

St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter
September 2021
Volume 7, Issue 8

News from Pastor Ken

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It has once again been a more than interesting year. Only seems appropriate that the weather is strange as well.

Based on the past week's weather it seems as though we are going to be riding summer into September. 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 about this time as we start to prepare to return to our fall schedules I say I have no idea where the year 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.

The interesting thing about summer is that so much life happens while we are trying to slow down. 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. That includes finding an opportunity to reconnect with family and friends and it has been nice to return to in person church. 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. It has been a time full or overflowing with all the business of life. For some of us a summer full of 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.



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

Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

As we continue our journeys through these more than interesting times many of us continue to find ourselves anxious and uncertain. We are still 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 months. 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. We are called to simply 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 warmth 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 Facebook page and at 11:00am on St. Johns Facebook page. Both will be available by video once live streaming is completed.****

Prayer List

Prayers for Claudette, Linda, Wayne B., Shirley, Deborah, Karen, Keith, Terry, Janette, Barb, David, Lynn, Nikki, Ralph, Sue, Frazer, Lee, Arnie, Tom, Jennifer, Carol, Joy, Harvey, Lynn, Don, Lois, Trisha, Bernetta, Joe, Tom, Brenda, Michelene, Bill, Ben, Jim, Mary Ellen, Baby Jax, Mark, Prange Family, Linda, Kay, Tom, Mike W., 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. Pillowcases, cleaning supplies and laundry detergent.

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: No real needs but can always use: Peanut Butter, jelly, tuna, and package mixes.

Not accepting books and furniture currently.

No expired or opened boxes of food accepted.

Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

Sweaters and sweatshirts – all sizes, ladies underwear sizes 5, 6, 7, winter socks sizes 9-2 1/2, kids' clothes size 18 pants and shirts, boys' size 6 pants and girls' size 5 shirts.

Happy Birthdays in September

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

Spiritual Ministry

Sunday School is NOT in session until Fall. 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.

Happy Anniversaries in September

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

Earthly Gifts

Our goal for August is \$5852.00 temporarily. Donations so far this month is \$3133.00, but with a good turnout for the Yard/Bake Sale yesterday and donations from today we should be able to meet our St. James obligations. Thanks to everyone for helping meet our goal.

If anyone desires to have donation envelopes provided to you, please let the usher, or Roberta Fisher, Council President at 586-915-7662 or Ralph Ski Treasurer at 586-727-7347 know, please provide your full name and address so we can account for your giving and issue a statement you may need for taxes etc.

The Discretionary Fund September 5th, 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.

Fall Poem!

AUTUMN MEANS HARVEST

by Lenore Hetrick

Autumn means harvest,
And grain in the bin.
Autumn means farmers
Are bringing fruit in.
It means summer's blooming
Has given its yield.
Autumn means high tide
In orchard and field.



Christmas Tote Bags for Local Community Charities

The items accepted anytime: hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, TOYS, hygiene items such as: floss, toothpaste, washcloths, headbands, barrettes and bows, socks (boys and girls), 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.

September items to collect: rulers, scissors, crayons, colored pencils, and colored markers.

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.

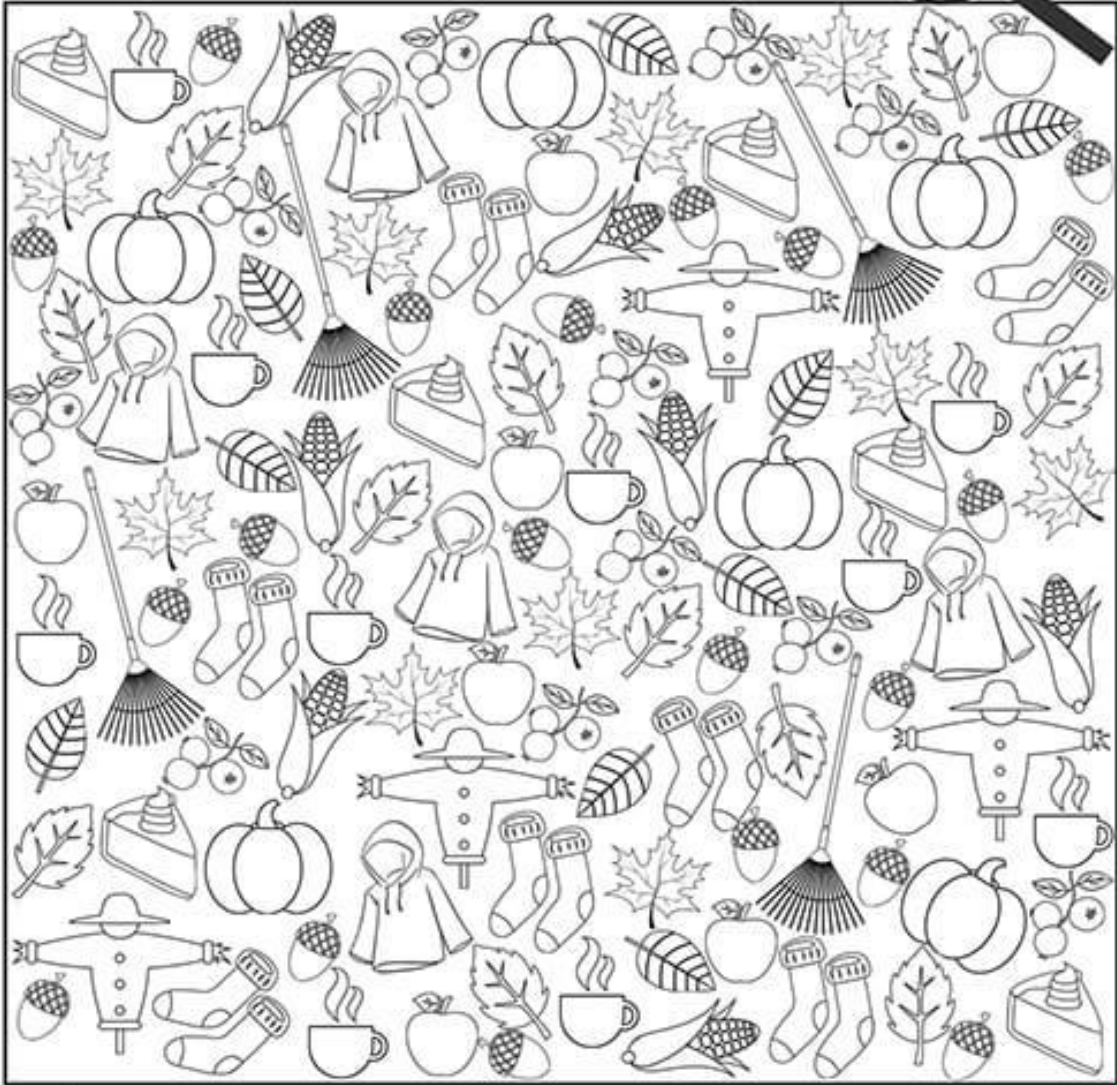


Military Prayer List

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

I SPY Fall Favorites



	6		19		6		11		7		10		8
	7		11		10		5		4		9		4

September Activities

Sunday, September 5 - Sunday Service with Holy Communion - 9:00am

Wednesday, September 8 - Discussion Group on "Women in the Bible" - 7pm
Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, September 14 - In person Council Meeting - 7:00pm

Wednesday, September 15 - Discussion Group on "Women in the Bible" - 7pm
Zoom Meeting

Saturday, September 18 - Euchre - 6:30pm

Sunday, September 19 - Sunday Service with Holy Communion - 9:00am

Wednesday, September 22 - Discussion Group on "Women in the Bible" - 7pm
Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, September 29 - Discussion Group on "Women in the Bible" - 7pm
Zoom Meeting

October Activities

Saturday, October 2 - Blessing of the pets at St. John's - 10am.

Sunday, October 3 - Sunday Service with Holy Communion - 9:00am

Tuesday, October 12 - In person Council Meeting - 7:00pm

Saturday, October 16 - Euchre - 6:30pm

Sunday, October 17 - Sunday Service with Holy Communion - 9:00am

Saturday, October 23 - Chili Potato Dinner at St. Johns - 5:00-7:00pm.

Sunday, October 24 - St. James's Chili Cookout at Perch Point - 4:00 - 7:00pm

Sunday, October 31 - Sunday Service with Healing - 9:00am
Happy Halloween!!!

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@ourstjameschurch.org

Scripture Readings for September

Sunday, September 5
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Prov 22; 1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Ps 125
Isa 35: 4-7a and Ps 146
James 2: 1-10, (11-13), 14-17
Mk 7: 24-37
Be Opened

Sunday, September 19
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Prov 31; 1031
Ps 1
Wisd of Sol 1; 16-2:1, 12-22 or Jer 11: 18-20
and Ps 19: 7-14
James 3; 13-4:3, 7-8a
MK 9: 30-37
First in Caring

Sunday, September 12
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Prov 1: 20-33
Ps 19
Isa 50: 4-9a, and Ps 116: 1-9 or
Wisd of Sol 7:26-8:1
James 3: 1-12
Mk 8: 27-38
Who Are You, Jesus?

Sunday, September 26
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Esther 7: 1-6, 9:20-22
Ps 124
Num 11: 4-6, 10-16, 24-29 and Ps 54

James 5: 13-20
Mk 9: 38-50
Courage for Community



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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER