

St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter
May 2024
Volume 10, Issue 5

News from Pastor Ken



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I know that everyone has a story for when the weather has been worse or better or different but.... this has been just an odd winter / spring for weather. There was a week when it started in the 60's and ended in the teens. There has been snow in April. We have had days that included a little winter and summer all in a day of spring. This weather has been teasing us for over a month.

In spite of it all, I cannot believe how excited I am about the possibility of spring. I cannot wait to spend more time in the yard and in the garden. The gardens seem to be alive already. It is like they could not wait any longer, regardless of the weather. I love watching the gardens come alive.

Taking care of the garden has become a series of great life lessons for me. One of those lessons is that I am still learning to balance the hard work of gardening with remembering to take time to enjoy the garden. I find seeking that balance an interesting metaphor for life. We sometimes get so busy doing life that we forget to enjoy life. However, that being said, I am actually thinking about a couple new garden ideas for this year. They are always a work in progress. And while continuing the discussion of balance, I am actually working on some vacation ideas. As always, we will see how the plan unfolds.

I love the sight, sound and smell of spring, full sensory overload. The garden in early spring serves as a wonderful reminder of all the miracles of life. Just like in our own lives, there is a lot of amazing stuff going on, but because it often happens just below the surface, we sometimes forget to notice it. There exists an amazing opportunity for transition, both in our yards and in our lives. Often where and when we least expect it.



<https://www.facebook.com/St-James-United-Church-of-Christ-10150090210425008/>

Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

Remember, this is truly a season of hope and resurrection. As I work in the garden and experience the joy of new life, my hope is that each of us has the opportunity to experience new life spiritually as well.

With all of challenges that life brings, both in the world and in some of our own homes, it is sometimes hard to remember that God is with us always and at work in our lives. I think that is one of the true miracles of Easter and spring. We are reminded with every winter there comes a season of rebirth and new hope. Sometimes it just takes a while for us to notice it.

So, look around, take a deep breath or two, okay, maybe for some of us three, and know that God is at work in your life right now. Even if you cannot see it or feel it yet, God is preparing you for a personal Easter transformation.

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace and there is a place for you here.

And remember, be kind to yourself.
Take care and be well, Peace
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, Ron, Dorothy, Barb, Dan, Mary, Dale, Becky

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 May

5/1 Brenda Maedel
5/2 Sue Tews
5/5 Ellen Riley
5-9 Shelly Kagula
5/13 Bev Kulman
5/17 Chad Teltow
5/9 Shelly Kargula
5/13 Nancy Maedel
5/23 Cindy Klomp
5/24 Robert Beattie
5/24 Roberta Fisher
5/27 Lynn Johnson
5/29 Julie Erhardt
5/31 Ian Wendt

Anniversaries in May

5/1 Bev & Gordie Kulman
5/2 Betty & Don Robertson
5/10 Patti & Jerry Maedel
5/13 Jason Szymanski & Jeremy Geneja
5/20 Jennifer & Mark Uppleger

Earthly Gifts

Our monthly goal for May 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

The Discretionary Fund May 5, 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.

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.

Sunday School will be ending May 12th, until Fall.

Memorial Day Poem

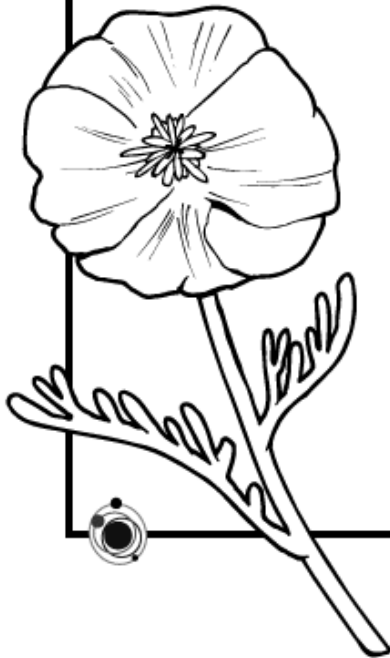
In Flanders' Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flander's fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, tho poppies grow
In Flander's fields.

Liet. -Col. John McCrae



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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, ponyes a, 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



May Activities

Saturday, May 4 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm

Sunday, May 5 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 9am

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

Friday, May 17 – St. John’s Rummage and Bake Sale

Saturday, May 18 – St. John’s Rummage and Bake Sale

Sunday, May 19 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion -9am

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. As of April 22, 2024, we have raised \$4,348.98.

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 May

Sunday, May 5
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Acts 10: 44-48
Ps 98
1 John 5; 1-6
John 15: 9-17
Friends Together

Sunday, May 19
Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2: 1-21 or Ezek 37: 1-14
Ps 104: 24-34, 35b
Rom 8: 22-27 or Acts 2: 1-21
John 15: 26-27, 16:4b-15
Spirit for All

Sunday, May 12
Seventh Sunday in Lent
Acts 1: 15-17,21-26
Ps 1
1 John 5; 9-13
John 17: 6-19
Guided in Prayer

Sunday, May 26
Trinity Sunday
Isa 6: 1-8
Ps 29
Rom 8: 12-17
John 3: 1-17
Mysterious Encounter

St. John's UCC Annual

Rummage &



Bake Sale



Friday, May 17

9 am-5 pm



Saturday, May 18

9 am-3 pm



527 N. William St., Marine City

Multi-family, household, furnishings, clothing, more

Inside/outside- rain or shine!

“Name Your Own Price” pricing

All proceeds benefit St. John's United Church of Christ



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MAY NEWSLETTER