

# St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter  
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## 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!

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,



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## Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

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, Kathy, Ruth, 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 for girls and boys, hygiene items for both boys and girls and adults, adult gloves, coats for girls and boys all sizes, boys pants size 3 and up.

### **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 November

1 - LeAnne Bandlow  
4 - Gary Teltow  
8 - Joel Szymanski  
8 - Sharon Fritz  
9 - John Lyszczyk  
13 - Julie Wendt  
15 - Matt LaDuke  
15 - Dan Riley  
20 - Jennifer Uppleger  
23 - Lee Mahnke

## Earthly Gifts

Our monthly goal for November 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.

## 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.

## The Discretionary Fund November 5, 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.



## Thanksgiving Blessings!

### *A Prayer of Thanksgiving*

Father in Heaven,  
Creator of all and source of all goodness and love,  
please look kindly upon us  
and receive our heartfelt gratitude  
in this time of giving thanks.

Thank you for all the graces and blessings  
You have bestowed upon us,  
spiritual and temporal:  
our faith and religious heritage,  
our food and shelter, our health,  
the loves we have for one another,  
our family and friends.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity,  
please grant us continued graces and blessing  
throughout the coming year.

This we ask in the Name of Jesus,  
Your Son and our Brother.  
Amen.

## 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 will be used towards St. James Painting Project.

If you need someone to pick them up please contact Don or Betty Robertson at [robertson3265@comcast.net](mailto:robertson3265@comcast.net).



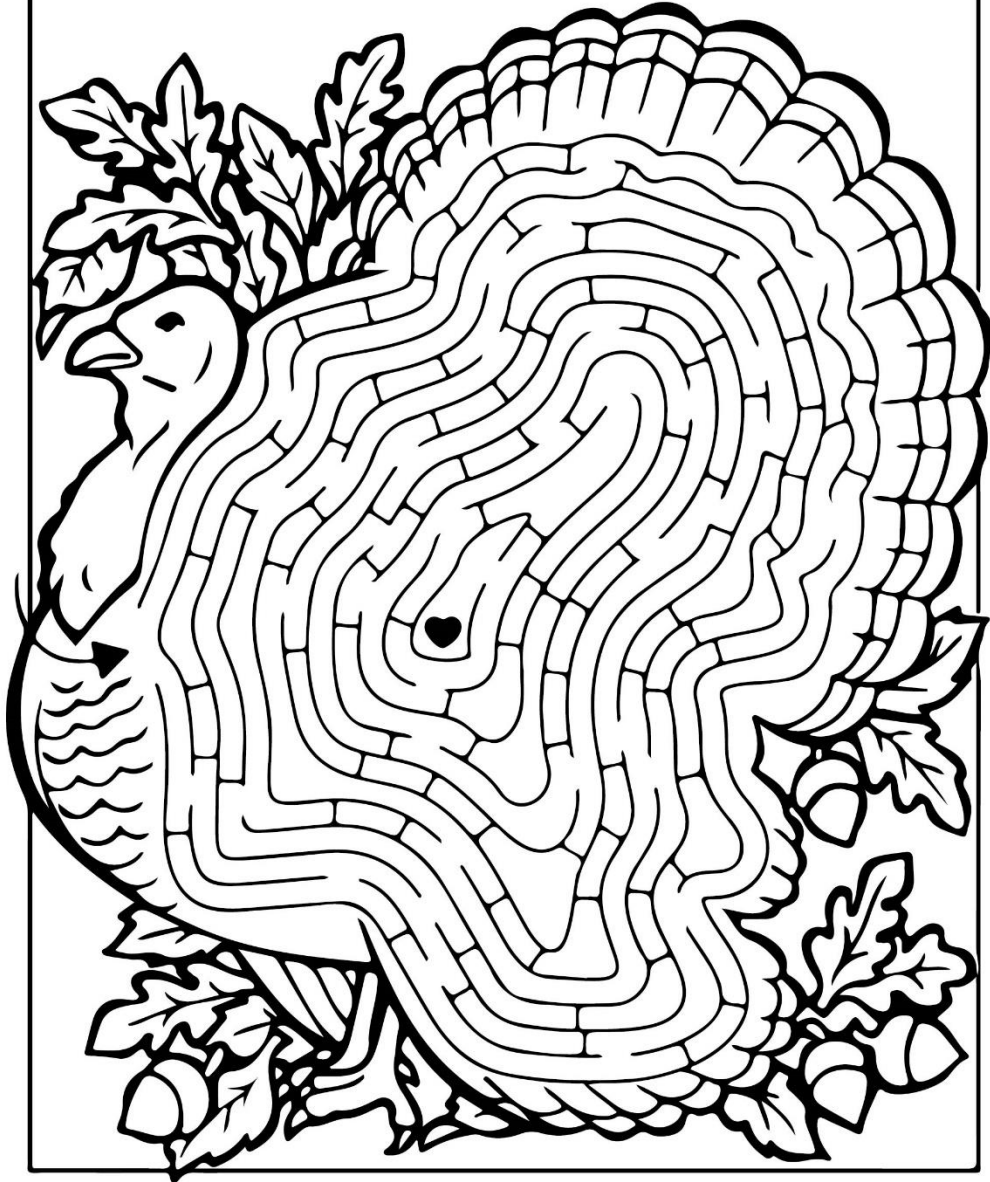
### **Military Prayer List**

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

Find your way to the turkey heart!



### **November Activities**

Sunday, November 5 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion and All Saint's Day – Bring pictures of your loved ones - Discretionary Fund Collection – 9am

Tuesday, November 7 – St. John's Fund Raiser Dinner at Murphy's Inn – 5pm to 8pm.

Saturday, November 11 – Set up items to stuff Christmas Tote Bags – 11am

Sunday, November 12 – Stuff Christmas Tote Bags after coffee hour

Tuesday, November 14 – Council Meeting – 6:30pm

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

Sunday, November 19 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am

Wednesday, November 22 – Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's on Palms Road at 7pm. Serving pie after service.

Sunday, November 26 – Reign of Christ Sunday Service – 9am

### **December Activities**

Saturday, December 2 – Euchre – 6:30pm.

Sunday, December 3 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion - Discretionary Fund Collection – 9am

Tuesday, December 12 – Council Meeting – 6:30pm

Thursday, December 14 - Ladies Christmas Gathering – 6:30pm

Saturday, December 16 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm

Sunday, December 17 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am

Thursday, December 21 – Blue Christmas Service at St. John's – 7pm

Sunday, December 24 – Sunday Service at St. James – 9am

Sunday Service at St. John's – 11am

Christmas Eve Service with Communion at St. John's – 4pm

Christmas Eve Service with Communion at St. James – 7pm

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Sunday, December 31 – Sunday Service with Healing – 9am  
50/50 Drawing to be held during coffee hour after service



## Ladies Christmas Gathering

**Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.**

It's been too long since we were able to gather and thought it was a good time to for an evening of fellowship, a great potluck dinner and singing. Bring a small gift if you would like to take part in the White Elephant Gift Exchange \$5.00 to \$10.00 range, (Not Required). There will be a free will offering taken to support Sacred Heart / Clearview Women and Children Center in Memphis, MI. Sign-up sheet is in the basement.

### Scripture Readings for November

**Sunday, November 5**

**Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost**

Josh 3: 7-17 and PS 107: 1-7, 33-37 or

Mic 3: 5-13 and Ps 43

1 Thess 2: 9-13

Matt 23: 1-12

**Partners in Service**

**Sunday, November 12**

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**

Josh 24: 1-3a, 14-25 and Ps 78: 1-7 or

Wisd of Sol 6: 12-16 or Amos 5: 18-24 and

Wis of Sol 6: 17-2

1 Thess 4: 13-18

Matt 25: 1-13

**Tending God's Light**

**Sunday, November 19**

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

Judg 4: 1-7 and Ps 123 or

Zeph 1: 7, 12-18 and Ps 90: 1-8, (9-11), 12

1 Thess 5: 1-11

Matt 25: 14-30

**Extravagant Opportunity**

**Sunday, November 26**

**Reign of Christ**

Ezek 34: 11-16, 20-24, and Ps 100 or

Ezek 34: 11-16, 20-24, and Ps 95: 1-7a

Eph 1: 15-23

Matt 25: 31-46

**Reigning Compassion**



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## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER