



Sunday, September 28, 2025
St. James & St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk, 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:

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Call To Worship:

God has given us this day for praise!

Praise be to God for this most generous gift!

Every good gift we have is from God's mercy and grace.

We give thanks for the greatest gift of all – his Son, Jesus Christ.

Let the words and good news of Jesus, enter our hearts and transform our lives!

Let our songs, our words, and our thoughts reflect God's healing and restoring love.

Opening Prayer:

In Psalm 42:2, the psalmist says, "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" Lord, we too have a thirst for you and desire to meet with you in this time of worship. We pray that your Holy Spirit will move among us as we gather together in your name.

Open our hearts and minds to receive your word, to hear your voice, and to experience your presence. Fill us with joy as we meet with you. Show us your glory and splendor. Open the eyes of our hearts to know you more and delight in you. May this time of worship be a time of encounter with you, our living God.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

♪ Hymn:

St. James (#329)

St. Mark's (#486)

*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord
Have Thine Own Way, Lord!*

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:

Prayer of Confession:

God of mercy, you know us so well. We like to think that we can hide from you, but we are just kidding ourselves. You have offered us new life, a life of honesty, compassion, joy, and peace. You have invited us into ministries of peace and justice; a place where we might make a small difference in our world. You have forgiven us time and time again, giving us do-overs in which we might change from who we were to become whom we are to be.

But we have far too often turned our back on your gifts. We have neglected those sacred moments given to us to serve those in need and to witness to your transformational love. Forgive us for our stubbornness. Help us to turn around and listen to your words of hope. Remind us again that you require compassion and mercy in all who serve you;

that you will guide our steps and our lives. Give us courage to truly be your witnesses in this 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:

Even though we have transgressed – sinned against our Lord and one another; done what we know to be wrong – we must remember now and always that God will heal and forgive us. God will send us on our way to become a person of peace, hope, love and justice. Be at peace for our Lord and Savior is with us always.

♪ Hymn:

St. James (#318)

St. Mark's (#466)

*Nearer My God To Thee
Take My Life and Let It Be*

Scripture Reading:

Mark 7:1-13 ESV

Now when the Pharisees gathered to him, with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

*"This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'*

You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, "Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban"' (that is, given to God) — then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

Message:

Gifts Both Given and Received: Tradition and Change
Dr. Patrick Schultz

People's Prayer

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.*

Offertory Music:

Autumn Reverie

~ *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 heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Uniquely made in the image of Christ, we come to you bearing gifts for the Lord even as the Magi brought their gifts to the baby Jesus. Let our gifts in turn feed, shelter, nurture and love those in need of a good news day. *Amen.*

♪ Hymn:

St. James (#461)

Savior Like a Shepherd

St. Mark's (#590)

Rise Up, O Saints of God

Benediction:

As Christ has fed you and redeemed you, go now into the world to share your peace and love offering others a word of hope and justice. Let your message to others be a continuation of Christ's message to the people around you. 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:

Fanfare

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.



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

September 30th – Olivia Bramstedt

October 1st – Jackie Mueller, Sandra Stark

2nd – Kevin Kellner

3rd – Diane Luckow

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

September 28th – Jon & Diane Luckow

Charlie & Joanie Mohr

Jay & Dawn Schnelle

30th – Jason & Anna Marie Bramstedt

October 2nd – Lee & Terri Schmitz

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE – Wednesday, October 1st at 6:30pm

NEXT WEEK SUNDAY WORLD COMMUNION AND NEIGHBORS-IN-NEED SPECIAL OFFERING WILL BE CELEBRATED.

QUILTERS CLUB will meet 9-noon on Tuesday, October 7th after a long summer break. You don't need any special skills, just a love for serving and sharing warmth with others.

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY meets Tuesday, Oct. 7th at 6:30pm

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY meetings Thursday, Oct. 9th, at 6pm

ST. MARK'S:

If you are interested in information regarding Sunday School at St. Mark's this year, contact Pastor Patrick at schultzpw@gmail.com or call 608-352-9544. You may also call the church office, 920-693-8361 or email Karen at: stmstjoffice@gmail.com



ST. MARK'S FOOD DRIVE for North High School



We're collecting:

- * Granola/Breakfast Bars
- * Mac & Cheese (microwave)
- * Pasta/Pasta Sauce

***We are also in need of
Male & Female Deodorant***

Collection boxes will be in the church entry way Oct. 5 - 26.

THANK YOU for your support!

What is one question you've always
wanted to ask the pastor?

Be a part of a sermon series the pastor is writing by
submitting your question. All questions will
be considered for a sermon topic to be preached.

Write your answer on the back of the Welcome Card

St. James UCC

13312 Pioneer Rd, Newton WI 53063

Ham Dinner

Dine-In & Carry out

Sunday, October 19, 2025

11:00am – 12:30 pm

Please join us in worship at 10:00 am.

Dinner will include: Ham, German Potato Salad, Corn, Applesauce, Coleslaw, Dinner Rolls, Pumpkin or Apple Pie.

Cost: \$15.00 per meal

Thank you for supporting "Our Church's Wider Mission".

United Church Men & Women Scholarship Banquet

6:30 pm, Thursday, October 30, 2025
Ebenezer United Church of Christ
3215 Saemann Ave., Sheboygan, WI 53081


Tickets can be purchased from
Scott Henschel or Lori Roelse. Cost is \$20.

Please join in this opportunity to support those who are
studying for ministry and leadership in the United
Church of Christ.

Feel free to reach out to Lori with questions. Phone
920-946-3540 or email lroelse@gmail.com.



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