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



Happy New Year!

The New Year can give us a sense of optimism, opportunity and excitement for the days ahead. It is as if turning to the first page of the new calendar allows us to set aside the challenges, disappointments and hurts of the past year and look forward to a fresh beginning with hope.

That is exactly what this past month of Advent and Christmas are all about. Maybe that is why the church calendar always begins approximately a month before our standard secular calendar year. It gives us a little extra time to plan and prepare for this new beginning. It was good this past Advent spending time in active prayer and meditation discerning what God has called me (and us) to do and who God has called me (and us) to be.

As we look toward our New Year I encourage us to consider our individual and personal gifts and opportunities and to actively participate in our own growth and sustainability as well as our community of faith. This may include planning and/or growing a ministry, reaching out to those in need, inviting friends and family to attend worship, reaching out to former members or your unchurched neighbors to visit us, encouraging generous giving, and sharing your story of faith in the community.

The reality is that this family of faith needs and more importantly calls you to be an active part in its vital role in the community and it cannot do it without you. Just as Christ could not carry on his ministry without his disciples, we cannot carry on without your active participation in spreading the good news. This approach to ministry more closely reflects the way Christ’s own ministry was carried out. It creates wonderful opportunities for all to participate each according to our individual gifts of time, energy, talent, treasure and other resources as we are able in various and appropriate ministries.

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# News from Pastor Ken

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



Newsletter

January 2019

Volume 4, Issue 1

The purpose of a newsletter is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. A school newsletter can be a great way to develop a strong relationship with parents.

First choose a short title for your newsletter— something like "School News," or “Back to School.” As you choose the title, also take time to think about the newsletter’s theme. What important messages do you want to send parents and families?

Next, establish how much time and money you can spend on your newsletter. These factors will help determine how frequently you publish the newsletter and its length.

Use the body of your school newsletter to keep parents apprised of major assignments and class events, as well as any of school district news. Also share news for specific grade levels, and tell parents about upcoming events, new faculty, and school policies.

## Dear Parents

St. James United Church of Christ

## Upcoming Events

* January 6 – Communion Sunday 9am &

Discretionary Fund

De-greening of church

Pot luck breakfast

* January 8 – Council Meeting 7pm
* Saturday, January 12 – 6- 9pm St. John’s Fun & Games Night
* January 14 - Council Annual Reports due
* January 19 - Euchre 6:30pm
* January 20 – Communion Sunday 9am
* January 27 Annual Meeting

As we speak of gifts, January 6th is Epiphany, a time when the wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus. I so much enjoy the whole idea of Epiphany and all the symbolism that goes with it. First, there was the arrival of the wise men on Epiphany. They traveled across what was then the entire world on faith, following a star to a place where, when they arrived, they were struck by a vision of hope and love so simple and yet so profound that it changed their lives. During this season of Epiphany, we too are invited to come to that place where our lives may be changed forever.

In the first week of Epiphany we also celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ. It is in that very same baptism that we too are baptized and called to be disciples each of us according to our gifts and abilities.

This is for me an exciting time. A time when the world so desperately needs to see hope, so desperately needs to see the love of Jesus. We are called to be the face of Christ, to be that light for the world to see. I think to myself “what an overwhelming task” but I realize that we do not go alone nor are we expected to do it all. We go knowing that God stands before us and behind us, that God will give us the words to speak and the strength to do God’s will each according to our gifts and abilities. We are called to reach out to change the life of one person, who will change the life of one person, who will change the world. I always remember this wonderful quote “We are not called to do everything but we are called to do something.’

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are surrounded by God’s unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace. There is a place for you here.

May this Epiphany season fill you with hope, recognizing and acting on our call to be disciples.

Happy New Year!! Take care and be well, Peace

Ken

**Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued**

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**The Discretionary Fund**

**January 6, 2019**

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.

St. Augustine Richmond Food Pantry

**No specific needs at this time:** All donations are welcomed

George

David

Deborah

Lynn

Johnnie

Peggy

Joanne

Claudette

Lorene

Russell

Dorothy

Russ

**Current needs** are as follows:

Twin/Full sheets, Diapers all sizes, Wipes, Towels, Hats and gloves, Boots, Winter clothes 3T- 14 and Winter Coats, hats, gloves/mittens, scarfs

**B-WARM NEEDS**

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

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

**Blue Water Area Rescue Mission** **– B-WARM**

Karen Marie

Sue

Jackie

Kathy

Rich

Maraleen

Clark

Tony

Baby Charlee

Trudy

Amy

Sharon

**Outreach Ministry**

**Kids in Distress**



 Prayers for….

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|  |
| --- |
|  2 – Mark Pittman |
|  6 – Bill LaDuke |
|  8 – Elizabeth Kulman |
| 14 – Bill Osterland |
| 16 – Andrew Kargula |
| 20 – Jim Maedel |
| 26 – Tommy Bandlow |
| 28 – Jessie Teltow |
|  30 – Cindy Pittman |

**Page 4 of 8**

**Earthly Gifts**

Donations for December as of December 16th were $3,304.00 our goal was $5,750.00.  We are now in the Holiday Season please remember to obligate a few extra dollars to St. James so financial obligations can be meet.  The goal once again for January is $5,750.00.  If you forgot your donation envelope or don't have one, please use the small envelopes provided in the pew and place your name on it and mark it for expenses.  Thanks in advance for your donations during the past months.

**Worship Ministry**

## Happy Birthdays in January

**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.

**Roof Collection**

To donate just mark your regular envelope the amount that should go to the roof or use the small envelope in the pew indicating your name or envelope number or just leave blank if you don't want to be recognized just put roof on the envelope.  Thanks once again for your support of St. James.  Only $13,513.83 to go.

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**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.

PFC Shane David Kinney Army Airborne

**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.

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**Look For The Good**

In the New Year, let's resolve
 to get less stressed, upset, anxious
 about things over which we have no control.
 Lets’ have a narrower focus on our lives,
 loving and helping our family and friends,
 making our community a better place to live,
 to create peace and contentment.

In the New Year, let's resolve
 to pay less attention to depressing stories
 on TV, in magazines and newspapers,
 and to stop focusing on what we want
 that we haven't got,
 instead of appreciating
 the many blessings we do have.

In the New Year, let's look for the good.
 We may have to search
 through a mass of negative media,
 but the good is there,
 all around us.

Wishing you a New Year filled with good,
 engulfed in serenity and happiness!

**Christmas Totebags for**

**Local Community Charities**

**Page 6 of 8**

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/tote bags by November 11, 2018 without running out of items**. January 2019 collection is Socks, hats, gloves, scarfs and toys.** 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, toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss), headbands, barrettes and bows, socks all sizes.

**Ministry Needing Helpers!!!!!**

Members are needed to take the items received for donation to B-Warm, Kids-In-Distress and Richmond Food Pantry (St. Augustine). As you see the boxes/tubs getting full please feel free to help in this ministry by taking the items to the designated places. **Call first**, to make sure they are open for deliveries.

B-Warm Kids-In-Distress Richmond Food Pantry

1920 24th St 1114 S 7th St St. Augustine

Port Huron, MI 48060 St. Clair, MI 48079 68035 Main St

[(810) 956-0768](https://www.google.com/search?q=blue+water+area+rescue+mission+port+huron+mi&rlz=1C1CHBD_enUS725US725&oq=blue+water+area+rescue+mission&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j0.24248j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8) [(810) 326-4505](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHBD_enUS725US725&ei=j-5pW5X5EJCwsAW8gi4&q=kids+in+distress&oq=kids+in+distress&gs_l=psy-ab.3..0l2.106654.110108.0.110732.16.10.0.6.6.0.127.1111.1j9.10.0....0...1c.1.64.psy-ab..0.16.1140...0i131k1j0i67k1.0.DlX_ayFsvYg) Richmond, Mi 48062

 [(586) 727-5215](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1CHBD_enUS725US725&ei=_-5pW9i8EarU0gLBo7uABg&q=st.%20augustine%20richmond%2C%20mi&oq=st.+augustine+richmond%2C+mi&gs_l=psy-ab.3..0l2j0i22i30k1l8.104519.111156.0.111685.26.19.0.7.7.0.167.2177.0j19.19.0....0...1c.1.64.psy-ab..0.26.2232...0i131k1j0i67k1j0i131i67k1.0.WxeagXRGxKw&npsic=0&rflfq=1&rlha=0&rllag=42801870,-82749132,24&tbm=lcl&rldimm=12359400108849307256&ved=2ahUKEwj9q6KO09vcAhWAFzQIHWs6CAEQvS4wAHoECAQQEw&rldoc=1&tbs=lrf:!2m1!1e2!3sIAE,lf:1,lf_ui:2)

Council Members Needed!!!!

St. James will need three members of the church to volunteer by January 1st for three years to be a member of the church council. Please notify Pastor Ken or one of the council members if you are interested in the rewarding service.

**Council 2018 Annual Reports Due**

All annual reports are due to Roberta Fisher by January 14, 2019.

**Meeting is on January 27, 2019**

**Kid’s Page**

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**Communion Servers**

**Altar Care**

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**Preparer:** Bev Kulman

**Communion Servers:** Bev Kulman and Mark Tews

 January – Open

**Liturgists**

**Ushers & Greeters**

January 6 - Open

January 13 – Open

January 20 - Open

January 27 – Open

January 6 - Open

January 13 – Open

January 20 - Open

January 27 – Open

## Scripture Readings for January

**Sunday, January 6 Sunday, January 13**

**Epiphany The Baptism of Christ**

Isa 60: 1-6 Isa 43: 1-7

Ps 72: 1-7, 10-14 Ps 29

Eph 3: 1-12 Acts 8: 14-17

Matt 2: 1-12 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

**Where is the child? Affirmed by Love**

**Sunday, January 20 Sunday, January 27**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Isa 62: 1-5 Neh 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Ps 36: 5-10 Ps 19

1 Cor `1: 1-11 1 Cor `1: 12-31a

John 2: 1-11 Like 4: 14-21

**Extravagant Sign**  **Good News, Good Ways**

**St. James United Church of Christ**

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We’re on the Web!

**Ourstjameschurch.org**



JANUARY

NEWSLETTER

