

St. James United Church of Christ

9008 Meisner Road, Casco, MI 48064 / www.ourstjameschurch.org/

News from Pastor Ken

Newsletter
April 2018
Volume 3, Issue 4

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It just seems that everyone I talk to lately is experiencing winter fatigue. Even my consulting client that has had a banner year doing over a million dollars last year in corporate snowplowing and landscaping (mostly snowplowing) has informed me that he is “so done with winter.”

Many of you have commented or inquired about Easter being early this year. Not really. It just came rather late last year. We have had both earlier and later Easters. Well here is how it was decided. We can thank our Pagan friends in part for this. In 325CE the Council of Nicaea established that **Easter** would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. From that point forward, the **Easter** date depended on the ecclesiastical approximation of March 21 for the vernal equinox.

Here is what I know for sure. Spring and Easter are here even though it may not feel like spring at this moment. I heard a couple church folks discussing how many robins that have already seen (none at my house yet) and my neighbor mentioned that she already has crocus' and I noticed little green sprouts popping up from beneath the cold earth as I walked through thinking about my gardens. It must be spring!!

As we finish this Lenten season the end of March and enter Easter, remember it is just like the transition from winter into spring. During what seems to be the endless cold dark days of winter, we start to experience the new life that rises up from what we once were sure was dead. That is what the Easter season offers us as well, to seek and experience new life, new life in our congregation and new life for ourselves.



<https://www.facebook.com/St-James-United-Church-of-Christ-10150090210425008/>

Upcoming Events

- ◆ April 1 - Easter Communion Sunday, Discretionary Fund
- ◆ April 8 - Sunday Service
- ◆ April 10 - Council Meeting
- ◆ April 15 - Communion Sunday
Sew Christmas Shoebox Tote Bags
Pot Luck Lunch
- ◆ April 21 - Euchre
- ◆ April 22- Sunday Service
- ◆ April 29 Healing Sunday

This Lenten season was a powerful season for me as I hope it was for you, filled with reflection, preparation and discernment. We spent time this Lenten season considering our own personal journey through the wilderness into Jerusalem. We prayed about what we bring to the cross and more importantly, what resurrection and transformation we have come to expect in our own lives this Easter. Over the past weeks, we have been talking about discovering the Christ within us, to be the resurrected, living Jesus we know God has called us to be.

As we come into spring, expect the miracle of new life. Expect to be transformed. Again, that is what Easter is all about. Some miracles are large, and some are small, some require that we look for them. A number of them even require that we work to reveal them. However, if we do look, if we keep expecting them and are willing to do what God asks us to do; those miracles will just keep coming.

I am excited about what this Easter season has in store for us all, personally and as a community in Christ. I encourage you to keep your heart, mind and spirit open. Let us plan together, pray together, and work together. Let us prepare to be transformed.

I invite you all to participate in the Holy week services including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Easter Eve Vigil and affirmation and of course Easter morning Communion service. Invite those you have missed to join us and share in this time of personal transformation and renewal.

Take care and be well, Peace
Pastor Ken

Prayers for....



Karen Marie
 Sue
 Scott
 Mimi
 Dan
 Rich
 Maraleen
 Dale
 Irene
 Clark Russell
 Tony

George
 David
 Deborah
 Lynn
 Johnnie
 Paul
 Peggy
 Marion
 Roslynn
 Joanne
 Kennedy Swatz
 Baby Charlie

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

Blue Water Area Rescue Mission - B-WARM

B-WARM NEEDS

Cleaning supplies: Toilet bowl cleaner, bleach, laundry soap, dish washing detergent, bathroom cleansers.

Men's clothing: sweatshirts, coats, and jackets.

Paper supplies: paper towels, napkins, toilet tissue, kleenex.

Miscellaneous: deodorants, shaving cream, shampoo, disposable razors.

B-WARM still has a need for volunteers to cook part time, make phone calls, and do some sewing. They are also looking for someone who specializes in writing grants. If anyone is especially generous and has a van they don't drive anymore, they could use one of those too.

St. Augustine Richmond Food Pantry

In need of... assorted jams and jellies, saltine crackers, canned tomatoes (sauce, stewed, diced, etc.), pancake syrup, Campbell's chunky soup or Progresso soup, Chef Boyardee spaghetti-O's, mini ravioli, ABC's etc.

The Discretionary Fund April 1, 2018

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.

Happy Birthdays in April

7 – Tammy Czenkus
9 – Wayne Baumgarten
9 – Marion Robertson
12 – Butch Lomerson
12 – Teri Wagner
13 – Al Bryant
29 – Christa Beattie
30 - Frederick Erhardt
30 - Douglas Bishop

Anniversaries in April

4 – John & Marilyn Beattie
8 – Dave & Becky Pittman
20 – Mike & Bernice Callahan
25 – Dan & Ellen Riley

Spiritual Growth Ministry

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



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 love 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

Please consider signing up for the ministries of Usher/Greeter, Liturgists and Altar Care. Sign-up sheets for each are provided in the basement.

Earthly Gifts

Our Financial Goal for March was \$5,750.00. Contributions totaled \$3,402.00 which was \$2,348.00 short. Please do what you can to help meet the financial obligations of St. James.



Roof Collection

Contributions are still needed to replace the \$25,000.00 we used to replace the roof. We still need \$17,576.00 to meet our goal. Donations can be made using your regular envelope and marking how much you want to go to the roof fund or use the small pew envelope and put your name or envelope number, so your donation can be added to your donation record.

Easter Blessings

A Prayer for Easter Eyes



My Lord, Jesus,
You have risen to new life!
Give me new eyes with which to recognize
your presence in the world around me.
Sharpen my vision so that I see beyond the
ordinary events of each day and into the
extraordinary reality of your grace.
Brighten my view of the world with renewed
hope in the coming of your Kingdom.
Soften my gaze so that I view others with the
kind of tenderness and compassion you
showed to so many.
May each day of this Easter season provide
glimpses of your glory.
In your sacred name, I pray.
Amen.

Christmas Shoeboxes

We will be sewing the rest of the tote bags needed (82) to insert in the shoeboxes after services on Sunday, April 15. You do not need to be able to sew to help, we will need people to cut, iron and thread the draw strings for the bags. All donations of material will be welcomed. Pot luck luncheon also will be served.

We collect the below items for boys and girls from the age of 2 to 14 years old. Our goal is to fill 100 boxes by November 2018 without running out of items. April 2018 collection is soap, washcloths, combs, toothbrushes. Items accepted anytime are: hat, gloves, socks, toys, school supplies (pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, small note books, glue, crayons), hygiene items (soap, washcloths, combs, toothbrushes, floss), headbands, barrettes and bows.

We can no longer provide toothpaste, 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.

CORNED BEEF INCOME STATEMENT

Corned Beef Sales \$2511.00

DRAWING SALES

Pony 105.00

Lotto 550.00

Chinese Buffet 850.00

Bakery Items 270.00

50/50 390.00

Total \$4676.00

Donations for Beef 570.00

Cash found on floor 10.00

Total Cash Income \$5256.00

EXPENSES

Meat 696.40

Hall Rental 200.00

Total 896.40

Funds Deposit in Bank \$4,359.60

Bottle / Can Collection

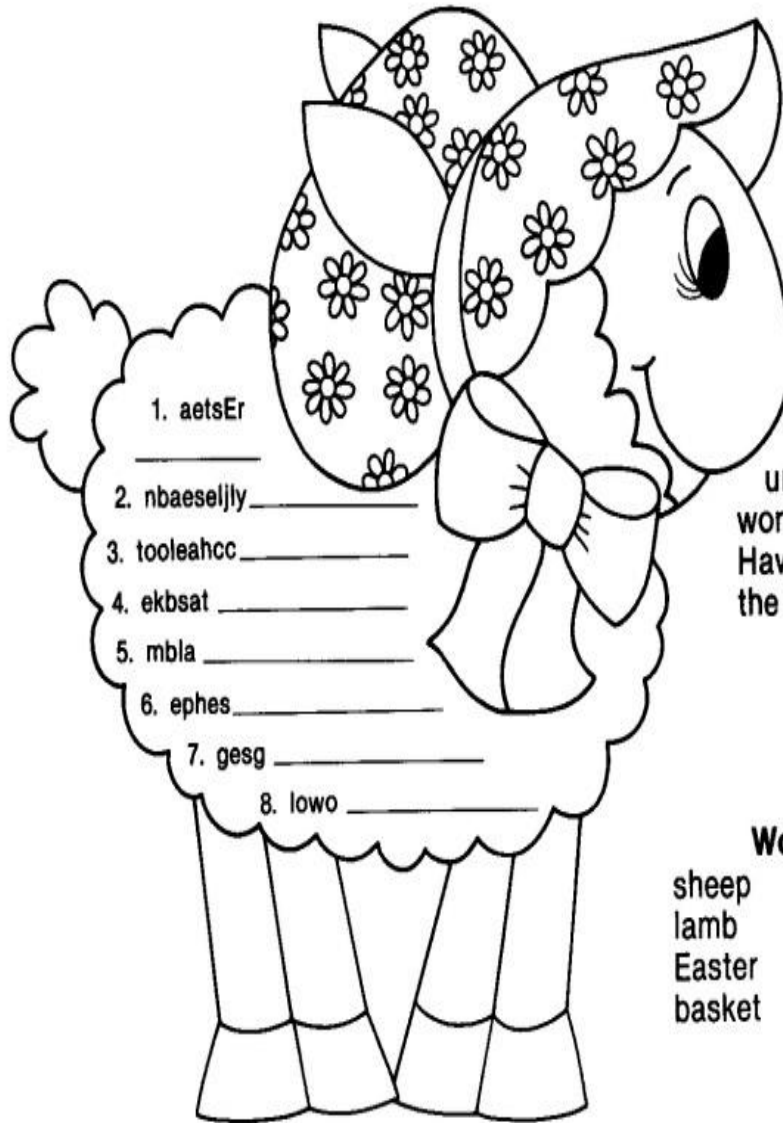
We are collecting empty and clean bottles and cans with a deposit on them to support our Christian Education Program. Please bring them to church, there is a box in the basement, back room, by the door for them.

Thanks to all for their help and donations.

Kid's Page

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Use the word list below to unscramble the words on the sheep. Have fun coloring the picture.

Word List

- | | |
|--------|-------------|
| sheep | eggs |
| lamb | jelly beans |
| Easter | wool |
| basket | chocolate |

1. aetsEr _____

2. nbaeseljly _____

3. tooleahcc _____

4. ekbsat _____

5. mbla _____

6. ephes _____

7. gesg _____

8. lowo _____

Altar Care

April - Roberta Fisher

Communion Servers

Preparer: Mark Tews
Communion Servers: Mark Tews & Ralph Ski

Ushers & Greeters

April 1 - Open
April 8 - Open
April 15 - Open
April 22 - Open
April 29 - Open

Liturgists

April 1 - Open
April 8 - Open
April 15 - Open
April 22 - Open
April 29 - Open

Scripture Readings for April

Sunday, April 1

Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa 25: 6-9
Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24
1 Cor 15: 1-11 or Acts 10: 34-43
Jn 20: 1-18 or Mk 16: 1-8
Now What?

Sunday, April 8

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 32-35
Ps 133
1 Jn 1: 1-22
Jn 20: 19-31
Marks of Faith

Sunday, April 15

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3: 12-19
Ps 4
1 Jn 3: 1-7
Luke 24: 36b-48
Christ Among Us

Sunday, April 22

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 5-12
Ps 23
1 Jn 3: 16-24
Jn 10: 11-18
Enfolded by Love

Sunday, April 29

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8: 26-40
Ps 22: 25-31
1 Jn 4: 7-21
Jn 15: 1-8
Abiding in Love



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APRIL NEWSLETTER