



St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

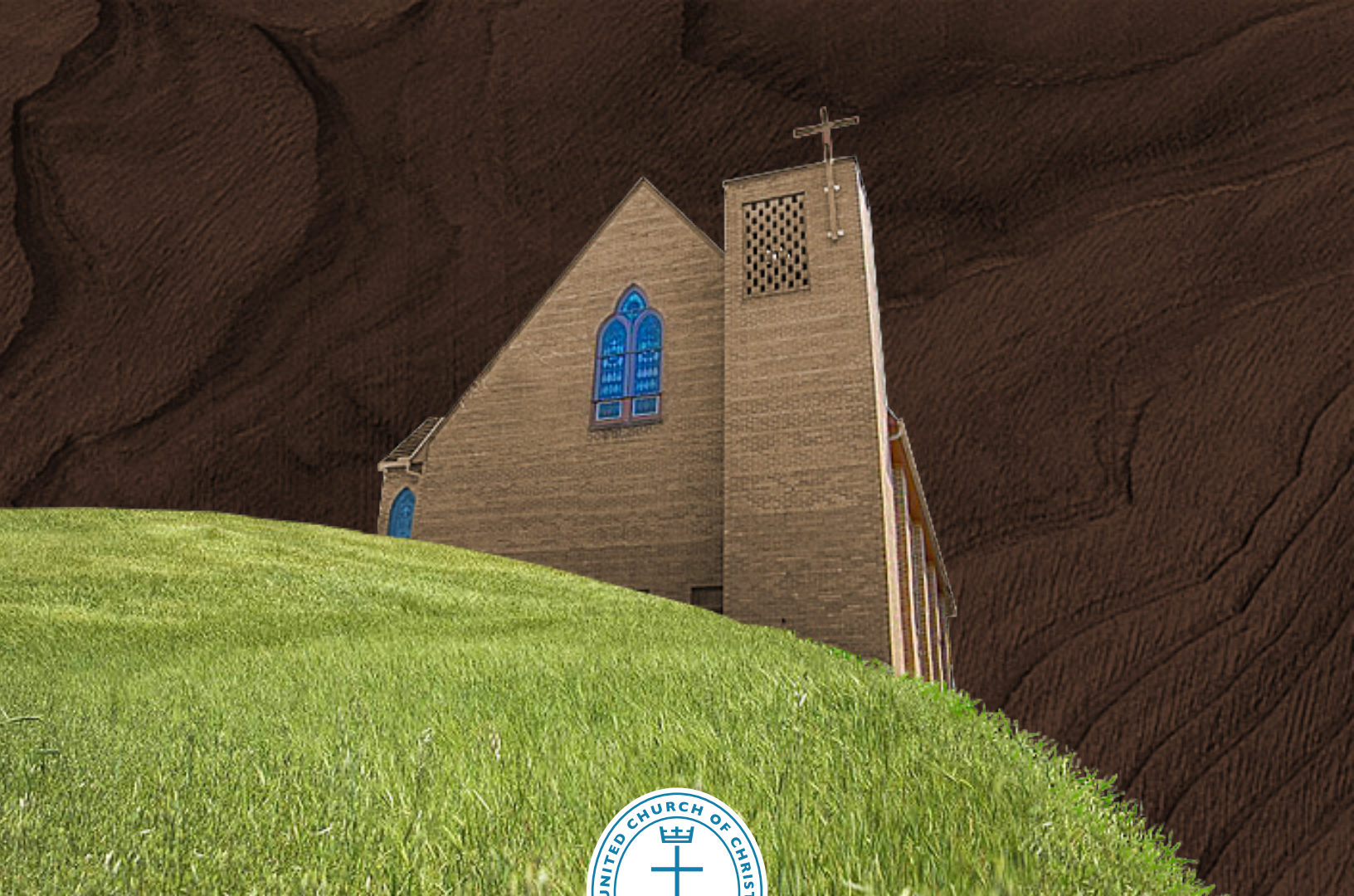
SJC Issue 0824 - August 2024



stjohnsfcwi.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

August 2024

I just received the last of the emails from the 31 Days with St. Ignatius, a month-long celebration of Ignatian spirituality*. Each week I received an email with a link for the following seven days to a short article, blog post, or video related to some aspect of this centuries old Christian Spiritual path. One particular article spoke to me. It is by Loretta Pehanich, entitled “Just One of Things”. Whenever Loretta went to her grandmother with a problem or dilemma with which her grandmother empathized, but didn’t have a solution to offer, she tell Loretta: “It’s just one of those things.” Today, when Loretta is confronted with a flaw or failure, she hears those words when she would prefer to jump into a way to “fix” it

“...rather than sit uncomfortably with my weakness. I feel ashamed of destructive words I’ve spoken to loved ones. Why can’t I figure out remedies to my failures and ways to un-say hasty words? But time can’t be rewound. And I know God doesn’t want me to sit in shame over past mistakes. God wants me to love myself despite my failings... Rather than turn to love, I’m tempted to self-absorption and wheel-spinning over ways I might overhaul things. Or I might deny I caused harm and shove my culpability under a rock.”

Can you relate? I know I can. Its uncomfortable to admit that I am wrong, that I have hurt others out of my own hurt, or just plain failed. So I want to fix it as soon as possible. As Lorraine puts it, sometimes we are broken, or as Henri Nouwen said, wounded – and we’d rather not be. Where is the beauty and good in that. However if we can admit our failures or brokenness, often we are surprised:

“.... discovered is that when I dare to tell the truth about my failures, people feel safe to be honest about theirs. Healing, compassion, and a growing closeness result. It’s miraculous. Our culture values independence (in the sense of not asking for help) and pride.... Pride leads to other vices and leads me to feel that I alone must fight against my flaws. I can do it. I can control it. I. I. I. Humility, on the other hand, tells us to surrender. We aren’t to see life as a battle and exhaust ourselves with thrashing about.”

Letter From The Pastor

August 2024

Ah, surrender. Not a particular popular word- we associate it with failure, defeat. But surrender also means acceptance of what is, to stop beating our heads against a wall that will never budge. Surrender allows space for God to work and for us to recognize what God is already doing in our lives. For as Lorraine discovered:

“Acceptance trusts that Jesus, the source of my strength, will get me through whatever will happen. Things won’t magically change, but I may change. Graces will flow when I trust God. And I can respond to the nagging voice inside that claims that because of my woundedness, I’m not worthy: “So what? I am broken! That is what I am, and I am loved...God takes my brokenness and transforms it into beauty. It’s just one of those things.”

When we feel broken, wounded. or that we have failed, we may come to the point that we feel that we are failures, that we are capable of being loved by God or others. If we find a few moments each day to look for the good, the beauty that reveals God’s presence in that 24 hour period, we may discover the truth that no matter what, no matter if circumstances or the world around us change or not, we can change. We probably won’t reach perfection; but we will recognize the truth that we are never left on own. For because of God’s love, even our brokenness and failures can be transformed into something beautiful, and a source of grace for others as well as ourselves.

God’s grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

** In brief, Ignatian spirituality is spirituality for busy people with hectic lives, who believe that God is good, so that when we pay attention in each day, we will find God wherever there is beauty, goodness, love and truth. It provides ways (such as the Daily Examen) for us to become more aware of God’s love and presence in our lives, and where God is leading us. The desired result it to deepen our closeness to Jesus and God. The basic tenets of Ignatian spirituality come from Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556). For those interested in learning more, I suggest checking out <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/>*

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, August 4, 2024



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



Eagle Valley Church

Saturday, August 25, 2024 @ 10:00am

There will be an open invitation for all members of St. John's Church and Hope United Church. It will be followed by a picnic and their Annual Meeting. There will not be regular service at Fountain City or Cochrane.

Sunday Morning

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



Rhubarb Fest

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that participated in our bake sale at the Rhubarb Fest. Morning inclement weather didn't stop shoppers from buying from our bake stand. We sold out by 12:30pm with a total of \$416.00. Thank you to all involved.

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

Blessing Of The Animals

Joint Service Invitation

Join us as St. John's Church and Hope United Church comes together for the Annual Pet Blessing Service at Goose Lake Park, next to Hope United Church in Cochrane at 10:30am. Bring pet as we give thanks for all God's creatures. The service will be followed by a potluck.

Pet Blessing services began as a way to honor Francis of Assi, who was known for his love of all God's Creation, from animals to plants to the stars themselves. Stories tell of Francis preaching to attentive ravens, as well as convincing a wolf not to eat the citizens of a village. He is also known for the "Canticle of the Creatures", his work with the poor and lepers, and the founding of the Franciscan Order.

Pastor Deb will bless any animal. They must be in a crate/cage/similar closed container or on a leash/lead. This is for the safety of all the animals as well as people attending. Please also bring with you supplies to clean up any "offerings" your animal might make, though we will have few available.

If you don't feel comfortable bringing your pet or animal, or they are too large to transport for the service, you are invited to bring something that represents them for blessing in their stead. This may be a collar, saddle, lead, blanket, or other item that you associate with your pet or animal. Pastor Deb will also bless any stuffed "animals" that a child might have if desired. There will be dog and cat treats available, as well as a potluck after. This will be the only service for this day for Hope United Church and St. John's Church.

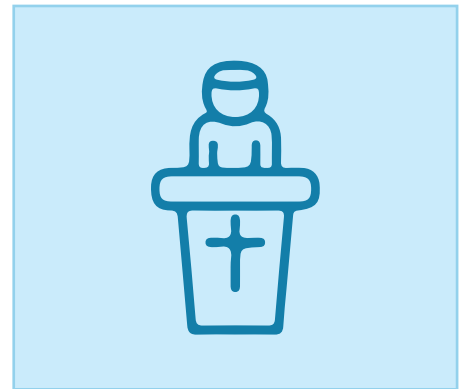
Sunday, September 29, 2024

- ✓ Starts @ 10:30am
- ✓ Goose Lake Park
- ✓ Cochrane, WI

Liturgists & Others Wanted

Do you like to read during the service?

Then you will be happy to know that Pastor Deb is seeking liturgists. 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.)



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



C-FC Area Food Shelf

Report For July 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 spring and summer 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



- ✓ 615 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ 43 Total People Helped
- ✓ Averages 14 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 11 Children
- ✓ 20 Adults
- ✓ 12 Seniors
- ✓ 18 Households (2 Came Twice)

Choir Practice

Do you have ideas?

St. John's Church Choir Practice has ended until next Fall. Please watch this space for the first date. New choir members are welcome to join then or any time during the year. 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.

Thank you to our choir members, director Betsy Miller-Ruben, and accompanists Fay Connors and LuAnn Schmidtke for sharing their gifts over this past year.

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



Volunteers: August

Ushers

Donna Beck, Karen Knospe & Mary Schmitt

Greeters

08.04.24 Cindy Ziegler & Mary Aus

08.11.24 Mike & Heather Schmidtknecht

08.18.24 [Need Volunteers](#)

08.25.24 Eagle Valley Service

09.08.24 Joy & John Klaben

Counters

Dale Schaffner

Communion & Flowers

Faye Strelow & Ron Novak

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

Robin Ruble

Donald Beck

Reed Wiersgalla

Kim Keilholtz

Christian Repinski

Curt Fetting

Taylor Ely

Carol Risley

Xavier Wooden

Lisa Wolfe

Aubrey Ratz

Ally Ryan

Jordan Wachowiak

Bryan Madsen

Anniversaries

Kevin & Heidi Wachowiak

Brian & Carina Semling

Fred & Cindy Ziegler

Rick & Susan Fons

Tom & Carol Risley

Larry & Joanne Muench

Gabe & Karen Pehler

Bob & Sherry Guenther

Jared & Carly Schaffner

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 @ 8:30am



Consistory Meeting St. John's Church

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



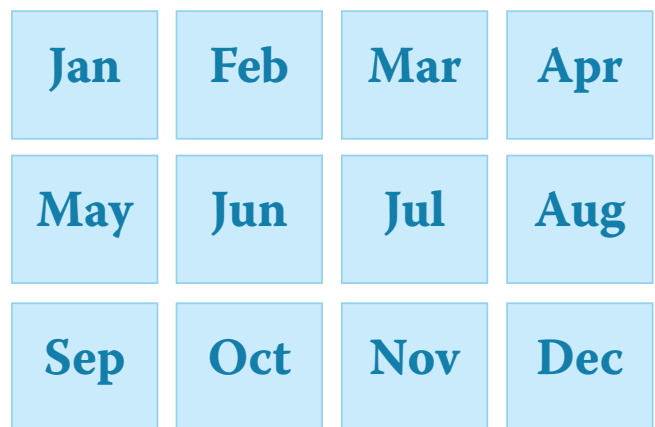
Worship, Meeting & Potluck Eagle Valley Church

S2664 Co Rd G
Fountain City, WI
Worship @ 10:00am



Blessing Of The Animals Hope United Church

Goose Lake Park
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.

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

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info@stjohnsfcwi.org



St. John's

United Church of Christ

Church Office:

stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

Newsletter:

stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com

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Wednesday's 10:00am - Noon

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