

# St. James United Church of Christ

9008 Meisner Road, Casco, MI 48064 / [www.ourstjameschurch.org/](http://www.ourstjameschurch.org/)

Newsletter  
October 2023  
Volume 9, Issue 9

## News from Pastor Ken



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As we seem to try and squeeze out a few more days of summer weather and enjoying every last drop of it, I must say that I very much enjoy the season of fall for so many wonderful reasons.

First, I love fall weather. It's perfect ....warm sunny days and cool gentle nights. I enjoy the change in temperature but even more the anticipation and realization of the incredible palette of color that surrounds us in trees, bushes, fall flowers and vegetables. Even fall sunrises and sunsets seem more glorious. The colors are beautiful, the air is crisp, and it is perfect window open while sleeping weather. I start pulling out my comfy sweatshirts and warm socks. Even my nutty dogs seem to relish in the cool air and piles of leaves to roll and play in.

Just like the weather, it has been a year of change for many of us. Even though I know what season follows fall, I have come to accept that this is the natural order of things. What's more, I know that before long the cycle will be complete and with certainty, spring will arrive. Until then, I enjoy the seasons as they come, each with its own unique challenges, joys and beauty. With the weather just like life, I have found the key to peace and serenity is "Accepting life on life's terms". So take heart, keep the faith, enjoy, and continue to be part of the great transformation.

And of course, fall and my gardens, fall gives me a great appreciation for gardening and gardeners, and the joy of being a steward of God's creation. The older I get the more I realize it is the simple things in life that make me happiest... ah life is good today!

## Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

When I think of my own gardening experience, I think that is how our spiritual journey experience works as well. Some seem to be born into it, laughing, and dancing our way throughout the process. Others of us with some cautious hesitation, while some of us go kicking and screaming. Then sometimes quickly, sometimes slowing we find ourselves moving from resistance to tolerance to enjoying it and often without even noticing, a spiritual transformation occurs. The only thing required was the willingness to participate and to be open to the possibility of change.

As always, while in the garden I remember, ever so humbly, the many gifts that have been given to me. During this harvest time I am reminded of God's grace and abundance in my life and the importance of sharing that abundance with others. Just like sharing gardening stories, even sharing the story of our own journey can have a profound effect on others.

I encourage you to share your journey with others that they too may experience the joy and hope of transformation and perhaps encourage them to take the first steps into their own spiritual garden. It is exciting to be a part of this faith families garden of growth and harvest. We invite you to sense your ministry, feel your call and join us in this journey together, each according to our talents and energy.

In the garden at home and here in our congregation's spiritual garden there is always plenty to do and each helping hand regardless of how large or small makes life a little easier for everyone. Any gardener will tell you how much better things look and taste when we have taken part in their creation. Whatever your gift and ability, regardless of how significant, or insignificant, you may think it is, know that we are all richer because you are here sharing those gifts. Whatever we do, we do in the light of God's unconditional love, boundless mercy and unending grace.

We look forward to growing together and invite you to join us on the journey and harvest. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's path, there is a place for you here and we welcome you.

One more thing. I have been sharing this little prayer a friend passed on to me. Seems appropriate for fall.

Dear God, thank you  
for all that you have given me  
for all that you have taken from me  
for all that you have left me  
Amen

Take care and be well, Peace  
Ken

## Prayer List ....

Prayers for ..... Wayne, Judy, Art, Christopher, James & Family, Gina, Michael, Trudy, Ken, Nancy, Melanie, Don, 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 October

5 - Gerald Fritz  
6 - Mark Uppleger  
13 - Julie Wendt  
14 – Julie Robbins  
18 – Carol Rooks  
22 - Glenn Meldrum  
27 - Brianna Frances-Jean Pauley  
28 – Mary Smith  
30 – Bob Wagner

## Earthly Gifts

Our monthly goal for October contributions is \$5,877.25. If you are new to our church or have lost or misplaced your envelopes, please leave a message on the church phone 586-727-1623 or e-mail ourstjameschurch.org. You will receive an envelope packet for the remainder of the year by mail or contact Ralph or Roberta before or after the service and you will receive the packet before you leave.

## Anniversaries in October

9 - Robin & Glenn Meldrum  
14 - Lisa & Lee Mahnke  
14 - Sherri & Wayne Ingles  
30 - Joan & Bernard Teltow

### The Discretionary Fund October 1, 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday). Please contact Sue Tews if you are interested in helping with Sunday school.


## Fall Blessings!

# Leaves

by Elsie N. Brady



How silently they tumble down  
And come to rest upon the ground  
To lay a carpet, rich and rare,  
Beneath the trees without a care,  
Content to sleep, their work well done,  
Colors gleaming in the sun.



At other times, they wildly fly  
Until they nearly reach the sky.  
Twisting, turning through the air  
Till all the trees stand stark and bare.  
Exhausted, drop to earth below  
To wait, like children, for the snow.

## 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](mailto:robertson3265@comcast.net).



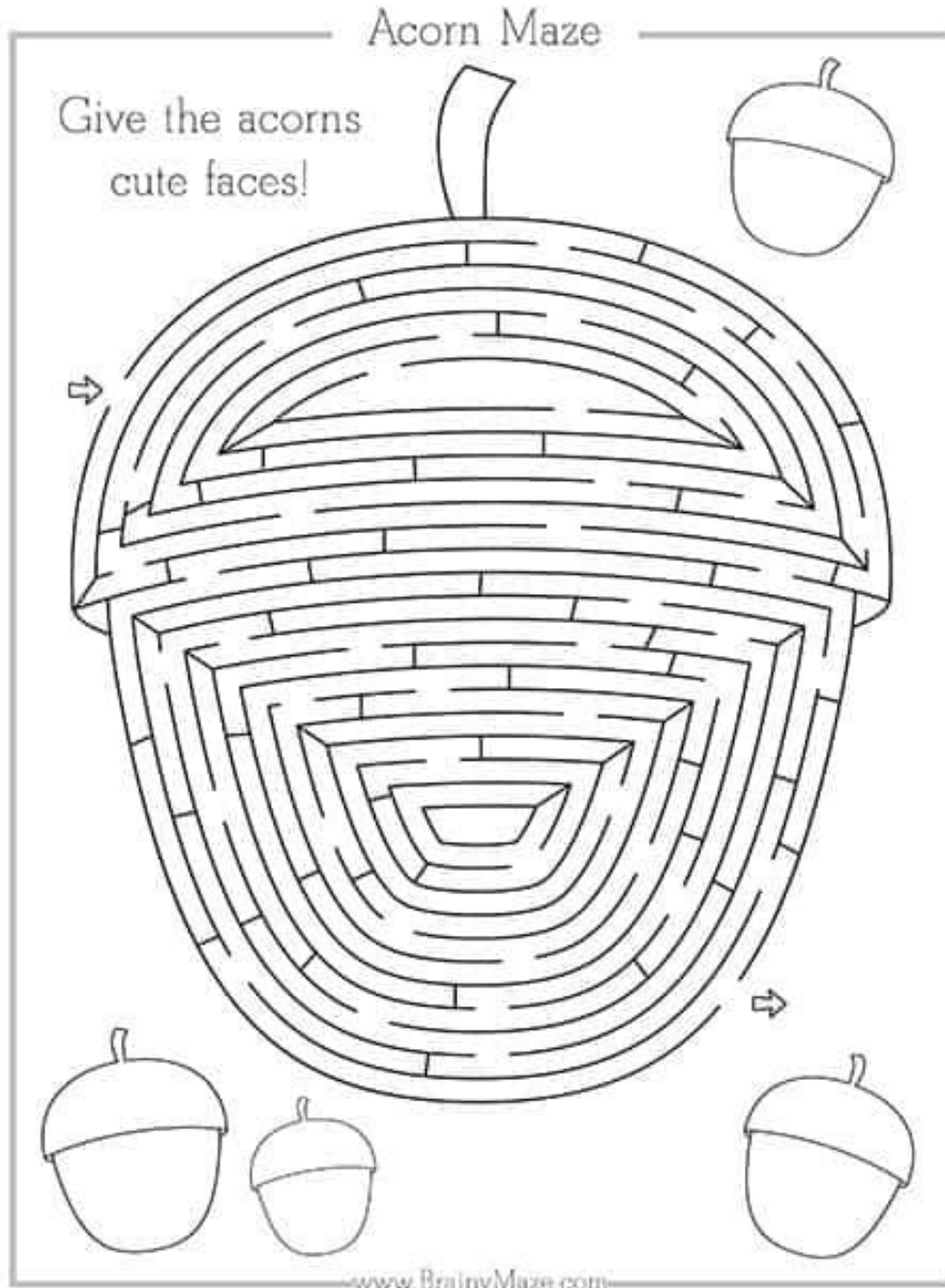
### **Military Prayer List**

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.

Ian Riley - Marines



# Kid's Page



## October Activities

Sunday, October 1 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion and Discretionary Fund Collection – 9am

Tuesday, October 10 – Council Meeting – 7pm

Sunday, October 15 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am.

Saturday, October 21 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm.

Wednesday, October 25 – Zoom meeting with Pastor Ken – 7pm  
Subject is Sacraments  
Sign-up in church basement

Sunday, October 29 – Sunday Service with Healing – 9am  
Annual Chili Cook Off at Perch Point – 4pm.

## Scripture Readings for October

**Sunday, October 1**  
**Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
Ex 17: 1-7 and Ps 78: 1-4, 12-16 or  
Ezek 18: 1-4, 25-32 and Ps 25: 1-9  
Phil 2: 1-13  
Matt 21: 23-32  
**God's Sustaining Presence**

**Sunday, October 15**  
**Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost**  
Ex 32: 1-14 and Ps 106: 1-6, 19-23 or  
Isa 25: 1-9 and Ps 23  
Phil 4: 1-9  
Matt 22: 1-14  
**Praiseworthy Living**

**Sunday, October 8**  
**Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost**  
Ex 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20 and Ps 19 or  
Isa 5: 1-7 and Ps 8: 7-15  
Phil 3: 4b-14  
Matt 21: 33-46  
**Wisdom for the Way**

**Sunday, October 22**  
**Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost**  
Ex 33: 12-23 and Ps 99 or  
Isa 45: 1-7 and Ps 96: 1-9 (10-13)  
1 Thess 1: 1-10  
Matt 22: 15-22  
**Living Messages**

**Sunday, October 29**  
**Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost**  
Deut: 34: 1-12 and Ps 90: 1-6, 13-17 or  
Lev 19: 1-12, 15-18 and Ps 1  
1 Thess 2: 1-8  
Matt 22: 34-46



The Compassionate Life



# St. James U.C.C. Annual Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, October 29, 2023  
Perch Point Conservation Club  
7930 Meisner Road, Casco  
4:00PM

Anyone may enter their chili for judging!  
(Please have chili's in for judging by 2:45pm)



## Price

Adults \$12.00

Children 12 and under Free will offering

(Includes: Chili, hot dogs, chips, drink and dessert)

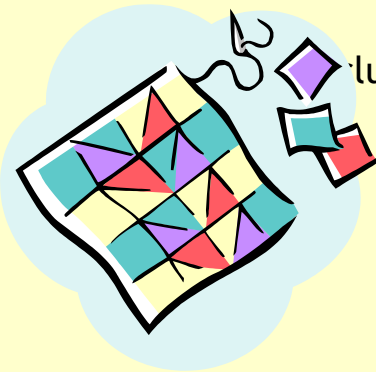
## Fun for Everyone

Lucky Draw Auction

Lottery /Gift Card Plant Raffle

50/50 Raffle

Bake Sale



Dinner and Raffle tickets available at 586-915-7662.  
Reserved seating suggested. Limited capacity.





St. James United Church of Christ  
9008 Meisner Road  
Casco, MI 48064

Phone:  
(586) 727--1623

Fax:  
(586) 27-0833

E-mail:  
[kgadd@ourstjameschurch.org](mailto:kgadd@ourstjameschurch.org)



## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER