

St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter
April 2023
Volume 9, Issue 4

News from Pastor Ken



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No matter how long or relatively mild the winter seems to be, it always seems so long. Almost everyone I talk to has a feeling of winter fatigue. Almost a sense of winter hopelessness. And although spring technically arrives at the same time every year there are days it seems far off. Especially this year with Easter coming a little later, a week into the month of April we are still in Lent. And although Lent is not designed to be a season of suffering but rather a time of reflection in preparation for the Easter season it seems to add to the melancholy.

Do not give up hope. Spring is coming and will not be denied. Soon we will start to notice those oh so subtle or not so subtle hints of spring. In fact, it has already started to happen. The snow turns to rain and the ice to mud. Many of us will be so happy to see it we will almost forget to complain about it. The days are getting longer so we hear more birds chirping and the daffs are trying to boldly push themselves up.

This is what the Easter season is all about. 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 were once sure was dead. That is what the Easter season offers us. The opportunity to seek and experience new life, new life in our congregation and new life for ourselves.

We spend time this Lenten season considering our own personal journey through the wilderness into Jerusalem. We pray about what we bring to the cross and more importantly, what resurrection transformation have we 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.



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Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

As we come into spring, expect the miracle of new life... 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 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 all of us, 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.

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.****

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

Prayer List

Prayers for Claudette, Ralph, Wayne, Danielle, Keith, Karen, Ryan, Judy, Sue, Dan, Luran, Kathy, Art, Hazel, Gordie, Holly, Steve, Barb, Gina, Chris, Tom, Michael, Deborah, Cheryl, Lorraine, Trudy, Carolyn, Ken, Sharon, James, Melanie, Scott, Bernice, Gary, Marion, Debbie, Dorothy, Brenda, Families of St. John & St. James



Outreach Ministry

Helping Hands

Current Needs: Crackers, cereal, canned fruit and veggies, boxed foods like Hamburger Helper, Rice-A-Roni, Mac and Cheese

Not accepting books and furniture currently.

No expired or opened boxes of food accepted.

Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

Socks and underwear – all sizes, hygiene items for both boys and girls and adults, shoes and especially boots – new or gently used, boys pants size 6 thru 14/16.

B-WARM

Continued prayers for the future of the mission. They are currently looking at the possibility of having some new people in place in the spring and re-opening in the fall. Pray that all goes well!!!

Birthdays in April

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

Anniversaries 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 March was \$5,877.25. For the month of March \$3,968.00 has been received. This was probably caused by most waiting for the big evening at the Corn Beef Dinner. 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. Thank you everyone for your participation last month at the Corn Beef Dinner that helped our financial state..

**The Discretionary Fund
April 2nd, 2023**

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

Please feel free to bring your children to church and partake in the bi-weekly Sunday School classes (2nd and 4th Sunday). Please contact Sue Tews if you are interested in helping with Sunday school.

Corn Beef Dinner Report

(Lucky Draw, Lottery Tree, Garden Wagon, charging Station, Bake Sale, 50/50, Admissions and keep the change)

Deposited 3/21/2023	\$5,114.00
Advanced Ticket Sales	\$1,335.00
Excess Funds for Corn Beef	<u>\$419.00</u>
Total Event	<u>\$6,880.00</u>

Easter Blessings!!!

Easter Blessings

*May Christ's glory and
the promise of this joyous
time of year, bring peace
and happiness to you and
those you hold most dear.*

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Christmas Tote Bags for Local Community Charities

Christmas Tote Bags

A new updated list is available downstairs in the church of what is needed for this year. The tote bags are for both boys and girls between the ages of 2 and 14. The items accepted anytime: hygiene items such as: toothbrush holders, toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, dental floss, comb/brushes, hair accessories such as head bands, ponytails, clips, bows, and barrettes and school supplies such as: notebooks, crayons, colored pencils, colored markers, pencil sharpeners, scissors (for youngsters and older children) , rulers, large erasers. Pens, pencils and socks, hats, scarves and gloves/mittens and toys.

Please donate travel size items, we only have so much space to store the items in for the year and we need to get all items to fit in the bags.

Bottle / Can Collection

We are continuing to collect all bottle and cans at church. They can be placed in the back-room downstairs at church.

All donations should be empty and clean bottles and cans. The money is used to support our Christian Education Program.

If you need someone to pick them up please contact Don or Betty Robertson at robertson3265@comcast.net.

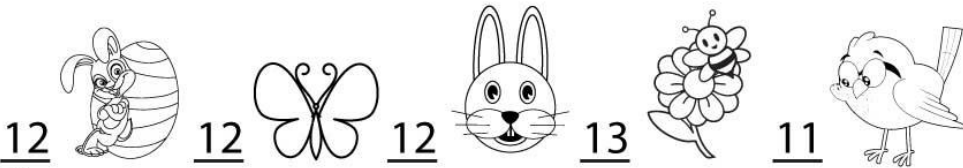


Military Prayer List

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 loved 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

Hard Easter I-Spy!



April Activities

Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am

Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday Service – 7pm. at St. James

Friday, April 7 – Good Friday Service and Stations - 12pm at St. James and 7pm.
at St. Johns

Saturday, April 8 – Great Easter Vigil – 7pm. at St. James

Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am.
Potluck Easter Breakfast at 8am before service

Tuesday, April 11 – Council Meeting – 7pm.

Saturday, April 15 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm.

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

Sunday, April 30 – Sunday Service with Healing – 9am.

Scripture Readings for March

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday

Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29

Jer 31: 1-6

Matt 21: 1-11

Isa 50:4-9a

10: 34-43

Ps 31: 9-16

28: 1-10

Phil 2: 5-11

Matt 26: 14-27:66 of Matt 27: 11-54

Sunday, April 9

Easter

Acts 10: 34-43 or

Ps 118: 1-2, 13-24

Col 3: 1-4 or Acts

John 20: 1-8 or Matt

Sunday, April 16

Second Sunday of Easter

Easter

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

Ps 16

1 Peter 1: 17-23

John 20: 19-31

Holy Language

Sunday, April 23

Third Sunday of

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Ps 116; 1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 2: 17-23

Luke 24: 13-35

Breaking Bread

Sunday, April 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 42-47

Ps 23

1 Peter 2: 19-25

John 10: 1-10

Powerful Witness



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APRIL NEWSLETTER