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

Newsletter

January 2020

Volume 5, Issue 1



Happy New Year!

WOW! It doesn’t feel like that long ago that the idea of the year 2020 seemed futuristic. Well here we are, and the future is now! For me there is something about the New Year that speaks to a time of hope and new beginnings.

The New Year gives me a sense of optimism and excitement for what may lie ahead. It is like turning to the first page of the calendar allows us to set aside the challenges, disappointments and hurts of the past year and look forward to a fresh beginning. It is in fact what our past month of Advent and Christmas has been 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 of active prayer and meditation discerning what I feel God has called me (and us) to do and who God has called me (and us) to be. I hope that you too took time for some spiritual reflection and nurturing your relationship with God.

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

The reality is that we need and more importantly call you to be an active part in our important 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.

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# News from Pastor Ken

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



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

This approach to ministry more closely reflects the way Christ’s own ministry was carried out. It creates wonderful opportunities for all to participate, as we are able, each according to our individual gifts of time, energy, talent, treasure and other resources in various and appropriate ministries.

As we speak of gifts, Jan 6 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, Jan 6. 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.

We also in the first weeks of Epiphany 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 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. We might think to ourselves “what an overwhelming task” but 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 and us 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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## Upcoming Events in January

Sunday, January 5 – 9am – Communion Sunday

Wednesday, January 8 – 7pm – Interfaith/World Religions Class at St. John’s – 7pm

Monday, January 13 - Annual Reports are due to Roberta Fisher

Tuesday, January 14 – 7pm - Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 15 – 7pm - Interfaith/World Religions Class at St. John’s –7pm

Saturday, January 18 – 6:30pm – Euchre

Sunday, January 19 - 9am - Communion Sunday

Wednesday, January 22 – 7pm - Interfaith/World Religions Class at St. John’s –7pm

Sunday, January 26 – 9am - Sunday Service, Annual Meeting after morning service and coffee hour

Wednesday, January 29 – 7pm - Interfaith/World Religions Class at St. John’s –7pm

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**The Discretionary Fund**

**January 5, 2020**

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.

**B-WARM NEEDS**

**Both Men and Women houses:**

**Cleaning supplies:** Toilet bowl cleaner, bleach, laundry soap, dishwasher detergent, bathroom cleansers, disinfectants.

**Paper Supplies:** Napkins, toilet paper and Kleenex, trash bags small & large

**Medicines:** Cold medicine, Day Quill, Tylenol, Motrin, Hand Sanitizer

**Women’s B-Warm House**

Women’s Shelter: PJ’s of all sizes,

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

Helping Hands

**Current Needs:** Soup, peanut butter, pasta, jams/jellies, canned spaghetti, Ramen Noodles, any non-perishable items

**No expired or opened boxes of food accepted**.

**Current needs** are as follows:

Girls size 10-12 and 14-16 underwear, Girls socks size 6-10 and 10-4, Boys size 4-5 and 10-12 underwear, Boys socks 3-9, Infant socks Boys & Girls, Women’s underwear size 5, 6, and 7 for teenage girls. Baby onesies boys & girls all sizes, baby wipes, shampoo & conditioner

To put into 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 . With 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.

George

David

Deborah

Lynn

Johnnie

Peggy

Joanne

Claudette

Dorothy

Wayne

Shirley

Russ

Carol

Karen Marie

Sue

Rich

Maraleen

Clark

Trudy

Amy

Sharon

Linda

Russell

Andy

Sue

Kevin

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**Outreach Ministry**

**Kids in Distress**



 **Prayer List ….**

**Roof Fund**

With the donations received from the Memorial in the name of Fred Teltow , the total due the memorial fund to replace the funds used from the Waddell & Reed Investment Fund  $11,650.00 are still outstanding.  Please mark your regular envelope how much of the contribution should be allocated to the Memorial Fund.

The financial goal for December was $5852.00.  As we are in the season of giving please remember St. James to keep the church in a good financial state.  The same goal for January is $5852.00 please keep this in mind when considering your donation.

**Earthly Gifts**

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## Happy Birthdays in January

|  |
| --- |
|  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 |

**Spiritual Ministry**

Please contact Sue Tews if you are interested in helping with Sunday school.

**Annual Reports Due**

All annual reports from Council Members and Ministries are due to Roberta Fisher by Monday, January 16th rfisher@gaddbiz.com.

Thank you!!

**Worship Ministry**

Interfaith/World Religions discussion group at St. John’s at 7pm on Wednesdays, January th8, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

Need help in the following ministries Communion Servers, Usher/Greeter, Liturgists and Altar Care. Sign-up sheets for each are provided in the basement.

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**Council Members Wanted**

St. James is requesting three new members for Church council. Looking for members who like to contribute a little of your time each month and would like to assist with some of our ministries, contact one of the council member or Pastor Ken to let them know you are interested. Terms would start after the annual meeting on January 26 and would be for 3 years.

######

###### Wishes for the New Year

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In the New Year,

we wish you the best year you’ve ever had,

and that each New Year,

will be better than the last,

May you realize your fondest dreams,

and take time to recognize and enjoy,

each and every blessing,

Happy New Year,

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**Christmas Tote Bags for**

**Local Community Charities**

**January 2020 collection is for hats, scarves and gloves or mittens.**

The items accepted anytime: hygiene items such as: soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, washcloths, headbands, barrettes and bows, school supplies and toys.

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 2020 without running out of items**.**

**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

 Bev & Gordie Kulman

 1920 24th St 1114 S 7th St

 Port Huron, MI 48060 St. Clair, MI 48079

 [(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)

**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.



**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

**Kid’s Page**

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**January – Open**

**January Preparer:** Doris Doss **Communion Servers:**  Doris Doss & Sherrie Ingles

**Altar Care**

**Communion Servers**

**Liturgists**

**Ushers & Greeters**

January 5 – Open

January 12 - Open

January 19 – Open

January 26 – Open

January 5 – Open

January 12 - Open

January 19 – Open

January 26 – Open

## Scripture Readings for January

**Sunday, January 5 Sunday, January 12**

**Second Sunday after Christmas The Baptism of Christ**

Jer 31: 7-14 or Sirach 24” 1-12 Isa 42: 1-9

Ps 147: 12-20 or Wisd of Sol 10: 15-21 Ps 29

Eph 1: 3-14 Acts 10: 34-43

John 1: (1-9), 10-18 Matt 3: 13-17

**Another Road Possibilities Unfolding**

**Sunday, January 19 Sunday, January 26**

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

Isa 49: 1-7 Isa 9: 11-4

Ps 40: 1-11 Ps 27: 1, 4-9

1 Cor 1: 1-911 1 Cor 1: 10-18

John 1: 29-42 Matt 4: 12-23

**All That We Are**  **Called Together**

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JANUARY

NEWSLETTER

