

A
Christmas
TO BELIEVE IN



Sunday, December 21, 2025
St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Randy Sohn, Organist Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

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
Choir Anthem:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Opening Prayer:

God of steadfast love,

As we draw near to the celebration of Christ's birth, fill us with the warmth of your mercy and the wideness of your welcome. Help us to love as you have loved us—not in word only, but in action, in patience, in truth. Make room in our hearts for your Son, and shape our lives around his coming. Come Emmanuel, O come. *Amen.*

Light the First, Second and Third Advent Candles:

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we ask that you stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the ways of your only-begotten Son, that by his Advent we may serve you with purified minds, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: We await your coming, Christ the Lord. May we wait in faith, with open hearts and love for one another.

In this dark time of year, God, we long for your coming. When darkness falls upon the world, we long for your peace. For healing, we wait. For justice, we hope. Strengthen our hearts, that we may be steadfast in hope and constant in love. In the name of Jesus Christ we light the Advent Candle of Love.

Light the Candle of Love:

A CHRISTMAS TO BELIEVE IN **St. James Sunday School Christmas Play 2025**

This year's play is largely a conversation between two teenage boys. One of them begins by doubting the Christmas story. As his partner tries to help him understand, the characters come forth and provide examples of Christ's true story. Let's see if they are successful.

Cast:

Narrator 1: Carson Russart

Narrator 2: Wyatt Henschel

Mary: Lexis Kuester

Joseph and Zechariah: Landin Wakefield

Angel: London Kuester

Herod: Emmett Vogel

Elizabeth: Clara Lutze

Townspeople, Shepherds, Wise Men: Jameson Binversie, Grayson Kuester,
Andrew Nye, Emmett Vogel

Little Angels: McKenna Fitzgerald, Davie Vogel, Poppy Binversie,
Henry Lutze, Hailey Henschel, Austin Nye

Part One Congregation sings: Mary Did You Know

1 Ma - ry, did you know that your ba - by boy would
 2 Ma - ry, did you know that your ba - by boy would

some - day walk on wa - ter? Ma - ry, did you
 give sight to a blind man? Ma - ry, did you

know that your ba - by boy would save our sons and daugh -
 know that your ba - by boy will calm a storm with his

- ters? Did you know that your ba - by boy has
 hand? Did you know that your ba - by boy has

Go to the next page...

Eb
 $\frac{Gm7}{D}$
Cm
Fm7
 $\frac{Fm}{Eb}$

come to make you new? This child that you de - liv -
 walked where an - gels trod? When you kissed your lit - tle ba -

$\frac{Fm6}{D}$
 $\frac{Cm}{G}$
1 G
2 G
Gsus

- ered, will soon de - liv - er you. God. The
 - by, then you kissed the face of

Ab
Bb
Cm
 $\frac{Cm}{Bb}$

blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live a -

Ab
 $\frac{Eb}{G}$
Fm7
Bb
Ab
Gm7
Fm7
 $\frac{Fm}{D}$

gain; the lame will leap, the dumb will speak the prais-es of the

Go to the next page...

Gsus G N.C. Cm Bb

Lamb. Ma-ry, did you know that your ba - by boy is

Ab Cm G Gsus Cm Bb

Lord of all cre-a - tion? Ma-ry, did you know that your ba -

Ab Fm G Gsus Ab

- by boy will one day rule the na - tions? Did you know

Bb Eb Gm7 D Cm

that your ba - by boy was heav-en's per-fect Lamb? This

Fm Fm Eb Fm6 Cm G7 Cm

sleep-ing child you're hold-ing is the great "I AM!"

**Part Two Congregation sings: Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem
(#108, vs. 1 & 2)**

Part Three Little Angels sing Happy Birthday

Congregation sings: Angels We Have Heard On High (# 105, vs. 1 & 2)

Congregation sings: Away In a Manger (#109, vs. 1 & 2)

Sunday School sings: We Wish You a Merry Christmas

People's Prayer:

Let us come together in a moment of silent prayer. Lord, hear our prayers.

And now let us pray the prayer Jesus Christ taught the disciples:

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:

Ring the Joyous Christmas Bells

~ 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, we bring these gifts before you with hearts full of gratitude. They are but a portion of what you have entrusted to us, and we give them back as an act of true worship. Bless these offerings, Lord, that they may be used to bring hope to the weary, comfort to the brokenhearted, and light to places where darkness dwells. May our lives be living offerings—serving, loving, and proclaiming Your goodness in all that we do. *Amen*

Congregation sings: Silent Night (#101, vs. 1-4)

Benediction:

Postlude:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Communion:

Wednesday, December 24th - 4pm and 7pm

Both services are held at St. Mark's UCC

Christmas Day Worship with Communion:

Thursday, December 25th , 10:00am at St. James UCC

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
Facebook: St. Marks & St. James UCC

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:

December 22nd – Mike Scharl

24th – Jenny Riesterer, Lee Sixel

25th – Raymond Henschel, Noel Wippermann

27th – Ethen Lutzke, Payton Faith Beck

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE – Tuesday, December 23rd, 6:30pm.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, DEC. 28TH

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

ST. MARK'S GREETER SIGN UP is in the entryway. You may also sign up Online at: <https://bit.ly/greeter2026>



ANNUAL REPORT ITEMS DUE:

ST. MARK'S, YOUR REPORTS ARE DUE FRIDAY, JAN. 2ND

ST. JAMES, YOUR REPORTS ARE DUE FRIDAY, JAN. 9TH.

Email your group's annual reports to Karen at:

stmstjoffice@gmail.com

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING DATES:

ST. MARK'S: JANUARY 11TH

ST. JAMES: JANUARY 18TH