



Sunday, April 5, 2026

Easter!

St. Mark's United Church of Christ

St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist

Sandy Perronne, Reader 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

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. Mark's:

St. James Choral Prelude:

*Welcome, Happy Morning
Antiphonal Jubilate Deo!*

Call to Worship:

Easter people, Christ is risen! God is doing a new thing!

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The stone has been rolled away, and the grave is empty!

Death has been defeated, and life has the final word.

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

Easter people, raise your voices! Christ is risen!

Hallelujah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Let us pray:

We begin our prayer with a moment of silence as we welcome God into our presence and into our lives and we lay our hearts bare to him seeking forgiveness and the redeeming of our sins.

We thank you, O Lord, for the beauty of this day, for the glorious message that all nature proclaims: the Easter lilies with their waxen throats eloquently singing the good news; the birds, so early this morning, impatient to begin their song; every flowering tree, shrub and flaming bush, a living proclamation from you.

Open not only our ears but our hearts that we may hear this message too.

Lead us, we pray, to the grave that is empty, into the Garden of Resurrection where we may meet our risen Lord. May we never again live as if Christ were dead! In your presence, restore our faith, our hope, our joy. Grant our spirits refreshment, rest and peace. *Amen.*

♪ Hymn:

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

St. Mark's: (#288)

St. James: (#167)

Affirming Our Faith: 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.*



Young at Heart:

First Reading:

Colossians 3:1-4 ESV

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Easter Morning Prayer:

In your hand, we see the whole cosmos, heaven and earth reflect the mystery of your grand handiwork. In your hand, we see a little child; men and women are recaptured by the event of Bethlehem.

In your hand, we see the scar of the cross. Sin and death are vanquished by your suffering on Golgotha. In your hand, behold a new light; day and night are transformed in the glory of Easter morning. Do a new thing in our hearts and let us be glad and rejoice in your abundant care; through Christ, we pray. *Amen.*

St. Mark's: (#300)

In the Garden

St. James Choral Anthem:

Alleluia, Love is Alive

Second Reading: *Matthew 28:1-10 ESV*

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Message:

What a Difference a Day Makes!

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Easter Morning Liturgy for the Sacrament of Communion

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join with each other and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, O God!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child.

You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life—a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, love.

You provided wise men and women as judges for your people to show them the path to Life.

You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth of Life to worldly powers that promoted death.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life—that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of Life, and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:

This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer, we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup, and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and cup. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow in his life-giving way, that we may further your kingdom of peace and justice in every place. In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body, and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood, we invite your life to fill us. All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever.

And now, with the confidence of children of God we 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

St. James Choral Anthem:

As We Break the Bread

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).

Offertory Music:

St. Mark's:

Easter Dawning

St. James:

My Lord, What a Morning

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Sung response: St. Mark's: (#688) St. James: (#258)

***We give Thee but Thine Own,
Whate'er the gift may be:
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.***

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

For the very life you gave, which granted us new life, we give thanks. May these offerings, tithes and gifts be used to offer new life to those in need. May our giving be a blessing as you call us to give in faith and not in need. *Amen.*

♪ Hymn:

Crown Him with Many Crowns

St. Marks: (#317) St. James (#176)

Benediction:

Lord God,

You loved this world so much, that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world.

All for your glory do we pray, Lord. Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are, and all that you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

St. Mark's:

St. James:

*Christ Arose!
Easter Fanfares*

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 ~

St. Mark's UCC

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.

Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:

St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Like us on Facebook 

Check out our Website: www.stmarksstjamesucc.org

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



Loving Gifts of Easter Lilies From Our St. Mark's Families

- *Shared by Dave and Ann Adams in memory of Ken & Joann Wolff and Leonard & Ruth Adams.*
- *Shared by Dave and Cindy Call in memory of our parents.*
- *Shared by Pat Flook for the joy of my wife.*
- *Shared by Pat and Noreen Flook for the love of family.*
- *Shared by Todd Binversie Family and Tammie Green Family in memory of Richard and Karen Binversie.*
- *Shared by Todd Binversie Family and Tammie Green Family in memory of Robert and Lorraine Gumm.*
- *Shared by Mark and Kathy Jurk in memory of our parents.*
- *Shared by Marlene Kammann in memory of Melvin Kammann.*
- *Shared by Kevin & Betty Kellner in memory of Myron and Beatrice Bosman.*
- *Shared by Bruce & Karen Mansker in thankful celebration of God's work and guidance in our lives.*
- *Shared by Keith Strysick and Family in memory of Lynn Strysick.*

Loving Gifts of Easter Lilies

From Our St. James Families



- *Shared by Heidi & Clarence Belitz for the Joy of Easter.*
- *Shared by Katie & Daniel Kleinhans in memory of Our Grandparents.*
- *Shared by Charlie & Ruth Ann Kolb in memory of Kerri Lee Kolb.*
- *Shared by Julianne Luebke and Family in memory of David Luebke.*
- *Shared by Richard & Sarah Lutze for the joy of Easter!!*
- *Shared by Bill & Dorothy Mueller in honor of our Grandchildren and Great Grandson.*
- *Shared by Dave & Jackie Mueller in memory of my parents, Ilene & Leroy Stock.*
- *Shared by Tom, Nancy, Andrew & Austin Nye in loving memory of Melvin & Violet Seifert and Addison Nye.*
- *Shared by Tammy Serketich for the joy of Ella, Ezra & Cole.*
- *Shared by Dan & Rachel Sohn in memory of Our Grandparents.*
- *Shared by Randy & Cindy Sohn in memory of Our Parents.*
- *Shared by Ellen Mae Surfus in memory of Bill Surfus and Arthur & Hertha Lorfeld.*
- *Shared by Mary Ann Vogel in memory of my husband Wayne Vogel and my parents, Walter & Orvilla Stoeckigt.*



**Staying Close,
Staying Connected**

Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

April 7th – Karen Becker, Dale Sprenger

9th – Bonnie Langenhahn

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

April 6th – Jason & Jenny Riesterer

9th – David & Christine Gumm

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING – Tuesday, April 7th, 6:30pm

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING – Thursday, April 9th, 6:00pm

BREAKING BOARD (games) – Wed., April 8th, 9:30-11:30 at St. Mark's

CONFIRMATION CLASS – meets Wednesday, April 8th, 6-7:30pm at St. Mark's

ST. JAMES STEWARDSHIP MEETING – Wednesday, April 8th, 5:30pm

ST. JAMES CHOIR REHEARSAL – Wednesday, April 8th, 6:30pm

ST. JAMES BRAT FRY PLANNING MEETING – Thursday, April 9th, 6:00pm

CONFIRMATION AT ST. MARK'S NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH AND

CONFIRMATION AT ST. JAMES THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH

SHEEPSHEAD – next week Sunday, April 12th, 1:00pm at St. James

QUILTER'S CLUB – Tuesday, April 14th, 9-noon at St. Mark's

BUNCO – Thursday, April 16th, 6pm at St. James

MAY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH. Email them to Karen at:
stmstjoffice@gmail.com

ST. JAMES MEMBERS – Church yard clean-up will be held on April 25th. All wreaths and special items need to be removed from the cemetery prior so that they will not be discarded at the yard clean-up.

****THERE'S LOTS HAPPENING AT OUR CHURCHES THIS MONTH,
BE SURE TO CHECK THE NEXT PAGES....**

JOIN US!



If you are you a person who just loves to play games...board games, dice games, card games...
this group is perfect for you!

BREAKING BOARD(games)!

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

(W1307 Orchard Road, Cleveland)

9:30-11:30am

Wednesday, April 8

Wednesday, April 22

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.

Microphones really aren't used...
but you are invited to sing
as if they are when you

Join the St. James Choir!

Rehearsals on Wednesdays
starting at 6:30pm:

April 8

April 15

April 29

Just come,
no reservation
needed!



Everyone is invited to join us for a...

Sheepshead Gathering!

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



QUILTERS CLUB

Please join us on

Tuesdays

April 14

April 28

9:00 - noon

at St. Mark's UCC

*You don't need any special skills, just a love
for serving and sharing warmth with others.*



BUNCO



It's How We Roll!

St. James and St. Mark's Ladies:
Join us for **BUNCO NIGHT**, Thur.,
April 16th, 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



TIE BLANKET SUNDAY TO SUPPORT WE BELIEVE FOUNDATION!



St James hosted Jim & Julie Kirschner of the We Believe Foundation for St James Mission Fest. They are dedicated to providing aid and comfort to families dealing with pediatric cancer. Their foundation started after their son was diagnosed and lost his life to Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia at the age of 15. One of the ways that Jim & Julie give back is by providing tie blankets to the children in the hospital. This provides extra warmth as they go through treatment.

**Please join us on Sunday, April 19 at 1:00 pm
in the St James basement to make tie blankets!**



Please bring with you the following:

- 2 pieces of fleece material (1 solid color and 1 printed). Size 1 ½ or 2 square yards.
- A sharp scissors.

If you are unable to join us and you'd like to donate material, please leave it in the St. James church basement.

Please help market our Brat Fry to be held on Wednesday, May 13th by inviting your family and friends and sharing it on your Facebook page.

There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex for volunteer workers, donations of tortes and charcoal.

Mary Ann Vogel, chairperson,
920 693 8352
wvogel3@yahoo.com

BRAT FRY

Wednesday May 13, 2026
4 - 7 pm



Brats * Hamburgers * Chicken * Dessert

St James UCC
Spring Valley
13312 Pioneer Rd., Newton