



# ACTS

THE UNSTOPPABLE MISSION OF GOD

**Sunday, June 1, 2025**

*Strengthen the Church Special Offering Sunday*

**St. James & St. Mark's United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Randy Sohn, Organist

Sandy Perronne, 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:

*Sunday Morning*

## **Call to Worship:**

Bless us as we meet together,  
**dear Lord we pray.**

Bless the singing of your praise,  
**the reading of your Word,**  
the sharing of our fellowship,  
**the prayers that will be heard.**

Bless us as we meet together,  
**dear Lord we pray.**

**Gracious Creator and Champion of All Shunned and Despairing , you invite us into relationship with every breath. Settle us now, center us, and calm us to the ever-moving flowing of your Spirit calling us to become one with you. We pray in humility and hope of grace. Amen.**

## **Hymn:**

**St. Mark's (#480)**

**St. James (#37)**

*Open My Eyes, That I May See  
This is the Day of Light*

## **Affirming Our Faith Together: Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

## Young at Heart:



### **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:**

**Breathe peace like a gentle breeze into my life;  
dispel the dust of unease and fear, and bring release.**

**Bless these aching bones and put them to your service.  
Take these feeble words and give to them a boldness.  
Accept the little I can do and let it be my witness.**

**Take my scars, seen and unseen, for there is pain inside and out.  
There is need for wholeness, and peace. There is room for healing,  
and grace. We give ourselves to you now and always as you heal us inside and  
out. *Amen.***

#### **Hymn:**

**St. Mark's (#679)  
St. James (#43)**

*Baptized In Water  
When Morning Gilds the Skies*

## Scripture Reading:

Acts 8:26-40 ESV

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

*"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not his mouth.*

*In his humiliation justice was denied him.*

*Who can describe his generation?*

*For his life is taken away from the earth."*

*And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.*

## Message:

*What Prevents Me?*

Dr. Patrick Schultz

## People's Prayer:

Dear Heavenly God, as we gather in prayer, may our collective voices resonate with the divine. Guide us in this sacred voicing, draw us closer to your presence, make us one with each other even as we now pray the 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 (stmarksstjamesucc.org).

## Offertory Music:

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

*Trust In The Lord*

## 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:

Transforming God, we have come to this holy space, made holy by your presence. We revel in your gifts for us and the freedoms of worship we enjoy. Receive our simple offerings, that they may be used to faithfully serve in building your kingdom come. *Amen.*

## Hymn:

St. Mark's (#466)

St. James (#253)

*Take My Life and Let It Be*

## Benediction:

We are surrounded by the presence of the Holy.

We are held in the love of the Creator.

We are filled with the inspiration of the Spirit.

We are called by the life and resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

May we go from this place to live lives that hold the people of this world in care and compassion; compel us to live as Christ has called us to live.

Go now, in peace, to love and serve our Lord in all that we do, all that we are, and all that we will be. *Amen.*

## Postlude:

*My Lord, What A Morning!*

### **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](http://www.stmarksstjamesucc.org)

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



## Our Church Celebrations!

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

*June 4<sup>th</sup> - Ashley Lutzke, Tim Miota*

*5<sup>th</sup> - Thomas Heckmann*

*6<sup>th</sup> - Dave Adams, Johnathon Koenig*

### **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**

*June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Tim & Angel DeBlaey*

*Dale & Doris Sprenger*

*6<sup>th</sup> - Thomas & Stacy Hermann*

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**TODAY IS STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL OFFERING SUNDAY.**

**NEXT WEEK SUNDAY IS PENTECOST. COMMUNION WILL BE SHARED.**

**ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING** - Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30pm

**ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE** - June 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 3<sup>rd</sup>! 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](mailto: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
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WHERE : SPRING HOPE BARN 11424 SPRING LAKE RD

How do I sign up?  
Check out events at [www.springhopebarn.com](http://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 ( <i>fee per ball</i> )	....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.*

## *Ways You Can Get Involved...*

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Would you like to remember someone, or an anniversary or event? Please consider altar flowers for a Sunday morning service. Let our office know who/what they are for and we will include that in the bulletin.

**BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP:** Would you like to sponsor bulletins for a Sunday morning service this summer? Please contact the office to sponsor \$20. Keep this in mind as a special way to honor or memorialize a special person or event in your life.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** As we enter our summer months we are looking for those who would like to share their gift of music during a Sunday morning service. Play an instrument or sing a song - or both! Please contact our office or organists (Kathy Jurk, Cindy Sohn) to let us know of your interest.

**READERS:** Would you like to read the biblical text or a particular part of worship on a Sunday morning? This summer is a great time to do so. Please contact Pastor Patrick with your interest.



**G'Day mates! Let's go on a walkabout with Jesus.**

August 12-13-14

An Epic Australian Adventure

Hosted at St. Mark's UCC

9am-12noon K-6th grade

All are welcome, church goers or not!

We'll have a real bonzer time together!

We're going on an epic adventure through Australia, and you're invited! We'll encounter amazing animals, lush landscapes, stunning sea life, and wondrous wilderness. And most importantly, we'll be guided by our Savior, Jesus, who tells us, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" in our theme verse, John 14:6.

Please contact us with any questions.

*Watch for an email going out tomorrow with details on ways you can help with this epic adventure!*