

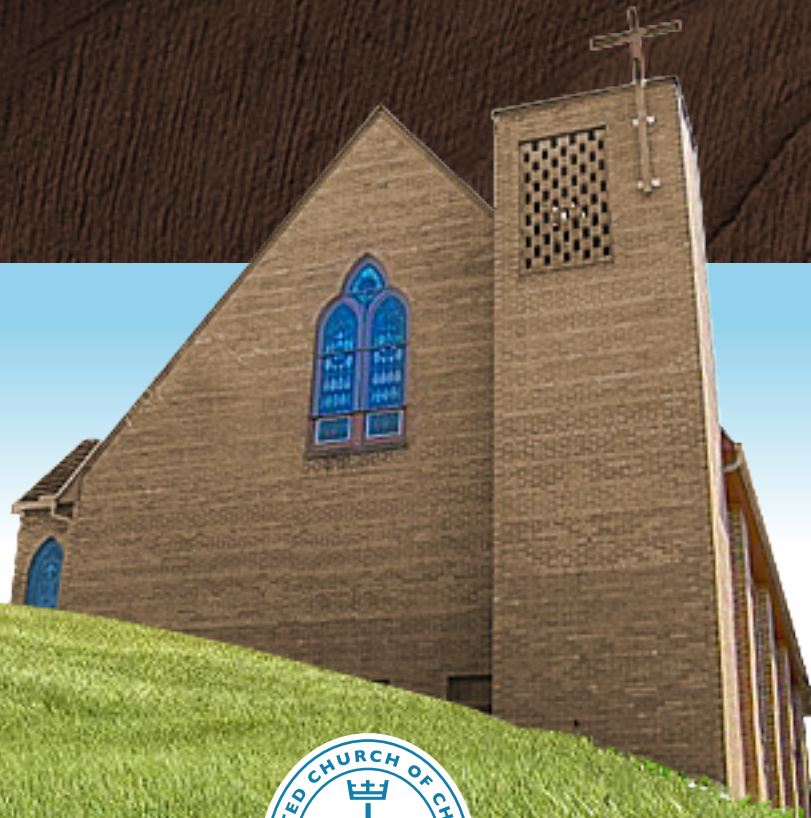


St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

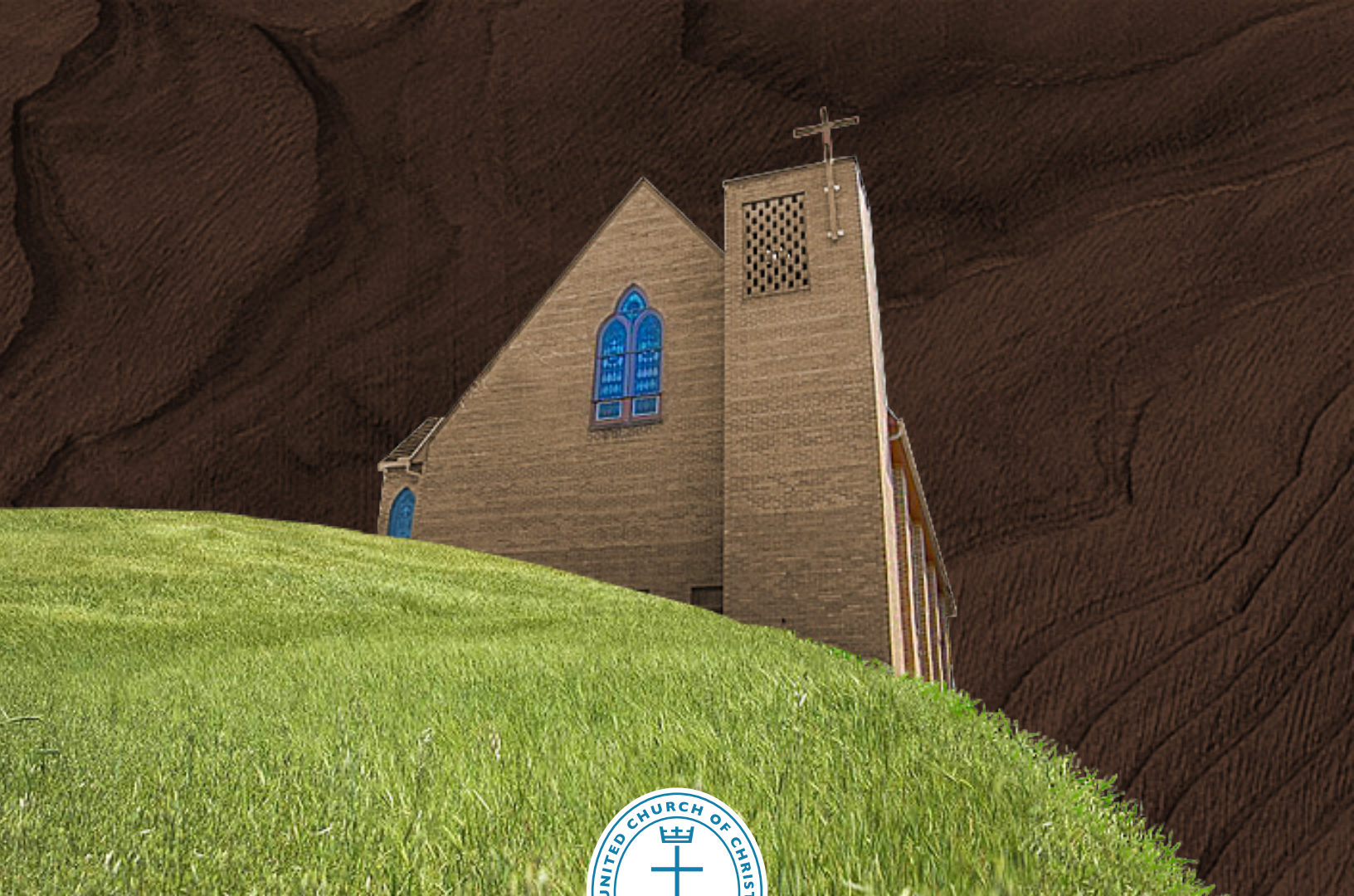
SJC Issue 1124 - November 2024



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!

stjohnsfcwi.org

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

stjohnsfcwi.org

Letter From The Pastor

November 2024

I am writing this 6 days before Election Day. We probably won't know final results in many of the races for at least a week. Anxiety levels are rising in the country, the congregation and myself. It doesn't matter which candidate/party one supports, there is enough fear and concern to go around for all sides.

Much of that anxiety surrounds what will happen if "the other candidate" is elected. It doesn't make a difference which is the "other candidate" to you or your loved ones. There is palpable fear out there. And that fear can take over your thoughts, then your emotions, and finally lead to reacting instead of responding. Reacting in anger, with insults, or reacting by withdrawing or pretending none of this matters.

I get it. For whoever is elected President and in other races, there will be those who feel disenfranchised, who feel ignored and dismissed, and/or are scared of "what will happen to this country". Some might feel betrayed by close relatives and friends who voted for the "other" candidate. Others might gloat for backing the winning side. Already friendships have ended, and family relations strained because of one person's support of the "wrong" candidate.

I have my own opinion on who to vote for and why. But so do you. And we may not agree. Yet we are called to love each other as we would love ourselves. Easier said than done. At times it seems candidates, media and more are intentionally ramping up the fear of violent reactions if one side or the other is elected so that such reactions do happen. Loving someone doesn't mean agreeing with them or refraining from discussing differences. It means staying away from dehumanizing others as a group, demonizing all who support the "other" candidate, or immediately assigning negative motives to their choices.

In a time like this, I return to the idea of "Punk Gospel" or as Congressperson John Lewis called it "Good Trouble". Punk Gospel means that God promises us that even if we don't see it, God is in the process of bringing the universe to a good end. A joyful end. A just end. An end that reconciles us with God and with each other as the reign of God becomes fully present.

Letter From The Pastor

November 2024

That doesn't mean we are off the hook. For second, it means we do the right thing because it is the right thing, even if the cause seems or is hopeless. Especially if we don't gain personal benefits from it, as well as when we might lose something. Jesus spoke against those who would victimize and use the vulnerable, the outcast, and those others in society considered discardable. Who healed and fed and taught and prayed. Who did the right thing because it was right, even though it resulted in his execution on the cross. Jesus displayed Punk Gospel hope. He did not know for sure that God would raise him to new life. Still Jesus did the right thing because it was right, and trusted the God would do the same.

It may get worse before it gets better- I hope not. No matter what happens, we will be okay. Remember, we are held by a God who loves us...and also holds the person who voted for the "wrong" candidate. Who is even now bringing about wonders and good in ways we cannot see. Who longs for us to live in ways that bring reconciliation through just actions and builds a diverse community – even among supporters of different candidates. Or maybe especially between?

I hope you prayerfully consider your vote, and vote in a way that reflects your relationship with God through Jesus. No matter if you end up on the winning or losing side, I pray that you, that we can remember that there is a reason we can strive to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. It's because we are striving to love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind. As Jesus did.

God loves you and holds you even now – no matter who you vote for, no matter who wins. And for that reason, we hope, even in moments where all evidence is to the contrary, that what is good, what is right will prevail, because God will not rest until that happens.

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

Fall Bazaar Fundraiser

Saturday, November 2, 2024

St. John's Church will be hosting a Fall Bazaar from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Available for purchase will be cookies, candies, breads, cakes, brownies and some surprise treats too. All baked goods should be labeled and state if they contain peanut butter and/or nuts and should be wrapped in a see through covering. All are made by some of the best bakers in Buffalo County. Catch up with friends while you enjoy a beverage and a dessert served in the fellowship hall. A lift is accessible if you are unable to do stairs. Many theme based baskets will be offered for a chance drawing. Tickets can be purchased at the church. We hope you enjoy your afternoon with us. Winners of the baskets will be drawn and announced Sunday, November 3, 2024 right after Worship Service.



Starts @ 1:00pm

- ✓ Bread, Candies & Desserts
- ✓ Craft Items
- ✓ Basket Raffle
- ✓ Coffee & Dessert
- ✓ Tickets Available




St. John's
United Church of Christ

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, November 3, 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



All Saints Sunday

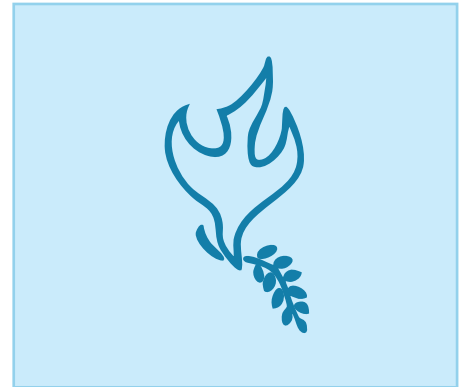
Sunday, November 3, 2024

During worship on November 3, we will remember those from our church family who have passed away in the past 12 months.

We will also be honoring loved ones of our congregation who have passed, whether that was recently or long ago. You are invited to bring in a picture of deceased loved one(s) to place on a table upfront where we can light a candle in their memory. Pastor Deb or you can light the candle.

Please let Pastor Deb know if you would like your loved one included at pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com so their name can be included in the bulletin.

We will also be dedicating the banner made in honor of Ruth Schaffner and Mary Stettler.



New Interim President

Consistory Meeting Update

At the October Consistory meeting, Karen Knospe was elected as interim President of the church. Steve Prussing resigned at June's meeting due to health issues.

~ St John's Church

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



Constitution Update

Constitution and Bylaws

We are on our way to the second step in our process of reviewing and revising our Constitution and Bylaws. You might be wondering why we are doing this.

Well the last time the congregation undertook this task, Blackberries and flip phones were the rage, the iPhone and iPad and Twitter and Google Chrome were still in the future. And Pastor Fritz was still pastor here.

A lot has changed in the last 20 years, not only here but in the world. So we need to take some time and see what needs to be changed, tweaked, or discarded in these documents to allow this congregation to continue to focus its energy on living out God's ministry as you have over the decades. Here are the names of those who are part of the task force undertaking this project:

Donna Beck
Karen Knopse
Karen Pehler
John Stettler

LuAnn Schmidtknecht
Cheryl Kuhn
Dave Schaffner
Dale Schmidtknecht

Linda Clark
Facilitating:
Pastor Deb

Feel free to check with any of the above to get updates on what is happening. The two initial areas that the group will be focusing on is on membership and governance. What does it mean to be a member in light of the changes our society has undergone, and more importantly, where is God speaking to us about how we embody welcoming others into the congregation. Governance seems obvious as we continue to have difficulty getting enough people to fill committee and officer positions. But there is more than just "cutting down the number of people" on each. What form of governance will allow the congregation to be what Pastor Deb calls nimble? What will allow the congregation to be nimble enough to meet new opportunities, challenges, and crisis, while still being faithful to the ministry and the people of this congregation.

Continued...

Constitution Update

Constitution and Bylaws

When the first draft is done, there will be an opportunity for you to review, and share any input you might have. After receiving that input, the task force will put together their final draft and submit it to the Consistory. The Consistory will be asked to approve sending that draft onto a Congregational Meeting for final vote. Before the Congregational meeting there will be opportunities for people to review, ask questions and provide feedback.

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

Job Opportunity

Church Secretary

Rebecca (Becky) Kamrowski is currently our church secretary. We thank her for her ongoing commitment and hard work. When she took the job, her fulltime job at the bank was slated to be reduced to parttime. However, that did not happen, resulting in her working more hours than she had intended between the two positions. Becky is willing to continue. She has also approached us and let us know that she is also more than willing to also step aside if someone else who is qualified would like to take over. Do you or someone you might know be interested in applying for the position? The job is an average of 40 hours a month, though some weeks will be less than ten hours, and during holidays it may be more. Parts of the job can be done from home, but it does require time in the office also. More details are available. Please see Pastor Deb or email her at pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com.

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

Construction Update

Church Parking Lot

Our parking lot on the south side of the church is under construction to replace the retaining wall and add additional parking spaces. You might have noticed the giant concrete “Lego Blocks” that are appearing, as well as the construction equipment. (Construction was delayed when the original supplier was unable to fulfill the number of blocks needed as indicated to our contractor at time of the estimate. This delayed Tom Baures Evacuating as they needed to wait until the needed blocks were made.)



Over the next few Sundays parking will be limited. Weather permitting, the target is for this to be completed in a little over two weeks. Until that time, if convenient please consider coming with a friend or relative to cut down on the number of cars that need to park. Also, please leave the space in front of the double doors clear so people can be easily dropped off and picked up. Finally please make sure that there is sufficient space when cars are parked on both sides of the road for Emergency vehicles to get through if they are responding to a call on the street.

C-FC Area Food Shelf

Report For October 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



- ✓ 850 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ 33 Total People Helped
- ✓ Averages 26 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 03 Children
- ✓ 16 Adults
- ✓ 14 Seniors
- ✓ 21 Households (9 Came Twice)

Volunteers: November

Ushers

Sue Prussing, Steve Prussing & Karen Pehler

Greeters

11.03.24 Sandy & Tom Ruben

11.10.24 Randy Knecht Family

11.17.24 Doris Ruben

11.24.24 Karen Knospe & Donna Beck

12.01.24 Byron & Sherry Hoch

Counters

John & Mary Stettler

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

Mary Aus
Judy Schutz
Joe Semling
Randy Maier
Randy Knecht
Linda Wicka
Jacob Beck
Stacy Walth
Robert Wooden
Kristy Baures
Fritz West
Ted Wilson
Jack Wilson
Heather Schmidtknecht
Dominic Pyka
Mike Walth
Ana Knecht
Ross Ruehmann
Diane Schaffner
Madison Tennant
Kayla Kamrowski
Linda Clark
Madeline Kuhn

Anniversaries

Aaron & Mickki Prussing
Bob & Kristy Baures
Byron & Sharon Hoch
Steve & Sue Prussing

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.



Fall Bazaar St. John's Church

303 S Hill Street
Fountain City, WI
Starts @ 1:00pm



Penny Collection St. John's Church

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



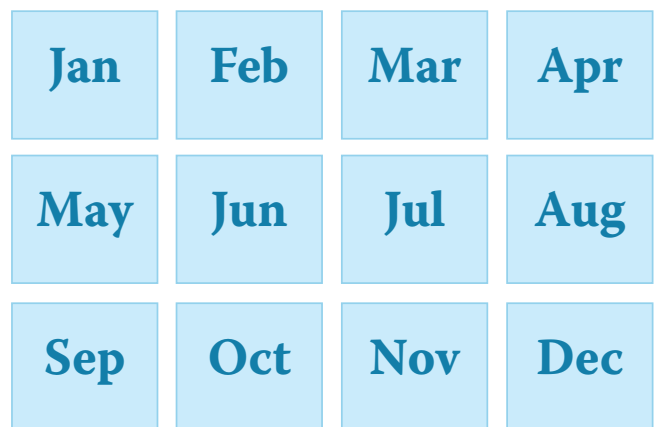
World Communion Sunday All Saints Day

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



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

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

Newsletter:

stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com

Pastor Deb's Office Hours:

Wednesday's 10:00am - Noon

239.994.2528

pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com



stjohnsfcwi.org

St. John's Church | PO Box 130 | 303 S Hill Street | Fountain City, WI

608.687.3277