

St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter
January 2022
Volume 8, Issue 1

News from Pastor Ken

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Happy New Year!

I cannot remember a time when so many were so anxious to close the door on the previous year and were ready to welcome the new year. Which is kind of funny because I thought the same thing about 2020 but somehow, 2020 just overflowed into 2021 and we cannot wait to be done with this one too.

So again, for many the New Year means a time of new beginnings and hope.

The New Year can give us a sense of optimism, opportunity, and excitement for what the days ahead. It is as if turning to the first page of the calendar allows us to set aside the challenges, disappointments and hurts of the past year and look forward to a fresh beginning.

That is exactly what this past month of Advent and Christmas are all about. Maybe that is why the church calendar always begins approximately a month before our standard secular calendar year. It gives us a little extra time to plan and prepare for this new beginning. It was good this past Advent spending time of active prayer and meditation discerning what God has called me (and us) to do and who God has called me (and us) to be. My hope is that this period of planning and discerning served you well also. And if somehow, you did not get to it. God allows you to start any time. And start over if you wish. As often as you wish.

As we look toward our New Year, I encourage each of us to consider our individual and personal gifts and opportunities and to actively participate in our personal growth and sustainability as well as that of our community of faith. This may include planning and/or growing a ministry, reaching out to those in need, inviting friends and family to attend worship, reaching out to



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Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

former members or your unchurched neighbors to visit us, encouraging generous giving, and sharing your story of faith in the community.

The reality is that this family of faith needs and more importantly calls you to be an active part in its vital role in the community and it cannot do it without you. Just as Christ could not carry on his ministry without his disciples and other followers, we cannot carry on without your active participation in spreading the good news. This approach to ministry more closely reflects the way Christ's own ministry was carried out. It creates wonderful opportunities for all to participate each according to our individual gifts of time, energy, talent, treasure, and other resources as we are able in various and appropriate ministries.

As we speak of gifts, January 6th is Epiphany, a time when it is said the wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus. I so much enjoy the whole idea of Epiphany and all the symbolism that goes with it. First, there was the arrival of the wise men on Epiphany. They traveled across what was then the entire world on faith, following a star to a place where, when they arrived, they were struck by a vision of hope and love so simple and yet so profound that it changed their lives. During this season of Epiphany, we too are invited to come to that place where our lives may be changed forever.

We also in the first week of Epiphany celebrate the baptism of Jesus Christ. It is in that very same baptism that we too are baptized and called to be disciples each of us according to our gifts and abilities.

This is for me an exciting time. A time when the world so desperately needs to see hope, so desperately needs to see the love of Jesus. We are called to be the face of Christ, to be that light for the world to see. I think to myself "what an overwhelming task" but I realize that we do not go alone nor are we expected to do it all. We go knowing that God stands before us and behind us, that God will give us the words to speak and the strength to do God's will each according to our gifts and abilities. We are called to reach out to change the life of one person, who will change the life of one person, who may change the world. I always remember this wonderful quote "We are not called to do everything but we are called to do something."

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are surrounded by God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace. There is a place for you here.

May this Epiphany season fill you and us with hope, recognizing and acting on our call to be disciples.

Happy New Year!! Take care and be well, Peace
Ken

Prayer List

Prayers for Claudette, Shirley, Barb, Bev, Ralph, Sue, Lee, Arnie, Maxine, Harvey, Lynn, Don, Lois, Marion, Tom, Brenda, Ben, Tamara, 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.

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 vegetables and tuna.

Not accepting books and furniture currently.

No expired or opened boxes of food accepted.

Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

Socks, underwear and boots all sizes, boys pants sizes 7-12, 14 & 16.

Happy Birthdays in January

1-2 Mark Pittman
1-6 Bill LaDuke
1-8 Elizabeth Kulman
1-14 Bill Osterland
1-16 Andrew Kargula
1-20 Jim Maedel
1-26 Tommy Bandlow
1-28 Jessie Teltow
1-30 Cindy Pittman

Earthly Gifts

Our financial goal for December is \$5,345.00. As of Sunday, the 19th, \$4,875.00 has been received with only a few more donation days left in December. If you did not pick up your envelope pack for 2022, they were mailed Monday, December 20th so you can have them for use on January 2nd. If for some reason you did not receive your pack or desire an envelope pack let Ralph know at church on the January 2nd or leave a message on the church phone recorder 586--727-1623.

The Discretionary Fund January 2, 2022

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.

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.

New Year Blessings

Here comes a brand new year,
Lots of new things to explore,
A clean, blank slate to write on,
Fun happenings galore.

To you we wish the best of things,
All the blessings a new year brings.

By Joanna Fuchs
Poemsource.com



Christmas Tote Bags for Local Community Charities

The items accepted anytime: hygiene items such as: school supplies (colored pencils, colored markers, erasers, pencil sharpeners, crayons, scissors, rulers) toothpaste, washcloths, headbands, barrettes and bows, and socks (small sizes – boys & girls), washcloths, floss, and toothpaste and toys. We collect the below items for boys and girls from the age of 2 to 14 years old. We filled 116 tote bags this year for the below organizations. Thank you all for the giving of items, your time, material and for delivering the bags.

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.

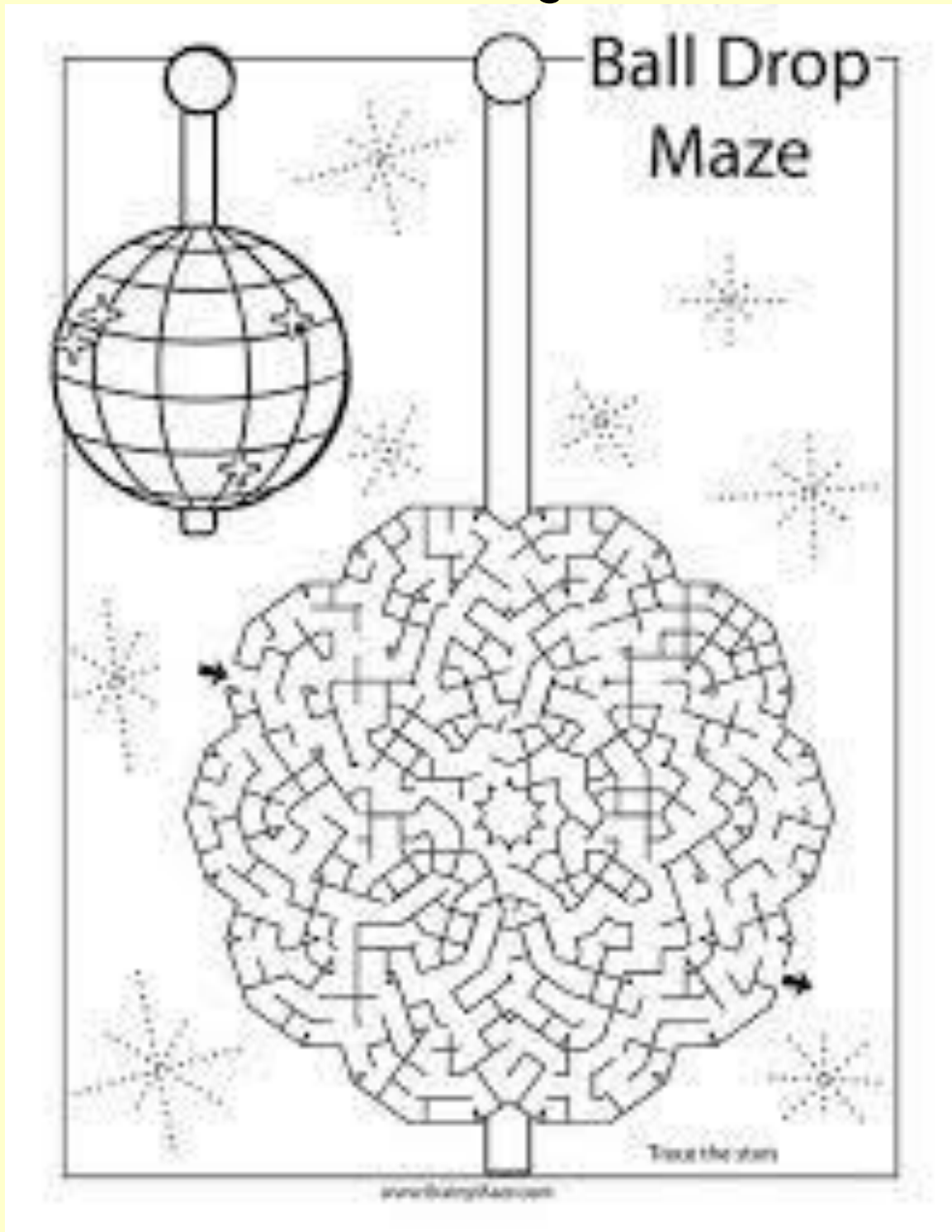
Please bring the cash or a check to church. You may give Roberta Fisher or Ralph Ski the funds to give Betty Robertson. If you are unable to take them back, we will still take them at church for donation. Place them downstairs in the storeroom.



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



January Activities

Sunday, January 2 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am.

Tuesday, January 11 – Council Meeting – 7pm.

Saturday, January 15 – Euchre – 6:30pm.

Sunday, January 16 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am.

Sunday, January 30 – Sunday Service with Healing – 9am
Annual Meeting after service

Council Members Needed

We have a few members of council that have volunteered to be on church council for the last 3 to 6 years and it is time to find two to three people to volunteer to be on church council for three years beginning in January 2022. Please contact any member of the council or Pastor Ken if you are interested.

Scripture Readings for January

Sunday, January 2

Second Sunday After Christmas

Jer 31: 7-14 or Sirah 24: 1-12
Ps 147: 12-20 or Wisd of Sol 10: 15-21
Eph 1: 13-14
Jn 1: (1-9), 10-18
Another Road

Sunday, January 9

The Baptism of Christ

Isa 43: 1-7
Ps 29
Acts 8: 14-17
Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22
Affirmed by Love

Sunday, January 16

Second Sunday After Epiphany

Isa 62: 1-5
Ps 36: 5-10
1 Cor 12: 1-11
Jn 2: 1-11
Extravagant Sign

Sunday, January 23

Third Sunday After Epiphany

Neh 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Ps 19
1 Cor 12; 12-31a
Luke 4: 14-21
Good News, Good Ways

Sunday, January 30

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Jer 1: 4-10
Ps 71: 1-6
1 Cor 13; 1-13
Luke 4: 21-30
Prophet on the Edge

****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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JANUARY NEWSLETTER