

St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter
July and August 2023
Volume 9, Issue 7

News from Pastor Ken



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Greetings to all. I hope you are enjoying the summer. It does seem however like spring and summer have been bouncing back and forth for the last month. There have been several weeks in June that felt like hot dry July days.

Even though there has been a definite shortage of rain, with the help of hauling water, the gardens have exploded with all kinds of wonderful colors and fragrances. I am excited about a couple new projects taking shape in my gardens as well. And as nature would have it, at least at my house the mosquitoes seem to be delighted with the weather as well. Notwithstanding, I am thrilled that summer is here and the long winter is behind us. It is a glorious summer.

The summer, especially July, has for many years now been a rich time of reflection and gratitude. This month provides many opportunities for reflecting on times of major transformation in my life. As we start the back half of the year, I am reminded to embrace each new day with all the opportunities, challenges, and times of spiritual enlightenment that every new day can bring. As one journey ends a new and exciting one begins.

I am hoping that for you this summer is a time of reflecting and relaxing. For some of you it will be a time of graduations, weddings, vacations, get-a-ways, and trips to the beach. I offer traveling mercies to you all, wherever this summer's adventures take you.

Remember when out and about to stop in the local church and say hello and share with them about your home church and how God has touched your life. One of my fond memories as kids was my mother always had us stop by churches wherever and whenever we were visiting places to go in just say a little prayer and look around. She would say that it was important so when



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Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

the day came to meet God face to face, he would recognize us and remember we had stopped by to say hello. That funny little story still has me stopping by churches whenever I am on the road whether traveling for pleasure or for work.

For some of us this has been a difficult and challenging summer dealing with issues of health, money, loss or just life on life's terms. Perhaps even to the point of trying our faith. Please know that you are not on this journey alone. God is always with us and makes God's presence known by surrounding us with friends, family (and as I like to say, some I'm related to) and the occasional encounter with a stranger that God sends along to deliver a message. I truly believe that God is with me the most when times are hardest and I feel it the least. My history is proof. I believe it to be true for you as well.

Others of us are just laying low enjoying those laid-back lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. Remember that list of everything we were going to do this summer...relax a little. The list is always bigger than the time and energy to do it. Do what you can but remember to enjoy.

As we spend the summer relaxing and having fun, we have so much to look forward to with a new season of worship and spiritual growth. May your summer be a restful, revitalizing time, Spirit-filled and surrounded by the grace and love of God. And remember that regardless of where the summer takes you, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace and there is a place for you here. Have a great summer. See you Sunday!

Take care and be well, Peace.
Ken

Prayer List

Prayers for Claudette, Ralph, Wayne, Danielle, Keith, Karen, Ryan, Judy, Shirley, Sue, Dan, Lauran, Kathy, Art, Holly, Christopher, Al, Hazel, Gina, Michael, Deborah, Cheryl, Lorraine, Trudy, Ken, Sharon, James, Melanie, Scott, Bernice, Gary, Marion, Don, Dorothy, Joe, Mike, Kathy, 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 July

7/2 Barbara Ski
7/7 Judy Tringali
7/7 Katelyn Strunk
7/16 Lynn Robertson
7/17 Jerry Lindke
7/18 Alexia Twltow
7/23 Ralph Ski
7/25 Dave Robertson
7/26 Bernice Callahan

Birthdays in August

2 – Colleen Stover
3 – Kerry Bandlow
4- Sherrie Ingles
6 – Kerin Uppleger
9- Kelly Marie Pauley
12 – Teri Wagner
14 – Dorothy Lomerson
19 – Devon Klomp-Mao
22 – Evan Lyszczyk
27 – Marilyn Beattie
27 - Richie Mao
28 - Terry Edward Pauley

Earthly Gifts

For July and August we need contributions of \$5,879.00. If you need to contact the church the phone number is 586-727-1623 or send an e-mail to www.ourstjameschurch.org. If you desire a donation packet it can be picked up the next Sunday at the church or if you prefer or if you cannot attend services provide your address and packet will be mailed to you.

Anniversaries in July

7/4 Julie & Chad Robbins
7/7 Sue & Mark Tews
7/12 Julie & Frederick Erhardt
7/19 Brenda & James Maedel
7/25 Paula & Mark Beattie

Anniversaries in August

7 – Kerry & LeAnne Bandlow
25 - Devon & Richie Mao

The Discretionary Fund July 2nd, 2023 August 6, 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.

Fourth of July Blessings!



F Freedom came with a price,
the price of Christ blood
shed on the Cross.

O Our Lord and Savior saved
us all from our sins.

U Unrighteous we may be,
but the grace us God set us
free.

R Rely on God, He will show
our paths.

T The truth is in God's Word,
the Bible, His Holy Book.

H Helping one another
along the way.

O Obedient to what God
wants us to do.

F Father, Creator,
God is He.

J Jesus died for our sins.

U United one day, we
believers will be in Heaven.

L Love one another as Christ
loved us.

Y You are a special creation
made from God, our
Heavenly Father.

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.

We are in need of materials to sew the tote bags with. Material should measure 18 to 24 inches long and 35 inches wide.

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.

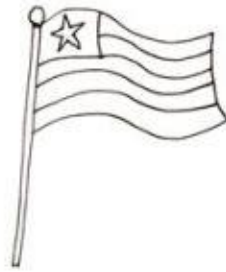


Military Prayer List

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 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

4th of JULY



Word Search



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

AMERICA
BLUE
CELEBRATION
FAMILY
FIREWORKS
FLAG
FREEDOM
FUN

INDEPENDENCE
JULY
PICNIC
RED
STARS
STRIPES
SUMMER
WHITE

July Activities

Sunday, July 2 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am

Tuesday, July 11 – Council Meeting – 7pm.

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

Sunday, July 16 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am

Thursday, July 20 – St. John's Blood Drive

Tuesday, July 25– St. James Fundraiser Dinner at Murphy's Inn – 5pm to 8pm.

Sunday, July 30 – Sunday Service with Healing – 9am

August Activities

Sunday, August 6 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am

Tuesday, August 8 – Council Meeting – 7pm.

Saturday, August 18 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm.

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

Sunday, August 27 – Sunday Service with Healing – 9am
Outside Service and Picnic following service.

Scripture Readings for July

Sunday, July 2

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Gen 22: 1-14 and Ps 13 or
Jer 28: 5-9 and PS 89: 1-4, 15-18
Rom 6: 12-23
Matt 10: 40-42

Holy Welcome

Sunday, July 16

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Gen 25: 19-34 and Ps 139: 1-12, 23-24 or
Isa 55: 10-13 and Ps 65 (1-8), 9-13
Rom 1: 1-17
Matt 13: 1-9, 18-23

A House Divided

Sunday, July 9

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Gen 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 and Ps 45: 10-17
or Song of Sol 2: 8 – 13 or Zech 9: 9-12 and Ps
145: 8-14

Rom 7: 15 – 25a

Matt 11: 16-18, 25-30

Chosen Journeys

Sunday, July 23

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Gen 28: 10-19a and Ps 139: 1-12, 23-24 or
Wisd of Sol 12: 13, 16-19 or ISA 44: 6-8 and
Ps 86: 11-17

Rom 8: 12-25

Matt 13: 24-30, 36-43

Wheat and Weeds Together

Sunday, July 30

Nineth Sunday After Pentecost

Gen 29: 15-28 and PS 105: 1-11, 45b or Ps 128 or
1 Kings 3: 5-12 and Ps 119: 129-136
Rom 8: 26-39

Matt 13: 31-33, 44-52

Weaving the Future

Scripture Readings for August

Sunday, August 6

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Gen 22: 22-31 and Ps 17: 1-7, 15 or
Isa 55: 1-5 and Ps 145: 8-9, 14-21
Ps Rom 9: 1-5
Matt 14: 13-21

Face to Face

Sunday, August 20

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Gen 45: 1-15 and Ps 133 or
Isa 56: 6*8 and Ps 67
Rom 11: 1-2a, 29-32
Matt 15: (10-20), 21-28

Bold Moves

Sunday, August 13

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

Gen 37: 1-4, 12-28 and Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22,
45b or 1 Kings 19: 9-18 and Ps 85: 8-13
Rom 10: 5-15
Matt 14: 22-33

When all Seems Lost

Sunday, August 27

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Ex 1: 8, 2: 10 and Ps 124 or
isa 51: 1-6 and Ps 138
Rom 12: 1-8
Matt 16: 13-20

Be Transformed



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