

St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter
April 2022
Volume 8, Issue 4

News from Pastor Ken

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It just seems that everyone I talk to lately is experiencing winter fatigue. Even my consulting client that is an absolute winter sport junkie including snowmobiling, skiing, snowboarding, outdoor hockey, snowshoes, etc. has informed me that he is “so done with winter.”

Many of you have commented or inquired about Easter being early this year. Not really. It just came rather late last year. We have had both earlier and later Easters. Well here is how it was decided. We can thank our Pagan friends in part for this. In 325CE the Council of Nicaea established that **Easter** would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. From that point forward, the **Easter** date depended on the ecclesiastical approximation of March 21 for the vernal equinox.

Here is what I know for sure. Spring and Easter are here even though it may not feel like spring at this moment. I heard a couple church folks discussing how many robins that have already seen and my neighbor mentioned that she already has crocus' and I noticed little green sprouts popping up from beneath the cold earth as I walked through thinking about my gardens. It must be spring!!

As we finish this Lenten season and enter into Easter, remember it is just like the transition from winter into spring. During what seems to be the endless cold dark days of winter, we start to experience the new life that rises up from what we once were sure was dead. That is what the Easter season offers us as well, to seek and experience new life, new life in our congregation and new life for ourselves.

Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

This Lenten season was a powerful season for me as I hope it was for you, filled with reflection, preparation and discernment. We spent time this Lenten season considering our own personal journey through the wilderness into Jerusalem. We prayed about what we bring to the cross and more importantly, what resurrection and transformation we have come to expect in our own lives this Easter. Over the past weeks, we have been talking about discovering the Christ within us, to be the resurrected, living Jesus we know God has called us to be.

As we come into spring, expect the miracle of new life. Expect to be transformed. Again, that is what Easter is all about. Some miracles are large and some are small, some require that we look for them. A number of them even require that we work to reveal them. However, if we do look, if we keep expecting them and are willing to do what God asks us to do; those miracles will just keep coming.

I am excited about what this Easter season has in store for us all, personally and as a community in Christ. I encourage you to keep your heart, mind and spirit open. Let us plan together, pray together, and work together. Let us prepare to be transformed.

I invite you all to participate in the Holy week services including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Easter Eve Vigil and of course Easter morning Communion service. Invite those you have missed to join us and share in this time of personal transformation and renewal.

Take care and be well, Peace
Pastor Ken

Prayer List

Prayers for

Claudette, Shirley, Barb, Wayne, Danielle, Keith, Karen, Sue, Mark, Harvey, Lynn, Don, Lois, Marion, Tom, Brenda, Prange Family, Jenney, Tamara, Ken, 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 success on restarting their programs.

Helping Hands

Current Needs: Canned soup and tuna.

Not accepting books and furniture currently.

No expired or opened boxes of food accepted.

Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

All sizes of tennis shoes (especially boys sizes 5 & 7)

Always in need of socks and underwear all sizes

Birthdays in April

4-7 Tammy Czenkus
4-9 Wayne Baumgarten
4-9 Jason Szymanski
4-12 Butch Lomerson
4-13 Al Bryant
4-29 Christa Beattie
4-30 Frederick Erhardt
4-30 Douglas Bishop

The Discretionary Fund April 3, 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.

Corn Beef Dinner

A huge thank you to everyone who donated money towards the Corn Beef, vegetables, desserts, paper goods and Lucky Draw items and everyone's time on Saturday and Sunday. Thanks again to Doris Doss for the beautiful quilt, Glen Meldrum for the Garden Cart and Colleen Stover for the cost of the rental of Perch Point. It takes a village to put on an event such as this and we have the best village around. Total funds raised from the Corn Beef Dinner is \$5,755.00, what a success!!!

Anniversary in April

4-4 Marilyn & John Beattie
4-20 Bernice & Mike Callahan
4-25 Ellen & Dan Riley

Earthly Gifts

Our monthly goal for contributions for April is \$5,877.25. For the month of March \$3,968.00 has been received. The atmospheres are not helping to keep the church warm so please give what you can so we can be warm at church events. If you need 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.

50/50 Raffle Tickets

The winner of the first quarter 50/50 Raffle is Terry and Kelly Pauley. 50/50 A big shout out to Art Wagner for selling 124 Raffle Tickets, the King of Ticket Sales. Tickets are now available for sale for the second quarter of 2022. The price per ticket is \$5.00 (purchase as many as you want and as often as you like) and the drawing will be on June 26th at 10am, after service. A total of 200 tickets can be sold for a payout of \$500.00 if all tickets are sold. Please see Sharon Fritz if you wish to purchase or sell tickets.

Easter Poem



The SWEET Truth of Easter

These candies tell a story~
the best news you'll ever hear.
~It's about Jesus dying on the cross
so that we could be brought near.

So hold them and turn them and you will see...
the "M" become a "W" an "E" and then a "3"

The "E" stands for... Easter....
God's everlasting love and His eternal plan.

It reminds us of the cross
and the way God rescued sinful man

The "3" represent the 3 days Jesus spent in the grave....
By His death, His children He did save

The "M" reminds us of the mercy the Messiah showed
as He died in our place.
and the miracle of the resurrection
so we can see Him face to face.

The "W" reminds us... that He alone
is worthy of our worship and praise
and calls us to be His witnesses
around the world for all of our days.

by Bethany Tapp

<http://ministry-to-children.com/easter-poem/>

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.

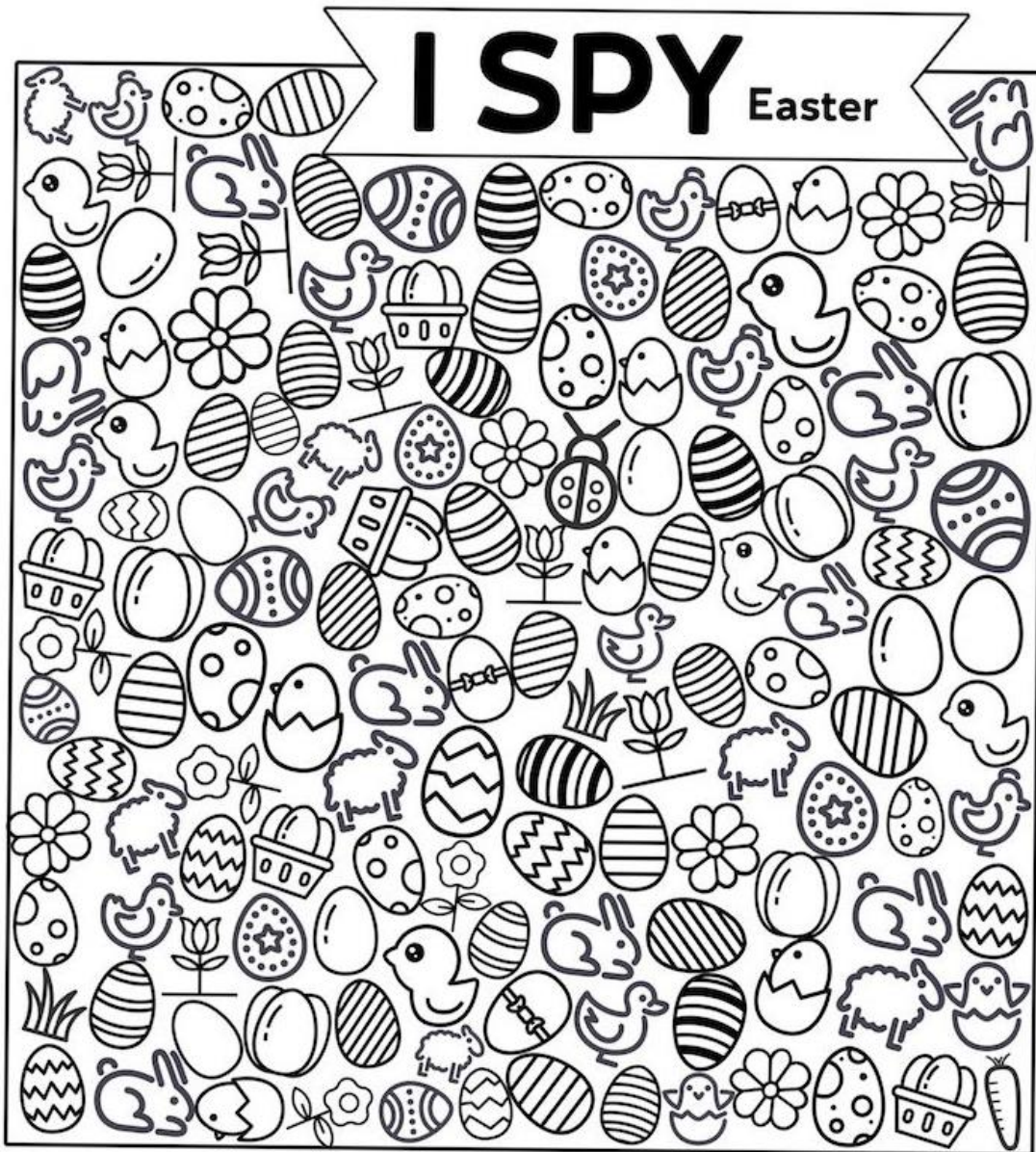
Please bring the cash or a check to church. You may give Roberta Fisher or Ralph Ski the funds to give Betty Robertson. If you are unable to take them back, we will still take them at church for donation. Place them downstairs in the storeroom.



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



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|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 2 | | 4 | | 4 | | 5 | | 4 | | 5 | | 7 | | 4 | | 6 | | 5 | |
| 1 | | 6 | | 7 | | 1 | | 3 | | 6 | | 7 | | 4 | | 7 | | 5 | |
| 3 | | 3 | | 4 | | 6 | | 2 | | 7 | | 5 | | 9 | | 6 | | 3 | |

April Activities

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

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

Sunday, April 10 – Palm Sunday Service – 9am.

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 – Great Easter Vigil / Holy Saturday - 7:00 pm St. James'

Sunday, April 17 - Easter Breakfast – 8am. (Bring a dish to pass for Potluck)
Easter Service - 9:00 am service at St. James'
11:00 am service at St. John's

Sunday, April 24 – Sunday Service – 9am.

May Activities

Sunday, May 1 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am.
Discretionary Fund Collection

Tuesday, May 10 – Council Meeting – 7pm

Friday, May 20 – Rummage and Bake Sale at St. John's – 9 - 5pm.

Saturday May 21 – St. John's Rummage and Bake Sale – 9 - 3pm.
Euchre at 6:30pm at St. James

Sunday, May 22 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am

Sunday, May 29 – Sunday Service with Healing - 9am.

Monday, May 30 – Memorial Day

Scripture Readings for April

Sunday, April 3
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Isa 43: 16-21
Ps 126
Phil 3: 4b-14
Jn 12: 1-8
Something New

Sunday, April 10
Palm Sunday
Isa 50: 4-9a
Ps 31: 9-16
Phil 2: 5-11
Luke 22: 14-23: 56 or Luke 23: 1-49
Into Jerusalem

Sunday, April 17
Easter
Acts 10: 34-43 or Isa 65: 17=25
Ps 118:1 – 2, 14-24
1 Cor 15: 19-26 or Acts 10: 34-43
JN 30: 1=18 or Luke 24: 1-12
Resurrection Joy

Sunday, April 24
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 5: 27-32
Ps 118: 14-29 or Ps 150
Rev 1: 4-8
Jn 20: 19-31
Resurrection Witness

****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@ourstjameschurch.org



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APRIL NEWSLETTER