

Sunday, November 16, 2025
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Randy Sohn, 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: Special Message from Darryl Gumm, United Church Men & Women at St. James

Call To Worship:

How good and pleasant it is for us to live in the unity of Jesus Christ!

Throw open the doors and shout greetings to the neighbors across the street.

How good and right it is for us to serve one another in Jesus Christ's name!

Carry the Good News across the railroad tracks to those we never meet.

How good and fulfilling it is for we followers of Christ to be a light in the world!

Reach out your arms to gather in the little ones and the not-so-little, the vulnerable and the ones who think they have to do it all on their own.

How good is our God!

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, we pray for the peace of our world. Not a day goes by but that somewhere in the world Christians gather to eat, pray, serve, and worship you as a community. Around an altar, at a kitchen table, or in a stubbled field, your people gather as one Body in Christ. Many of these gatherings happen in the middle of war, hunger, poverty, political unrest, and communal fracturing.

Today we lift our sisters and brothers around the world, our communities, and all of creation to you, and we cry out for your peace to reign among us.

♪ Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

St. Mark's: (#569), St. James: (#287)

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 infinite patience and wisdom, we come to you with so many things that claim our time, our energy, our resources, our very lives. We are easily drawn away from serving you by the enticements of the world for wealth, ease, and comfort. We find ourselves owned by our possessions, held captive by our treasures while you continue to offer to us healing and hope. You seek to transform our lives from captivity to freedom in witness and service. We look at the world in which there is so very much warfare and strife, anger and hatred, and we easily become overwhelmed by the needs and the stresses.

Help us to place our lives and our trust in you, knowing that with your help, many wonderful things can be accomplished which will provide hope and peace for others and ourselves. Give us courage and strength to truly be your disciples.

Hear now the silent fears and worries of our hearts as 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.

Moment of Silence:

Words of Assurance:

Hear the good news: Christ died for our sins and rose again that God may free us from tyranny to live fully in the power of God's grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, God forgives our sins and offers us a transformed future. Live fully into God's grace. Amen.

♪ Hymn

We Praise You, O God

St. Mark's: (#726), St. James: (#19)

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 35:4-9, 21-24a ESV

Moses said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "This is the thing that the LORD has commanded. Take from among you a contribution to the LORD. Whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the LORD's contribution: gold, silver, and bronze; blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen; goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, and goatskins; acacia wood, oil for the light, spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense, and onyx stones and stones for setting, for the ephod and for the breastpiece.

And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. So they came, both men and women. All who were of a willing heart brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, every man dedicating an offering of gold to the LORD. And every one who possessed blue or purple or scarlet yarns or fine linen or goats' hair or tanned rams' skins or goatskins brought them. Everyone who could make a contribution of silver or bronze brought it as the LORD's contribution.

Message:

I have tried to keep many things in my hands and lost them all Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

People's Prayer:

Come to us, O God, as we gather together and pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray: 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:

God Sends Us Along

~ 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. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

God of abundance, we bring these gifts to you, acknowledging you as the source of all blessing in our lives. Help us to live wisely and to give generously from deep gratitude for your love. May our lives reflect the words of your apostle, "Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another..." We ask this in the holy name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

♪ Hymn

St. Mark's: (#723)

For the Fruit of All Creation

St. James: (#464)

Dwell in Me Blessed Spirit

Benediction:

May the fire of Christ consume all indifference to God;

The light of Christ illumine our vision of God,

The love of Christ enlarge our longing for God,

The Spirit of Christ empower our service to God,

And the Blessing of God be among us and remain with us always.

Go forth to love and serve the Lord

In all that we are,

All that we do,

And all we will be. Amen

Postlude:

Praise Him With Trumpets



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

November 16th - Ashley Grotegut, Justin Strysick

18th - Caroline Heckmann

21st - Isabella Dexter, Cheyenne Spindler

22nd - Allison Luckow, Jonathan Meyer, Reina Scharl

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

November 20th - Rowan & Katelynn Sibley

21st - Keith & Michelle Mauk

ST. JAMES VISION OF HOPE - meets Monday, Nov. 17th at 6:30pm

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE - TUESDAY, Nov. 188h, 6:30pm.

CONFIRMATION CLASS- Wednesday, Nov. 19th, 6-7:30pm, at St. Mark's

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20™

NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, is our church Memorial Sunday.

THANKGIVING EVE WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION, Wednesday, November 26th, 7pm at St. James

POINSETTIA ORDERS are due Sunday, November 30th. See Insert.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL AT ST. JAMES ON NOVEMBER 30™.





St. James and St. Mark's Ladies:
Join us for BUNCO NIGHT, Thur.,
Nov. 20th, 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

Christmas Cookie Exchange

What is better than Christmas cookies? Having several different varieties!



If you would like to participate in a cookie exchange, sign up on the sheet in the St. Mark's church entry or let Lori know. Package your cookies in groups of 6 in bags, boxes, or plates. Signups are due by Saturday, December 6. I will let you know by Sunday, December 7 how many half-dozens to bring. Have your cookies at St. Mark's by 10:15 am on Sunday, December 14. After the church service, you will have a beautiful assortment of cookies to take home. A maximum of 15 people may participate. St. James friends are invited to participate as well.

If you would like to bring extras to offer at our Christmas Bingo event, that would be welcomed as well.

Please let Lori Roelse know if you have any questions, 920-946-3540. Merry Christmas! And Happy Baking!



Christmas Bingo

Fun for All Ages!

St. Mark's UCC W1307 Orchard Rd., Cleveland Sunday, December 14 11:30-2:00 (The Packers play at 3:25.)

Lunch will be provided. A basket will be out for cash donations.

Admission: Each person should bring a wrapped gift, cost not to exceed \$5. To sign up, call/text Lori at 920-946-3540 to give us an idea of how much food is needed.

**Drop-ins are still welcome.

Baked goods will be available for sale.

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors.

The more the merrier!

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

FOOD DRIVE



Sheboygan County Food Bank provides food to 21 food pantries and dozens of other organizations. Help support local families in need by donating healthy, non-perishable, and non-expired foods.

CURRENT MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Peanut butter Canned soup Canned tuna and chicken Cereal and oatmeal Canned fruit Personal care items Pasta & pasta sauce







filling up these donation boxes! Please contact Brenda Schultz if you have any questions.

In Sheboygan County, 10%, or

approximately 12,000 people rely on SNAP benefits. Half of

these are children. This is meant to be Supplemental to what each of these working families can purchase at the grocery. If for some reason this benefit ends, we at St. Mark's and St. James can help by

Check the list to the left for the 'most current needed items'.

**Non-expired, low-sodium, low-sugar, and light-syrup food items preferred.



www.SheboyganCountyFoodBank.com | 920.453.0169



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 every Sunday.

St. Mark's UCC

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