

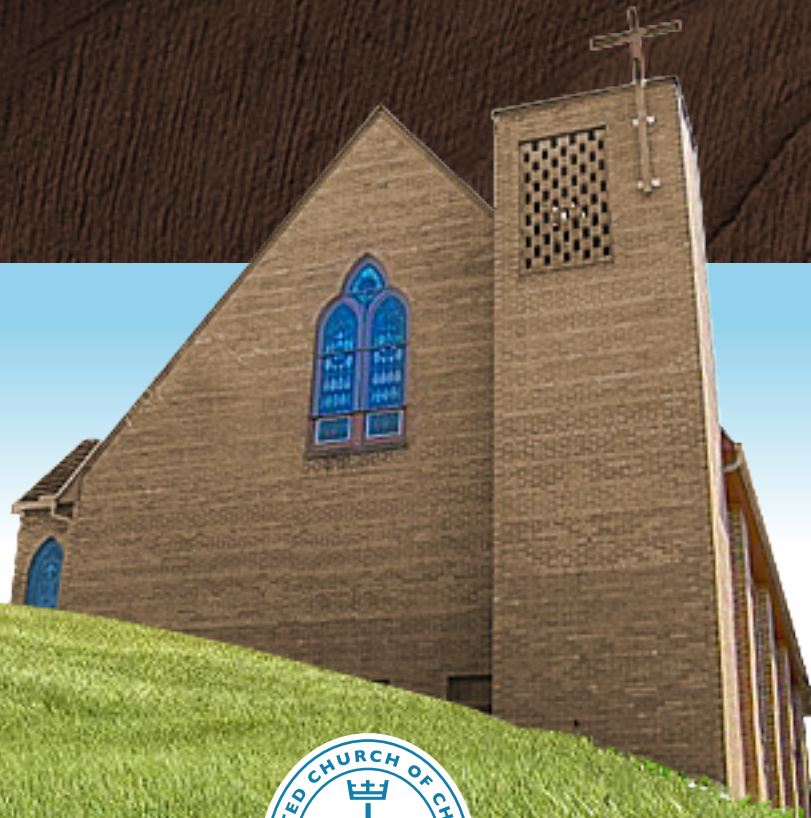


St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

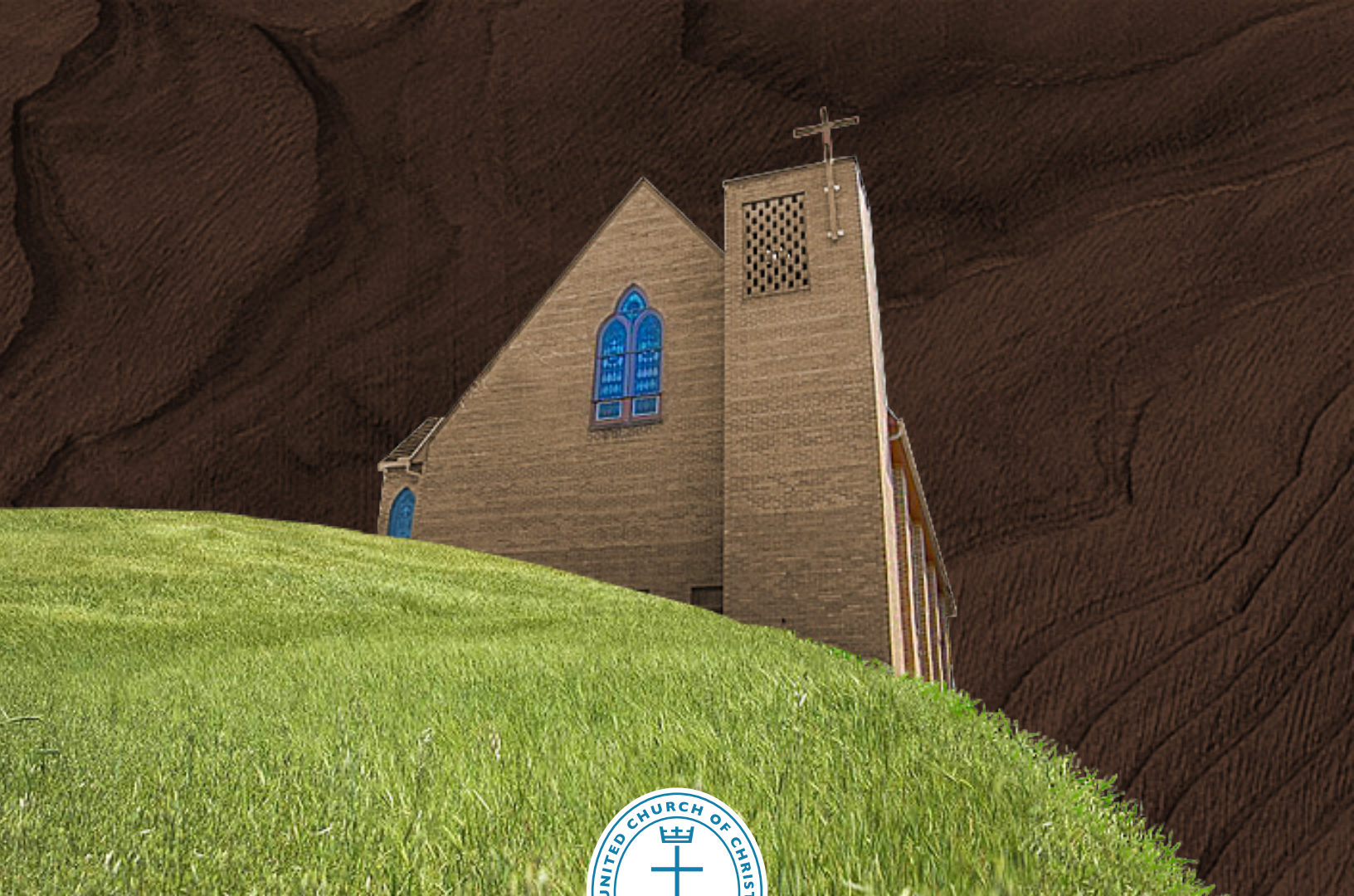
SJC Issue 0925 - September 2025



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

September 2025

The kids are back at C-FC and elsewhere for the new school year. So are we here at St. Johns. First, Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 7 during the 10:30am service with a special Rally Sunday. Then Confirmation Exploration Registration and Orientation will be Wednesday September 24 at 6:30pm, with the first class held on October 3 at 3:30pm. Please see me for more information about these classes.

Yet you are never not learning as Christians. In fact, being a Christian means you are disciples. And disciple is defined as being a student of a teacher or leader.

So there is no “back to school” in being a Christian. Though the intensity may vary depending on where you are or what is happening in life, we are always called to learn more about God, about how we are to live this life of faith in a particular moment, as well as to seek ways to share what we are learning with others through both our words and deed.

There isn't a test, final exam, or dissertation. There is only love, the love of God for us, our love of God, and love for others. We may get things incorrect, or ‘sin’-which comes from the Greek archery term to miss the mark. We may try to do the bare minimum, enough to get by. But we also don't have to cram for a final or hope that we wrote enough in our blue book (yes, I'm showing my age.) For there are no “F”s – only love and grace by God and the opportunity to do it differently next time, or to learn that what we thought was always the right way wasn't necessarily what God is asking us to do all this time.

So maybe there isn't a set back to school time for Christians and followers of Jesus. But there is always more to learn. More to learn about God and each other. There won't be an A+ or diploma awarded – for the end goal of this learning isn't to expand our knowledge or be the top person on trivia game night. We learn more deeply of God's love for us, and through that become closer to God and to each other on this planet.

Continued...

Letter From The Pastor

September 2025

There may not be an official “back to school” season in our faith. But there is always more to learn, and sometimes unlearn. There is always more to discover, ways we can be surprised anew at the depth of God’s love for us, and the relationship that enables with our Creator and with each other. And best yet, we aren’t left on our own to do it. In fact, it seems to work best when we find other “study partners” and become part of Christ’s body in the world: alive, growing and learning together. We are always learning how to ways that enable us to unselfishly and compassionate love others, and to love God in ways that embody and bring us closer to that love. We are always learning how to be loved by God and others that recognizes and rejoices that no matter who you are, you are God’s beloved. And so is everyone else. What a great lesson plan!

God’s grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

Looking For Volunteers

Two Building & Grounds Tasks

Before the Consistory starts requesting bids for two small projects we are asking if there might be a volunteer or two who could complete one or both for us.

1. With the completion of the drainage ditch in the back of the church, we need to reseed the excavated area.
2. Once the weather turns cool enough, there is a beehive that needs to be removed from between the stained glass and storm window on the riverside of the sanctuary next to the narthex. This needs to be done before the repair work is done to the trim around the stained glass windows.

If you are willing and able to complete either of these tasks, please see Bill Ruben.

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 7, 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, September 10, 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



Education

Sunday School Kick-Off

Sunday School for up to sixth grade starts on Sunday, September 8, 2025 during Sunday Worship Service at 10:30am. Teachers Karen Knopse, Mary Schmitt and Liz Hoffmaster look forward to a new year with returning and new students.

Sunday, September 8 @ 10:30am

Confirmation Exploration

Classes for Seventh Graders

More details are coming soon, please contact Pastor Deb if you have any questions.



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: St. Mary's Catholic Church

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Thank you very much!




St. John's
United Church of Christ

Tres Ecclesiae

C-FC Area Food Shelf

Report For August 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



- ✓ 400 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 13 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 30 Total People Helped
- ✓ 7 Children
- ✓ 13 Adults
- ✓ 10 Seniors
- ✓ 13 Households (3 Came Twice)



Most Needed Donation Items For September 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: September

Ushers

Steve Prussing, Sue Prussing

Greeters

09.07.25 Cara Lee Wiersgalla

09.14.25 Quint & Denise Yapp

09.21.25 Blessing Of The Animals

09.28.25 [Volunteer](#)

10.05.25 Cleo Losinski & Karen Pehler

Counters

Amy & Derrick Hammer

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

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 @ 10:30am



Sunday School Kickoff St. John's Church

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



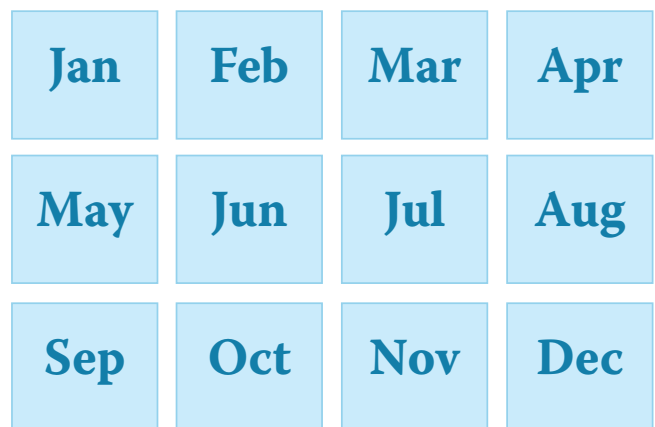
Consistory Meeting St. John's Church

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



Blessing Of The Animals Fountain City Park

Fountain City Park
Fountain City, WI
Starts @ 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
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

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

United Church of Christ

Church Office:

stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

Newsletter:

stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com

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