

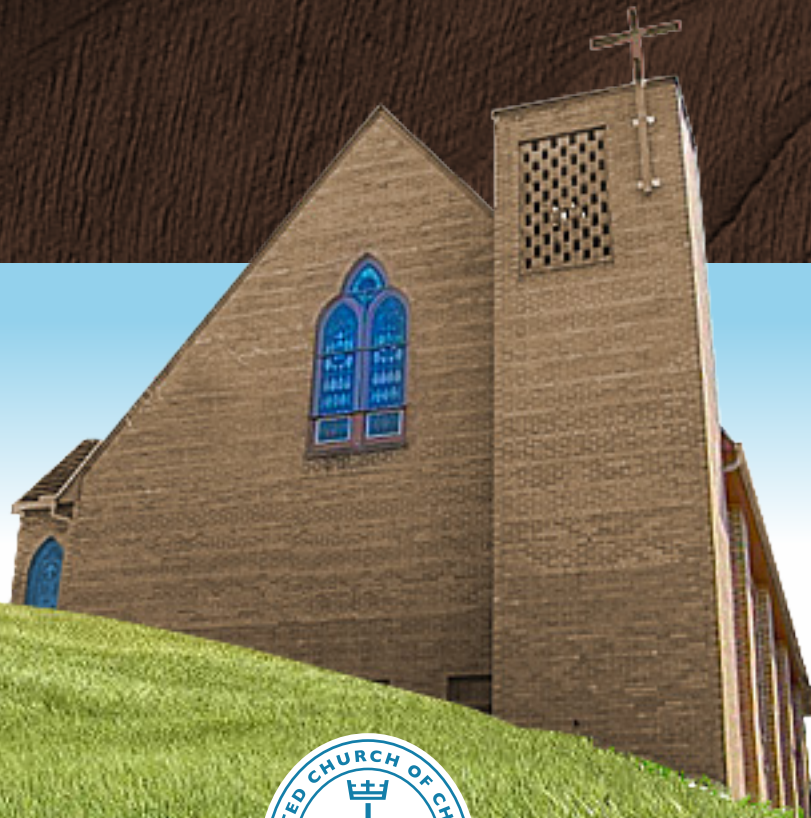


St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

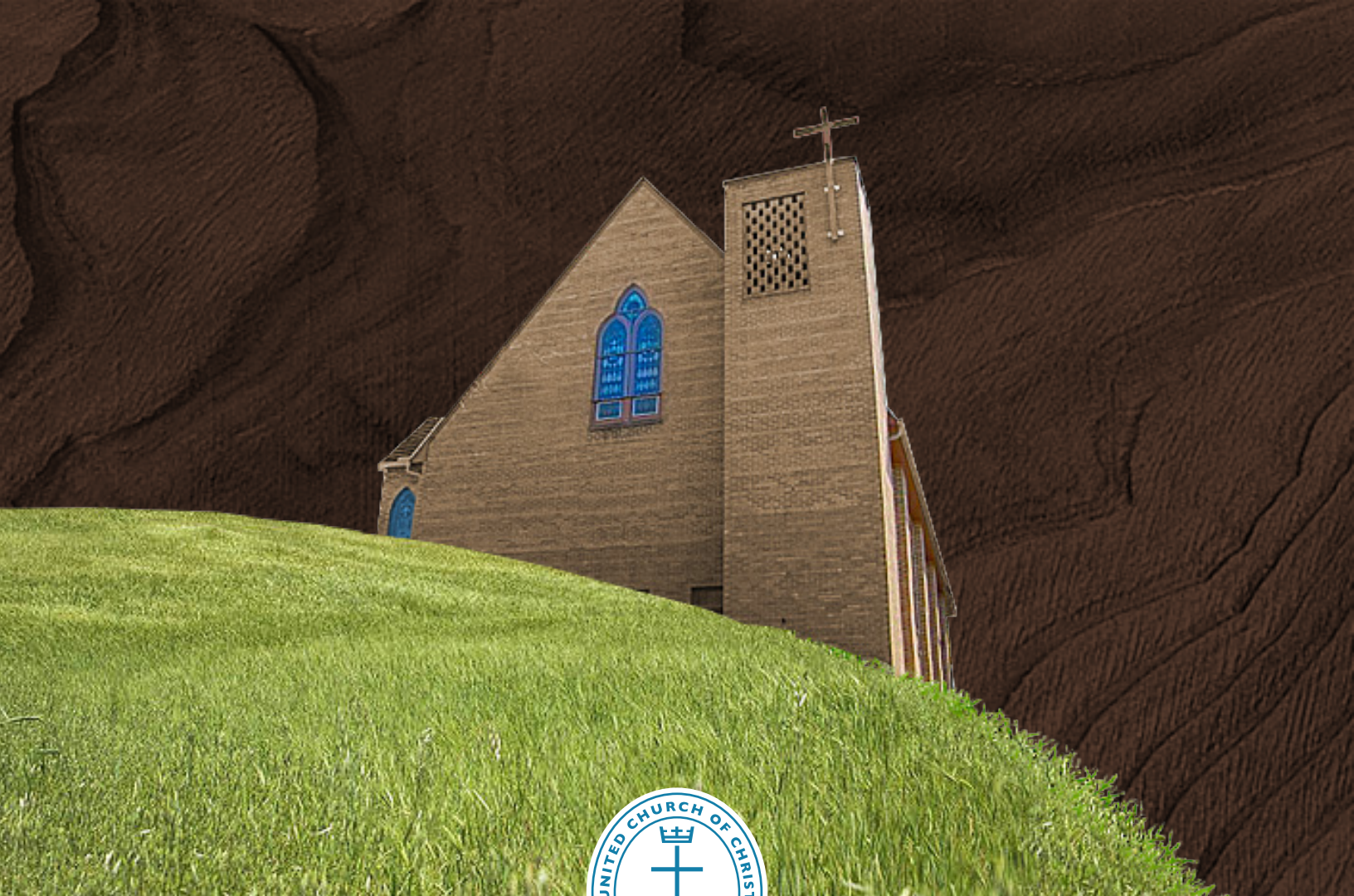
SJC Issue 1125 - November 2025



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

November 2025

I am writing this on the day before Halloween. The one day a year we try to scare each other and ask others to try to scare us.

The other 364 days a year that we would rather not deal with fear. Yet there seems no way to escape it. Many people and organizations make or raise money off increasing fear. Commercials try to sell us products for home or personal security, telling us that there is a threat around every corner. Then the threat of aging, or (gasp) wrinkles in our clothes. Social media companies know that if they can scare people with news or opinions it gains them more clicks and profit. Of course, our political and public spheres are rife with scare tactics that are as prevalent as skeletons and witch's hats on Halloween.

These use fear because it works – it plays on our instincts that seek to protect us from threats. The problem is we don't need to be protected from bears and wooly mammoths each day, we need protection from manufactured fear itself. Which is not to say that there aren't real concerns or problems. And fear can be good, such as telling us not to put our hand into the fire. But when everyone is an "enemy" to "all we hold dear" or "our way of life" (pick a way of life- someone is being proclaimed as the enemy to it.) No side, party or ideology is exempt from either being labeled a threat or as the one being threatened. It's profitable financially and effective in consolidating "power" in many places.

So what do we do? As Christians, we remember the call throughout Scripture of "Fear Not". "Fear not" isn't whistling in the dark, ignoring the reality around us. It's not even saying everything will be fixed or okay. It's a reminder of the One we follow, the One who is with us in the darkest valley or on the highest mountain.

We can trust in God's presence and promises to never leave us.

Continued...

Letter From The Pastor

November 2025

“Fear not” is knowing that doing the right thing is always the right thing. Even when - especially when-it seems there are few who care or benefit. Because it’s the loving action, the loving thought, that takes up space fear is trying to occupy. When our fears are “right sized” we can respond to what is really happening around us and not some imagined future possibility.

At the heart of Christianity (and other religions) is God’s command to love our neighbor as we would be loved ourselves. Not fear them, not hate them, not wish for their destruction. Love. Just as we see God do through Jesus. No matter what geographical or ideological border we imagine.

For it is love that casts out fear. God’s perfect love. Go ahead and be petrified on Halloween or at the scary movie.

Just remember, even then, you are never, ever alone.

God’s grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

P.S. As I finish this Jamaica has just been hit by a devastating hurricane. The gridlock in D.C. is threatening to leave SNAP and WIC recipients without needed food assistance, that can be the difference between having enough to eat and going without meals. These are just some of the places that God is already at work and inviting us to join in to love our neighbor.

Please prayerfully consider supporting Rescue and Relief efforts through organizations such as our wider UCC Disaster relief, and Food Shelves such as our own with donations. Let these neighbors in God’s community hear with our actions God’s assurance to “fear not,” They are not left on their own. God and their siblings in Christ stand with them in these times of need and crisis.

Fall Bazaar Fundraiser

Saturday, November 1, 2025

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 2, 2025 right after Worship Service.



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

Starts @ 1:00pm

1 Ticket.....	\$1.00
6 Tickets	\$5.00
12 Tickets	\$10.00
25 Tickets	\$20.00

Sunday Penny Collection

First Sunday of the Month

The Church School Students will be collecting pennies the first Sunday of every month. This money enables the children to choose how their donations go to people or projects in our area or throughout the world.

Sunday, November 2, 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



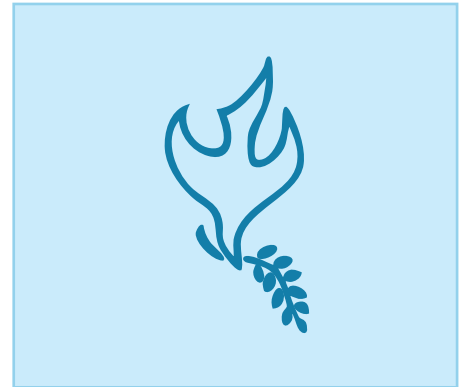
All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 2, 2025

During worship on November 2, 2025 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.



Interim Consistory

Leadership Positions

President: [Steve Prussing](#)
Treasurer: [Dale Schmidtknecht](#)
Secretary: [Mary Schmitt](#)

Four Members at large:

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



Sunday School

School Education

School age children are welcome to join our Sunday School classes during Sunday morning services at 10:30am. St. John's Church has two groups Pre-K to 2nd grade and 3rd to 6th grade. Through weekly lessons we learn about our Savior Jesus Christ. Each year the Sunday School students rehearse and perform the Children's Christmas Service in December celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. For more information, contact Karen Knospe.

During Sunday Morning Service

- ✓ **Sundays @ 10:30am**
- ✓ **Pre-K to 2nd Grade**
- ✓ **3rd to 6th Grade**

Confirmation Exploration

Classes for Seventh Graders

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



Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

The St. John's Church Consistory Meetings are scheduled on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

✓ **Consistory Regular Meeting @ 6:00pm**

~ St. John's Church



Fifth Sunday

Sunday, November 30, 2025 @ 10:30am

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

✓ **Hope United Church**

✓ **Starts @ 10:30am**

✓ **210 Michaels Street**

✓ **Cochrane, WI**



Emergency Food Drive

Sponsors: St. John's Church & Hope United Church

Due to the government shutdown, many folks may be losing their WIC and SNAP support that helps put food on the table for many families that need it. In response, Hope United Church of Cochrane and St. John's Church of Fountain City are initiating an Emergency Food Drive for the C-FC Area Food Shelf.

Most of our folks are 1-2 person households.

Monetary Donations Always Welcome:

**Thank you for anything you can share. Please bring food items to your respective church from now until further notice.
Thank you in advance!**

Monetary donations checks can be mailed and made out to:
C-FC Area Food Shelf - St. John's Church,
PO Box 130, Fountain City WI, 54629.



C-FC Area Food Shelf

Report For October 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 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



- ✓ 533 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 16 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 33 Total People Helped
- ✓ 7 Children
- ✓ 13 Adults
- ✓ 13 Seniors
- ✓ 14 Households (2 Came Twice)



Most Needed Donation Items For November 2025

✓ Cereal (Healthier)

✓ Stews & Chili

✓ Spaghetti Sauce

**Cash to buy cheese blocks or other
needed items we can't get from Feed My People.**

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.

Choir Pratice

1st & 3rd Wednesdays Of The Month

Choir practice will begin in November. We generally practice twice a month, on the first and third Wednesdays. Practice will be for around an hour, depending on how much material we are learning.

We are an informal group. We laugh a lot. We learn things together, often with the help of a giant knitting needle keeping time on the music stand. We have some simple pieces, and usually, one or two “challenge pieces” that we work on for months before we actually sing those pieces in public. Most of us are not young. We make up for our average age by inviting the church’s kids (mentored beautifully by Elizabeth Hoffmaster) to join us a few times a year.

If you have a secret ambition to sing in a church choir, we will welcome you. You can simply show up for a choir rehearsal, or if you have questions, please talk to Betsy Miller-Ruben, or organists LuAnn and Faye.

~ St. John’s Church



St. John’s Church Choir Practice

303 S Hill Street
Fountain City, WI
Starts @ 6:30pm



St. John’s Church Choir Practice

303 S Hill Street
Fountain City, WI
Starts @ 6:30pm



Volunteers: November

Ushers

Calvin Stettler, John Stettler

Greeters

11.02.25 Sandy & Tom Ruben

11.09.25 Randy Knecht Family

11.16.25 Doris Ruben

11.23.25 Karen Knospe & Donna Beck

11.30.25 Fifth Sunday - Hope United Church

Counters

TBA

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

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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 @ 1:00am



Penny Collection & All Saints Day

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



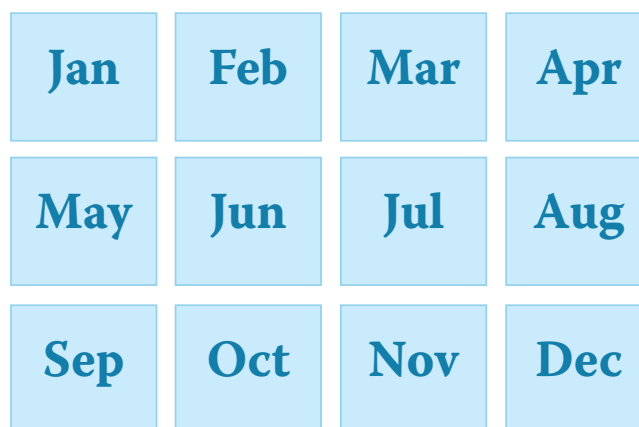
Consistory Meeting St. John's Church

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



Fifth Sunday Hope United Church

210 Michaels Street
Cochrane, WI
Starts @ 10:30am



Online Calendar

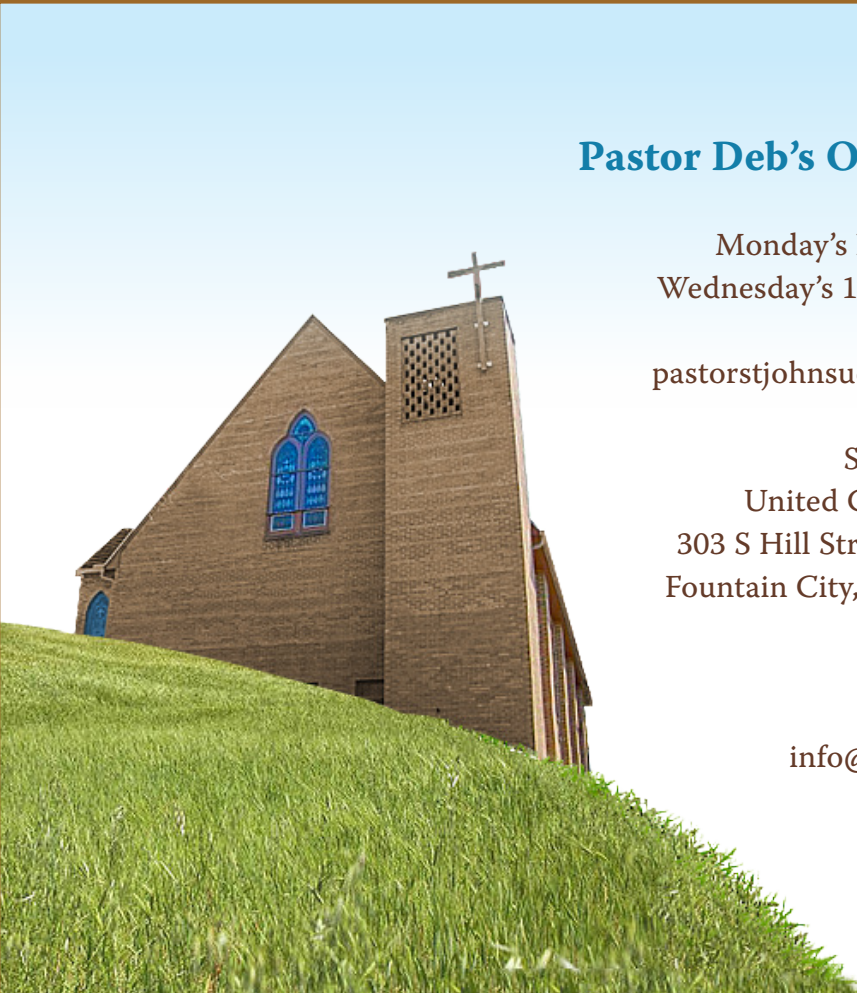
Please go online and visit our NEW easy to use website for current up-to-date, detailed event information. Our calendar is updated daily. Email us with any questions or comments.

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

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:

Monday's Noon to 2:00pm | Wednesday's 10:00am - Noon

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