

MAYBE THE GREATEST
CONTRIBUTION YOU'LL
EVER MAKE IS
ADMITTING YOUR
WEAKNESS AND
LETTING GOD USE YOU
IN SPITE OF YOURSELF.

The Foolishness of God
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Sunday, February 1, 2026
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz
Rev. Dan Borchers, Guest Pastor
Randy Sohn, Organist 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:

Immortal, Invisible

****Bold text means to read in unison**

Responsive Call to Worship

Let us gather our thoughts and recognize this moment.

Let us focus on the presence of God and one another.

From many families we become one family of faith.

Always growing, always changing, and always having room for more.

Gracious God, make our unity complete.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit to receive and reflect the spirit of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we ask that you make this day be for us a day marked by confession, forgiveness, scripture, Word, Sacrament, purpose, peace and joy. Amen.

Hymn:

(St. Mark's #106) (St. James #184)

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

Affirming Our Faith Together: Apostles' 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.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious and loving God, we open our hearts to you and invite you to lift away from us any burdens you don't want us to carry. Take away our guilt, our shame, our regrets. Forgive us for the things we have said and done that have caused harm. Forgive us for the good things we have failed to do. Hear us, in love, for Jesus' sake. Amen

(brief period of silence)

Words of Assurance

We trust and believe that God always hears us in love, always sees us as beloved and precious children, even when we do wrong. In that confidence we have confessed our shortcomings, and in the same confidence we know and believe that God forgives us all our sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Young at Heart:



Hymn:

(St. Mark's #589) (St. James #205)

O Master Let Me Walk with Thee

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:1-12 EVS

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31 ESV

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being^l might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The Message:

The Foolishness That Fixes Everything

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.

Offering:

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Offertory Music:

Happy Are They Who Walk with the Lord

Doxology: *(Everyone stand as you are able.)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye, heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Let us pray,

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service, and dedicate our lives of the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn:

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

God of Grace and God of Glory

Benediction

Postlude:

Sing To The Lord A New and Glorious Song



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

February 4th - Mark Jurk

5th - Judy Steinbeck, Mary Ann Vogel

6th - Jeff Meyer

7th - Ada Roelse

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:

QUILTERS MEET - Tuesday, February 3rd, 9-noon at St. Mark's

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING - Tuesday, February 3rd, 6:30pm

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE - Tuesday, February 3rd, 6:30pm.

We invite new members to join us. You don't even need to let anyone know you're interested in attending, show up...we'd love for you to come and join us!

NO CONFIRMATION CLASS THIS WEEK

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING - Thursday, February 5th, 6:00pm

JOINT CONSISTORY MEETING - Monday, February 9th, 6pm at St. Mark's

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

The season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18th with a Worship Service, including Communion, at 7pm at St. Mark's.



If you are you a person who just loves to play games...
board games, dice games, card games...
then our new group is calling your name!

BREAKING BOARD(games)!

...will meet in the basement of St. Mark's UCC

(W1307 Orchard Road, Cleveland)

9:30-11:30am, Wednesdays, February 11th & 25th

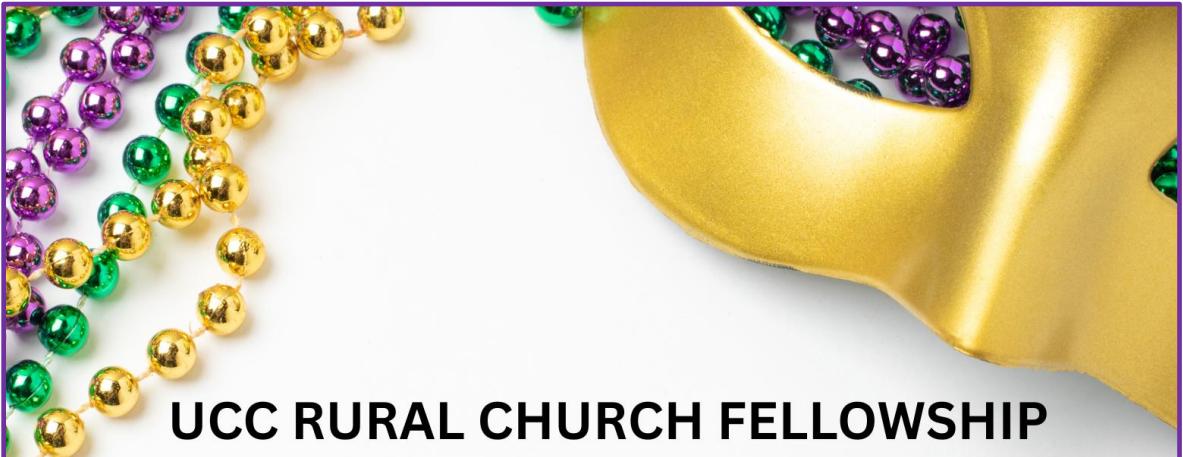
Everyone is invited and welcome to join us--tell your neighbors & friends!

There's no charge, no reservations, just come and have fun!

There will be games available and you are also invited to
bring your own games to share.

*Bring a beverage and snack if you'd like.





UCC RURAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP Presents SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT

Where: Bethlehem United Church of Christ

11608 Lax Chapel Road

Kiel, WI 53042

When: Sunday, February 15, 2026, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

[Snow date is Feb. 22nd, same time]

Doors open at 12:30

Entrance Fee: Canned goods and/or free will offering

Rules will be explained before the tournament begins. All levels of skill are welcome. Beginner's table(s) will be available for those who don't know how to play. Don't want to play sheepshead but want to participate in the fun? Bring your own board or card game.

Refreshments will be available.

COME ONE...COME ALL! Open to the Public!

Childcare will be supplied. Games and movies for the kiddos.

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.



*While Pastor Patrick is out on medical leave,
Rev. Keith Weiland will be your contact person
should pastoral care be needed.*

He may be reached by email or phone:

cell phone: 920-946-2260

email: raidermascot@gmail.com

home phone: 920-565-3278

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

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: stmstjoffice@gmail.com