

# 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!



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## 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, Al, James & Family, John, Gina, Michael, Trudy, Ken, 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 September

9/2 Patti Maedel  
9/10 Cheryl Wgner  
9/12 Avery Grace Pauley  
9/13 Denise Brogan  
9/15 Mark Tews  
9/17 Mike Callahan  
9/23 Stella Czenkus  
9/23 Audrey Teltow  
9/30 Matthew Kargula  
9/30 Elmer Uppleger  
9/30 Kris Dombrowski

## Earthly Gifts

Our monthly goal for regular August contributions is \$5,877.25. For the first three weeks regular contributions total \$2944.00 not including a Special Contribution of \$1010.00 and Euchre \$433.00. 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 September

9/6 Kim & Jerry Lindke  
9/12 Barb & Ralph Ski  
9/26 Jessie & Chad Teltow

## The Discretionary Fund September 3, 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!

### *Prayerfully I Walk*

Time alone in an autumn wood,  
I stroll on a mosaic carpet  
of moist multicolored leaves--  
rust brown, yellow, crimson.  
I ponder the deep red patches,  
scattered every step of my way.  
Silently they speak of our Savior's  
redemptive, sacrificial blood---  
blessing each pace on the path of life.

Charlotte Adelsperger ©1994

*Tricia Goyer.com*

## 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](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

**PUZZLE TIME**

## BACK TO SCHOOL

wordsearch puzzle

S	C	H	O	O	L	B
B	T	E	A	C	H	A
E	G	P	E	N	E	G
L	L	L	A	C	R	B
L	A	E	O	I	L	O
P	P	T	O	B	T	O
E	N	B	P	H	E	K

PENCIL  
BELL  
TEACHER  
GLOBE  
BOOK  
SCHOOLBAG  
LAPTOP  
PEN

A black and white line drawing of a young girl with glasses, a ponytail, and a skirt, holding a pointer stick. She is surrounded by various school supplies: a globe, a pencil, a book, a small bell, a backpack, and a pen. The items are arranged around her, some with simple faces.

## **September Activities**

Sunday, September 3 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion and Discretionary Fund Collection – 9am

Tuesday, September 12 – Council Meeting – 7pm.

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

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

## **Scripture Readings for September**

### **Sunday, September 3**

#### **14th Sunday After Pentecost**

Ex 3: 1-15 and Ps 105: 1-6, 23-26 or

Jer 15: 15-21 and Ps 26: 1-8

Rom 12: 9-21

Matt 16: 21-28

**Spirit-Led Living**

### **Sunday, September 10**

#### **15th Sunday After Pentecost**

Ex 12: 1-14 and Ps 149 or

Ezek 33: 7-11 and Ps 119: 33-40

Rom 13: 8-14

Matt 18: 15-20

**Remember, Restore, Renew**

### **Sunday, September 17**

#### **16th Sunday After Pentecost**

Ex 14: 19-31 and Ps 114 or Ex 15: 1b-11, 20-21 or

Gen 50: 15-21 and Ps 103: (1-7), 8-13

Rom 14: 1-12

**Road to Freedom**

### **Sunday, September 24**

#### **17th Sunday After**

Ex 16 : 2-15 and Ps 105 : 1-6, 37-45 or Jonah 3: 10-4:11 and Ps 145: 1-8

Phil 1: 21-30

Matt 20: 1-16

**Tensions in the Wilderness**





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)



## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER