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

Newsletter

February 2021

Volume 6, Issue 2



Ahhhh… February, it is a funny little, short month. The Christmas and New Year celebrations are over, spring and Easter are yet to arrive. It has its challenges for some of us with too little sun and too much cold. Despite that, I have come to appreciate this as a quiet time of reflection.

Lent begins a little early this year starting on Ash Wednesday, February 17. It happens this early every few years. The wonderful part of that is Lent provides us a wonderful opportunity to consider and pray about how we can get closer to being the person God would have us to be and to consider what it is God would have us to do.

Unfortunately, like many church/religious (not sure if that should be a little “c” or a big “C”) practices, Lent seems to have become just another church season. I feel that this is MOST unfortunate. Equally unfortunate is that many of those that do practice often consider Lent simply a time of giving up something we like for a few days. I think that just as Jesus spent time in the wilderness contemplating his ministry, we too are called during Lent to spend time considering our own ministry. Let us use this time for planning and preparing. Lent is a time of spiritual preparation. I invite you not to simply give up something but to take time to prepare your spirit for an exciting new journey. Here are a couple suggestions. Spend an few extra minutes each day in prayer and meditation. Read a book on spirituality There a bunch out there and they do not have to be theological dissertations. Commit to reading the upper room every morning with your coffee (it is only a small page), read one proverb every day from the bible (there are 31), commit to a daily and intentional act of kindness. You get the idea. Prepare yourself for what God has planned for you.

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# 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

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However, as excited as I may sound about Lent, I am still very much enjoying this time in Epiphany. The whole idea of Epiphany keeps revealing itself to me every time I notice some little things like driving home from a late afternoon appointment and realizing it is staying light outside later, even if just a few minutes. 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. Is not 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. 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.

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

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

**Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued**



Linda

Carole

Deborah

Karen

Barb

Janette

Larry

Holly

Rita

Ted S.

Claudette

Wayne B.

Shirley

Keith

Sue

Terry

Karen

David

Lynn

 **Prayer List ….**

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**Outreach Ministry**

Helping Hands

**Current Needs:** No current needs at this time.

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

Not accepting books and furniture at this time.

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

**B-WARM NEEDS**

**Both Men and Women houses:**

No current needs. They are thankful for the church’s support and continued prayers. They’re trying to get back to normal after a year of COVID and family deaths.

**Current needs** are as follows:

Not taking any donations as this time. Will update when they resume accepting donations.

**Kids in Distress**

|  |
| --- |
|  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 |

**Happy Anniversaries in February**

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## Happy Birthdays in February

 28 - Julie & Hunter Wendt

**Earthly Gifts**

Our goal for donations for January is $5852.00 temporarily.  The donations received for the four weeks of January was $3226.00.  Envelopes for 2021 were mailed out and should have been received by the service today.  If you did not receive your donation envelope packet, please put a note in the todays collection plate so one can be provided by mail or pick up at the service next week.  Please continue to drop your donations in the collection plate at the service, donate on Paypal, mail to the church or mail to my home Ralph Ski, 8626 Meisner, Casco, MI 48064.

Mail is checked daily at both locations to keep the mail safe from weather etc.  Reminder, please do not send cash via mail.

Thanks to all who help keep our church in good condition during these times.  Jerry Fritz spent many hours with the repair person to give us a pleasantly warm church.  Thanks again.

**Spiritual Ministry**

Pastor Ken will be leading Zoom meetings to discuss readings from the Upper Room in March. The meetings will be held the first four Wednesdays in March (3/3, 3/10, 3/17, and 3/24) at 7pm. Please notify Pastor Ken know if you are interested in attending the Zoom meetings so he can send you the invite to join the meeting and the reading. He will need to know your name and email address.

Sunday School is now in session. Please feel free to bring your children to church and partake in the weekly Sunday School classes.

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

**The Discretionary Fund**

**February 7th, 2021**

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.

Happy Valentine’s Day!!!!

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**Christmas Tote Bags for**

**Local Community Charities**

The items accepted anytime: hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, TOYS, hygiene items such as: toothpaste, washcloths, headbands, barrettes and bows, and school supplies.

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 for next Christmas 2021** without running out of items**.**

**February** items to collect are washcloths, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

**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 Kids-In-Distress Helping Hands

 Bev & Gordie Kulman 310 s. Parker St.

1920 24th St 1114 S 7th St Marine City, MI 48039

Port Huron, MI 48060 St. Clair, MI 48079 (810) 765-3848

[(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)



**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**

Due to the circumstances right now, we will no longer be taking in actual bottle and cans. We are collecting cash donations from empty and clean bottles and cans you return to the store yourself that have a deposit on them to support our Christian Education Program.

Please bring the cash or a check to church. You may give Roberta Fisher or Ralph Ski the funds to give Betty Robertson. If you are unable to take them back, we will still take them at church for donation. Place them downstairs in the storeroom.

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**Kid’s Page**



**February Activities**

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Sunday, February 7th – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am.

Discretionary Fund Collection

Tuesday, February 9th – Council Meeting – 7pm.

Sunday, February 14th – Sunday Service - 9am.

St. Valentine’s Day

Wednesday, February 17th – Ash Wednesday Services with Ashes – 7pm.

Sunday, February 21st – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am.

## Scripture Readings for February

**Sunday, February 7 Sunday, February 14**

**Fifth Sunday After Epiphany Transfiguration**

Isa 40: 21-31 2 Kings 2: 1-12

Ps 147: 1-11, 20c Ps 50: 1-6

1 Cor 9: 16-23 2 Cor 4: 3-6

Mk 1: 20-39 Mk 9: 2-9

**Source of Strength**  **Compassionate Community**

**Sunday, February 21 Sunday, February 28**

**First Sunday in Lent Second Sunday in Lent**

Gen 9: 8-17 Gen 17: 1-7, 15-16

Ps 25: 1-10 Ps 22: 23-31

1 Peter 3: 18-22 Rom 4: 13-25

Mk 1: 9-15 Mk 8: 31-38 or Mk 9: 2-9

**God’s Loving Paths**  **Always Close**

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FEBRUARY

NEWSLETTER

