

St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter
September 2020
Volume 5, Issue 8

News from Pastor Ken

Contents

News from Pastor Ken	1
Pastor Ken News Cont.	2
Prayers Needed	3
Outreach Ministry	3
Birthday	4
Anniversary	4
Spiritual Ministry	4
Worship Ministry	4
Discretionary Fund	4
Earthly Gift Ministry	4
Worship Ministry	4
Fall Poem	5
Christmas Tote Bags	6
Ministers Needed	6
Bottle Can Collection	6
Military Prayer List	6
Kid's Page	7
Scripture Readings	8



Based on the past week's weather it seems as though we are going to be riding summer into September. Just like the rest of the year, it has been an interesting summer. And the weather was odd as well. Even though I love fall and am not a big fan of long stretches of hot and sticky weather I am still not sure if I am ready to give up summer quite yet.

Every year I say I have no idea where the summer went. I can hear those senior folks now, "The older you get, the faster time goes." I must share with you that was funnier before I was one of them senior folks.

Having said all of that, I hope you have all taken time in this craziness to enjoy your summer to the fullest, whether swimming in the lake, camping, gardening or just sitting in the shade with a good book. The interesting thing about summer is that so much life happens while we are trying to slow down. It is a time filled with both rest and transition.

For many it has been a mixed bag of summer challenges and celebration. There have been modified graduations, weddings, vacation adventures, times with family and friends, or simply a time of relaxation and reflection. For some, it has been a time full or overflowing with all the business of life, while for others, challenge and loss as we struggle with issues of losing loved ones, health, employment, relationships, our own human limitations and just living life on life terms. For some of us the summer has been a mix of both. It is in these times that I am so grateful that God is ever present in our lives, especially in those moments when it least feels like it.

Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

As we continue our journey's through these more than interesting times many of us find ourselves anxious and uncertain. We are experiencing an overload of opinionated media, struggling with trying to be compassionate in an angry and frustrated world. We wrestle with trying to plan our fall schedules not knowing what is going on with work or school. Issues of finances, childcare and eldercare, and everything that goes with living life on life's terms.

The only thing that seems to be missing is allowing ourselves to simply be quiet and in the presence of God. I offer you one of my favorite prayers, "Oh God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength. By the might of your spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

I share these things to open our eyes, hearts and spirits to the amazing life and world in which we live. We have spent so much time focusing on what we have lost, what we are missing, who should or should not be doing what, living in regret that we have missed an incredible gift. That incredible gift of celebrating with gratitude this moment in time. The ability to appreciate every day as it comes. Rejoicing with life on life's terms.

That is my takeaway from the past few weeks. Not to waste a moment in anger, regret, jealousy, or resentment. But rather to be kind, compassionate, merciful, and forgiving. To recognize that it is above my pay grade to determine who is worthy and who is not. To be profoundly grateful that on this journey of life I have not received what others thought I may have deserved. To be a reckless sower of God's grace.

As we start to prepare for the fall, I anticipate that we will have an exciting season of change and growth both in our personal and church lives. I look forward to the exciting return of church life as our church family continues to grow, get healthier and stronger in number and Spirit each week. Again, although I am not ready for summer to end, I am excited about the year ahead.

I encourage you to share the good news of our church family with your friends, family and neighbors as we continue to move forward into an exciting future with new opportunities for growth and Ministry. Continue to be persistent inviters. You never know whose life might be touched in a profound way by experiencing the love of God as expressed through our community of faith.

I invite you to come and spend time with us Sunday, in person or virtually, and celebrate each and every moment we have in the sunlight of God's love and grace.

Remember always that wherever you are on life's journey, there is a place for you, and you are always welcome here. May you live Spirit-filled, surrounded by the grace and the love of God.

Take care and be well, Peace
Pastor Ken

****Live streaming of Sunday Services will continue at 9:00am on the St. James website.****

Prayer List

Maraleen
Sharon
Linda
Andy
Wayne I.
Carole
Karleen
Karen
Barb
Don

George
Claudette
Wayne B.
Shirley
Russ
Dan K.
Keith
Sue
Toni
Karen
Janett



Outreach Ministry

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

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

Helping Hands

Current Needs: Manwich, snack pack pudding cups, juice boxes/pouches, boxed instant oatmeal, pancake mix/syrup and one-pound bags white rice. Clothing items for children from newborn to high school.

No expired or opened boxes of food accepted.

Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

They are in need of clothes for all sizes, especially shorts for summer.

Happy Birthdays in September

2 - Patti Maedel
10 – Cheryl Wagner
12 – Avery Grace Pauley
13 – Denise Brogan
15 – Mark Tews
17 – Mike Callahan
23 – Stella Czenkus
23 – Audrey Teltow
30 – Matthew Kargula
30 – Elmer Upplenger
30 – Kris Dombrowski

Spiritual Ministry

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

The Discretionary Fund September 6, 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.

Anniversaries in September

9/6 – Kim & Jerry Lindke
9/12 – Barb & Ralph Ski
9/26 – Jessie & Chad Teltow

Earthly Gifts

The goal for September is \$5852.00. Thank you for your endeavors to keep St. James in a position to keep us close to financial obligations.

Donations can be mailed or delivered to Ralph our Treasurer at 8326 Meisner, Casco, MI 48064 or mailed to St. James UCC, 9008 Meisner, Casco, MI 48064. Mailboxes are checked daily.

Giving can also be done through St. James website's "Giving" page. Giving through the St. James website can be done via a Debit/Credit card or Paypal.

Thanking everyone for their contributions to help make St. James solvent.

Worship Ministry

Looking for Liturgists, Communion Servers and Usher/Greeters during Holy Week. Let Robin Meldrum know if you are interested in any of these ministries.

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

Fall Poem

THE HARVEST'S CLOSE

by Marie Irish

Have you cut the oats in the browning field,
The wheat and corn with their golden yield?
The fields are shorn of the waving wheat,
The corn is cut and gathered in;
The barley and the measures of rye
We've safely stored away in the bin.
Have you garnered the garden's full supply,
And for winter's use laid it prudently by?
We've gathered the garden's lavish yield,
Beans, carrots and beets of ruddy glow,
And housed them diligently away,
Protected from the winter's frost and snow.
Have you picked the nuts from the branches tall,
And the purple grapes from the vines of fall?
We've gleaned the treasures of hill and vale,
The trees we've raided to the top;
And laid away a generous share
Of the corn the children love to pop.
The fruits of the orchards are bending low,
Are the plucked before the rough winds blow?
The rosy apples from the bough,
The plums, the peach and the tempting pear,
We have sheltered from the north wind's breath,
And hoarded them away with care.
Our harvests are gathered from shore to shore,
The bins are all filled and running over.
Since autumn's bounties are garnered in,
And prudently stored away,
From east to west let the nation keep
A joyous harvest day.



Christmas Tote Bags for Local Community Charities

September 2020 collection is for scissors, glue, pens and colored pencils and markers.

The items accepted anytime: hygiene items such as: toothpaste, washcloths, headbands, barrettes and bows, and school supplies.

We are also in the need of material to sew the tote bags with. If you would be interested in sewing tote bags at home let me know and I can supply you with material.

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 Helping Hands in Marine City, MI. 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

1920 24th St
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 956-0768
4505

Kids-In-Distress

Bev & Gordie Kulman
1114 S 7th St
St. Clair, MI 48079
(810) 326-

Helping Hands

310 s. Parker St.
Marine City, MI 48039
(810) 765-3848

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

CONNECT THE DOTS



CONNECT THE DOTS TO MAKE THREE THINGS TO COLOR.

Scripture Readings for September

Sunday, September 6

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

Ex 12: 1-14 and Ps 149

Ezek 33: 7-11 and Ps 119; 33-40

Rom 13: 8-14

Matt 18: 15-20

Remember, Restore, Renew

Sunday, September 13

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ex 14: 19-31 and Ps 114 or Ex 15 : 1b-11, 20-21

Gen 50: 15-21 and Ps 103; (1-7), 8-13

Rom 14; 1-12

Matt 18: 21-35

Road to Freedom

Sunday, September 20

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ex 16: 2-15 and Ps 105: 1-6, 37-45

Jon 3: 10-4:11 ad Ps 145: 1-8

Phil 1: 21-30

Matt 20: 1-6

Tensions in the Wilderness

Sunday, September 27

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ex 17: 1-7 and Ps 78: 1-4, 12-16

Ezek 18; 1-4, 25-32 and Ps 25: 1-9

Phil 2; 1-13

Matt 21: 23-32

God's Sustaining Presence



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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER