



Sunday, February 8, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
St. Mark's United Church of Christ
St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Rev. Keith Weiland, Interim Pastor
Marcus Ellair, Pianist Scott Siekman, 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

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

Responsive Call to Worship:

God calls us from our aimless living, from long nights of misery and hopelessness.

EARLY IN THE MORNING WE SEEK GOD'S FACE; IN THIS PLACE APART WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD.

God offers release from oppressive laws and sets us free to share the gospel.

IN THE HOURS OF THIS DAY, WE WOULD LIVE THE GOOD NEWS, OFFERING GOD'S LOVE TO ALL WHO WILL RECEIVE IT.

Come before God in awe and thanksgiving, grateful that God commissions us for service.

DAY BY DAY WE POUR OUT OUR LIFE'S BREATH, HOPING, BY GOD'S GRACE TO SAVE SOME.

Amen.

Hymn:

When Morning Guilds the Sky

(St. James #43) (St. Mark's #111)

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:

O God, we dare to come again, asking for forgiveness. Too often we have tossed and turned through nights of emptiness and awakened without hope. We have seen clouds without rejoicing over refreshing rain. We have confused freedom with privilege and mistaken humble service for weakness. Heal us and lift us up, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

To the empty, God promises renewed meaning and purpose. For the downtrodden, there is hope for a brighter future. Those who search will find a Savior. All who are open to God's steadfast love will discover its recreating power. We are forgiven! Praise God! Amen.



Hymn:

(St. James #158) (St. Mark's #261)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Scripture Reading:

Matthew 5:13-20 EVS

Salt and Light

¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that^[a] they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Christ Came to Fulfill the Law

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Message:

Salt and Light

People's Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you have called us to live the sorts of lives whereby others might see some of your radiant light through us. Help us to share the love that we have received from you, to show forth your light in our lights. Help us to shine.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as 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

Offertory Music

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

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:

Hymn:

O Love that Will Not Let Me Go

(St. James #278) (St. Mark's #446)

Responsive Benediction:

God sends us forth with clear directions to take Good News to all the world.

AS WE HAVE RECEIVED GOD'S LOVE AND CARE, WE WANT TO PASS IT ON.

We are not by limitations of the law, but claim our freedom in Christ.

WE WILL LIVE THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S LOVE WHEREVER WE GO, IN ALL THAT WE DO.

The grace and peace of God go with you, lifting you up and granting new life.

WE DO ALL FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL, THAT WE MAY SHARE IN ITS BLESSING.

Amen.

AMEN.

Postlude

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:

*February 8th - Trevor Schueler
9th - Hillary Hermann, Kari Langenhahn,
Ron Vandoske
10th - Elliot Gumm, Jon Herrmann, Briana Riesterer
12th - Amanda Russart*

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

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

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE - Tuesday, February 10th, 6:30pm.

BREAKING BOARD (games) - meets 9:30-11:30 at St. Mark's Wednesday, February 11th (see ad next page)

CONFIRMATION CLASS MEETS - Wed., Feb. 11th, 6:00-7:30pm at St. Mark's

NEXT WEEK SUNDAY...UCC RURAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT! 1-3 at Bethlehem UCC (see ad inside back cover).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

The season of Lent begins 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.

Everyone is invited to join us for a...

Sheepshead Gathering!

at ST. JAMES UCC,
SUNDAY, FEB. 22nd, 1:00pm!



**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.

*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