

# St. James United Church of Christ

9008 Meisner Road, Casco, MI 48064 / [www.ourstjameschurch.org/](http://www.ourstjameschurch.org/)

## News from Pastor Ken

Newsletter  
October 2017  
Volume 2, Issue 9



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As we seem to squeeze out the last few days of summer weather and enjoying every last drop of it, I must say that I very much enjoy the season of fall for so many wonderful reasons.

First, I love fall weather. It's perfect .... warm sunny days and cool gentle nights. I enjoy the change in temperature but even more the anticipation and realization of the incredible palette of color that surrounds us in trees, bushes, fall flowers and vegetables. Even fall sunrises and sunsets seem more glorious. The colors are beautiful, the air is crisp, and it is perfect window open while sleeping weather. Even my nutty dogs seem to relish in the cool air and piles of leaves to roll and play in.

Just like the weather, it has been a year of change for many of us. Even though I know what season follows fall, I have come to accept that this is the natural order of things. What's more, I know that before long the cycle will be complete and with certainty, spring will arrive. Until then, I enjoy the seasons as they come, each with its own unique challenges, joys and beauty. With the weather just like life, I have found the key to peace and serenity is "Accepting life on life's terms". So, take heart, keep the faith, enjoy and continue to be part of the great transformation.

Getting back to fall and my gardens, fall gives me a great appreciation for gardening and gardeners, and the joy of being a steward of God's creation. The older I get the more I realize it is the simple things in life that make me happiest... ah life is good.

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ October 1-  
Communion Sunday,  
Discretionary Fund &  
Neighbors in Need  
Collection
- ◆ October 4 - Final  
Discussion Group
- ◆ October 7 - Blessing of  
Pets
- ◆ October 8 - Blake's  
Cider Mill
- ◆ October 10 - Council  
Meeting
- ◆ October 15 -  
Communion Sunday,  
Complete Shoebox  
Bags
- ◆ October 21 - Euchre
- ◆ October 22 - Chili  
Cook-off
- ◆ October 29 - Healing  
Service

### The Discretionary Fund October 1st, 2017

Did you know this fund is utilized to aid with rent, utilities, medical supplies, food and transportation to doctors, etc.?

This is generated from the loose change collected the first Sunday of each month. Please empty your pockets and change purses that day to meet the needs of our church and community.

When I think of my own gardening experience, I think that is how our spiritual journey works as well. Some seem to be born into it while others of us go kicking and screaming. Then sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly we find ourselves moving from resistance to tolerance to enjoying it and often without even noticing, a spiritual transformation occurs. The only thing required was the willingness to participate and to be open to the possibility of change.

As always, while in the garden I remember, ever so humbly, the many gifts that have been given to me. During this harvest time, I am reminded of God's grace and abundance in my life and the importance of sharing that abundance with others. Even sharing the story of our own journey can have a profound effect on others.

I encourage you to share your journey with others that they too may experience the joy and hope of transformation and perhaps encourage them to take the first steps into their own spiritual garden. It is exciting to be a part of the St James garden of growth and harvest. We at St James invite you to sense your ministry, feel your call and join us in this journey together, each according to our talents and energy.

In the garden at home and here in our St James' spiritual garden there is always plenty to do and each helping hand regardless of how large or small makes life a little easier for everyone. Any gardener will tell you how much better things look and taste when we have taken part in their creation. Whatever your gift and ability, regardless of how significant, or insignificant, you may think it is, know that we are all richer because you are here sharing those gifts. Whatever we do, we do in the light of God's unconditional love, boundless mercy and unending grace.

We look forward to growing together and invite you to join us on the journey and harvest. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's path, there is a place for you here at St. James and we welcome you.

One more thing. I have been sharing this little prayer a friend passed on to me. Seems appropriate for fall.

Dear God, thank you  
for all that you have given me  
for all that you have taken from me  
for all that you have left me  
Amen

Take care and be well, Peace  
Ken

## Prayers for....



|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Karen Marie   | George       |
| Sue           | David        |
| Scott         | Deborah      |
| Mimi          | Lynn         |
| Dan           | Johnnie      |
| Rich          | Paul         |
| Maraleen      | Peggy        |
| Bill          | Marion       |
| Dale          | Rev. Perkins |
| Irene         | Harmony      |
| Clark Russell | Mike         |
| Duane         | Rachael      |
| Joanne        | Roslynn      |
| Tony          |              |

## Outreach Ministry

### Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

Diapers - size 5, bath towels, twin sheets, pots, pans, dishes, silverware, fabric softener sheets, HE laundry soap.

### St. Augustine Richmond Food Pantry

In need of... pancake mix/syrup, canned beef stew, boxed potatoes, snacks for children's lunches, snack pack pudding cups, Manwich, juice boxes

### Blue Water Area Rescue Mission - B-WARM

#### In Need of Cleaning Supplies

Blue Area Rescue Mission needs toilet bowl cleaner, bleach, laundry soap, dish washing detergent, bathroom cleaners, paper towels, napkins, toilet tissue and Kleenex. Collection bin (B-WARM) is in the church basement. If anyone is looking for an opportunity to volunteer, B-WARM is looking for a person for a sewing project and to make calls.

B-WARM provides emergency shelter and mission program 7 days a week, 365 days a year for the homeless of St. Clair County as well as a discipleship program.

## Happy Birthdays in October

6 - Mark Uppleger  
13 - Julie Wendt  
14 - Julie Robbins  
18 - Carol Rooks  
19 - Dave Pittman  
21 - Dave DeFer  
22 - Glenn Meldrum  
28 - Mary Smith  
30 - Bob Wagner  
30 - Duane Johnson

## Happy Anniversary's in October

9 - Robin & Glenn Meldrum  
14 - Lisa & Lee Mahnke  
30 - Joan & Bernard Teltow

## Spiritual Growth Ministry

We need volunteers to assist with Sunday School, please let Sue Tews know if you can assist.

Pastor Ken's last discussion group meeting is on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Course will be based on the Lord's Prayer. Discussion will be for 1 hour.

The annual Blessing of Pets will be held on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am at St. James.

## Earthly Gifts Ministry

### Financial Goal Report September Financial Goal Report

The September financial goal was \$5,750.00, only \$3,029.00 made into the collection plate. Please do what you can for October to keep St. James financially stable.



### Military Prayer List

I will be including a list in the newsletter of our men and women in the military, to acknowledge those who serve and to pray for their safety. Please submit your loved one's, family member or friend's name, rank and branch of service to Roberta Fisher to be placed on the list.

## Worship Ministry

### Volunteers Needed Please sign-up

Usher/Greeter, Liturgists and Altar Care are all ministries we invite ALL to participate in. Sign-up sheets are provided in the basement for each ministry. If you have any questions what these ministries entail please contact Devon Klomp. Many have found that serving in these roles enriches their worship experience.

## Fellowship Ministry



Mark Pittman's Special Needs Boy Scout Troop is having its' annual fundraiser. Christmas wreaths, grave blankets, cedar roping, hanging baskets and poinsettias are for sale. Pre-paid orders will be taken from now and until October 22<sup>nd</sup>. for more information contact Becky Pittman at 810-392-7002.

### Blake's Cider Mill Trip

Join us for a fun afternoon at Blake's Cider Mill on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> after Sunday service. Blake's is open from 8am to 6pm, U-pick is opened until 5pm for pumpkins, apples, pears and raspberries. Cider and doughnuts will be available for purchase.

Hard Cider & Winery Tasting Room (both can be purchased) is also open from 10am to 6pm, lunch food is also available from \$7-\$11.

Blake's is located at 17985 Armada Center Road, Armada, MI 48005. You can call if you need any further information at 586-784-9463.

If you need a ride please let me know so a ride can be arranged for you.

**CHILI COOK-OFF**  
October 22, 2017 at 4:00pm.  
Perch Point  
7930 Meisner Road  
Casco, MI 48064



Only three weeks away from the annual Chili Cook-off to be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please look at your recipes and sign-up for entering your best type of chili. We don't want to run out of chili for our guests.

Tickets for Chili cook-off are \$10.00 per ticket. Contact Colleen to reserve a full table ahead of time.

Quilt made by Marilyn Beattie is to be raffled off at \$5.00 per ticket, 3 for \$10.00, or 8 for \$20.00.

**There are still many positions and items needed for this event to be a success for all of us at St. James.** Sign-up sheets are available for signing up to enter chili cook-off contest, set-up, 50/50 raffle, bake sale, donations for raffle board and Chinese raffle. We will need to have people available for clean-up also.

Please give any donations for the raffle board to Roberta Fisher. I will be collecting up to the morning of October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

As you all know, we at St. James are famous for our baked goods and the guests look forward to them. Please sign up to bring items for bake sale as well items needed for dessert for dinner.

The goal is to sell **200** tickets before the event!!



## Just for Fun



## Outreach Ministry

October 2017 collection is for socks, soap, washcloths, combs, notebooks, pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, general school supplies. **No need for dental floss or toys for the 2-4 age group, have more than enough.** Items accepted anytime: toys, headbands, barrettes, bows, hats, gloves or mittens.

**For 2017, we can no longer provide toothpaste (all that is collected will go to Kids in Distress and local shelters), toy guns or army men, paint sets and glue bottles.**

If you are not a shopper, you can still donate to this worthy cause by providing a cash donation or monies to cover the **\$9.00 mailing costs.**

Please make plans to stay after coffee hour on **Sunday, October 8, 2017** to finish **inserting the rest of the drawstrings** into our Christmas Shoebox Bags.

Boxes will need to be stuffed and ready for drop-off the **third week in November.** An announcement will be made in church and listed bulletin as to date to stuff after service. All are welcome.

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## Roof Collection

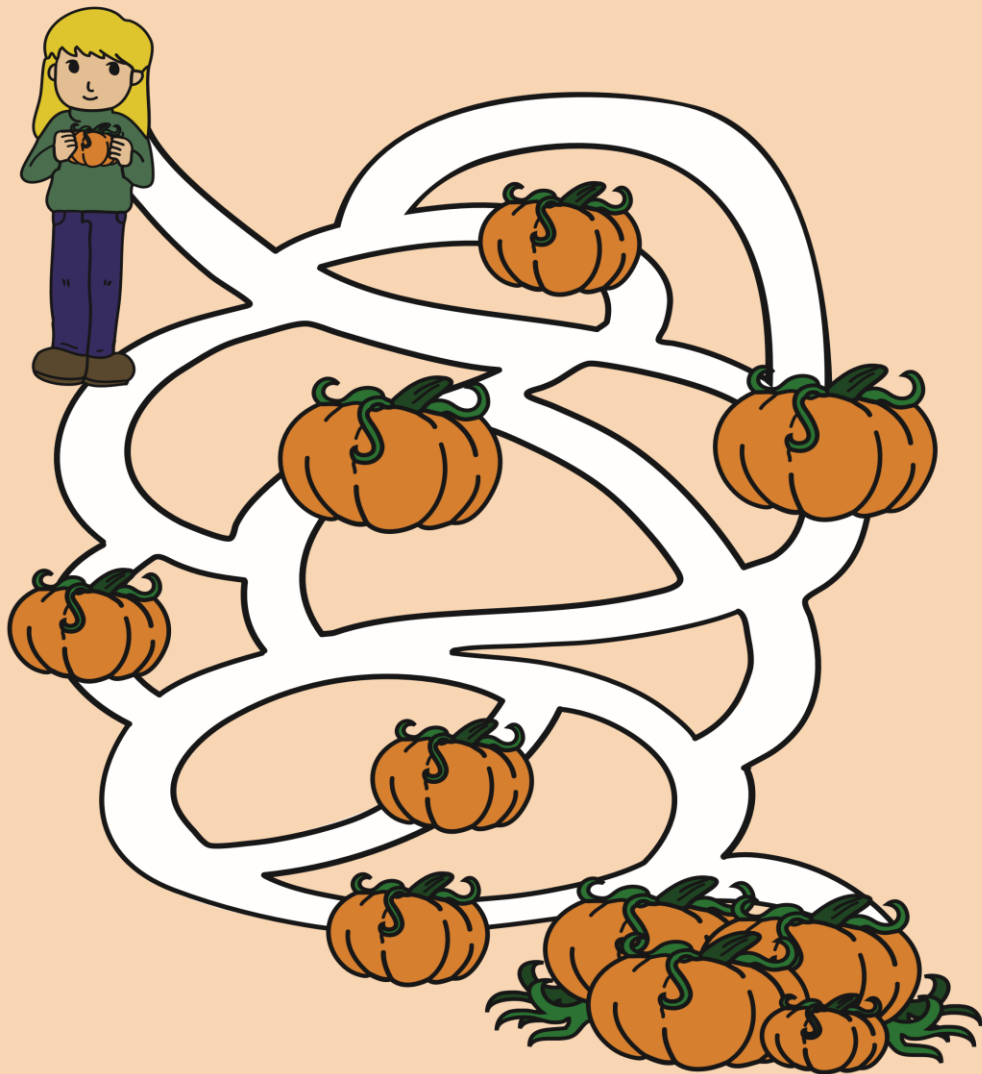


With the help of a couple money transfers from the Memorial Fund to the Investment Fund and the Euchre donation we have now have \$5,438.50 towards repayment of our loan from the investment fund. Donations can be made using your regular giving envelope marking how much should go to the roof fund or use the small pew envelope with your envelope number or name so your donation record can be updated. If you have any questions please contact Ralph or Wayne. Thank you in advance, every dollar helps to achieve our goal of \$25,000.00.

# KIDS PAGE

## Fall Game

Collect the pumpkins and reach the pumpkin patch!





Communion Servers

October 2017

Preparer: Doris Doss

Communion Servers: Doris Doss and Sherrie Ingles

Altar Care

October - Devon Klomp

Liturgists

October 2017

October 1 - Open

October 8 - Open

October 15 - Open

October 22 - Open

October 29 - Open

Ushers & Greeters

October 2017

October 1 - Open

October 8 - Open

October 15 - Open

October 22 - Open

October 29 - Open

**Scripture Readings for October**

**Sunday, October 1**

**Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Ex 17: 1-7

Ps 78:1-4, 12-16 or

Ezek 18: 1-4, 25-32

Ps 25: 1-9

Phil 2: 1-13

Matt 21: 23-32

**God's Sustaining Presence**

**Sunday, October 15**

**Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Ex 32: 1-14

Ps 106: 1-6, 19-23 or

Isa 25: 1-9

Ps 23

Phil 4: 1-9

Matt 22: 1-14

**Praiseworthy Living**

**Sunday, October 8**

**Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Ex 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Isa 5: 1-7

Ps 80: 7-15

Phil 3: 4b-14

Matt 21: 33-46

**Wisdom for the Way**

**Sunday, October 22**

**Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Ex 33: 12-23

Ps 99 or

Isa 45: 1-7

Ps 96: 1-9, (10-13)

1 Thess 1: 1-10

Matt 22: 15-22

**Living Messages**

**Sunday, October 29**

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Deut 34: 1-12

PS 90: 1-6, 13-17 or

Lev 19: 1-2, 15-18

PS 1

1 Thess 2: 1-8

Matt 22: 34-46

**The Compassionate Life**



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## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER