



**Sunday, March 22, 2026**  
**St. James United Church of Christ**  
**St. Mark's United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz  
Ann Rodewald, Organist    Jacob Grunwald, 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

**Call to Worship:**

Once we lived in darkness, unable to see.

**Now the light of God has shone upon us. Our eyes are opened and we are no longer blind!**

You have opened our eyes Lord, that we might see you and see the need for you in our world.

**The acts of darkness are left behind as we journey to God's light. Show us how we can best serve you, O Lord.**

Thanks be to God who gives us the light.

**Our eyes are filled with tears of gladness and joy. Our hearts overflow with love for you, Creator, Savior, and Spirit.**

***Gloria Patri: (St. Mark's #734, St. James #493)***

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

**Prayer:**

God, I pray that I may so know you and love you that I may rejoice in you. And if I may not do so fully in this life, let me go steadily on to the day when I come to that fullness. Let the knowledge of you increase in me here, and there let it come to fullness. Let your love grow in me here, and there let it be fulfilled so that here my joy may be in great hope, and there in full reality.

**♪ Hymn:**

**St. Mark's: (#87)**

**St. James: (#287)**

**Come, Christians, Join to Sing  
God of Grace and God of Glory**

**Affirmation of Faith: (Statement of Faith)**

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:**

**He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.**

**He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles. In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.**

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him.

Amen.

Young At Heart:



♪ Hymn:

St. Mark's: (#48)

St. James: (#471)

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise  
More Love To Thee*

**Scripture Reading:**

John 9:16-27 ESV

*Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."*

*The Jew did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him.")*

*So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"*

**Message:**

*I See Blind People (part II)*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

♪ Hymn:

St. Mark's: (#504)

St. James: (#72)

*Just a Closer Walk With Thee  
Now Thank We All Our God*

## Peoples' 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:

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website ([stmstjucc.org](http://stmstjucc.org)).

## Offertory Music

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

**Doxology:** St. Mark's (#34), St. James (#551)

*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:

Generous God, you tenderly care for each person you have created. You miraculously restore people to health and shine light into the lives of those who are discouraged. Guide us so that we will not regard others according to outward appearances but seek to find your love in their hearts. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to continue the work of your kingdom on earth until Christ returns in glory. *Amen.*

## ♪ Hymn of Sending:

St. Mark's: (#557), St. James: (insert)

*Pass It On*

## Benediction:

Beloved children of God, may the blessing of God's mercy go before you, behind you, and all around you as we journey in grace, reflecting the Light of new life wherever we go. Go now to love and serve the Lord: In all that you do; and all that you are; and all you will be. *Amen.*

## Postlude

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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](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)

# Staying Close, Staying Connected

## Our Church Celebrations!

*Since we didn't have in-person services last week, those special days are being shared too!*

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

*March 16<sup>th</sup> – Scott Zolltheis  
17<sup>th</sup> – Adelia Scharl, Delmar Sommer  
18<sup>th</sup> – Mike Bernhardt, Tammy Dexter, Dave Mueller  
19<sup>th</sup> – Jody Binversie, Kristin Zolltheis  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Charlie Kolb  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Gary Kaestner, Cindy Klapperich  
24<sup>th</sup> – Corra Gumm  
26<sup>th</sup> – Todd Binversie  
28<sup>th</sup> – Nancy Nye, Taylor Schnelle*

### **NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:**

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**BREAKING BOARD, our game-playing group** – will meet on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30-11:30am at St. Mark's. We have a large variety of board, dice and card games available to enjoy playing while sharing good conversation and laughs. Come join us and invite others, too. Everyone is welcome!

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** – meets at 6:30pm Wed., Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>, at St. James

**LENTEN WORSHIP** – Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at St. James.



Last week Sunday was designated as Building Fund Sunday, however, due to the surprise spring winter storm and treacherous road conditions, church services were canceled. Our Building Fund need remains and we are accepting contributions for the entire month of March. Designate your financial gift as "Building Fund" to ensure it goes into the correct account.

# LENTEN WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at St. James

Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>,  
9am St. James, 10:30am St. Mark's

Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 pm at St. James,  
Communion (open to all)

Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7pm  
St. Mark's, Communion

Easter! April 5<sup>th</sup>, Communion  
9am St. Mark's  
10:30am St. James



Everyone is invited to join us for a...

## Sheepshead Gathering!

at ST. JAMES UCC,  
SUNDAY, April 12th, 1:00pm!

SAVE  
THE  
DATES:

## BUNCO



*It's How We Roll!*

St. James and St. Mark's Ladies:  
Join us for **BUNCO NIGHT**, **Thur.,  
April 16<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:tserketich@yahoo.com)

**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.