



Sunday, May 17, 2026
St. Mark's & St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist
Lori Roelse, 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:
St. Mark's:
St. James:

*Look Down On Us
The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

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

Call to Worship:

Almighty and Heavenly Lord, who made the heavens, the earth and seas, and all things living we shout out our praise to you this morning.

Praise God; we bow before your eminence.

There is power in your name; it is worthy of our praise!

There is no other like you, God, nor any works like yours.

All the nations, all the peoples, all living things which you have made shall come and bow down before you,

We lift our voice in prayer and song and joy. For you are the Lord of all big and small.

Hear us now Lord as we clap our hands; our voices ring out in truth and happiness.

For you are great and do wondrous things, you alone are God.

Prayer:

O God, maker of the heavens and maker of the earth, you summon the day to dawn, you teach the morning to waken the earth. For you the valleys shall sing for joy, the trees of the field shall clap their hands. For you the kings of the earth shall bow, the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy. Your love and mercy shall last forever, fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise. Great is your name. Great is your love. *Amen.*

♪ Hymn:

St. Mark's: (#71)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

St. James: (#8)

Affirmation of 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 ♥

Prayer of Confession:

O Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. *Amen.*

(silence is kept together)

Christians, lift up your heads! Know that God loves to show mercy and forgive his people. Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory, or are too deep for our words, are not beyond God's forgiving love. God, who knows us completely, bestows pardon and peace.

Thanks be to God!

Scripture Reading:

Acts 4:23-31

On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David:

"Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth rise up and

the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.'

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

This is the word of the God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message:

Dance with God

Dr. Patrick Schultz

♪ **Hymn:**

Be Thou My Vision

St. Mark's: (#502)

St. James: (#4 Binder)

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:

St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through our church website:
<https://stmarksstjamesucc.org/>

Offertory Music:

St. Mark's:

He Shall Return One Day

St. James:

Praise Him! Praise Him!

Doxology: *(Sung as the offering is brought to the altar)*

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

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:

Loving God, you graciously feed us with the bread of life and the cup of eternal salvation. You have given us a share in the one bread and the one cup and made us one with Christ. Help us to bring your salvation and joy to all the world. We humbly offer these gifts, offerings and tithes that your kingdom may be built here as it is in heaven. *Amen*.

♪ Hymn of Sending:

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

St. Mark's: (#446)

St. James: (#278)

Benediction:

May our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who came with grace and truth, also fill your hearts with grace and truth, as you serve him in the days ahead. And may the joy of the Lord—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—be your strength.

Bless us now, as we go to love and serve Jesus Christ, in all that we do, all that we are and all that we will be.

Postlude:

St. Mark's:

Crown Him Lord Of All

St. James:

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

"Not to pray because you do not feel fit to pray is like saying, "I will not take medicine because I am too ill." Pray for prayer: pray yourself, by the Spirit's assistance, into a praying frame." CHARLES SPURGEON

"The Church has not yet touched the fringe of the possibilities of intercessory prayer. Her largest victories will be witnessed when individual Christians everywhere come to recognize their priesthood unto God and day by day give themselves unto prayer. JOHN R. MOTT

"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer is the greater work." OSWALD CHAMBERS

COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!

St. James UCC: 13312 Pioneer Rd., Newton
1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.
2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.

St. Mark's UCC: W1307 Orchard Rd., Cleveland
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: <https://stmarksstjamesucc.org/>

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



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*May 19th – Jean Henschel, Carson Spindler
20th - Hudson Binversie, Noreen Flook
21st – Owen Schnelle
22nd – Samuel DeBlaey, Daniel Kleinhans*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

*May 18th – Pat & Noreen Flook
20th – Brian & Sheila Hemb
21st – Randall & Karen Krause*

ARTICLES FOR THE JUNE NEWSLETTER ARE DUE TOMORROW, MONDAY, MAY 18TH. Email them to Karen at stmstjoffice@gmail.com

BUNCO! – Thursday, May 21st, 6:00pm at St. James.

VISION OF HOPE MEETING – Tuesday, May 26th, 6:30pm

ST. MARK'S – The sign-up form for the “Hospitality Hour” is on the table next to the elevator in the entryway. Choose a Sunday to bring treats to share, or give a monetary donation and a snack will be purchased to share.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Generations Sunday at Spring Hope Barn on Sunday, July 19th! Outdoor Worship Service at 11am, lunch at noon and then at 12:30 music by 2/5's Party Band! Spread the word, EVERYONE is invited!
<https://www.springhopebarn.com/> - Click on the events link and scroll down.



St. James and St. Mark's Ladies:

Join us for BUNCO NIGHT

Thursday, May 21st


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



**Pentecost Worship
with Communion
Sunday, May 24th**

St. James UCC, 9:00am
13312 Pioneer Road, Newton (Spring Valley)

St. Mark's UCC, 10:30am
W1307 Orchard Road, Cleveland

Wagner-Eberle-Sukawoty American Legion Post 477 – St Nazianz Memorial Day Schedule

Memorial Day, May 25, 2026, marks the 80th consecutive year that the Wagner-Eberle-Sukowaty American Legion Post 477 of St. Nazianz will conduct Military Honors at area cemeteries in remembrance of and respect for our Veterans and service members who have passed away. Since first beginning this tradition in 1946, Post 477 has faithfully continued these ceremonies every year without interruption.

Each ceremony includes a memorial prayer, the reading of the names of every Veteran and military member laid to rest at that cemetery, a three-round volley by the Honor Guard, and the solemn playing of Taps.

To honor all those who served, Post 477 will once again divide into two teams on Memorial Day. One team will serve the St. Nazianz area, while the second team will cover the Cleveland area, together conducting honors at a total of 16 cemeteries. The Memorial Day timeline for the Post 477 American Legion Family is as follows:

7:15 – Ucker Road – near St Nazianz
7:35 – Holy Trinity – School Hill
8:00– Meeme Center Cemetery
8:15 – St Fidelis – Spring Valley
8:30 – St James – Spring Valley
8:50 – St Isidore – Osman
9:05 – St Thomas the Apostle – Newton
9:25– Salem Ebenezer – Newton
9:50 – St John – Newtonburg
10:25 – Salvatorian – St Nazianz
10:55 – St Gregory – St Nazianz

And

8:30 – St Casimir - Newton
8:50 – St John - Newton
9:15 – Kassa Cemetery - Cleveland
9:35 - St George/ St Johannes - Cleveland
10:00 - St. Wendel - Cleveland
10:20 - Saxon Cemetery - Cleveland