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

Newsletter

February 2020

Volume 5, Issue 2



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



I would like to think of February as a month of hope even though it can be a challenging month with too little sun and too much cold located between the festive holidays and not quite spring.

I particularly like the fact that this year Epiphany fills the entire month of February. Epiphany, the season of light, the season filled with ah-ha moments as we are invited back to the manger just like the wise men to experience Christ for the very first time, over and over again.

As I said earlier, I like to think of February as a month of hope. Epiphany keeps revealing itself to me every time I notice some little thing like driving home from a late afternoon appointment and realizing it is staying light outside later and later. Ahhh… Epiphany. Epiphany that moment when things are revealed to us. I love experiencing those ah-ha moments. Those are the moments when something becomes clear to me that was not clear to me before. I have been told and it has been proven to me that if we continue to maintain a working relationship with God, we WILL have spiritual experiences. This is not a maybe statement but an absolute statement. We just need to be aware enough to notice them. Isn’t that what Epiphany is all about. Learning to trust God enough to let God guide us and teach us, despite what we think is a better way. Allowing ourselves to learn how to grow and live more spirit filled lives. And then doing so. When we do that, we allow ourselves to be present to and experience a never-ending number of miracles that occur in us and around us.

Contents

News from Pastor Ken 1

Pastor Ken News Cont. 2

Upcoming Events 3

Discretionary Fund 3

Prayers Needed 4

Outreach Ministry 4

Birthday 5

Anniversary 5

Spiritual Ministry 5

Worship Ministry 5

Earthly Gift Ministry 5

Roof Fund 5

Valentine’s Day Poem 6

Christmas Tote Bags 7

Ministers Needed 7

Bottle Can Collection 7

Military Prayer List 7

Kid’s Page 8

Altar Care 9

Communion Servers 9

Ushers/Greeters 9

Liturgist Readers 9

Scripture Readings 9

# News from Pastor Ken

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

**Page 2 of 9**

For those who are anxious about whether you are ready to do what it is that God may call you to do, remember that God does not call the prepared but prepares the called.

During this Epiphany season, it is my hope that you allow God the opportunity to shine more brightly in you and through you. May each of us bring a little more light to the world that so desperately needs it as we prepare ourselves for Lent.

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are held in God’s unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace. And there is a place for you here.

Take care and be well, Peace

Ken

**Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued**

## Upcoming Events in February

Sunday, February 2 Communion Sunday – 9am

Tuesday, February 11 Council Meeting – 7pm

Friday, February 14 Valentine’s Day

Saturday, February 15 Euchre – 6:30pm

Sunday, February 16 Communion Sunday – 9am

Wednesday, February 26 Ash Wednesday Service at St. James – 7pm

**Page 3 of 9**

**The Discretionary Fund**

**February 2, 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.

George

Claudette

Wayne B.

Shirley

Russ

Dan K.

 **Prayer List ….**

**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**

**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.

**Kids in Distress**

Helping Hands

**Current Needs:** Soup, pasta, jams/jellies, any non-perishable items

Children’s clothing – anything from newborn to high school age

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

**Outreach Ministry**

Maraleen

Sharon

Linda

Andy

Wayne I.

Carole

Karleen

**Page 4 of 9**



|  |
| --- |
|  4 – John Beattie |
|  5 – Chris Brogan |
|  13 – Gordie Kulman |
|  14 – Chad Robbins |
|  16 – Kim Lindke |
|  17 – Paula Beattie |
|  19 – Christie Bandlow |
|  19 - Bernard Teltow |
|  23 – Art Wagner |
|  23 – Dale Bandlow |
|  25 – Chad Czenkus |
|  29 – Ronald Fisher |

 28 - Julie & Hunter Wendt

**Anniversaries in February**

## Happy Birthdays in February

**Page 5 of 9**

**Spiritual Ministry**

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

The financial goal for January was $5,852.00 and with only 1 week to give. With the donations from last weeks and Euchre the donation basket is still only half full, with only $2,438.50 collected. Please see what each of us can do to keep St. James financially healthy. See Ralph or Dan if you did not receive your 2020 donation envelopes.  You do not have to be a member of church to have envelopes when participating in the service, each pew also has envelopes for your convenience

**Earthly Gifts**

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**Worship Ministry**

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

**Roof Fund**

In addition to the church roof being paid for slowly, it was found that repairs or replacement of the parsonage roof is needed. This is being looked at. With the recent rain and snow it was necessary to have a bucket in the kitchen area. More to come on this item as soon as we get the information back on what is needed to be done.

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###### Happy Valentine’s Day

**Page 6 of 9**





**Page 7 of 9**

**Christmas Tote Bags for**

**Local Community Charities**

**Christmas Tote Bags were delivered to the following organizations in November 2019:** Blue Water Safe Horizon – 15 bags, Kids in Distress – 65 bags, The Harbor – 10 bags, Helping Hands – 15 bags and Clearview - 10 bags.

**February 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**

**Page 8 of 9**



**Page 9 of 9**

**February Preparer:**  Roberta Fisher

**Communion Servers:** Roberta Fisher & Shelley Kargula

**February –** Roberta Fisher

**Altar Care**

**Communion Servers**

**Liturgists**

**Ushers & Greeters**

February 2 – Open

February 9 - Dave & Becky Pittman

February 16 – Open

February 23 – Open

February 2 – Open

February 9 - Becky Pittman

February 16 – Open

February 23 – Bev Kulman

## Scripture Readings for February

**Sunday, February 2 Sunday, February 9**

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Mic 6 : 1-8 Isa 58: 1-9a (9b-12)

Ps 15 Ps 112: 1-9 (10)

1 Cor 1: 18-31 1 Cor 2: 1-12 (13-16)

Matt 5: 1-1211 Matt 5: 13-20

**The Vision Beautiful Restoring Beauty**

**Sunday, February 16 Sunday, February 23**

**Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Transfiguration**

Deut 30: 15-20 or Sirach 15: 15-20 Ex 24: 12-18

Ps 119: 1-8 Ps 2 or Ps 99

1 Cor 3: 1-9 2 Peter 1: 16-21

Matt 5: 21-37 Matt 17: 1-9

**From the Heart**  **Dazzling Reign**

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FEBRUARY

nEWSLETTER

