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

Newsletter

March 2021

Volume 6, Issue 3



Oh can’t we all use a little spring. As much as I have come to appreciate the beauty of winter, I just cannot help getting excited about March. The month when Spring officially arrives, even though it may not feel like it. Even though I know it will still unofficially be winter until……

The grey seemingly endless days of winter can be such a struggle for so many of us, especially after the year we have had. However, just a couple days ago, as I was walking up the driveway looking at my very snow-covered dormant gardens, I felt the warm sunshine on my face. Then the afternoon clouds and cold took over. What a feeling of hope I had although I knew in my heart there is more than a little winter left. That is what I like about March. Somehow, we know that regardless of what winter weather is left to come that spring will not be denied. I keep an eye toward the feeders looking for the first robins to arrive. I wait with anticipation as the snow melts to see the little buds starting to appear and the daffodil shoots pushing up. Those crazy little impatient daffs that just cannot wait any longer and are willing to defy the cold and snow to make their presence known. I think there are lessons for us to be learned by those beautiful little flowers about being willing to see beyond the cold, darkness in this world and to be a vision of hope.

There is hope. There is hope and preparation for greater things to come. That is what this month in the church calendar is about as well. This year March is full of Lent. As a reminder, 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.

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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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Lent is not simply a time of giving up something we like for a few days, but I think that just as Jesus spent time in the wilderness contemplating his ministry, we too are called to spend time considering our own ministry. Let us use this time for planning and preparing. Lent is a time of spiritual preparation. I continue to 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 a few extra minutes each day in prayer and meditation. Read a book on spirituality, commit to reading the Upper Room every morning with your coffee (it is only a small page), read one proverb everyday from the bible (there are 31), commit an anonymous daily and intentional act of kindness, you get the idea. Prepare yourself for what God has planned for you.

Although most of us think that Lent is not an uplifting time of year, I would like us to think about Lent the same way gardeners think about March. It is a time of thinking, planning, and preparing for spring. It is a time of great anticipation. We dream about and prepare for new growth in our gardens, we remember projects from last year that we want to finish, we sharpen our tools and start ordering seed. We remember the exciting successes of springs past and prepare to start this spring full of expectation, optimism, and wonder.

This is my vision for us. As we begin our journey into Lent, let us not think of this as a season of spiritual winter but rather a time of preparing for our own spiritual spring, both personally and as a community of faith.

Remember, whoever you are and wherever you are at 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

Rita

Ted S.

Claudette 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**

Our goal for donations for February is $5852.00 temporarily.  The donations received so far is $2552.00 which included mail, direct giving and Paypal.  As Treasurer I need your financial support to keep St. James in somewhat of a stable condition which is now not going to happen unless we all give what we can to keep the church in good condition during these cold and wet conditions that cause us to donate as we have done.   Many do not know of the furnace problems and pipe bursting problems that have drained our finances so please make my burden of paying our obligations as soon as possible by donating just a bit more by giving at service, Paypal or just dropping a check (no cash) in the mail to the church or me Ralph Ski, 8326 Meisner, Casco, MI 48064.  Thanking you so much in advance.

**Earthly Gifts**

## Happy Birthdays in March

**Happy Anniversaries in March**

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|  |
| --- |
| 3 – Taylor Lindke |
| 12 – Becky Pittman |
| 12- Nancy Uppleger |
| 13 - Kathleen McCarthy |
| 15 – Josh Mahnke |
| 18 - Amy Klomp |
| 21 – Dan Klomp |
| 24 - Kayla Wendt |
| 25 – Hunter Wendt |
| 26 - Timothy Carl Pauley |
| 30 – Don Robertson |

|  |
| --- |
| 7 – Frank & Judy Tringali |
| 7- Chris & Denise Brogan |
| 16 – Cindy & Dan Klomp |
| 17 – Collen & Rusty Stover |
| 17 - Sharon & Gerald Fritz |

**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**

**March 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 St. Patrick’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**.**

**March** items to collect are socks (all sizes – boys & girls), toothpaste, floss, and washcloths.

**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

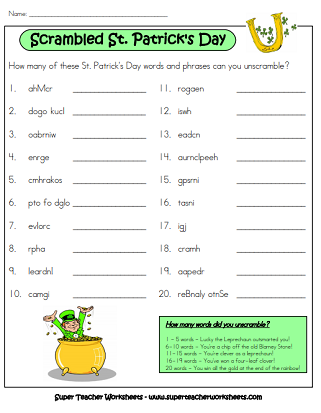
**Bottle / Can Collection**

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**



**March Activities**

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Wednesday, March 3rd – Zoom Meeting / Upper Room – 7pm.

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

Discretionary Fund Collection

Tuesday, March 9th – Council Meeting – 7pm

Wednesday, March 10th - Zoom Meeting / Upper Room – 7pm.

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

Wednesday, March 17th – Zoom Meeting / Upper Room – 7pm.

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

Wednesday March 24th - Zoom Meeting / Upper Room – 7pm.

Sunday, March 28th – Palm Sunday Service - 9am.

## Scripture Readings for March

**Sunday, March 7 Sunday, March 14**

**Third Sunday in Lent Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Ex 20: 1-17 Num 21: 4-9

Ps 19 Ps 107: 1-3, 17-22

1 Cor 1: 18-25 Eph 2: 1-10

Jn 2: 13-22 Jn 3: 14-21

**Beautiful Law**  **No Matter What**

**Sunday, March 21 Sunday, March 28**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent Sixth Sunday in Lent**

Jer 31: 31-34 Isa50: 4-9a

Ps 51: 1-12 or Ps 119: 9-16 Ps 31: 9-16

Heb 5: 5-10 Phil 2: 5-11

Jn 12: 20-33 Mk 14: 1-15:47 or Mk 15: 1-39 (40-47)

**Deep In Our Hearts**  **Into Jerusalem**

**St. James United Church of Christ**

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MARCH

NEWSLETTER

