

St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter
November 2021
Volume 7, Issue 10

News from Pastor Ken

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Greetings to all

For many years now, November has been a spiritually significant month for me. There are many events and church remembrances that fill me with a sense of gratitude and an appreciation for God's grace in my life. I have often said, "I have not gotten all that some think I deserve.... And for that I am grateful".

The month always begins with All Saints Day, a day that allows me to remember and honor all those on whose foundation I have built my life, both past and present. There have been so many people that have touched my life in so many wonderful ways. I truly enjoy thinking about them while on my journey. Knowing they travel with me fills me with grace and humility.

About grace, this is the month that causes me to be intentionally focused on gratitude. As always, I quote my old friend Dwight who used to regularly remind me that "gratitude is the aristocrat of attitudes". I could not agree more. Gratitude for me is where joy and contentment are found. He would also regularly remind me that I could not get what I wanted until I wanted what I got. I don't think that was about wanting lives hardships or the possibility of the future accumulation of "stuff" so much as a reminder that happiness and contentment are internal rather than external gifts. And once I want or appreciate what I have (gratitude) I would not find it so necessary to have all the other "stuff".

And then there is Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. Perhaps it is because the marketing world and big box stores have not figured out how to make a ton of money on it yet. Even though it makes me crazy that some stores want to be open Thanksgiving night to take people's Christmas money. I am even happier that some stores who tried it the last couple years have decided to stay closed this year.

In these challenging times, it can sometimes be difficult to find things to be grateful for. Therefore, here is my annual invitation for you to participate in



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Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

of my more meaningful Thanksgiving practices. Every year, some time around Thanksgiving I write a list of 4-6 things that I am TRULY grateful for (I'm not talking about grateful for chocolate ice cream grateful, though I am, but what I am TRULY grateful for). As a side note, if you can only think of one or two- think harder, if you want to write 20-30, then think harder and prioritize the top 4-6. Then I put the list somewhere I can see it regularly, on the refrigerator, near the computer monitor, bathroom mirror, you get the idea, as a reminder. Sometimes when life gets challenging, it can be easy to forget. It is helpful for me to have a little written reminder of God's many blessings in my life.

If you are one who finds themselves bubbling over with gratitude, or at least have some sense of it. I encourage you to lend a hand, write a note, make a call or drop an email to someone who you know who could use a little reminder (by the way, that's just about everybody) that one of life's blessings is that we have people in our life that simply care. Sometimes it is the smallest gestures that make the biggest difference.

I am also looking forward to my Advent time of reflection and preparation. It begins the last Sunday in November this year. I invite you to participate with me in some small way. It is about a daily reminder of my relationship with God. Truly a time of prayer and meditation. I invite you to join me in remembering that despite what the major retailers would have us believe, Advent is not Christmas. It is a time of intentional and internal preparation for the spiritual gifts of Christmas. More on this next month.

You have touched my life in significant ways and I give thanks daily for you. I wish you a Thanksgiving Season filled with grace and gratitude that lasts throughout the year. Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, unending grace and that there is a place for you here.

Take care and be well, Peace
Ken

And I thought you might find this interesting.... **Definitions of Gratitude**

Webster: Synonyms and Antonyms of GRATITUDE
acknowledgment of having received something good from another <accept these flowers as a token of my *gratitude*>

Synonyms appreciation, appreciativeness, gratefulness, gratitude, thankfulness

Related Words:

thanksgiving; gratification, indebtedness, satisfaction; acknowledgment (oracknowledgement), recognition, tribute

Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

Christian Bible: Thankfulness, Thanksgiving

Gratitude in Islam

Gratitude in Islam is one of the most fundamental aspects of this religion. A Muslim is not merely one cognizant of the fact that the creator of the universe is one and is responsible for everything he has in this life i.e. his consciousness, his health, his family, his sanity and his wealth but also realizes that it is his obligation to express gratitude to his lord.

Gratitude in Judaism

The Hebrew term for gratitude literally means “recognizing the good”. Practicing gratitude recognizes the good that is already yours.

Chili Cookoff - Thank You

Thank you to all who volunteered and assisted in having another successful Chili Cookoff. Thank you again for all the donations of chilis, food, Lucky Draw baskets, gift cards, gift certificates and lottery tickets for the Lucky Mum Raffle.

A huge shout out to Doris Doss for her donation of a beautiful handmade quilt, Larry Bandlow for the expertly crafted garden bench and table and to Robin and Glenn for the lovely Hall Tree, in which all had a raffle and brought in funds for St. James.

Thanks again to all who were able to help set up, serve the food to our quests, people who manned the table to sell door tickets and raffle tickets throughout the event and help with clean-up.

The Chili Cookoff raised \$4,489.50 in Total, Door Tickets raised \$1,260.00 and all the raffles raised \$3,229.50.

Prayer List

Prayers for Claudette, Linda, Wayne, Shirley, Deborah, Karen, Keith, Terry, Janette, Barb, David, Nikki, Ralph, Sue, Doris, Frazer, Lee, Arnie, Jennifer, Carol, Joy, Steve, Marge, Harvey, Lynn, Don, Lois, Jack, Marion, Debbie, Tom, Brenda, Michelene, Bill, Ben, Jim, Mary, Kathy, Michael, Gina, Families of St. John & St. James



Outreach Ministry

Blue Water Area Rescue Mission - B-WARM

B-WARM NEEDS

Both Men and Women houses:

Current needs. No current needs except for continued prayers

They are thankful for the church's support and continued prayers. Continued prayers for Arnie's continued recovery and success on restarting their programs.

Helping Hands

Current Needs: Canned fruit and veggies, cereals, crackers and boxed mixes.

Not accepting books and furniture currently.

No expired or opened boxes of food accepted.

Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

Hygiene Supplies: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, etc., boys and girls underwear and socks all sizes, new or gently used boots all sizes, boys pants size 5 – 8, snow pants size 5 and up.

Happy Birthdays in November

11/1 LeAnne Bandlow
11/4 Gary Teltow
11/8 Joel Szymanski
11/8 Sharon Frtz
11/9 John Lyszczyk
11/13 Julie Wendt
11/15 Matt LaDuke
11/15 Dan Riley
11/20 Jennifer Uppleger
11/23 Lee Mahnke

Spiritual Ministry

Sunday School is 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.

Earthly Gifts

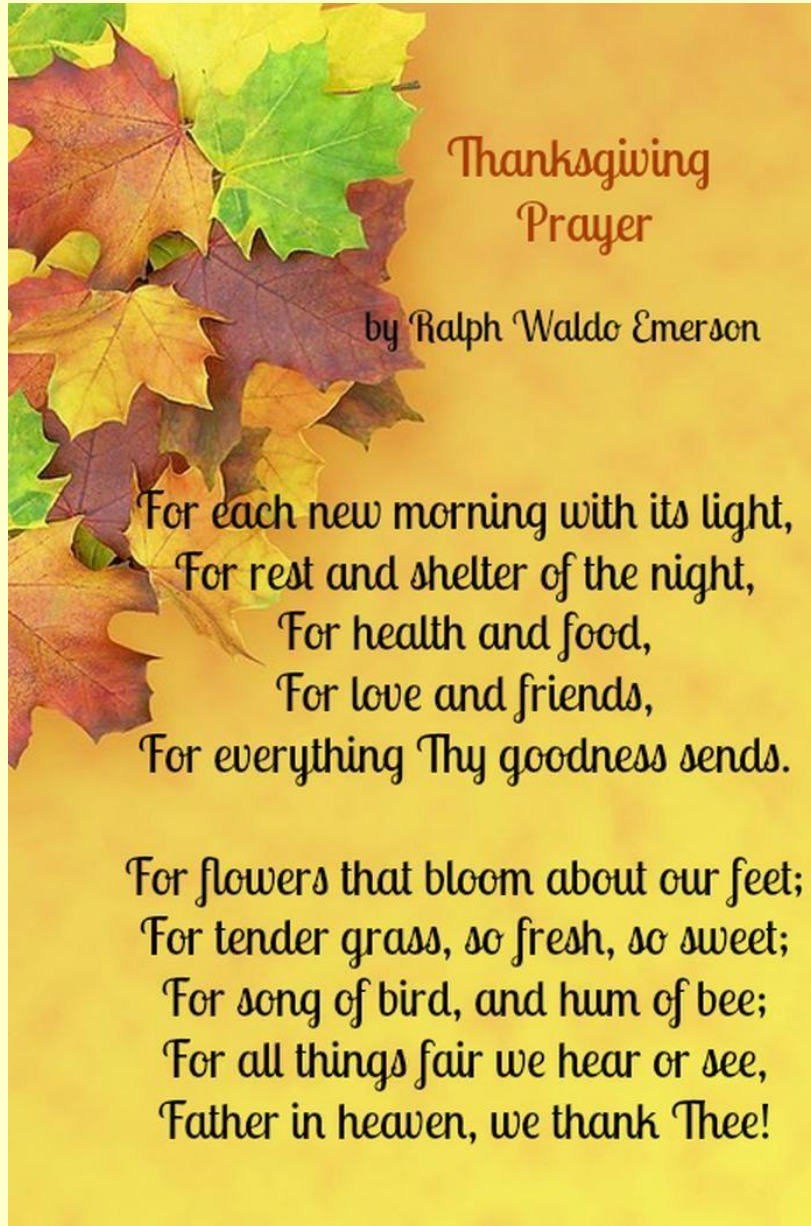
St. James THANKS goes out to one and all for the work, donations and help given in so many ways to make the Chili Event one of the best we have had. The event went well considering the weather, covid conditions etc. \$4,489.00 was net profit. Again THANKS TO ALL!. Our financial goal for October is \$5852.00 without the chili cookoff. So far this month \$3229 has been received in regular donations. Your help is still needed to help St. James in a good financial state.

The Discretionary Fund November 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.

Thanksgiving Prayer



Thanksgiving Prayer

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

Christmas Tote Bags for Local Community Charities

Collecting for November 2021 TOYS!!!! The items accepted anytime: hygiene items such as: toothpaste, washcloths, headbands, barrettes and bows, and socks (small sizes – boys & girls), washcloths, floss, and toothpaste, school supplies (colored pencils, colored markers, erasers, pencil sharpeners, crayons, scissors, rulers). 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 2021 without running out of items. **We will be putting the ropes in them on Sunday, November 7th and stuffing them on November 14th.**

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

Kids-In-Distress

Bev & Gordie Kulman
1114 S 7th St
St. Clair, MI 48079
(810) 326-4505

Helping Hands

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

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.



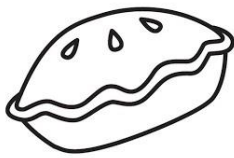
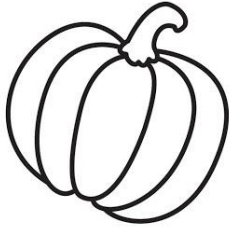
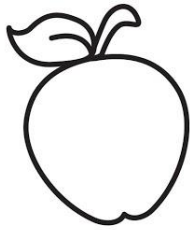
Military Prayer List

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.

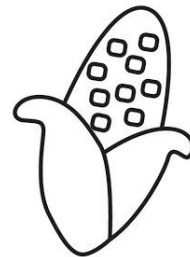
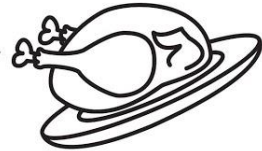
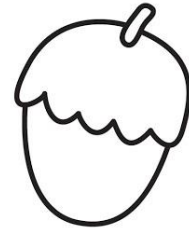
Kid's Page

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Thanksgiving Celebration



F A M L Y P I L G R O C K
 B E R E Z I U A I L S P R
 R P I L G R I M S M O O U
 Y L N A I Z E A P E A S T
 K I M S O C K F U K M B N
 C E L E B R A T E P I R A
 O A S S A M S I C E L N T
 R G E Z I A A O H L Y O I
 H N A L E G R S Z W I D V
 T I Y F C N D A I O K R E
 U V T M O O I S D F L A A
 O I H A R V E S T D U P M
 M G U Y N E M A H L F Y E
 Y S R F U M T M A I Z E R
 L K S L C B Y F N W I K I
 P N D O O E E E K I A R C
 U A A W P R K I F N F U A
 M H Y E I S U H U T S T N
 P T G R A V Y C L E Y I S



Feast
 Wild Fowl
 Pumpkin
 Pilgrims
 Native Americans
 Mayflower
 Corn

Thanksgiving
 Celebrate
 Plymouth Rock
 Harvest
 Family
 Thursday
 Ham

Cornucopia
 November
 Turkey Pardon
 Maize
 Chief Massasoit
 Thankful
 Gravy

November Activities

Sunday, November 7 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9:00am
All Saints Day (bring pictures), Discretionary Fund Collection – String Christmas
Tote Bags after coffee hour

Tuesday, November 9 – In person Council Meeting – 7:00pm

Saturday, November 13 – Set up items to stuff in Christmas Tote Bags – 12pm

Sunday, November 14 – Sunday Service - 9:00am., stuff Christmas Tote Bags
after coffee hour

Saturday, November 20 – Euchre – 6:30pm

Sunday, November 21 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – Reign of Christ
9am, Greening of the Church after coffee hour

Thursday, November 25 – Thanksgiving Day!!!!

Sunday, November 28 – First Sunday of Advent – 9:00am

Scripture Readings for November

Sunday, November 7

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17 and PS 127

1 Kings 17: 8-16 and Ps 146

Heb 9: 24-28

Mk 12: 38-44

Risk and Restoration

Sunday, November 21

Reign of Christ

2 Sam 23: 1-7, and PS132: 1-12, (13-18)

Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14, and PS 93

Rev 1: 4b-8

Jn 18: 33-37

A Wise Reign

Sunday, November 14

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Sam 1: 4-20 and 1 Sam 2: 1-10

Daniel 12: 1-3 and Ps 16

Heb 10: 11-14, (15-18), 19-25

Mark 13: 1-8

Praise the Holy One

Sunday, November 28

First Sunday of Advent

Jer 33: 14-16

Ps 25: 1-10

1 Thess 3: 9-13

Luke 21: 25-36

Sign of Things to Come

****Live streaming of Sunday Services will continue at 9:00am on the St. James Facebook page and at 11:00am on St. Johns Facebook page. Both will be available by video once live streaming is completed.****

Facebook

Please follow St. James on Facebook. New postings, events and Sunday Services are posted on a daily or weekly basis.

Weekly Emails of Encouragement and Enlightenment

Please sign-up for our weekly emails provided by Pastor Ken. Provide your email address to Pastor Ken at kgadd@oursstjameschurch.org



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