

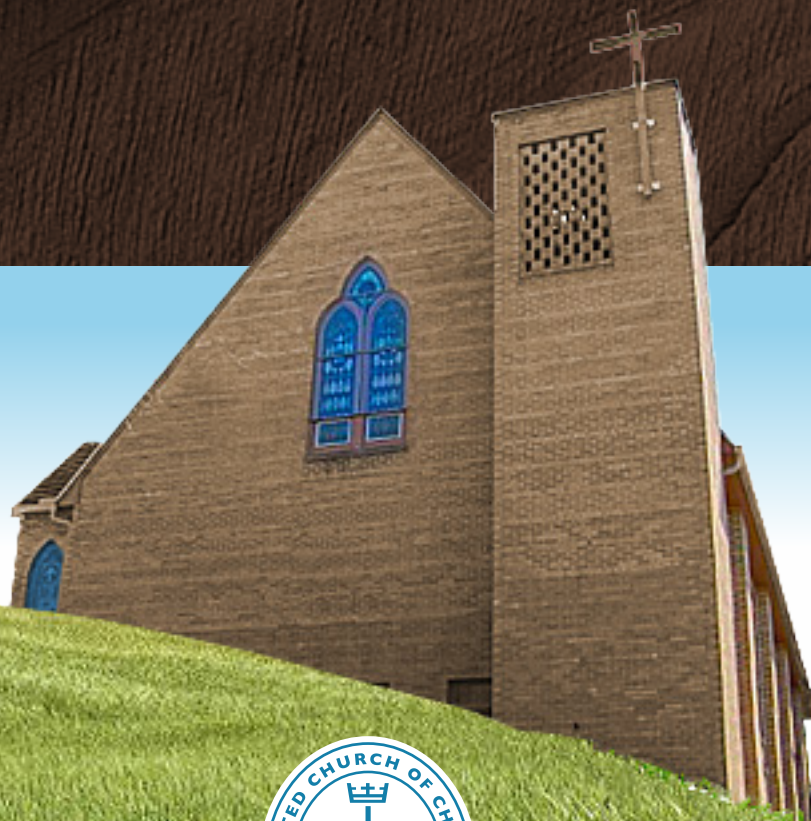


St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

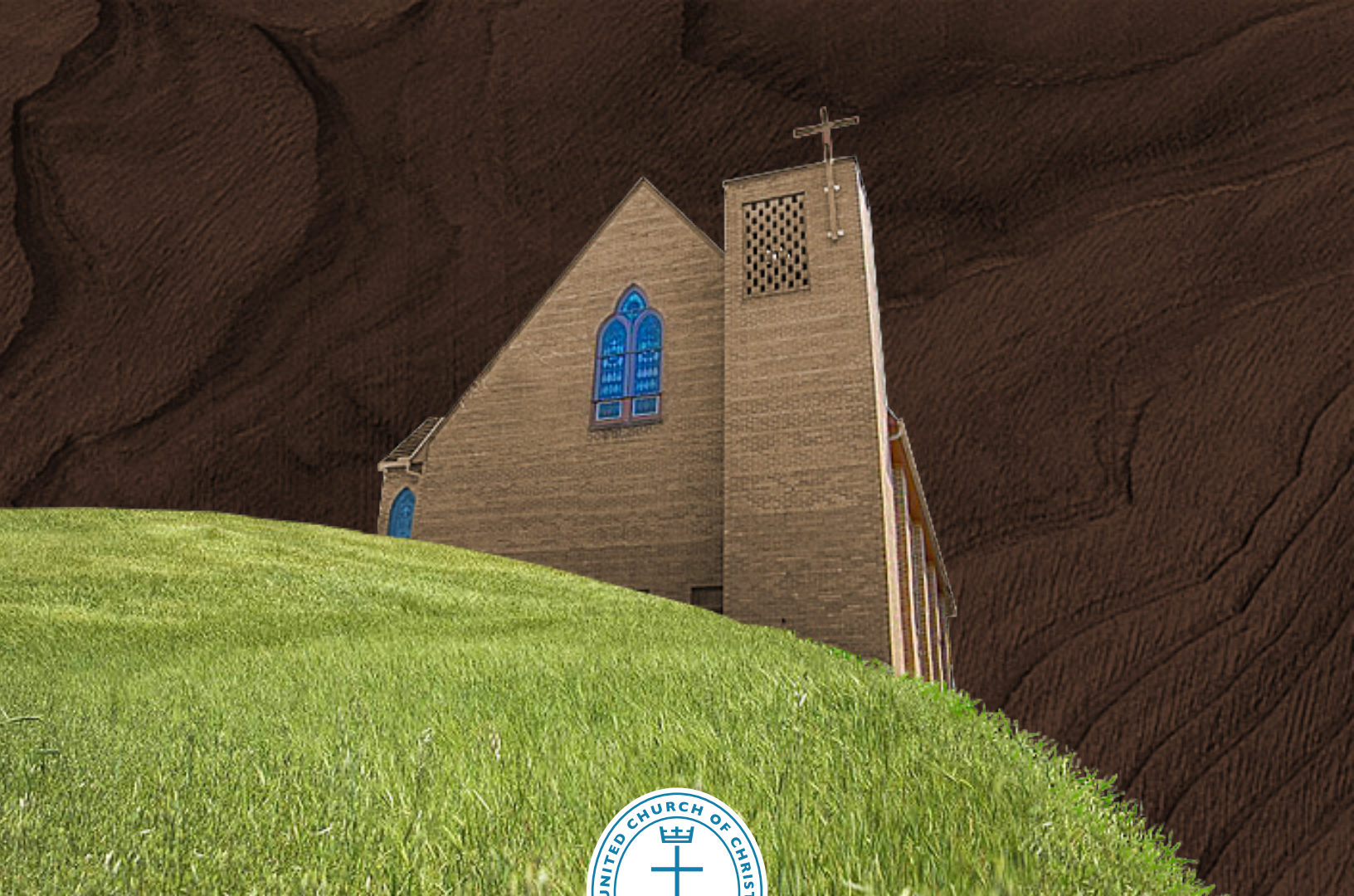
SJC Issue 0924 - September 2024



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

September 2024

I am looking for a few volunteers to help the congregation to continue to move forward in your ministry.

The Consistory needs for 5-10 volunteers to take part in reviewing and updating the By-laws and Constitution to reflect the church's current context. The last update to the church's Constitution and By-laws was almost twenty years ago. Longtime members, newer members, and confirmed youth and young adults are encouraged to become part of this process. The review and proposal of changes to the Purpose Statement of the Constitution has already been completed by a task group of 3 members facilitated by me.

The first meeting will be a 3-4 hour retreat to reflect together to discern what it means to be church today, to be a member of a church, and leadership styles that nurture and enable congregations to follow God's purposes for the congregation.

My experience is that the retreat will lead to less time and meetings needed for the rest of the process. If a sufficient number of people are willing to be part of this vital work for the life of the congregation, the group will be divided into two groups, one focusing on membership and the other governance. After that is completed, the entire group would review and draft any needed updates to the rest of these documents. Throughout the process the congregation will also be offered opportunities for input.

The initial goal is to have a draft ready for congregational approval by the 2025 Annual Meeting, but no later than spring 2025.

Steve Prussing shared with the Consistory that upon the recommendation of his doctor he needed to resign as President of the congregation. Steve's prognosis is good, and we will continue to hold Sue and him in our prayers as a congregation and personally as he continues his treatments.

Letter From The Pastor

September 2024

We need a church member who is willing to step up and fill this vacancy at least until the 2025 Annual Meeting, if they aren't able to fill out the full term.

Please contact me if you are being nudged by God or others to step in as Congregational President and/or to be part of the short term work group for updating the By-Laws and Constitution. I can also meet with you to discuss in more detail what would be entailed to volunteer for either of these before you decide.

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

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 Schmidtknecht for sharing their gifts over this past year.

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, September 1, 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



Education

Sunday School Kick-Off

Sunday School for up to sixth grade starts on Sunday, September 8, 2024 during Sunday Worship Service at 8:30am. Teachers Karen Knopse, Mary Schmitt and Liz Hoffmaster look forward to a new year with returning and new students.

Sunday, September 8 @ 8:30am

Confirmation Exploration

Classes for Seventh Graders

The two- year program for Confirmation Exploration Classes will start in October. Currently Pastor Deb is only aware of one seventh grader at Hope who will be start the program this year. If there are any other students that are starting seventh grade or above who would like to be part of this program, please contact Pastor Deb a.s.a.p.



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

Pet Blessing Service

Blessing Of The Animals

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.



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 August 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



- ✓ 837 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ 28 Total People Helped
- ✓ Averages 30 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 06 Children
- ✓ 14 Adults
- ✓ 08 Seniors
- ✓ 14 Households (2 Came Twice)

Food Shelf

Businesses Of The Month: St Mary's Catholic Church

We would like to thank our neighbors from up the street at St Mary's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church for thinking of us here at the food shelf! Their thoughtful donation of monetary and food will help us to feed those in need in our CFC area. Thank you very much!



Tres Ecclesiae

Volunteers: August

Ushers

David Schaffner, Amy Hammer & John Schmidtknecht

Greeters

09.01.24 Joy & John Klaben

09.08.24 CaraLee Wiersgalla

09.15.24 Quint & Denise Yapp

09.22.24 Derrick & Amy Hammer

09.29.24 Joint @ Hope United Church

Counters

John & Mary Stettler

Communion & Flowers

Cheryl Kuhn

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

Karla Miller
Kimberly Aus
Ashley Jandro
Sam Davis-Sweazey
Taylor Baures
Marjorie Kammuehler
Jean Evans
Dylan Hohmann
Ethan Korb
Amy Hammer
Emily Conners
Karden Cheney
Brianna Engelmann
Brian Wolfe
Richard Ruben
Bobbie Sue Wooden
Brooke Engel
Sue Schaffner
Jennifer Conners
Hiromi Semling
Abigail Schaffner
Karen Knospe
Shannon Ely
Crystal Dienger

Anniversaries

Adam & Jenny Krause
John & Mary Stettler
Ted Wilson & Karen Stettler
Randy & Judy Boehm
Dale & Jenny Schaffner
Quint & Denise Yapp
Joe & Hiromi Semling
Randy & Lori Maier
Greg & Jessica Osborn
Tom & Lee Carpenter
Norman & Betsy Semling
Robert & Bobbi Sue Wooden

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



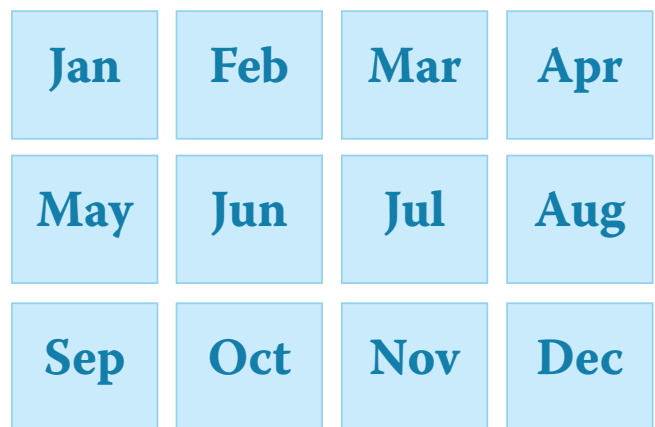
Blessing Of The Animals Hope United Church

Goose Lake Park
Cochrane, WI
Worship @ 10:30am



World Communion Sunday St. John's Church

303 S Hill Street
Fountain City, WI
Starts @ 8:30am



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
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

Pastor Deb's Office Hours:

Wednesday's 10:00am - Noon

239.994.2528

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