

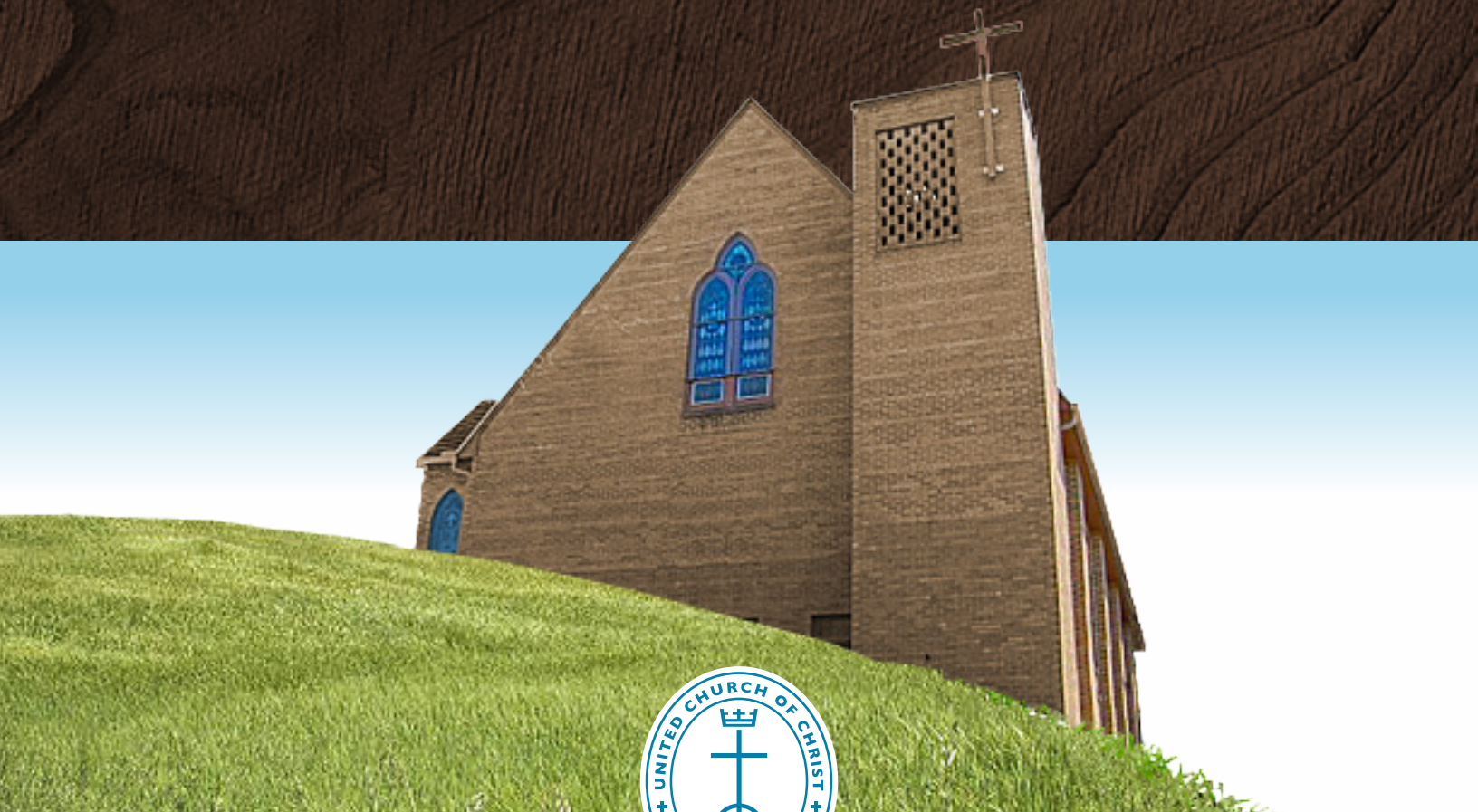


St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

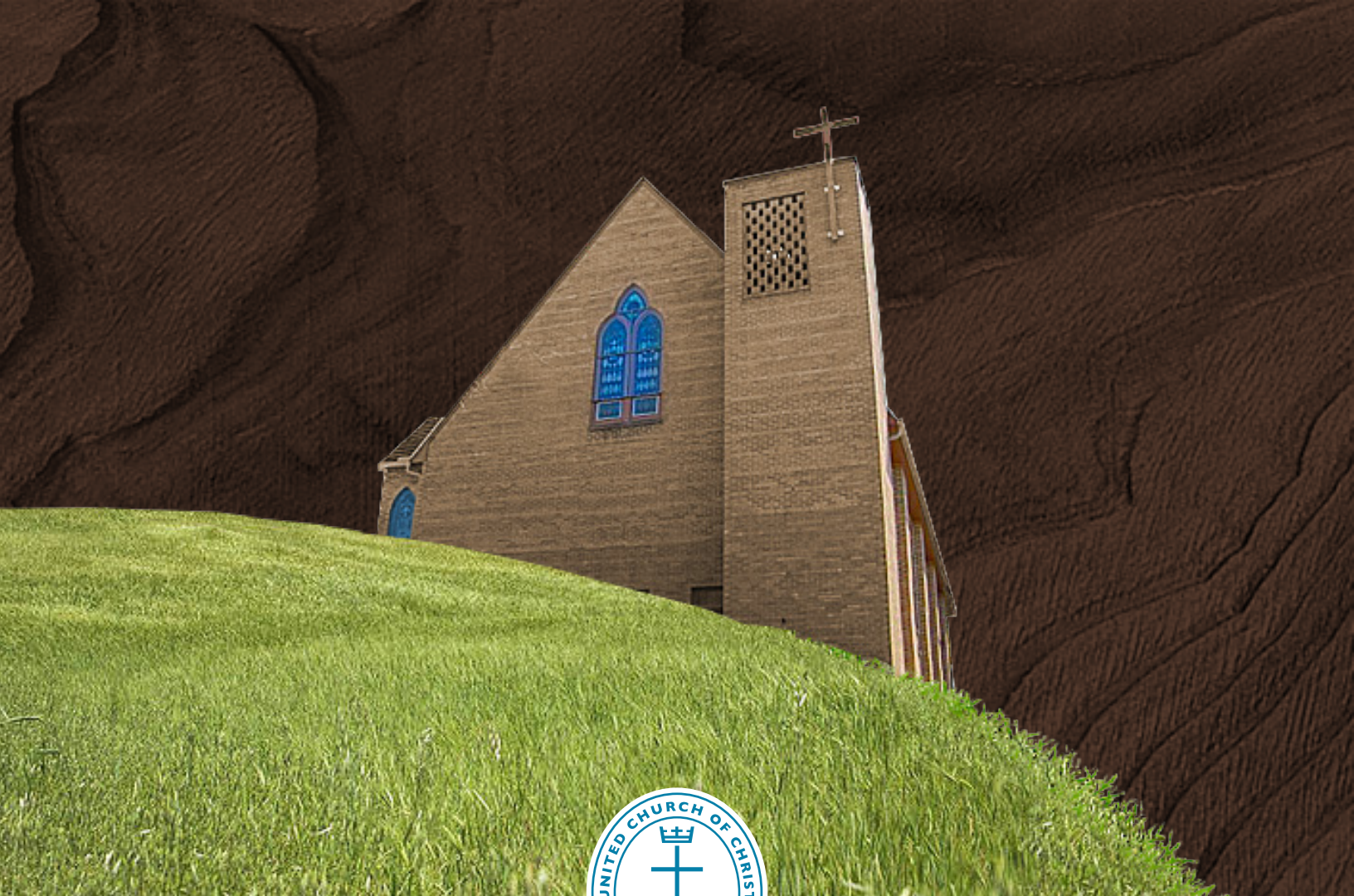
SJC Issue 1222 - December 2022



stjohnsfzwi.org

St. John's Church | United Church of Christ | 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

December 2022

Happy Holidays! Happy Holy Days! In the church we are in the Season of Advent, while “outside” the church it is the “Christmas Season”. And these competing seasons can cause tension during worship (and in your pastor). People want to sing the beloved Christmas hymns during worship, yet we aren’t there yet. And despite how much I enjoy singing Christmas Carols, I believe that Advent is an important part of the church year as well as our faith journeys together, and so try to hold off as long as possible from making them the focus of a service.

One year I heard a colleague offer his solution as he spoke at a Women’s Guild Christmas gathering. He celebrated both the “Holidays” and the “Holy Days” in December. On Sundays during Advent, as well as his personal practices of faith, he observed the holy days of Advent. Advent is a timing of looking forward both to the birth of Jesus and to a future time when God’s reign through Jesus will embrace the world in love, grace, justice and peace (however that may happen.) It is also a time of expecting to see where that reign is already breaking through in our daily lives. And he didn’t want to miss that. He found taking time to “do” Advent enriched Christmas.

But he also loved the festivities and traditions of Christmas that take place at the same time. So outside Sundays and his spiritual practices, he would celebrate Christmas. Christmas Trees up and decorated both at home and in the church, Christmas luncheons and parties, and all the other trappings that can make this a joyous time of year.

I liked that and adopted that practice. Intentionally practicing Advent in anticipation. So during Advent we’ll slowly sing more Christmas hymns each week, but our focus will be on season of Advent and its Scripture readings. And I’ll finish decorating my Christmas tree at home with my husband this week (I hope) and decorate my office for Christmas. Celebrating the Holidays and the Holy Days. So while I’ll wait a little longer to wish you “Merry Christmas”, may you find yourself experiencing God’s love and grace in this time in ways that deepen your relationship with God and with others.

God’s grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

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, December 4, 2022



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.

stjohnsfcwi.org



Advent Vesper Service

Saturday, December 17, 2022

The Annual Advent Vesper Service will be on Saturday, December 17, 2022. We will be gathering at the Eagle Valley Church at 4:00pm. We'll share the Christmas story, sing favorite Christmas hymns and experience together this special time of the year. We hope you can join us.

The Church in Eagle Valley was historically preserved and donated to St. John's in 2003. Friends of Eagle Valley Community Church, an independent ecumenical committee, manages its use and maintains the restoration. As it is now named, this Community Church is available for any church to use for worship services, memorials, or weddings. In 2011 a pavilion with tables was added on the church grounds to accommodate gatherings of church or family.



Christmas Fund Offering

Sunday, December 18, 2022

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. This year we will take up the offering on Sunday, December 18, 2022. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need, expressed in thank you messages sent to the Pension Board such as this one.

“I loved working in small churches. I remember a day in seminary when I overheard a couple of students talking, saying that the thing to do was get a small church to start and then that’s your stepping-stone to a bigger church. That’s when I decided I would always serve small churches. They deserve people with experience. But I didn’t stop to think about the tiny annuity I would have at the time I made the decision to work with small congregations. Help from donations to the Christmas Fund has been a Godsend. Thank you!”

Please prayerfully consider your support of this offering for the wider United Church of Christ.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

Children’s Program

Sunday, December 18, 2022

St. John’s Church will be having a Children’s Program during Sunday Worship.

Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 24, 2022

St. John's Church will be having a special Christmas Eve Worship on Saturday, December 24, 2022 at 6:00pm. We look forward to worshipping with you.

Joint Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Since Christmas Day is also a Sunday, St. Johns and Hope UCC will combine their worship services into one. This year St. Johns will travel to Cochrane for our Joint Christmas Service with Hope UCC on Sunday, December 25, 2022 at 10:00am There will not be a separate service held at St. Johns church or video available that Sunday.



Light of the World: Book Study

A Beginner's Guide to Advent

Pastor Deb will be offering a joint a four-week Advent Book study for both Hope and St. Johns UCC. It will start Tuesday, November 29 and continue each Tuesday until December 20, tentatively at 4:00pm at Hope UCC. If you would like to participate and this time does not work for you, please let Pastor Deb know at pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com or 239.994.2528. A Zoom option can be made available if needed.



The book is Amy Jill Levine's "Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent." The book is described as "author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi.

These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt.

While reading the chapter in the book each week is not required, it will enhance the experience. Copies of the book will be available from Pastor Deb starting November 13. A donation to cover the cost is appreciated.

(If you prefer, it can also be purchased as a Kindle or Audio Book from Amazon.)

God's grace and peace.

Pastor Deb Kunkel

Liturgists & Others Wanted

Do you like to read during the service?

Then you will be happy to know that Pastor Deb is seeking liturgists to start the first week in November. 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

Pastor Deb did a sermon series on stewardship last month on November 6, 13 & 20. Very well done. Check out the recorded church service [videos](#) on our website which are archived each Sunday. As the end of the year approaches, now is an opportunity to look back to review each of our stewardship intentions for the past year. Stewardship of our time, talent, and treasure. St. John's is grateful to be the place of worship, both in church or online, for those that watch online. Our website is the place to register [online donations](#) for weekly or monthly offerings. Donations can be one time only or recurring for convenience. ~ Deacon John Stettler



Food Shelf

December: Business Of The Month

The St. John's Food Shelf has received many wonderful donations this year that are greatly appreciated! Waumandee State Bank is our latest Business of the Month with their donation along with cookies and milk for our volunteers! Two of our dedicated volunteers Jo Muench and John Stettler were working that Wednesday night to receive the check from Waumandee State Bank employee Charity Steer and Santa. Tremendous thank you goes out to our local bank for thinking of us!



Pictured From Left To Right:
Waumandee State Bank employee Charity Steer and St. John's Food Shelf
Volunteers John Stettler, Jo Muench along with Santa

Food Shelf

Report For November 2022

Can you give a couple hours a month and volunteer at the St. John's Food Shelf? Put a note in the offering plate this Sunday or reach out to Pastor Deb or Linda Clark at 715.495.5282. Thank you to our current volunteers! We are trying to help as many people possible!

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



- ✓ 271 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 13 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 21 Total People Helped
- ✓ 02 Children
- ✓ 09 Adults
- ✓ 10 Seniors
- ✓ 09 Households (2 Came Twice)

Volunteers: December

Ushers

Dale Schaffner, Calvin Stettler, Carol Risley

Greeters

12.04.22 Byron & Sherry Hoch
12.11.22 Weldon & Cheryl Kuhn Family
12.18.22 Vira Mae
12.25.22 Steve & Sue Prussing
01.01.22 Calvin Stettler

Counters

Donna Beck

Communion & Flowers

LuAnn Schmidtknecht & Amy Hammer

Financial Report

Overview as of 11.29.22

Bank Balance: \$83,000
Backpack Account: \$5,600
Investment \$ Held: \$35,000
Reserve for Monthly Expense: \$7,000
Contingency Fund/Emergency: \$35,000

NOVEMBER ACTIVITY

Income: \$7,261
Expenses: \$6,432

Birthdays

Emma Kuhn
Tina Fetting
Ryan Engel
Tessah Ely
Mary Stettler
Bella Beck-Walters
Alexis Yapp
Baylee Osborn
Dylan Wolfe
Bill Ruben
Ron Schutz
Laura Madsen
Joan Felting
Natalie Fetting
Danielle Felting
John Schowalter
John Sutter
Randy Boehm
Andrew Wolfe
Izaiah Knecht
Veronica Fetting
Richard Wicka
Tiffany Schaffner
Denise Yapp
Lucas Walth
Miles Walth
Mary Ziegler

Anniversaries

Reggie & Jeanne Franz
Chris & Kendra Ritscher
Werner & Jolene Engel

Confirmation

Confirmation Class Schedule

We offer Confirmation class for middle or high schoolers. This process which includes class meetings, service opportunities, leading worship, and other activities created to fit the needs and interests of each particular class. Our youth will be enriched by these conversations and planning so that we can welcome them into the journey of our life together.



Confirmation Class

3:30pm - 5:00pm
St. John's Church
TBA



Confirmation Class

3:30pm - 5:00pm
St. John's Church
TBA



Confirmation Class

NO CLASS
Christmas
Break



Confirmation Class

NO CLASS
Christmas
Break



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



Advent Vesper Service Eagle Valley Church

Eagle Valley Church
Fountain City, WI
Starts @ 4:00pm



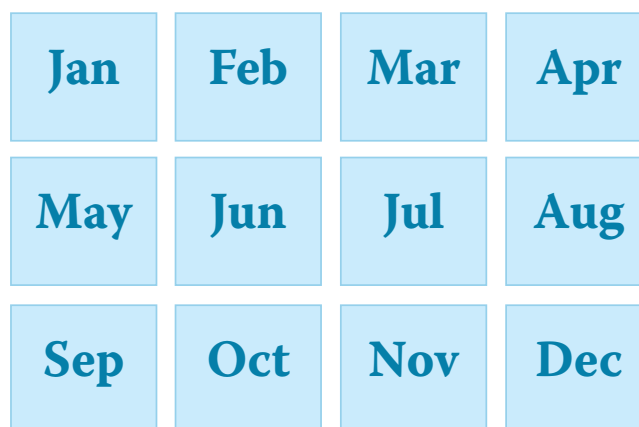
Christmas Eve Worship St. John's Church

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



Joint Christmas Service Hope United Church

210 Michaels Street
Cochrane, WI
Starts @ 10:00am



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
Fountain City, WI 54629-0130

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St. John's

United Church of Christ

Church Office:

stjohnsuccfc@gmail.com

Newsletter:

stjohnsfcnewsletter@gmail.com

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