

St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter
March 2022
Volume 8, Issue 3

News from Pastor Ken

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Greetings to all.

What a fickle winter we have had and then there is the weather. No snow, then a winter's worth of snow. Single digit temperatures and 50 degrees in the same 48 hours. Snow, ice, sunshine, cold and gray. It is the time of year when Mother Nature starts to think about spring but still loves the way the snow clings to the trees and the ice twinkles in the moon light. I cannot say I blame her.

Nonetheless, I really enjoy March if for no other reason than it is the month that officially starts spring, even though it may not feel like it.

Many of us struggle to get through winter and what can seem like endless cold, grey days. Just a couple of days ago, as I was walking up the driveway looking at my icy-muddy dormant gardens and I felt the warm sunshine on my face for a few moments but then again today the afternoon clouds and cold took over. What a feeling of hope I had even though 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. So, I wait with anticipation as the snow melts to see the little buds starting to appear and the daffodil shoots pushing up. And I watch my bird feeders to see what new arrivals are making an early appearance. 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. It starts March 2 with Ash Wednesday.

Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

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.

Many consider Lent 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. I do not just mean out role in church. In fact, I am thinking about our greater purpose in life. When I recognize that I have always belong to God, before-during and after this physical experience, I realize that all that I do and say is a ministry of some sort or another.

I encourage us all to use this time for a little, thinking, praying, 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 of suggestions. Consider one or two as a daily practice. Spend an few extra minutes each day in prayer and meditation. Read any book on spirituality, commit to reading the Upper Room or Daily Bread every morning with your coffee/tea (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. Again, I encourage you to not just “give up” something but to add a little something that will feed your spirit. Who knows, you may find it rewarding enough to continue.

Although most of us think of Lent as 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 and optimism.

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

Prayer List

Prayers for
Claudette, Shirley, Barb, David, Bev, Ralph, Rosemary, Sue, Frazer, Lee, Arnie, Wayne, Danielle, Harvey, Lynn, Don, Lois, Marion, Tom, Brenda, Ben, Carolyn, Joy, Bill, Prange Family, Jenney, Wanda, Trisha, Ljupka (Lupeka), Tamara, Ken, Kathy, Michael, Gina, Jim, Faith, Linda, 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:
Girls' jeans 3T, 7, 8, 18, girls winter shirts – 5, 6, 7, & 14-16, spring girl shorts – 3, 5 & 18, boys bathing suits will be needed soon, can always use twin size linens and especially comforters.

Birthdays in March

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

Anniversary in March

3-7 Judy & Frank Trangali
3-7 Denise & Chris Brogan
3-16 Cindy & Dan Klomp
3-17 Colleen & Rusty Stover
3-17 Sharon & Gerald Fritz

Earthly Gifts

The Discretionary Fund March 6, 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.

At the Annual Meeting the congregation approved the new monthly goal for contributions as \$5,877.25 per month. Hopefully the weather gives us a break and more who have not been able to make it to church will be able to attend. Share a handshake before the service and enjoy the warmth in the church with your donation. If you are in need of envelopes, please leave a message on the church phone 586-727-1623.

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.

St. Patrick's Day Poem



An old Irish blessing
May love & laughter light your days,
and warm your heart & home.
May good & faithful friends be yours
where ever you may roam.
May peace & plenty bless your world
with joy that long endures
May all life's passing seasons
bring the best to you & yours.



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



St Patrick's Day Word Search



Find all the words on the list.

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

MARCH
GOLD
PATRICK
LIMERICK
PARADE

RAINBOW
CLOVER
IRISH
POT-OF-GOLD
SHAMROCK

LUCKY
SAINT
HOLIDAY
FOUR-LEAFED-CLOVER
WISH

March Activities

Wednesday, March 2 – Soup & Salad Dinner – 6pm (bring a dish to pass)
Ash Wednesday Service – 7pm

Sunday, March 6 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am.
Discretionary Fund Collection

Tuesday, March 8 – Council Meeting – 7pm

Wednesday, March 9 – Zoom Discussion Group – The Apostles – 7pm.

Wednesday, March 16– Zoom Discussion Group – The Apostles – 7pm.

Saturday, March 19 – Euchre – 6:30pm.

Sunday, March 20 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am

Wednesday, March 23 – Zoom Discussion Group – The Apostles – 7pm

Saturday, March – Corn Beef Dinner Prep – 9am. In church basement

Sunday, March 27 – Sunday Service with Healing – 9am.
50/50 Lottery Draw – 10am – (church basement)
Corn Beef Dinner- 4pm at Perch Point

Wednesday, March 30 – Zoom Discussion Group – The Apostles – 7pm.

April Activities

Sunday, April 3 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am.
Discretionary Fund Collection

Wednesday, April 6 – Zoom Discussion Group – The Apostles – 7pm.

Tuesday, April 12 – Council Meeting – 7pm

Wednesday, April 13 – Zoom Discussion Group – The Apostles – 7pm.

Thursday, April 14 - Maundy Thursday - 7:00 pm at St. James'

Friday, April 15 - Good Friday -Noon at St. James', includes Stations of the Cross
7:00 pm at St. John's, includes Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 16 – Holy Saturday - 7:00 pm St. James'

Sunday, April 17 - Easter Service - 9:00 am service at St. James'
11:00 am service at St. John's

Sunday, April 24 – Sunday Service – 9am.

Scripture Readings for March

Sunday, March 6
First Sunday in Lent

Deut 26: 1-11
Ps 191:1-2, 9-16
Rom 10: 8b-13
Luke 4: 1-13

Wilderness Companions

Sunday, March 20
Third Sunday in Lent

Isa 55: 1-9
Ps 63: 1-8
1 Cor 10: 1-13
Luke 13: 1-9

Open Invitation

Sunday, March 13
Second Sunday in Lent

Gen 15: 1-12, 17-18
Ps 27
Phil 3: 17-4:1
Luke 13: 31-35 or Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

Strong & Tender

Sunday, March 27
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Josh 5: 9-12
Ps 32
2 Cor 5: 16-21
Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Embracing Love

****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



St. James United Church of Christ Annual "St. Pat's" Corned Beef Dinner Honoring Pat Bandlow

Sunday, March 27th at 4:00pm
Perch Point Conservation Club
7930 Meisner Road, Casco

Price - \$15.00 for Adults and Children
Dinner includes Dessert, Coffee and Tea
(Cash bar available)

Come and spend the afternoon with friends and family
"Cead Mille Failte"~A hundred thousand welcomes await you
at our annual St. James dinner!

Raffle and 50/50 Drawing



Dinner tickets will be available at the door. Seating is
limited, reservations and more information available at
586-719-5314.



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