



St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

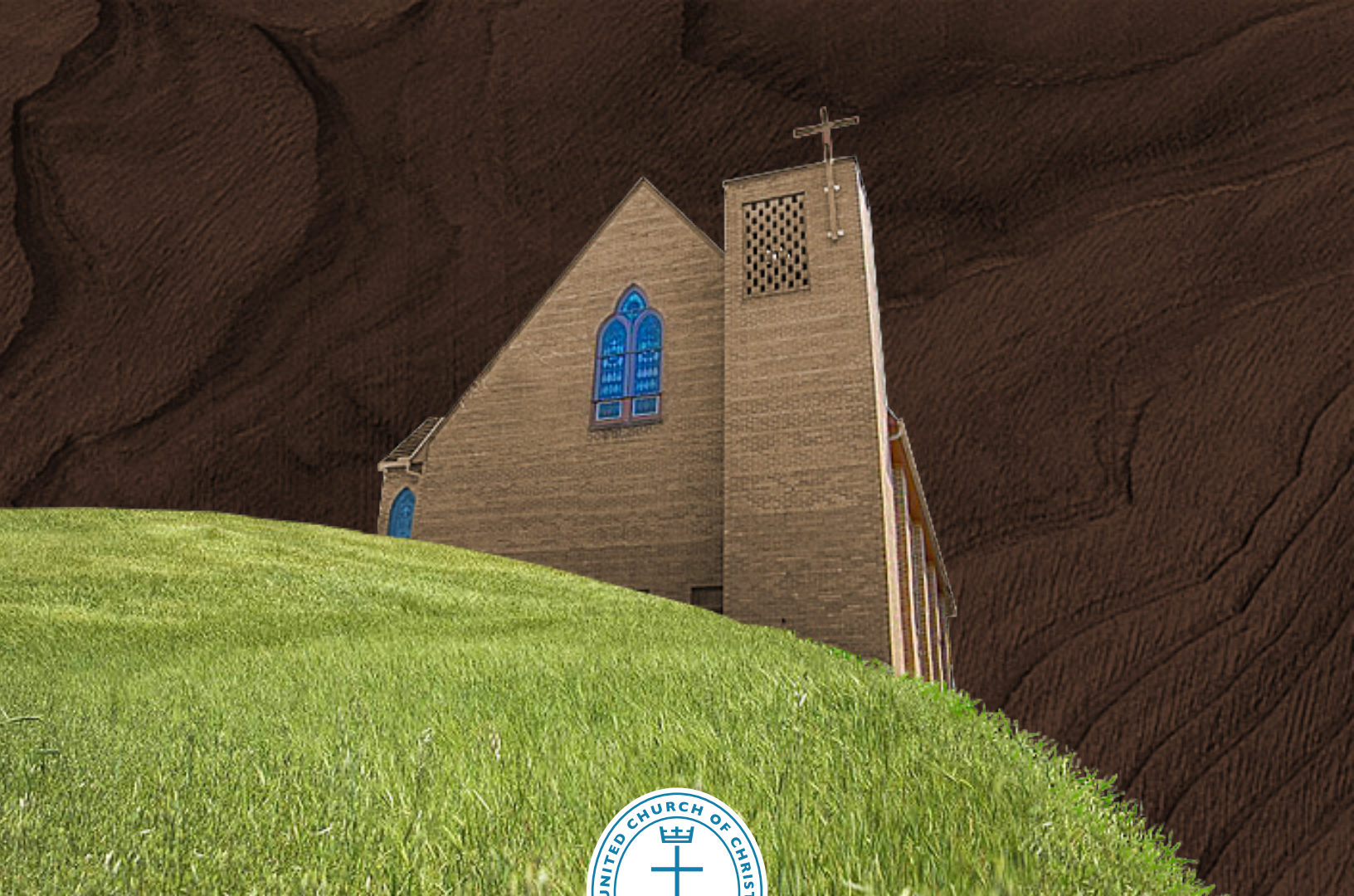
SJC Issue 0825 - August 2025



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!

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Letter From The Pastor

August 2025

At last Sunday's Special Congregational meeting the congregation accepted the updated Constitution and Bylaws. Here are a few details from the process.

1) Thank you to the task forces that worked on this. First a small group reflected on the Purpose Statement in the Constitution. Thank you Karen Knospe, Jessica Osburn, and Stephen Prussing. The new one is:

We are United by our Christian faith, as a Church who worships, learns, and serves together while we follow Christ into our community and world.

2) Then a larger group started meeting in late fall and spent the winter and spring reflecting together, discussing what might need to be updated within each portion of each of these documents. Thank you to Linda Clark, Erick Hoffmaster, Karen Knospe, Cheryl Kuhn, Karen Pehler, Dave Schaffner, Dale and LuAnn Schmidtknecht and John Stettler.

They asked questions such as:

- a) How do our requirements for membership welcome new people, support current members and be faithful to the new Purpose Statement?
- b) What form of governance provides for accountability as well as simplicity in the oversight and administration of the ministries of the congregation? At the same time, how do we nurture participation by members and allow space for the development of new ministries by members as God leads us in the future?

There were several reasons for undertaking this process. One was the one that many congregations of all forms are experiencing; that we don't have as many members as when it was last revised.

Continued...

Letter From The Pastor

August 2025

Secondly, people who are part of churches are different than twenty years ago. Then they wouldn't have had a smartphone in their pocket when they came (both Apple and Android came out after it was previously revised). Other changes have taken place in our culture, society and churches as equally impactful on our faith life as the introduction of the smartphone has been on our habits.

There is a third reason, and the one I'm most excited about: this will allow more members to become active in the ministries and areas of church life that previously required a being a committee or Board member. The congregation can be nimbler in responding when we hear God speaking to us, and where we believe Christ is leading us in a particular moment. Major congregational decisions -such as major capital changes to the building, pastoral changes, and budget expenditures -will still be made by the wider congregation.

The Consistory is accountable for assuring the necessary and faith growing tasks of the congregation are getting done, as well as appropriate steps are being taken to live out the congregation's vision. They won't be required to be responsible for doing the tasks- though as individuals certainly can take on any they choose. So, we still need people to help maintain and clean the church, teach Sunday School, set up and serve Communion, usher and all the other vital parts of church life. This also frees up time and energy for members to explore new possibilities for carrying out the congregation's vision as laid out in Annual and Special Meetings. The Consistory will be accountable for oversight of these between Congregational Meetings.

There will most likely be some transitional bumps as we live into these changes. And a real possibility that something might get missed. If you notice something isn't being done that needs doing (or if something is being done that shouldn't be happening) please let a member of the Consistory or myself know. (Members of the new Interim Consistory are listed later in this newsletter.)

Continued...

Letter From The Pastor

August 2025

And the final piece – the By-laws require that these governing documents be reviewed every five years. Hopefully that will mean that going forward it will be closer to tweaks that need to be made and not the major revisions of this last one.

So where does this position us for the future? Let's find out as we continue to worship, learn, and serve together following Christ into our community and world.

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

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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, August 3, 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



Interim Consistory

Leadership Positions

President: [Karen Knospe](#)

Treasurer: [Dale Schmidtknecht](#)

Secretary: [Mary Schmitt](#)

Four Members at large (All were chairs of committees/boards prior to revisions):

[Bill Ruben](#), [Linda Clark](#), [Sue Prussing](#), [Jessica Osborn](#)



Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 @ 6:00pm

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

Sunday, August 24, 2025 @ 10:00am

The Friends of Eagle Valley have invited us to join them at the Eagle Valley church for worship, a brief annual meeting of their organization, and a potluck lunch under the protective cover on the grounds. There will not be a service held at St. Johns Fountain City or Hope Cochrane that Sunday. Our guest preacher will be our former pastor Rev. Fritz West, joining Pastor Deb in providing worship that morning. Please join us, bring a dish to share if possible, and take part in this special summer tradition.

Sunday Morning

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



Fifth Sunday

Sunday, August 31, 2025 @ 10:30am

Hope United Church is invited to join Worship Services with St. John's Church on Sunday, August 30, 2025 at 10:30am in Fountain City, Wisconsin.

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 Fountain City Park 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 21, 2025

- ✓ Starts @ 10:30am
- ✓ Fountain City Park
- ✓ Fountain City, WI

Blessing Of The Animals

Joint Service Invitation

Below is a photos from last year. Please join us for this special service celebrating the love our pets have for us, as well as all the creatures of Creation.



Food Shelf

Businesses Of The Month: Suncrest Gardens Pizza Farm

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

Suncrest Gardens Pizza Farm

Thank you very much!



C-FC Area Food Shelf

Report For July 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



- ✓ 296 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 21 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 31 Total People Helped
- ✓ 13 Children
- ✓ 8 Adults
- ✓ 10 Seniors
- ✓ 14 Households (3 Came Twice)



Most Needed Donation Items For August 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: August

Ushers

Dave Schaffner, Sue Schaffner

Greeters

08.03.25 Cindy Ziegler & Mary Aus
08.10.25 Mike & Heather Schmidtknecht
08.17.25 Volunteer
08.24.25 Eagle Valley Service
08.31.25 Volunteer

Counters

Dale Schaffner

Communion & Flowers

Fay 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 @ 10:30am



Consistory Meeting St. John's Church

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



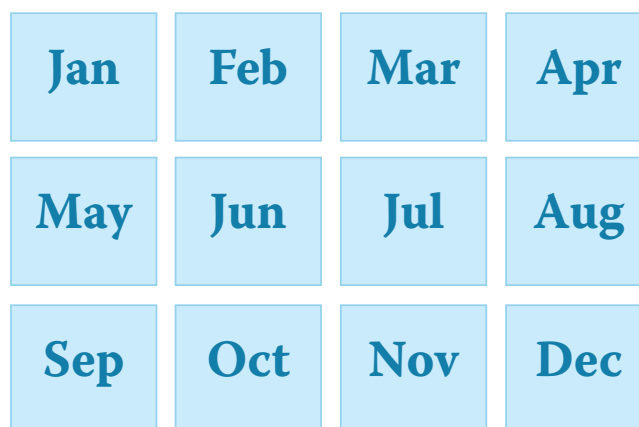
Worship, Meeting & Potluck Eagle Valley Church

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



Fifth Sunday 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.

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info@stjohnsfzwi.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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Church Office:

stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

Newsletter:

stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com

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