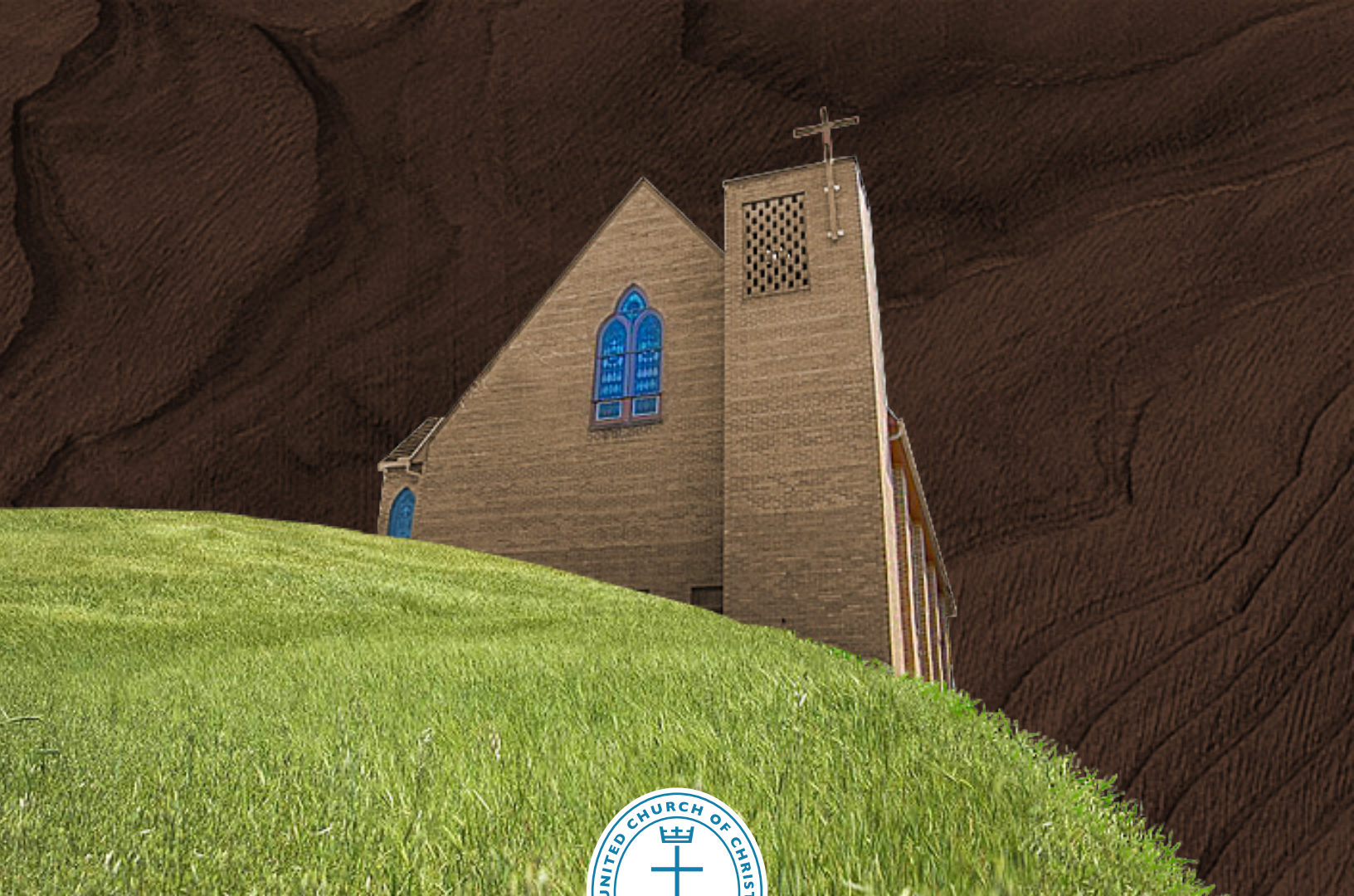


**[stjohnsfcwi.org](http://stjohnsfcwi.org)**

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!

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# Letter From The Pastor

July 2025

## Worship Time Change Starting July 6, 2025

Worship time will be at 10:30am for the next twelve months.

I am happy to report that after a year of hard work and prayer by the task force to review the congregation's current Constitution and By-laws, it is time for the congregation to vote on accepting the revisions. To that end we will be holding a Special Church Meeting after worship on Sunday, July 27, 2025.

For those who have not had a chance to review these changes, drafts of the proposed changes as well as an overview summary are available on the same table as bulletins in the church, or by contacting the church office.

The task force held two informational sessions introducing the changes, discussing the process and answering questions. There were two questions that came up repeatedly. Below I expand on the answers I provided for those who might also wonder about these things.

**1) The proposed By-laws combine most boards and committees into the Consistory. This means that there would no longer be Elders. So who can serve communion? Don't we need Elders to do this according to the UCC?**

The short answer is no, there is no requirement in the UCC.

The longer answer is still no. This tradition of Elders as the only servers alongside the pastor for communion comes from the biblical tradition in the early church. Then communion was part of each week's gathering around a full meal. It was incorporated as part of the meal, passing of the communal cup and bread that were also present at any shared meal during the week. These weekly meals were attended by followers from a range of social and economic statuses.

Continued...

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# Letter From The Pastor

July 2025

The disciples, noting that too often those of higher social or economic status would insist on going first, over fill and leave little to nothing the rest, began appointing Deacons (what some churches came to call Elders.) It was the Deacons responsibility to ensure that those who might be pushed aside were served their fair share of the whole meal.

As the act of communion became separated from a full meal, high liturgy or pastor centered traditions began to associate Deacons or Elders as the being the ones either worthy or rightly trained to serve communion alongside the pastor. Sometimes they would be and still are held to higher standards than the rest of the membership: for example required to attend each week plus holy days, be part of weekly bible studies or prayer sessions, and/or maintain a “tithe” of giving 10% of their income to the church (or higher) proven by making their yearly income known to the Pastor or to the other Deacons/Elders.

In the German Evangelical and Reformed traditions that became part of the UCC there is a tradition of “ordained” Elders being the ones who prepare and serve communion with the Pastor. Each congregation can choose how they want to do this along with their pastor.

However, this is ultimately each congregation’s decision.

**2) What is this new membership classification “Emeritus Member”? Is this just a fancy way that keeps a long time member who can’t come any more from being a member?**

NO! In fact it is the opposite. It is a way to honor and appreciate the service to the congregation of members who due to age or infirmity can no longer attend, contribute or participate in the life of the church.

Continued...



# Letter From The Pastor

July 2025

This was my idea (Pastor Deb) to honor our long term members, without forcing us to move them to inactive. I don't know if any other church does this. It is based on my experience of churches designating a previous pastor as a Pastor Emeritus- usual one who had significant impact on the life of the church- often the founding pastor or one who has gotten them through a time of significant change or challenge. This is an honorary title bestowed upon a pastor who has retired or concluded their active service to a church, while still being recognized for their past leadership and spiritual guidance. This designation acknowledges the pastor's faithful service and allows them to maintain a connection with the church without the responsibilities of active ministry.

The congregation regularly reviews membership rolls and reaches out to those who have not participated in a certain period of time inquiring if the individual wishes to continue their member. If there is no response or they request removal from the rolls because they can no longer participate and aren't able to join another church, then the Consistory can decide to instead designate them as Emeritus Member. This assumes that they have not been able to exercise their voice and vote in a significant time and will not regain this ability (it doesn't take away any voice or vote but acknowledges an ongoing reality.) However it allows them access to the same pastoral services as a member, including but not limited to pastoral visits, funerals, and other congregational support as a member. Anyone who is still supporting, actively participating in the life of the congregation or attending services cannot be moved to this designation – just as they could not be designated as inactive. If you have other questions or comments, please reach out to members of the task force.

God's grace and peace.

**Pastor Deb Kunkel**

St. John's Church  
Fountain City, WI

# Worship Time Change:

**Sunday, July 6, 2025 @ 10:30am**

Starting on Sunday, July 6, 2025 the new St. John's Church Sunday Worship Service start time will be 10:30am in the morning. St. John's Church is Located in Fountain City, Wisconsin. We look forward to worshipping with you!

Please contact us if you have any questions.

~ St John's Church



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## Consistory Meeting

**Wednesday, July 23, 2025 @ 6:00pm**

Special July Start Time (July Only)

Regular Schedule Returning In August

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

~ St John's Church



# Eagle Valley Church

**Saturday, July 26, 2025 @ 7:00pm**

There will be an open invitation for all members of St. John's Church and Hope United Church to attend on Saturday, July 26, 2025 at 7:00pm.

## **Saturday Evening July Service**

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



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## Rhubarb Fest

### **Thank You!**

Thank you to everyone that participated in our bake sale at the Rhubarb Fest. Morning inclimate weather didn't stop shoppers from buying from our bake stand. We will provide more details on the fundraiser soon. Thank you to all involved.

~ Women's Guild of St. John's church.

# 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, July 6, 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)**





# C-FC Area Food Shelf

## Report For June 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 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**



- ✓ 415 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 12 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 34 Total People Helped
- ✓ 08 Children
- ✓ 10 Adults
- ✓ 16 Seniors
- ✓ 5 Households (2 Came Twice)



## Most Needed Donation Items For July 2025

- ✓ Healthier Cereal
- ✓ Brownie Mixes

- ✓ Muffin Mixes
- ✓ Stew

- ✓ Canned Brown Beans  
Varieties & Size Cans

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.

# Volunteers: July

## Ushers

Tom Ruben, Sandy Ruben

## Greeters

07.06.25 Randy & Lori Maier

07.13.25 Keven & Heidi Wachowiak Family

07.20.25 Dawn Fiedler

07.27.25 Vira Mae Engel

08.03.25 Cindy Ziegler & Mary Aus

## Counters

Larry & Jo Muench

## Communion & Flowers

Joanne Muench

# 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

David Korb

Karissa St. Aubin

Samuel Ritscher

Bruce Malotke

Marvin Colbenson

Tyler Engelmann

Carrie Ziegler

Arden Hayter

Steve Prussing

Maverick Morse

Jolene Engel

Bill Krause

Angela Beck

Grant Yapp

Kendra Ritscher

Lori Maier

Judy Boehm

Lane Moore

Lilly Scheel

Eliana Krause

## Anniversaries

Eric & Jan Schaffner

Jessie & Emily Scheel

David & Jeanne Fugina

Curt & Danielle Fetting

Weldon & Cheryl Kuhn

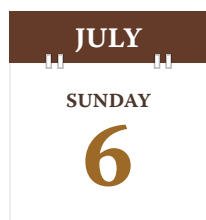
David & Sharon Korb



# 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



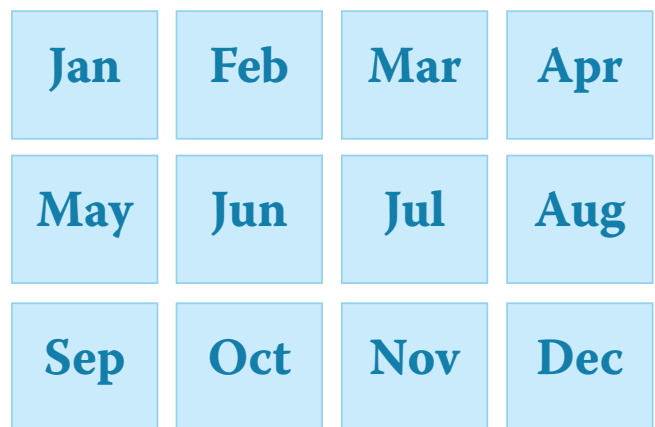
### **Vespers Service Eagle Valley Church**

S2664 Co Rd G  
Fountain City, WI  
Starts @ 7:00pm



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

303 S Hill Street  
Fountain City, WI  
After Worship



## 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)



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

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