



Sunday, November 30, 2025
St. James United Church of Christ
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Randy Sohn/Kathy Jurk, Organists
Cindy Sohn, Choir Director
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:
St. James:

Lift Up Your Heads

Hymn Sing

Call To Worship:

Children of God, we gather once again to embark on the Advent path that points us to the coming of Jesus.

We journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

We remember the signs and the times that proclaimed the arrival of the baby Jesus – God born in the flesh among us.

Let us remember and rejoice!

We tell the stories once again, we sing the songs and celebrate, we pray the prayers and listen for your response as we learn how to discern the signs and the times, waiting and watching for glimpses of God's kingdom among us.

We journey in faith and hope together ever towards the return of the King.

Come, let us worship God who shines a light guiding us on the path to new life and peace for all.

Come, let us worship as we journey together toward the day that all the earth awaits.

Opening Prayer:

**In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord,
kindle in us the desire to remain awake;
that we might be ready for your coming.**

**Come among us, O God, and hear our prayers;
so that when your Son Jesus comes among us
with great might, and in manger mild,
we might recognize his face and his voice,
and come to adore him. *Amen.***

♪ Hymn

St. James: (Insert)

St. Mark's: (#159)

The King of Glory Comes

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.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Restore us, O Lord, we pray, and bring us back to that place where we once met, as shepherds to the stable after hearing angels sing. Bring us back to that place when our love was fresh, and eager to express itself in praise to our heavenly King.

Restore us, O Lord.

Light the Candle of Hope

The Advent story of hope, anticipation, preparation – a kingdom of this world and the next, and a king appearing when we least expect. Heaven touching the earth, the footsteps of the divine walking dusty roads as once they did in Eden, and a people, searching for a Savior. Lead us to the stable that we do not walk by with blind eyes and deaf ears. Open our eyes, our ears and our hearts, that this might be an Advent of hope to the world.



Young at Heart:

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 130:1-8 ESV

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness,

that you may be feared.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen for the morning,

more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel

from all his iniquities.

♪ Hymn

St. James Choral Anthem

St. Mark's: (#153)

*Mary of Nazareth
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Scripture Reading:

Romans 8:18-25 ESV

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Message:

A Different Kind of Hope

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:

St. James:

Come, Let Us Meet Him

~ 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:

Gracious and Loving God, in this season of Advent, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, we bring these gifts before you with gratitude and hope. May they be used to shine your light in the darkness, to bring comfort to the weary, and to spread the joy of your love to all who are in need. Bless these offerings and the hands that give them, that they may be a reflection of your boundless grace and a sign of the promise of Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.
Amen.

♪ Hymn

St. James: (#89)

St. Mark's: (#595)

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
They'll Know We Are Christians*

Benediction:

Advent people, go from this place in the blessing of God who journeys with us, guiding our path as we wait, watch, and work for the day when we beat swords into plowshares and follow the path of peace until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Go forth to love and serve the Lord
in all that we are,
 all that we do,
 and all we will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

St. James:

Praise Ye The Lord of Hosts

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.



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

November 30 - Donna Wippermann

December 4 - Tyler Bramstedt, Ellen Mae Surfus, Jim Taylor

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

December 2 - William & Dorothy Mueller

POINSETTIA ORDERS ARE DUE TODAY!

QUILTERS – meet on Tuesday, December 2nd, 9am to noon, at St. Mark's. Join us, you don't need any special skills, just a love for serving and sharing warmth with others.

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING – Tuesday, December 2nd, 6:30pm

CONFIRMATION CLASS – meets Wednesday, Dec. 3rd, 6-7:30pm at St. Mark's

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE – Wednesday, Dec. 3rd, 6:30pm.

NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, IS BUILDING FUND SUNDAY.

THE FINANCIAL BOOKS FOR 2025 FOR BOTH CHURCHES CLOSES ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 29TH. Contact Sheila Hemb and St. James or Judy Steinbeck at St. Mark's for more information.



The Giving Tree is up at St. Mark's and the labeled ornaments are ready to be picked up at St. James. All wrapped and labeled gifts are due on Sunday, December 14th

St. Mark's members may also sign up Online at: <https://bit.ly/stmfamily2025>

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!*

Visit our Church Website: <https://www.stmarksstjamesucc.org>
Worship Services are recorded weekly and uploaded to our church

YouTube channel: St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Visit & follow:

Facebook: St. Marks & St. James UCC

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