



Sunday, May 25, 2025
St. James & 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:

America the Beautiful

Call to Worship:

In the beginning, the voice that whispered us into being still whispers, saying...

Let there be light!

In the wilderness, the voice that fed us from the heavens still feeds us, saying...

Let there be light!

In the story we share with this God of mystery and amazing love,
the voice calls to us each and every morning, saying...

Let there be light!

God of the stars and galaxies, God of the seed and Earth, God of grace and mercy, we thank you that you continue to come to us, to amaze us, to laugh with us, to cry with us, to comfort us, and to show us that your love shines through us and your creation, bringing light to a darkened world. May this beauty and peace be reflected in this sacred space as we worship in the presence and the name of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Hymn:

St. James (#24)

St. Mark's (#248)

*All People That On Earth
I Want To Walk As a Child of the Light*

Affirming Our Faith Together:

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried:

He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:

I believe in the Holy Spirit: The One Holy Universal Christian Church: the communion of saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body: And the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Young at Heart:



First Reading:

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 ESV

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will

be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Prayer of Confession:

Empowering Spirit, God of our mothers and fathers and our ancestors, God of all the saints gone before us, Creator and Redeemer of all life, we pray to you that we may better understand our role here and that we might follow more closely your will.

Open our minds, free our hearts, bless our bodies, and grace all our relationships. We ask this of you because you have promised to help us, just as you illumine in Revelation's prophetic vision.

You come to make a good world, a new creation-place where we can enjoy health, decency, safety, and even joy. We pray to you, O God, to inspire us into this daringly just world. We pray for new creation where love is greater than jewels and more luminous than the sun or moon.

Bless us in your image and free our frightened souls. Sweep us up in your arms and bring us back into your fold as we ask forgiveness for the ways we have offended you.

We lift the complexity and harmony of life to your heart and trust that you hear and hold us as we pray in shared silence:

A Moment of Silence:

Words of Assurance:

Almighty God, Creator of all things, God of sun and Earth, you created us with your breath. You are here with us. Your mercy showers blessing after blessing over the land, humanity, and all living things. You have forgiven us and welcomed us freely. Your grace and mercy sustain us again and we are grateful. Bless us that we might care for one another, even as you care for us. In the name of Jesus who is the Christ, *Amen*.

Hymn:

St. James (#33 - Binder)

St. Mark's (#729)

*Trust and Obey
Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Message Reading:

John 14:23-29 ESV

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give

to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

Message:

Welcome Him In

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

People's Prayer:

O Great Forgiver of all sins, and Merciful Savior Jesus Christ, we come to you now laying bare before us our heart and soul. Hear the concerns we speak of, and think of, and feel. As we lift them to you, may we let go and trust in you. Hear too, the glory of your name as we praise you for all good things in our lives. Without you, there is no good in our lives...

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 (stmarksstjamesucc.org).

Offertory Music:

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Doxology:

*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:

We honor the many ways your word guides us to be witnesses in the world towards justice. Let us give generously with our time and our resources so that through our relationships with all we can become a new world and a new people. Bless our offerings so others can be witness to the ways we live into your word so that our communities may be refreshed and restored. **Amen.**

Hymn:
St. James (#176)
St. Mark's (#317)

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Benediction:

Let us go forth knowing that our journey as Christians begins with one word, one name, one person: Jesus. Let us now be an example of what that means so others can witness our compassion and caring for the weeping, and to the joyful, and to those who don't share our ideologies so that all might be refreshed in body and in Spirit. Go now to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ in all that you do, all that you are and all that you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

God Bless America

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.

St. Mark's UCC

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.

Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:

St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Like us on Facebook



Check out our Website: www.stmarksstjamesucc.org

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*May 25 - Roxie Bernhardt
26 - Stacy Hermann
27 - Steven Schultz
28 - Jared Luebke, Wendy Schnelle
29 - Carson Russart
30 - Kelly Luebke Handrow*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

May 31 - Mark & Kathy Jurk

VISION OF HOPE – meets at 6:30pm Tuesday, May 27th

NEXT WEEK SUNDAY IS STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY.

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING – Tuesday, June 3rd, 6:30pm

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE – June 4th, beginning at 6:30. This will be the last rehearsal before summer break.

FREE: There are NEW free BOGO child tickets available in the back of church for the Shrine Circus at the Resch Center in Sheboygan, which will be held on June 3rd! Feel free to take multiple tickets to share with other families you know.

Special note: Photos are taken on occasion at both churches for use in our church newsletter, on our church Website and on the church Facebook page. If you do not want your photo or those of your child(ren) shared, please contact the church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com or call 920.693.8361

GENERATIONS BROUGHT TOGETHER BY

FESTIVE SUNDAY

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025

JOIN ST. JAMES & ST. MARKS FOR A SUNDAY
FILLED WITH FAMILY, FOOD, AND MUSIC

OUTDOOR
SERVICE
BY PASTOR
SCHULTZ
STARTS 11:00

POTLUCK
& SOCIAL
STARTS
12:00

VARIETY OF
MUSIC BY
2/5'S
PARTY BAND
STARTS
12:30

WHERE : SPRING HOPE BARN 11424 SPRING LAKE RD

How do I sign up?
Check out events at
www.springhopebarn.com

**SAVE THE DATE
FOR THESE TWO
SPECIAL EVENTS!**

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Mark's & St. James invite you to a

JOINT FAMILY PICNIC DAY!

Sunday, September 7, 2025 (rain or shine)

Held at St. Mark's UCC, W1307 Orchard Rd, Cleveland

10:30 JOINT WORSHIP

followed by LUNCH & GAMES

(no service at St. James)

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs (donations appreciated)

GAMES FOR ALL AGES

Bingo Yard Games Croquet Fish Pond
Pick-a-Duck Corn Hole Ring Toss Balloon Dart
Ladder Golf Dunk the Pastor (*fee per ball*)And More!

*When the event draws nearer, we will be asking for donations of prizes,
as well as the use of yard games and canopies.*

A Prayer for Our Veterans

O God, Our Heavenly Father
You have blessed us with
brave men and women
who are willing to defend our freedom.
May Your protection and grace
surround them each day.
Let Your healing hand be upon those
who suffer wounds and injuries.
May those who have made the
ultimate sacrifice rest forever in
Your Holy Presence.
Comfort the families who mourn
and are left to remember
the precious lives of their loved ones.
Help us to honor and support them.
Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made
on behalf of the American people by our
sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers
fathers and friends.

Amen