



Sunday, May 24, 2026, Pentecost
St. James & St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist
Cindy Sohn, Choir Director
Landin Wakefield/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:

Spirit of the Living God

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

Call to Worship:

Children of God: welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

Let us worship God.

Prayer:

Holy One, we gather in Your presence, from many places, with many stories, carrying both joy and sorrow in our hearts. In this sacred space, knit us together as one body. Quiet the noise within us so we may hear Your still-speaking voice. Open our eyes to see Your beauty in each face, our ears to hear Your truth in each word, and our hearts to receive Your boundless love.

Come, Holy Spirit—renew, restore, and inspire us. In Christ's name we pray. *Amen.*

♪ Hymn:

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

St. James: *(Insert)*

St. Mark's: *(#248)*

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 ♥

Scripture Reading:

Acts 5:27-32, 40-42

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

...and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

♪ Hymn:

St. James Choral Anthem

St. Mark's: (#131)

Send the Fire!

Surely the Presence of the Lord

Message:

A Piece of Our Lives; The Peace of Our Lives

Dr. Patrick Schultz

♪ Hymn:

St. James: (#272)

St. Mark's: (#358)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

The Sacrament of Communion: *(An open table for guests, family and friends)*

Today we offer our thanksgiving and gratitude to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts. For the tables we share and the bread we partake of within our communities, within our families, within our homes, and for those serving in the military – within the base mess hall we give thanks.

For the hands of friendship that have been extended to us and the grace we have received, for your continual provision in our lives. Praise the Lord.

For the embrace of love, the mercies that are new at dawn and sustain us through the day, echoing in dark of the night. We are thankful.

For the gift of your Son and his blood poured out for the many and the new life that beats within us now. In all things, we give you thanks. May this be a day in which we set aside our differences and embrace one another. Great is the Lord; most worthy to be praised!

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

On the night when Jesus was betrayed, he had one last meal with his disciples. At that meal he took bread, gave thanks to you – God almighty, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples saying,

“Take, eat; this is my body given freely for you. Eat of this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over he took the cup, again he gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. As often as you drink it, remember me.”

In memory of Jesus Christ who gave himself freely; to honor and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we give praise and thanksgiving, in union with Christ’s offering for us.

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Let the Holy Spirit be poured out on all who gather virtually, individually, or as a family. Let it be known that we are all of one family – sisters and brothers in Christ.

Let the Holy Spirit be poured out on these gifts of bread and wine/juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ.

Let us serve one another; serve in ministry to all the world and follow God’s call upon our lives. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours almighty God, now and forever. *Amen.*

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:

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

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:

O Holy and Sacred God, we are witnesses to your amazing deeds! By the resurrection of your Son Jesus, you have opened the gate to the kingdom of God in heaven. We are grateful for your gifts of forgiveness, grace and new starts. Let our obedience to Christ be the cornerstone of our lives. Let our spiritual gifts and the blessings of our offerings and tithes be an outward sign of our witness. We dedicate ourselves and our offerings through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

♪ Hymn of Sending:

Jesus, I Live to Thee

St. James: (#254)

St. Mark's: (Insert)

Benediction:

Go from here as witnesses to what you have seen and heard. Share God's love with those you meet. Bring hope to those who are in despair. Live lives of gratitude and praise. And may the love of God, the peace of Jesus Christ, and the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit be with you as you go to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are and all that you will be.

Postlude:

God Bless America

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 25th – Roxi Bernhardt
26th – Stacy Schnelle
27th – Steven Schultz
28th – Jared Luebke, Wendy Schnelle
29th – Carson Russart
30th – Kelly Luebke Handrow*

THERE ARE NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK.

A black and white poster for a Memorial Day program. At the top, it says "VFW POST #9924 & AM LEG POST #387" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below that, "MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM" is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif letters. Underneath, "MAY 25th • 10AM" is written in a similar large, bold font. The location is listed as "AT THE HOWARDS GROVE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER" and "403 AUDUBON RD, HOWARDS GROVE, WI 53083". It also mentions "MILITARY HONORS WILL BE AT MEMORIAL PARK Following The Program At The High School". At the bottom, a white banner with black text says "COME SUPPORT THE LIONS CLUB BRAT FRY!".

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.

BUY-ONE-GET-ONE FREE – tickets available in the back of church for the June 2nd Carden International circus.

The consistories will be meeting together soon to begin the first steps in our search for our next pastor. If you are interested in being a part of the Search Committee, please make that interest known to a consistory member by June 1.

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

A NEW STUDY GROUP!



A NEW STUDY GROUP!

Pastor Patrick is making plans for a study group in early fall (or this summer if there is interest). It's an Adult Confirmation curriculum - 7 weeks long. The group will be held in the evening (it should still be light out) with 1.5 - 2.0 hours each night. A date is not nailed down yet, but will be shortly.

Whether you can come to some or all of the

sessions, you will be welcomed! Let Pastor or Karen (stmstjoffice@gmail.com or (920) 693-8361) know if you are interested in attending. *see agenda below*

Session One – God/Jesus/Holy Spirit: Understanding the Trinity

Session Two – The Bible: Understanding Our Sacred Text

Session Three – Following Jesus: What's this guy all about?

Session Four – History of Christianity: Understanding How We Got Here

Session Five- United Church of Christ: Who Are We?

Session Six – Worship & the Sacraments: Why We Do What We Do

Session Seven – Spiritual practices: Finding Ways to Pray & Incorporate Faith into Our Daily Lives

**MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR!**

ST. JAMES & ST. MARKS U.C.C.

GENERATIONS Sunday

Join St. James U.C.C., St. Mark's U.C.C., and Spring Hope Barn for a Sunday celebrating community, connection, and generations coming together. From grandparents to grandchildren, friends to neighbors, all are welcome to enjoy an afternoon filled with delicious food, great music, and meaningful time together. We look forward to celebrating with everyone!
Live music provided by 2/5's Party Band.

Sunday, July 19, 2026

11:00 AM	+	Noon	+	12:30 PM
Outdoor Service led by	+	Potluck & Social	+	Music by 2/5's
Pastor Patrick Schultz	+	Bring a dish to pass	+	Party Band

NEED MORE INFO, CHECK OUT WWW.SPRINGHOPEBARN.COM