

# St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter  
May 2023  
Volume 9, Issue 5

## News from Pastor Ken



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Is it me or has this has been a strange year for weather. There have been several days of 70-degree weather. 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.

It makes me think that mother nature is struggling to let go of her wintry past and even though she wants spring to happen she struggles with making the commitment to spring. So she gets stuck between the two. Can't quite let go of the things she likes about the past and has anxiety about what the unknown spring can bring. In the meantime, it makes a bit of a mess of what's going on today weatherwise. Interestingly, that reminds me of my life journey sometimes. If I try too hard to hold on to the past even though some of it was unpleasant while at the same time being anxious about committing to the future even though in my heart, I am aware of its wonderful possibilities I have a tendency to not allow myself to experience the full potential of the present moment.

All that being said, 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 coming alive already. It is like they could not wait any longer. 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, I am actually thinking about a couple new garden ideas for this year. They are always a work in progress. Once again, we will see how the plan unfolds.



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

## Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

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.

So this Easter season I hope you continue to look for the miracles wherever and whenever they may appear, regardless of how big or how small they may be. 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, and know that God is at work in your life right now. Even if you cannot see 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.

Take care and be well, Peace!  
Ken

Prayer List ....

Prayers for ..... Claudette, Ralph, Wayne, Danielle, Keith, Karen, Ryan, Judy, Sue, Dan, Luran, Kathy, Art, Hazel, Gordie, Holly, Steve, Barb, Gina, Chris, Tom, Michael, Deborah, Cheryl, Lorraine, Trudy, Carolyn, Ken, Sharon, James, Melanie, Scott, Bernice, Gary, Marion, Don, Dorothy, Brenda, 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 May**

- 5/1 Brenda Maedel
- 5/2 Sue Tews
- 5/5 Ellen Riley
- 5/9 Shelly Kargula
- 5/13 Bev Kulman
- 5/13 Lisa Mahnke
- 5/17 Chad Teltow
- 5/18 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 Robinson
- 5/10 – Patti & Jerry Maedel
- 5/20 - Jennifer & Mark Uppleger

**Earthly Gifts**

With the month of April having four contribution Sundays and so far with three the total donated is \$5,879. So slowly but surely, we are moving the contribution envelopes along to new members and others who want us to help keep track of their giving at no cost. Please ask Roberta or Ralph for your envelopes if you cannot find yours in the church basement. Please call and leave a message at the church 586-727-1623 or send an e-mail to [www.ourstjameschurch.com](http://www.ourstjameschurch.com) with your name and address and your yearly pack will be sent at no cost.

**The Discretionary Fund  
May 7th, 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.

## Mother's Day Blessings!!!

### Mother's Day Prayer

I said a Mother's day prayer for you  
to thank the Lord above  
for blessing me with a lifetime  
of your tenderhearted love.

I thanked God for the caring  
you've shown me through the years,  
for the closeness we've enjoyed  
in time of laughter and of tears.

So I thank you from the heart  
for all you've done for me  
and I bless the Lord for giving me  
the best mother there could be!

Homemade  
GIFTS MADE EASY

## 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 loved one's, family member or friend's name, rank and branch of service to Roberta Fisher to be placed on the list.





## May Activities

Sunday, May 7 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am

Tuesday, May 9 – Council Meeting – 7pm.

Sunday, May 14 – Sunday Service – 9am.  
Mother's Day Potluck Breakfast after service

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

Sunday, May 21 – Sunday Service with Holy Communion – 9am.

Monday, May 29 – Memorial Day

### St. John's UCC Annual

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# Rummage &



# Bake Sale



**Friday, May 19**

9 am-5 pm



**Saturday, May 20**

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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## Scripture Readings for May

**Sunday, May 7**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 7: 55-60

Ps 31: 1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2: 2-10

John 14: 1-14

**Enduring Witness**

**Sunday, May 21**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1: 6-14

Ps 68: 1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11

John 17; 1-11

**Spirit of Witness**

**Sunday, May 14**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 17: 22-31

Ps 66: 8-20

1 Peter 3: 13-22

John 14: 15-21

**Witness of Love**

**Sunday, May 28**

**Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2: 1-21 or Num 11: 24-30

Ps 104; 24-34, 35b

1 Cor 12: 3b-13 or Acts 2: 1-21

John 20: 19-23 or John 7: 37-39

**Breaking Bread**



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## MAY NEWSLETTER