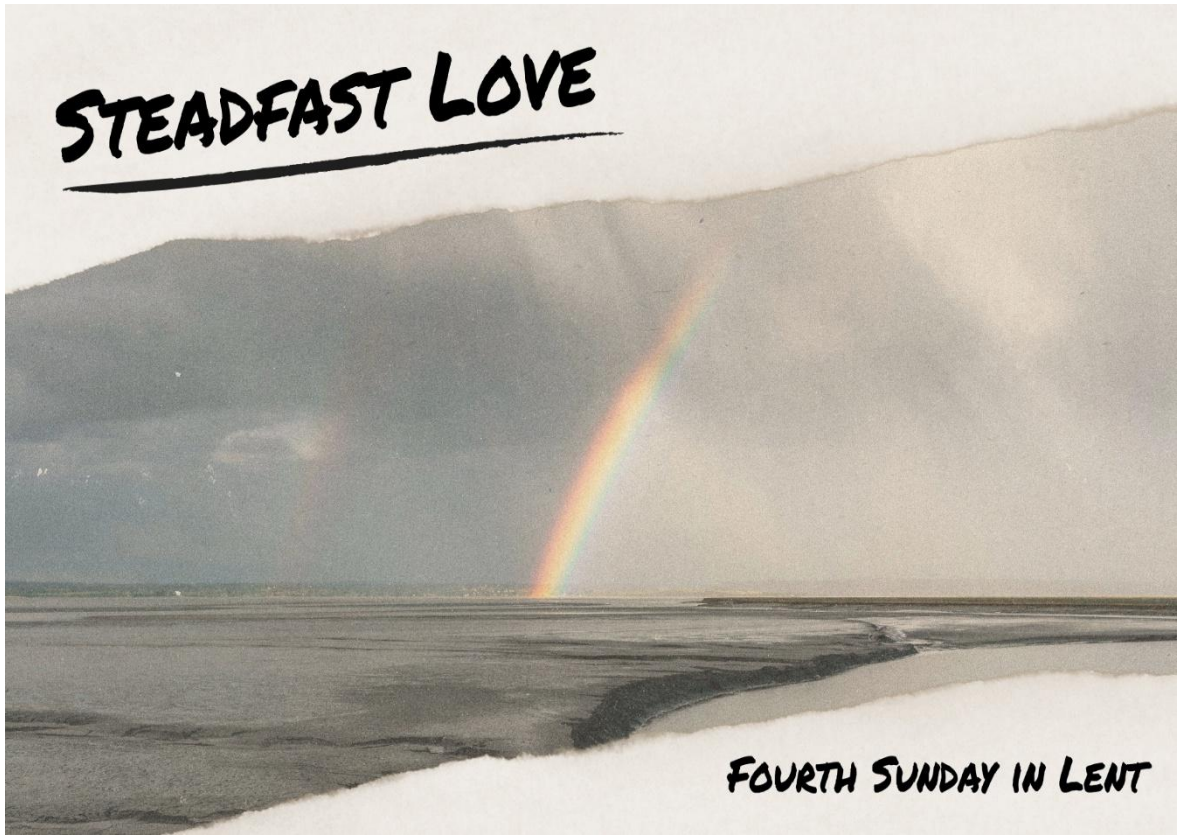


# STEADFAST LOVE



**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Sunday, March 30, 2025**  
**St. James and St. Mark's United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Ann Rodewald, Organist  
Jacob Grunwald, Reader

*Our mission is to help others deepen their relationship with God,  
become faithful followers of Christ, and to share the message of  
Christ's love with others.*

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

*If That Isn't Love*

## **Call to Worship:**

When we struggle to live as you teach us, and we fail to answer your call...

**God, your steadfast love surrounds us.**

When the truth clogs up in our throat, and we fear what will happen if we speak and if we keep silent...

**God, your steadfast love surrounds us.**

When we open our hearts and let the truth of our sorrows, our sin, our joys, and our doubts flow freely...

**God, your steadfast love surrounds us.**

When our stubborn hearts encounter the grace that teaches and guides us into a life of trust and joyful obedience...

**God, your steadfast love surrounds us today and every day.**

**Thanks be to God!**

Loving God, it was said of the Prodigal Son that he “came to himself.” Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to you. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect so that we might be more fully human. Help us not to chase after an imaginary life, and to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might notice your arms wide open in welcome. *Amen.*

## **Hymn:**

St. James (Insert); St. Mark’s (#422)

*Amazing Grace*

## **Affirming Our Faith: Statement of Faith**

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

**Young at Heart:**



**Prayer of Confession:**

God, we admit that we are prone to try to hide our sins; to keep our mouths shut and hope we are not found out. But there is no place to hide from you. Our silence only makes us sick in body and spirit. But you delight in forgiving us and in covering our sin. You are glad when we confess our failings and our needs. Hide us, O God, from trouble; teach us the way we should go. Deliver us from our own stubbornness, and draw us near, we pray.

**A Moment of Silence:**

**Words of Assurance:** *Now hear these words of favor...*

**Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him now and always.**

**Hymn:**

*Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult*

St. James (#207); St. Mark's (#345)

**Scripture Reading:**

*Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 ESV*

*Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:*

*"There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to<sup>[a]</sup> one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.*

*"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt*

*compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.*

*"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"*

**Message:**

*Steadfast Love*

Dr. Patrick Schultz

**Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.***

**Offering:**

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website ([stmstjucc.org](http://stmstjucc.org)).

**Offertory Music:**

*Oh, How He Loves You and Me*

**Doxology:** ~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise Him above ye, heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32)**

**Gracious God, our refuge and restorer, we bring these gifts as a sign of our return to you. Like the prodigal, we long to feel your embrace and live in the light of your grace. As we observe this holy time of Lent, may our offerings reflect hearts that are turning back to you. Clear the clogs in our lives that separate us from you and one another and help us see the rainbow of your promise even in our struggles. Bless these gifts and our lives so that we may share your steadfast love with the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. *Amen.***

## Hymn of Sending:

St. James (#242)

St. Mark's (#348)

*Immortal Love, Forever Full  
Softly and Tenderly*

## Benediction:

May God's grace go ahead of you,  
trail behind you, and encircle you  
each and every moment,  
that with every move you make  
you would know with absolute assurance  
that God's steadfast love  
will never leave you alone.

*Amen.*

## Postlude:

*Thine Is the Greatness*

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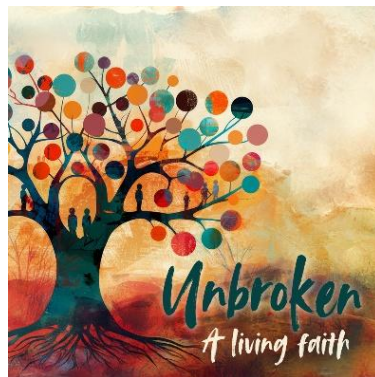
## Lenten Wednesdays

*Unbroken: A Living Faith is a deep dive into the God of faith. It is a time to recall, re-establish, and renew our own faith in God even when we are (or feel) broken.*

*Join us on Wednesday nights for this series as we explore a faith, passed down from generation to generation - in an unbroken line of ancestry that connects us all the way back to Jesus.*

April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7pm at St. James

April 9<sup>th</sup> – 7pm at St. Mark's



**COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!**

### St. James UCC

*1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.  
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.  
~Sunday School at St. James 9-10am ~*

### St. Mark's UCC

*1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.  
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.*



## **Our Church Celebrations!**

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:**

*March 30 – Sandra Beiersdorf, Dennis Bitter, Tim Wippermann*

*April 1 – Carol Weiland*

*2 – Glenn Grunwald*

*3 – Dale Dirks, Chris Schnelle*

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

*March 31 – Myron & Kathleen Hickman*

*April 2 – Pastor Patrick & Brenda Schultz*

*6 – Jason & Jenny Riesterer*

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**THERE'S A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY AT ST. MARK'S  
AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE.**

**QUILTERS** will meet at St. Mark's on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, from 9-noon.

**ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING** – Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30pm

**ST. JAMES CHOIR REHEARSAL** – 6:30pm Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ST. JAMES BRAT FRY PLANNING MEETING** – Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6pm

**LENTEN WORSHIP, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>, 7pm at ST. JAMES**

**ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING** – Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6pm.

**ST. MARK'S CHOIR PRACTICE** – Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30pm.



*It's How We Roll!*

St. James and St. Mark's ladies join us for **BUNCO NIGHT**, Thursday, April 10th, at 6:00 pm at St. James.

A \$5 participation fee is optional

Please join us and RSVP to Jackie Mueller or Tammy Serketich or email [tserketich@yahoo.com](mailto:tserketich@yahoo.com)



**TOURNAMENT!**

ST. JAMES UCC

SUNDAY, APRIL 13th

12:30pm

*Open to Men & Women of  
St. James & St. Mark's UCC*

A Living Dramatization of  
*Leonardo da Vinci's*  
**LAST SUPPER**

**DRAMA, MUSIC, COMMUNION, WORSHIP**



**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13**  
**3:00PM**

Join us for a one hour production of "The Last Supper" inspired by the large fresco style painting on the wall of Santa Maria delle Grazie, in Milan by Leonardo da Vinci. In this dramatization, the 12 disciples speak their minds to themselves, to each other, and to the Lord in light of the words which they have just heard Jesus speak, "One of you will betray me."

*Narrator:* Mason White. *Cast:* John Brown, Bob Deyo, Steve Flook,  
Rev. Jeremy Hylen, Mike King, Bruce Neils, Tom Ott, Richard Reineking, Keith Risse,  
Jeff Ritt, Jim Schwarten, Daniel Van Straten, Rev. Greg Whelton.  
*Directed by:* Mandy Radloff. *Organist:* Lisa Flook. *Soloist:* Rev. Kristal Klemme.

Admission is free.  
Cash donation or peanut butter jars are welcome and will benefit  
*Sheboygan Area Pay It Forward* and the *Sheboygan County Food Bank*.

an Sheboygan's  
South Side  
**St Paul's**  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

(920) 458-1611 [sspucc.org](http://sspucc.org)

2114 Wedemeyer St.  
Sheboygan  
(corner of Union Avenue  
and Wedemeyer Street)

Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:  
St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Like us on Facebook 

Check out our Website: <https://stmarksstjamesucc.org/>

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)