

St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter
April 2024
Volume 10, Issue 4

News from Pastor Ken



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It just seems that everyone I talk to lately is just really ready for spring to happen. Most are not complaining about how mild this winter has been, me included, but the multiple bouts of spring like weather have us all hypersensitive to the possibility of the change of seasons.

Many of you have commented or inquired about Easter being early this year. Not really. It just came rather late last year. We have had both earlier and later Easters. Well here is how it was decided. We can thank our Pagan friends in part for this. In 325CE the Council of Nicaea established that **Easter** would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. From that point forward, the **Easter** date depended on the ecclesiastical approximation of March 21 for the vernal equinox.

Here is what I know for sure. Spring and Easter are here even though it may not feel like spring at this moment. I heard a couple church folks discussing which birds have already shown up and what plants are budding and sending pictures of crocuses. I noticed little green sprouts popping up as I walked through thinking about my gardens. It must be spring!!

As we finish this Lenten season and enter into Easter, remember it is just like the transition from winter into spring. 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 once were sure was dead. That is what the Easter season offers us as well, to seek and experience new life, new life in our congregation and new life for ourselves.



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Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

This Lenten season was a powerful season for me as I hope it was for you, filled with reflection, preparation, and discernment. We spent time this Lenten season considering our own personal journey through the wilderness into Jerusalem. We prayed about what we bring to the cross and more importantly, what resurrection and transformation we have 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.

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

Invite those you have missed to join us and share in this time of personal transformation and renewal.

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 Gary, Michael, James & Family, Gina, Trudy, Rosemary, Kathy, Bev, Sharon, Nancy, Ron, Barb, Dan

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, new or gently used shoes, crib sheets, toothbrushes and toothpaste, baby wipes and toddler size shampoo items for both boys' and girls' coats for girls and boys all

B-WARM

Continued prayers for the future of the mission. They are currently looking at the possibility of having some new people in place at the beginning of the New Year. Pray that all goes well!!!

Birthdays in April

7 – Tammy Czenkus
9 - Jason Szymanski
12 – Butch Lomerson
13 – Al Bryant
29 – Christa Beattie
30 - Frederick Erhardt
30 - Douglas Bishop

Anniversaries in April

4/20 Bernice & Mike Callahan
4/25 Ellen & Dan Rily

Earthly Gifts

The Discretionary Fund April 7, 2024

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.

Our monthly goal for April is \$5,558.25. If you need contribution envelopes, please either call the church 586-727-1963 or send an e-mail to ourstjameschurch.org or if you're at service let the greeter know. Thanks

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.

AND NOW IT'S SPRING

BY LHTHEAKER

The grass is green across the hill,
But yellow blooms the daffodil.
It's sunshine on a little stalk,
A friendly flower, I bet they talk...

Of little kids, too long inside
They burst outdoors to play and hide.
Tracking mud and bringing bugs.
Look, there's footprints on the rug!

Tiny whirlwinds, these little tykes,
They skin their knees while riding bikes.
They rip and roar, they're running wild!
What fun it is to be a child.

It grows warmer every day.
Shoo the children out to play!
Pick the flowers, play in mud.
Too much rain, here comes a flood!

My snowy, winter days are gone.
I mourn them, but I hear a song
Of birds in trees; wind chimes ring.
I guess it might as well be spring!



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.

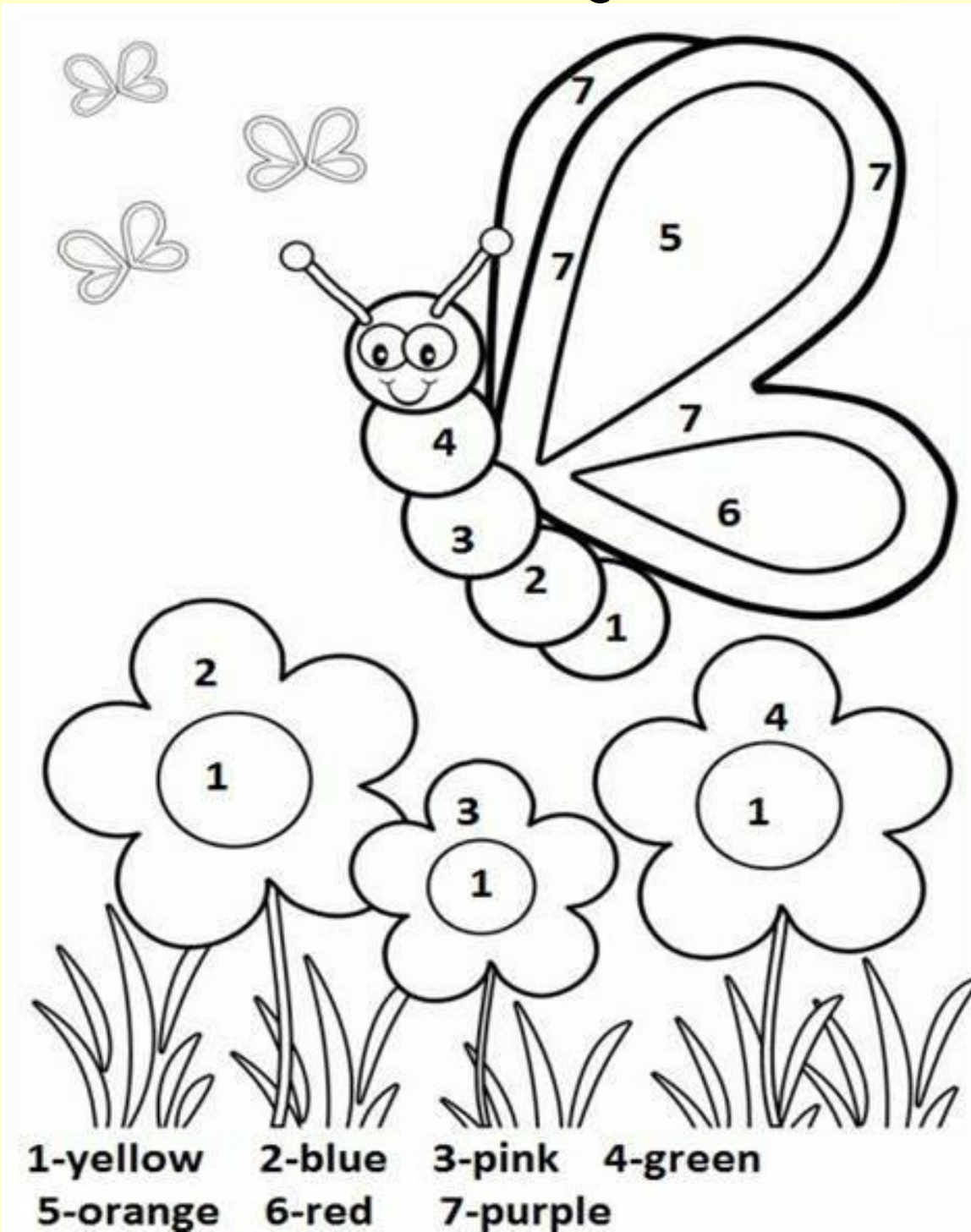


Military Prayer List

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



April Activities

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

Sunday, April 7 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 9am

Tuesday, April 8 – Council Meeting – 6:30pm

Saturday, April 20 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm

Sunday, April 21 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 9am

Wednesday, April 24 – Abbreviated Seder Ceremony – 7pm at St. John’s

Painting Fund

St. James has started a Painting fund to cover the future costs of paint, painting and scaffolding to repaint the inside of the church. If you would like to donate to this fund, place an envelope in the collection plate earmarked “Paint Project” or mail your donation to church at 9008 Meiner Road, Casco, MI 48064

Thank you Box

For all the things that get done in the background of church that no one receives a thank you for. A box with paper has been set up in the front vestibule for you to leave a “Word of Thanks” for anyone for whatever reason. This box will allow members to voice a thank you for that exact reason. The box will be checked for any Thank Yous and will be read in church along with the announcements each week.

Scripture Readings for April

Sunday, April 7
Third Sunday in Lent
Acts 4: 32-35
Ps 133
1 John 1; 1-2;2
John 20: 19-31
Marks of Faith

Sunday, April 21
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Acts 4: 5-12
Ps 23
1 John 3: 16-24
John 10: 11-18
Enfolded by Love

Sunday, April 14
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Acts 3: 12-19
Ps 4
1 John 3; 1--7
Luke 24: 36b-48
Christ Among Us

Sunday, April 28
Palm Sunday
Acts 8: 26-40
Ps 22: 25-31
1 John 4: 7-21
John 1: 1-8
Abiding in Love



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APRIL NEWSLETTER