

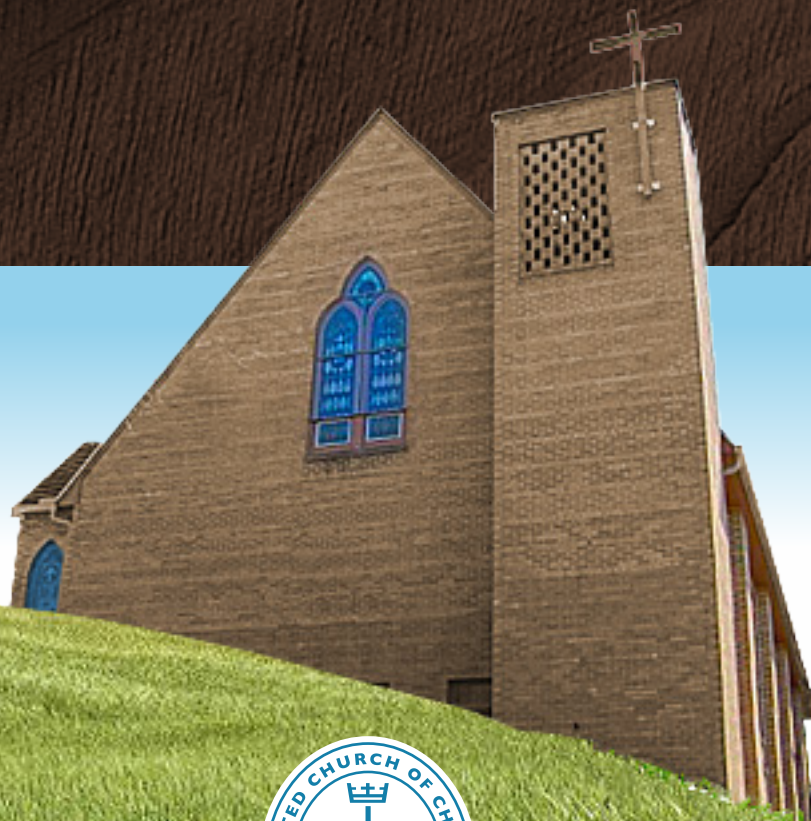


St. John's

United Church of Christ

Digital Newsletter

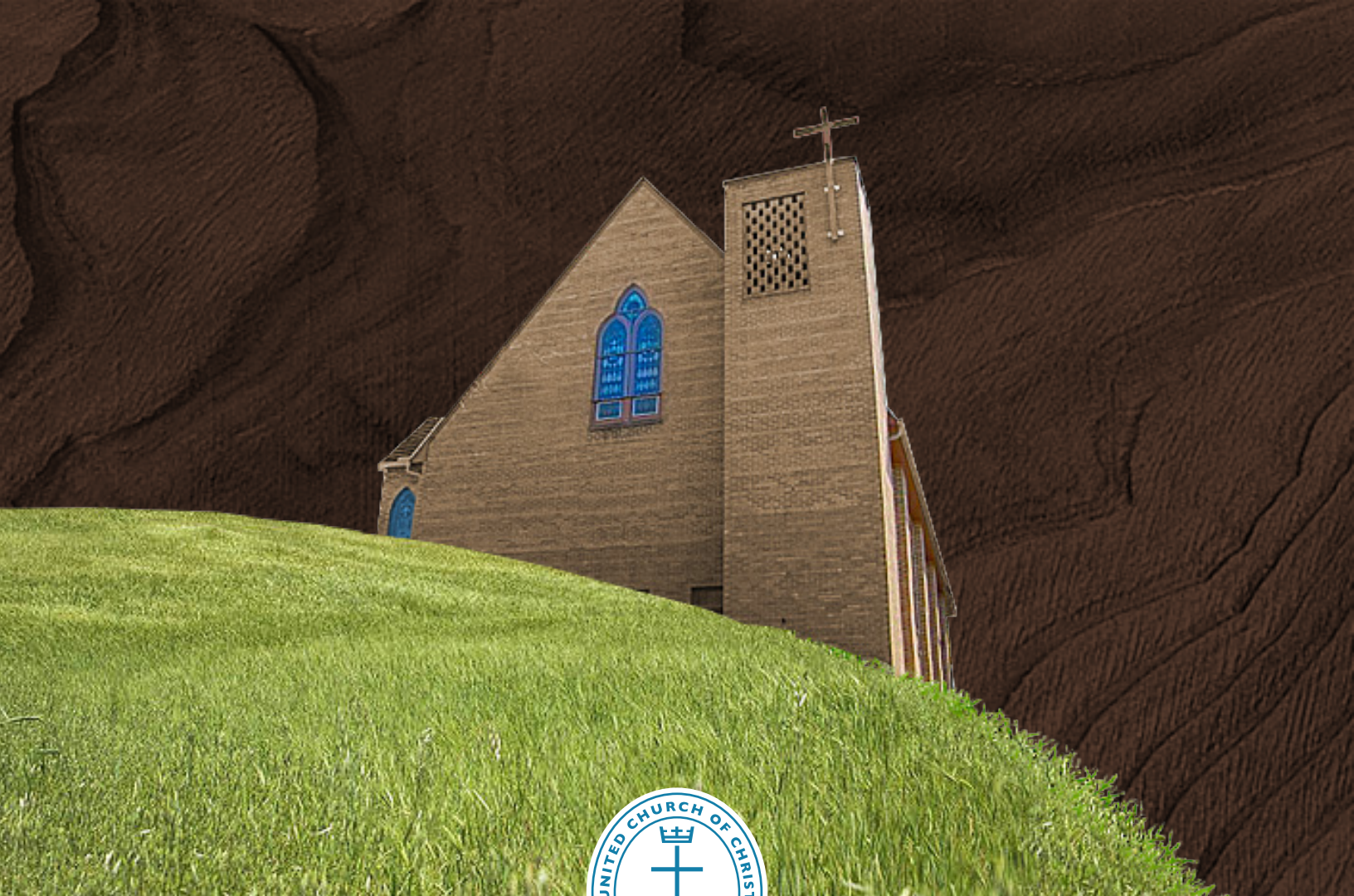
SJC Issue 0926 - September 2026



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 2026

One of St. Johns' September practices over the last few years is the Blessing of Pets (and other animals) Service. This year it will be at Goose Park next to Hope UCC in Cochrane on September 20 at 10:30am. This will be followed by a light lunch provided by Hope.

The service will look similar to previous years. I will slightly modify the regular worship service and shorten my message to allow time to bless the animals and have the service take place around an hour. There will also be a prayer for our departed pets and animals who played an important part in our lives. As in the past, all pets/animals must either be on a leash or contained in a cage/container that is enclosed on all sides. If you don't feel comfortable bringing your animal to the service, you can bring a collar, leash, toy, or other object that represents them for me to bless. While there are picnic benches at the park, I encourage you to put a lawn chair or two in your car in case they are all taken by the time you arrive.

The Blessing of Pets (and other Animals) has roots in the eighth century. Francis of Assisi, who is known for several aspects of his ministry, is said to have had a special rapport with animals which accounted for his concern for the care of all Creation. (He is also known for the Prayer of Assisi and his work with the poor.) During the early twentieth century, churches began offering these services. Some held them around Assisi's birthday on October 4 to honor him. Others began these as a way to celebrate animals as part of God's creation while at the same time lifting us that humans are the God ordained caretakers for everything in Creation. These services also acknowledge the deep, loving bonds people share with their animal companions and the roles animals can play in our lives.

This is just one of several special services that will be coming up this fall. Which of course leads to Advent. Over the next few months, please check the newsletter, the website, and the bulletin for more details about these events.

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. This money enables the children to choose how their donations go to people or projects in our area or throughout the world.

Sunday, September 6, 2026



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



Consistory Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 @ 5:30pm

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



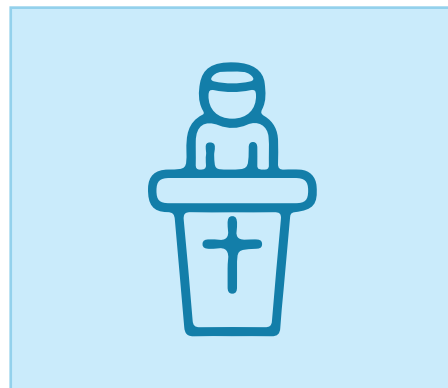
Education

Sunday School Kick-Off

Sunday School for up to sixth grade starts on Sunday, September 13, 2026 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 13 @ 8:30am



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 light lunch.

Please see the Letter from the Pastor above for more details on the origins of this service.

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" you 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 light lunch. This will be the only service for this day for Hope United Church and St. John's Church.

Sunday, September 20, 2026

- ✓ Starts @ 10:30am
- ✓ Goose Lake Park
- ✓ Cochrane, 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.



Confirmation Exploration

Registration & Orientation

Confirmation Exploration is a two-year program open to youth starting in seventh grade or above for students considering being Confirmed. Classes are held at St Johns but are open to both St. Johns and Hope UCC youth.

Registration and orientation with Pastor Deb is currently scheduled for Wednesday, September 30th at 6:00pm. (Please watch the bulletin in case a change needs to be made to the day and/or time of this meeting.)

The first class is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday October 7 for 4:00pm. We will discuss during orientation if the day of the week and time for classes still works for students.

Snacks as well as a ten-to-fifteen-minute free time are offered prior to class for any students who choose to be dropped off by the C-FC school bus that passes St. John. Parents will need to make arrangements for permission from the school for their child to ride on this bus.

If you are a parent whose child is going into seventh grade or above, and would like to attend the meeting, please let Pastor Deb know by contacting her at pastorstjohnsuccfc@gmail.com. Last minute additions are welcome to both the orientation and to the classes.

Wednesday, September 30 @ 6:00pm



Special Offering

Neighbors in Need Offering

On the first Sunday in October (October 4) we will be taking up the Neighbors in Need special offering. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is one of five Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ we participate in each year that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. Check out the bulletin, church website, and/or October newsletter for further information, or ask Pastor Deb.

Sunday, October 4 @ 8:30am



Food Shelf

Businesses Of The Month: Golden Hornets 4H Club

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

Golden Hornets 4H Club

Thank you very much!



Food Shelf

Businesses Of The Month: Suncrest Pizza

Cochrane-Fountain City Area Food Shelf

Suncrest Pizza

Thank you very much!



C-FC Area Food Shelf

Report For August 2026

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 past year 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 | ✓ Spam |
| ✓ Canned Frosting | ✓ V8/Tomato Juice | ✓ Salad Dressing |
| ✓ Instant Oatmeal | ✓ Boost | ✓ Ketchup |
| ✓ Cereal (Healthier) | ✓ Ensure | ✓ BBQ Sauce |

1st & 3rd Monday: 4:30pm - 6:30pm

2nd & 4th Wednesday: 3:00pm - 5:00pm



- ✓ 1355 Pounds Of Food Distributed
- ✓ Averages 21 Pounds Of Food Per Person
- ✓ 64 Total People Helped
- ✓ 21 Children
- ✓ 25 Adults
- ✓ 18 Seniors
- ✓ 28 Households (6 Came Twice)



Most Needed Donation Items For September 2026

- ✓ Chili
- ✓ Saltine Crackers
- ✓ Brown Baked Beans
- ✓ Canned Meat/Stews
- ✓ Muffin & Cake Mixes
- ✓ Frosting

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

09.06.26 Dale & LuAnn Schmidtknecht

09.13.26 Quint & Denise Yapp

09.20.26 Hope UCC – Blessing of the Animals

09.27.26 Bev Engel

10.04.26 Cleo Losinski & Karen Pehler

Counters

Amy & Derrick Hammer

Communion & Flowers

Cheryl Kuhn

Financial Report

The Treasurer's Monthly Summary of the previous month is always available after the current month's Consistory meeting. They are located on the bulletin board outside the church office. 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
Fountain City, WI

Birthdays

Karla Miller

Kimberly Aus

Sam Davis-Sweazey

Taylor Baures

Marjorie Kammueler

Jean Evans

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

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

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 @ 5:30pm



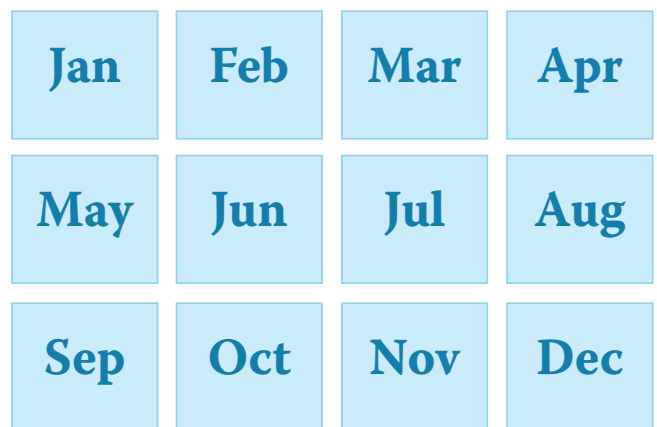
Sunday School St. John's Church

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



Blessing Of The Animals Hope United Church

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



Online Calendar

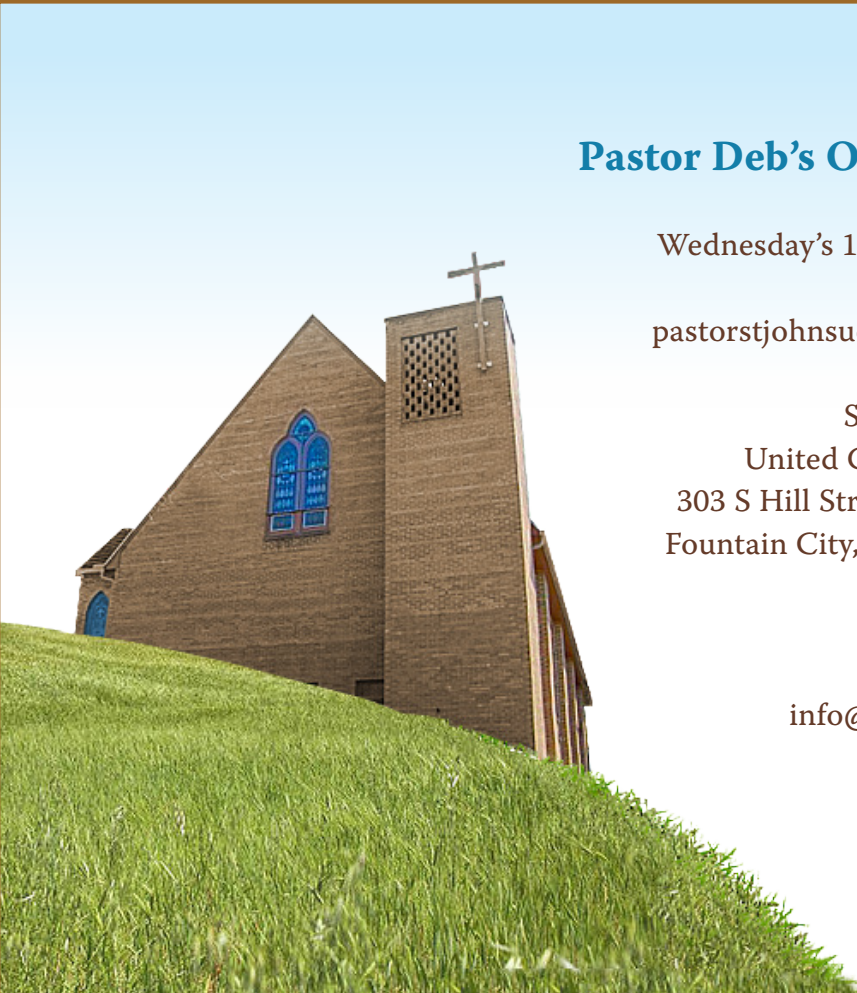
Please go online and visit our NEW easy to use website for current up-to-date, detailed event information. Our calendar is updated daily. Email us with any questions or comments.

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:

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:

Wednesday's 10:00am - Noon

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