

Set your minds
on things
that are
above.

Colossians 3:2

Sunday, August 3, 2025
St. Mark's & St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk, Organist
Lori Roelse, 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:

Here, O My Lord

Call to Worship:

Children of God, we gather as people who have received new life in Jesus Christ.

We come to set our minds on Christ, who surrounds us in love.

The world tries to distract us with anxious rumors, worrisome lies, and misleading half-truths.

We come to open our hearts to Christ, who surrounds us in love.

In this place, we gather to remind, remember, and renew our commitment to dwell in the love of Christ.

We come to give ourselves to Christ, who surrounds us in love.

Children of God, come! Let us worship God, who clothes us in new life and renews us in grace.

Come, let us worship Christ, who surrounds us in love.

God, our guide and our protector, as we gather today in your holy house, open our minds and souls and hearts, that we may be inclined to hear the gentle direction of your Spirit in our lives. Help us follow you as you lead us to the land you have created for us, where we may dwell with you and in you. *Amen.*

Hymn:

Crown Him With Many Crowns

St. Mark's (#317)

St. James (#176)

Young at Heart:



Prayer of Confession:

God of glory, you sent Jesus among us as the light of the world, to reveal your love for all people. We confess that our sin and pride hide the brightness of your light. We turn away from the poor; we ignore cries for justice; we do not strive for peace.

Forgive us, God. In your mercy, cleanse us of our sin, and renew us once again with your Spirit, so that, as forgiven and renewed people, we may reflect the love and life of Jesus Christ into our world.

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:

Our God is a God of grace and mercy and love; know that our sins have been forgiven. May we be strengthened in all goodness. Since we have been raised with Christ, let us seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Thanks be to God. *Amen.*

Hymn:

St. Mark's (#342)

St. James (#100)

*Rejoice, the Lord is King
O How Shall I Receive Thee*

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 3:1-11ESV

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Message:

The Last Kingdom – Holy Communion

Dr. Patrick Schultz

Holy Communion:

This is the Lord's Table. All who would like to receive this sacrament are welcome. Come and be blessed in the love of Jesus Christ and in name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Communion Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy and right it is, and our joyful duty to give thanks to you at all times and in all places, O Lord our Creator, almighty and everlasting God! You created heaven with all its hosts and the earth with all its plenty. You have given us life and being and preserve us by your providence. But you have shown us the fullness of your love in sending into the world your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, made flesh for us and for our salvation.

For the precious gift of this mighty Savior who has reconciled us to you we praise and bless you, O God. With your whole Church on earth and with all the company of heaven we worship and adore your glorious name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in
the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Most righteous God, we remember in this Supper the perfect sacrifice offered once on the cross by our Lord Jesus Christ for the sin of the whole world. In the joy of his resurrection and in expectation of his coming again, we offer ourselves to you as holy and living sacrifices. Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray, that the bread which we break and the cup which we bless may be to us the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Grant that, being joined together in him, we may attain to the unity of the faith and grow up in all things into Christ our Lord. And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf, and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole Church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.
Come, Lord Jesus!

In the breaking of the bread he makes himself known to us as the true heavenly Bread that strengthens us unto life eternal. In the cup of blessing he comes to us as the Vine in whom we must abide if we are to bear fruit.

**We come in hope, believing that this bread and this cup are a pledge and
foretaste of the feast of love of which we shall partake when his kingdom
has fully come, when with unveiled face we shall behold him, made like unto
him in his glory.**

As this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf, and these grapes from many hills into one cup, grant, O Lord, that your whole Church may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. Come, Lord Jesus!

**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:

Here the Bread and Wine is Offered

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Doxology:

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye Heavenly Host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (Colossians 3:1-11)

Holy and ever-present God, you call us to set our minds on things above, to let go of all that weighs us down, and to embrace the new life found in Christ. As we bring these gifts, shape our hearts in generosity, our hands in service, and our minds in faithfulness. May these offerings be used to transform lives, to build up your kingdom, and to reflect your love in this world. Keep us ever mindful that we give because you have first given so abundantly to us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn:

St. Mark's (#621)

For the Healing of the Nations

St. James (#12)

For the Beauty of the Earth

Benediction:

Children of God, receive this blessing: may the renewing grace of the Triune God surround you; may the steadfast love of the Triune God uphold you, and may the goodness of the Triune God entice you to set your mind on Christ that you may live as God's image-bearers and gospel-bringers wherever you go. Go now, in peace, to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are, and all you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

In Thee is Joy





Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*August 3rd – Sadie Koenig, Jay Sommer,
Emmett Vogel, Alan Wippermann
5th – Charlie Mohr, Emma Russart,
Davie Lorraine Vogel
9th – Courtney Binversie, Debbie Brickner*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

*August 4th – Charles & Ruth Ann Kolb
7th – Andrew & Abigail Peterson
8th – Jerry & Louise Jetzer
9th – Ray & Debbie Brickner*

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

SMJ YOUTH VOLLEYBALL – NOON TODAY....volleyball tournament begins at Immanuel UCC. Come and show your support!

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY – meets Tuesday, August 5th, at 6:30pm

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY – meets Thursday, August 7th, at 6:00pm

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Registration is open and rides are available.
The areas where we need help this summer for Vacation Bible School are: setting up, daily snacks, treats, beverages, crafts, music, storytelling and assisting for the day. Contact the office, stmstjoffice@gmail.com or 920-693-8361 if you are able to lend a hand.

St. James, St. Mark's and Bethlehem UCC's

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025

Held at St. Mark's UCC

W1307 Orchard Road, Cleveland, WI 53015

August 12,13,14 ~ 9:00am – 12:00noon

For children entering first through sixth grades

FREE, No Charge!

Theme: An Epic Australian Adventure

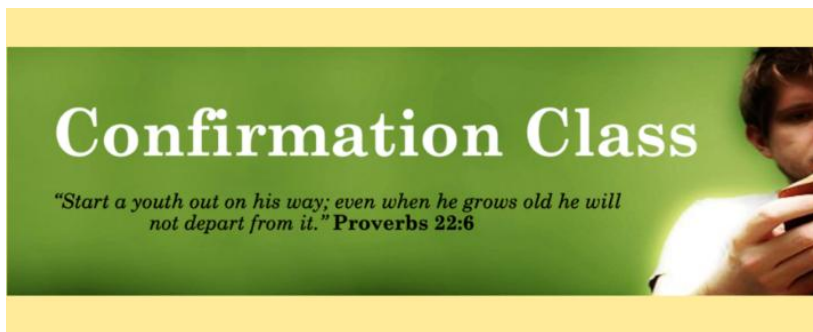
An Unforgettable Journey with Jesus

For registration form visit:

<https://stmarksstjamesucc.org/>

Or call the church office: 920.693.8361

VBS registration forms are available in the back of church and you may also register Online!



Confirmation classes are right around the corner, starting in September. If you have a child or know of someone who is ready for Confirmation this year (entering into 8th grade or older) please contact our church office via email stmstjoffice@gmail.com or contact Pastor Patrick directly at schultzpw@gmail.com or 608-352-9544 for registration.

For the Joint Family Picnic Day registration form visit:

<https://bit.ly/jointchurchpicnic>

There are also paper copies of the registration form available at church.

A poster for a Joint Family Picnic Day. The background is a red and white checkered pattern. On the left, there are photos of hot dogs in buns and a yellow balloon. The text is in various colors and fonts. At the top, "SAVE THE DATE!" is in large purple letters. Below it, "St. Mark's & St. James invite you to a" is in small purple letters, followed by "JOINT FAMILY PICNIC DAY!" in large purple letters. Then, "Sunday, September 7, 2025 (rain or shine)" is in purple, and "Held at St. Mark's UCC, W1307 Orchard Rd, Cleveland" is in black. Below that, "10:30 JOINT WORSHIP" is in black, followed by "followed by LUNCH & GAMES" in black, and "(no service at St. James)" in black. Then, "Hamburgers and Hot Dogs (donations appreciated)" is in black. Below that, "GAMES FOR ALL AGES" is in black. Then, there is a list of games: "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!". At the bottom, "When the event draws nearer, we will be asking for donations of prizes, as well as the use of yard games and canopies." is in black.