

# St. James United Church of Christ

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

## News from Pastor Ken

Newsletter  
April 2019  
Volume 4, Issue 4

### Contents

News from Pastor Ken	1
Pastor Ken News Cont.	2
Upcoming Events	2
Discretionary Fund	2
Prayers Needed	3
Outreach Ministry	3
Birthday	4
Anniversaries	4
Worship Ministry	4
Lenten Schedule	4
Earthly Gift Ministry	4
Military List	4
Bottle Can Collection	4
Mad Hatter Tea Party	5
Easter Poem	6
Roof collection	6
Christmas Tote Bags	7
Ministers Needed	7
Giving Tree	7
Kid's Page	8
Altar Care	9
Communion Servers	9
Ushers/Greeters	9
Liturgist Readers	9
Scripture Readings	9



No matter how long the winter seems to be, it always seems so long. Almost everyone I talk to has a feeling of winter fatigue. Almost a sense of winter hopelessness. And although spring technically arrives at the same time every year there are days it seems far off. Especially this year with Easter coming a little later, over half the month of April is still full of Lent. And although Lent is not designed to be a season of suffering but rather a time of reflection in preparation for the Easter season it seems to add to the melancholy.

Do not give up hope. Spring is coming and will not be denied. Soon we will start to notice those oh so subtle hints of spring. In fact, it has already started to happen. The snow turns to rain and the ice to mud and many of us will be so happy to see it we will almost forget to complain about it. The days are getting longer so we hear more birds chirping and the daffs are trying to boldly push themselves up.

This is what the Easter season is all about. 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.

We spend time this Lenten season considering our own personal journey through the wilderness into Jerusalem. We pray about what we bring to the cross and more importantly, what resurrection transformation have we 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.

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ April 3 -Lenten Discussion Group 7pm
- ◆ April March 7 - Communion Sunday 9am & Discretionary Fund
- ◆ April 9 - Council Meeting 7pm
- ◆ April 13 - Mad Hatter Tea Party - 2:30pm
- ◆ April 18 - Maundy Thursday Service - 7pm
- ◆ April 19 - Good Friday Service 1pm  
Stations of the Cross 2pm at St. James
  
- ◆ Good Friday Service & Stations of the Cross at St. Johns' 7pm
- ◆ April 20 - Holy Saturday Service 7pm
- ◆ April 21 - Easter East Breakfast - 7:30am  
Communion Sunday 9am

As we come into spring, expect the miracle of new life... 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.

Take care and be well, Peace  
Pastor Ken

### The Discretionary Fund March 3, 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.

## Prayers for....



Karen Marie  
Sue  
Rich  
Maraleen  
Clark  
Tony  
Baby Charlee  
Trudy  
Amy  
Sharon  
Linda  
Sallie  
Russell

George  
David  
Deborah  
Lynn  
Johnnie  
Peggy  
Joanne  
Claudette  
Lorene  
Russell  
Dorothy  
Russ  
Darrell

## Outreach Ministry

### Kids in Distress

#### Current needs are as follows:

Clothes 3T, 4T, 5 & 7/8, Boys and girls  
Size 6 shirts, shorts & pants, socks,  
underwear, baby hygiene items, baby  
wipes, shampoo & conditioner, pots &  
pans, towels

To put in to perspective the impact  
KIDS has on the community, in 2018  
they distributed... 4,611 baby outfits,  
1,766 coats, 3,723 pairs of shoes,  
9,605 socks, and underwear, 18,249  
shirts and 14,417 pants.

KIDS also collect's overly worn with  
holes or stains and sells them to a  
recycle company . We the money they  
raise it allows them to purchase items  
that are needed and helps keep the  
washer and dryers running to do  
laundry for the children they serve.

### St. Augustine Richmond Food Pantry

**Current Needs:** pancake mix, syrup,  
jams and jellies, and boxed potatoes

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

#### B-WARM NEEDS

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

Paper products: paper towels, napkins, toilet  
paper and kleenex

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

Hygiene Items: shaving cream, disposable  
razors, deodorants, shampoo

Special needs: van, volunteers to make  
telephone calls, grant writer, part time cook,  
someone who can assist in sewing projects

## 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

## Earthly Gifts

## Worship Ministry

### Spiritual Ministry

#### Lenten Discussion Group

Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The subject is Spiritual Gifts. Discussion Group meetings will begin at 7pm at St. John's.

#### Lenten Schedule

Thursday, April 18 – Maundy Thursday  
Service 7pm at St. James

Friday, April 19 – 1pm – Good Friday  
Service at St. James  
2pm – Stations of the  
Cross at St. James

7pm – Good Friday  
Service and Stations  
of the Cross at St. J  
Johns

Saturday, April 20 – Holy Saturday  
Service 7pm at St. James

Sunday, April 21 – 9am Easter Service  
at St. James  
11am Easter  
Service at St. John's

The March Budget was \$5852.00 and only \$2,741.00 was received. Please do what you can to help St. James meet its financial obligations.



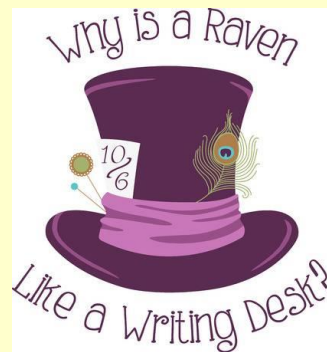
### Military Prayer List

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.

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.



## *Mad Hatter Tea Party*

*Saturday, April 13, 2019*



*Follow the White Rabbit to.....*

*St. James Church Basement*

*2:30pm -5:30pm*

*We will have an afternoon of Fellowship, Fun and Food*

*Coffee, Variety of Teas, Punch and Cake will be provided*

*Sign-up is in the church basement let us know how many and what dish you're bringing to pass.*

*Menu of.....*

*(Soup, salad, Sandwiches, scones, fruit, or cheese and crackers)*

*A donation of \$5.00 is requested and will be donated to a Blue Water Safe Horizons.*



*Don't be late for this very important date!*

## Easter Poem

### Our Prayer for Easter

O Jesus, our beloved companion, and glow of our inspiration. We thank thee on this glorious Easter morn for guiding our lives and protecting our homes and families. And for sharing with us the warmth of thine unseen presence. We thank thee, O brother, for being our way to the father, for lighting our pathway to the spring, the source from whence all beauty, peace and life endlessly flow.

In this miraculous season of rebirth; as the flowers and the trees and the grasses emerge from winter's slumber; as the butterflies and dragonflies take to the breeze once again; as creatures big and small nurture a new generation of babies; and as the days grow longer, the nights warmer, and the skies bluer;

We thank thee, O Jesus, for bringing us together with our friends and loved ones on this Easter holiday, in order that we might recall thine own marvelous rebirth, so long ago—when the task of thy temporal ministry had drawn to a close and our father, by his grace unto us, did bring thee back to life and unto that dimension which is his own, which is all around us, and which is called Heaven; that ye shalt dwelleth by our side as our unseen but ever-present protector and counselor for the rest of these days.

And lastly, O Jesus, even as thou hast steadfastly protected us, we humbly reaffirm our promise to protect the gifts of nature and tranquility that our father hath bestowed upon us.

And so, it is in thy name, Jesus Christ, that we pray. Amen.



### Roof Collection

Financial assistance also is needed to repay the investment fund for the new roof. If you can please mark your regular giving envelope how much you desire to give to the ROOF FUND or place your donation in the small pew envelope with your name or envelope number and deposit it in the collection plate.

## Christmas Tote Bags for Local Community Charities

We collect the below items for boys and girls from the age of 2 to 14 years old. Our goal is to fill 100 tote bags by November 11, 2019 without running out of items. **April 2019 collection is hygiene items such as: toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, dental floss, headbands, barrettes and bows, soap, washcloths.** Items accepted anytime are: hat, gloves, socks, toys, school supplies (pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, small note books, glue, crayons), socks (All Men, Women and Children - all sizes)

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### **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 Port Huron, MI 48060 <a href="tel:8109560768">(810) 956-0768</a>	Bev & Gordie Kulman 1114 S 7th St St. Clair, MI 48079 <a href="tel:8103264505">(810) 326-4505</a>	St. Augustine 68035 Main St Richmond, Mi 48062 <a href="tel:5867275215">(586) 727-5215</a>

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### **Giving Tree**

The Christmas Tree in the church basement has been left up in order to collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs and socks for the Christmas Tote Bags that we fill in November. Please give generously. When we have enough of the items then we can take the tree down.

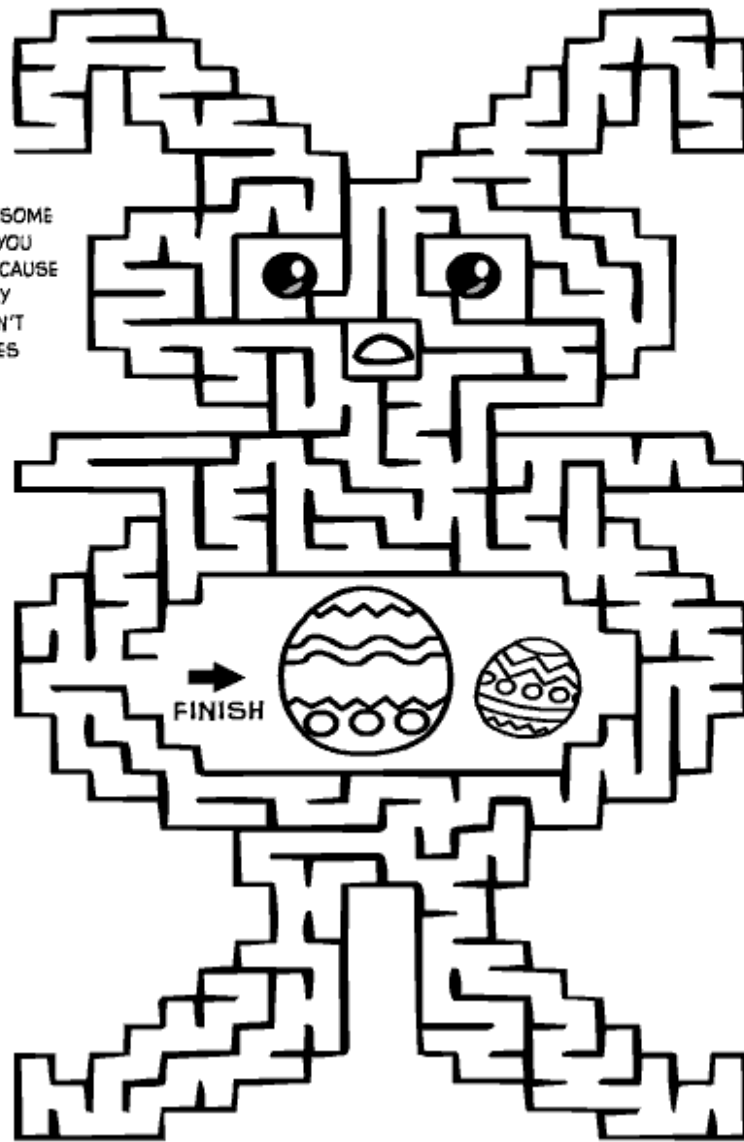
# Kid's Page

## MAZE EASTER MAZE

START  
→

UH OH! THE EASTER BUNNY IS MISSING SOME EASTER EGGS. DO YOU THINK IT MAY BE BECAUSE HE ATE THEM? SILLY EASTER BUNNY! DON'T YOU KNOW? BUNNIES DON'T EAT EGGS!

TRY TO FIND YOUR WAY TO THE EASTER BUNNY'S TUMMY TO FIND THE EGGS BEFORE HE TRIES TO EAT SOME MORE!





## Altar Care

April - Beverly Kulman

## Communion Servers

April Preparer: Ralph Ski  
Communion Servers: Doris Doss

## Ushers & Greeters

April 7 - Open  
April 14 - Open  
April 21 - Open  
April 28 - Open

## Liturgists

April 7 - Open  
April 14 - Open  
April 21 - Open  
April 28 - Open

## Scripture Readings for April

**Sunday, April 7**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
Isa 43: 16-21  
Ps 126  
Phil: 3: 4b-14  
John: 12: 1-8  
**Something New**

**Sunday, April 21**  
**Easter**  
Acts 10: 34-43 or Isa 65: 17-25  
Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24  
1 Cor 15: 19-26 or Acts 10: 34-43  
John 20: 1-18 or Luke 24: 1-12  
**Resurrection Joy**

**Sunday, April 14**  
**Sixth Sunday of Lent-Palm Sunday**  
Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29  
Luke 19: 28-40  
Isa 50: 4-9a  
Ps 31: 9-16  
Phil 2: 5-11  
Luke 22: 14-23:56 or Luke 23: 1-49  
**Into Jerusalem**

**Sunday, April 28**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 5: 27-32  
Ps 118: 14-29 or Ps 150  
Rev 1: 4-8  
John 20: 19-31  
**Resurrection Witness**



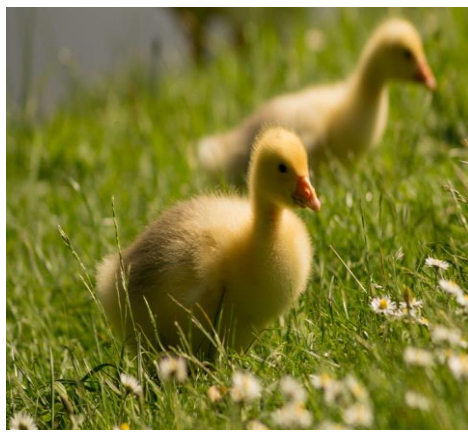
St. James United Church of Christ  
9008 Meisner Road  
Casco, MI 48064

Phone:  
(586) 727--1623

Fax:  
(586) 27-0833

E-mail:  
[kgadd@ourstjameschurch.org](mailto:kgadd@ourstjameschurch.org)

We're on the Web!  
[Ourstjameschurch.org](http://Ourstjameschurch.org)



## APRIL NEWSLETTER