



Sunday, June 21, 2026
St. Mark's & St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist
Brenda Miota, 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:

*Someone's crying, Lord, come by here
This Is My Father's World*

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

Call to Worship:

This place for us is Holy Ground.

The place where we sing songs of praise to the Lord,

We gather and share the stories of faith

that inspire us to respond to Christ's love.

God called us here,

in whispering winds and in burning flames,

and with his presence

removes the barriers we have placed around us.

God meets us in our vulnerability, in our humanity.

Let us worship the Lord.

Prayer:

Loving God, on this day of gathering; in the sacred space; and on this holy ground we praise you and glorify your very being. You, who have given light to a darkened world; you who have brought light into our darkened lives, we give you thanks. Hear our words of song and prayer, of sermon and fellowship lifted in your name to worship and honor you. Forgive us our failings and free us to joyfully extend mercy and grace to one another, to forgive ourselves, and to receive the love and wisdom we need to grow as the community of Christ. *Amen.*

♪ Hymn:

Our Father, We Have Wandered

St. Mark's: (#371)

St. James: (Worship & Rejoice insert)

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:

Genesis 45:1-15 ESV

Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

♪ Hymn:

St. Mark's: (#382)

St. James: (#466)

*"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"
He Leadeth Me*

Message:

Forgiveness

Dr. Patrick Schultz

People's Prayer:

Merciful God, in love You created us, and in love, you sustain us, day after day. So it is with confidence that we bring our prayers to you, knowing that you will hear and respond.

We pray for those who are estranged from their spouse or family,
Friends, or neighbors; who find it difficult to forgive past wrongs done to them;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who for years have carried feelings of guilt or regret
for something they did or something they neglected to do;
who find it difficult to ask for forgiveness or forgive themselves:

(Continued on the next page...)

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who find themselves far away from you, struggling to overcome their doubts or disillusionment, and who wonder how to find their way back;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those watching someone they love try to cope with serious illness or injury and who long for your miraculous intervention;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the many others in our world who are suffering this day—
from grief, or loneliness, hunger, poverty, violence, or illness;

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain all those who look to you in hope. And strengthen us—your people—
so that we may be love for all those who find themselves alone.

In the name of Jesus Christ, **hear our 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:

St. James:

*Teach Us, O Lord
Andante Grazioso*

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

(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:

Creator of all that is seen and unseen, we want to believe that your love for us means you will go before us on life's path and clear the way, making it easy to travel, but our experience doesn't always bear that out. We know you see a bigger picture than we do. As we bring you our offerings on this day, we affirm your presence with us in the pits of despair as well as in the palaces of plenty. We give with gratitude, in Christ's holy name. *Amen.*

♪ Hymn of Sending:

St. Mark's: (#14)

St. James: (#72)

Now Thank We all Our God

Benediction:

Beloved children of God, as you go forth today, remember that God's mercy and grace goes with you. In those most difficult of times when we are ashamed and embarrassed, remember God has already forgiven you and He loves you. May this love of God, the peace of Christ, and the 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:

St. Mark's:

St. James:

Rejoice! Be Glad!

Praise Him With Trumpets!

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 is on summer break ~

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: <https://stmarksstjamesucc.org/>

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



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*June 23rd – Bradley Mauk, Daniel Schultz
24th – Cody Horswill, Camryn Spindler
25th – Christine Gumm
26th – Clara Lutze, Tim Schultz
27th – Glenn Spindler*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK TO:

June 26th – Randy & Cindy Sohn



COME AND CHEER ON ST. JAMES/ST. MARK'S YOUTH VOLLEYBALL TEAM TONIGHT WHEN THEY TAKE ON BETHLEHEM/ST PETERS 1 at St. James. THE GAME BEGINS AT 6:30pm.

Next Sunday the game will be held at Bethlehem UCC..

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.

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.

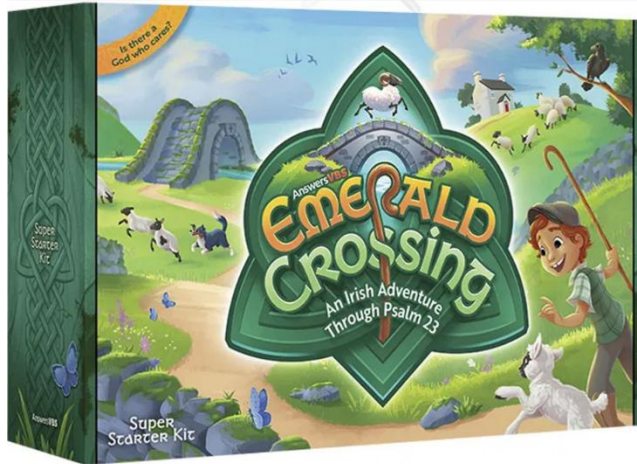
Whether you can come to some or all of the sessions, you will be welcomed!

Let Pastor or Karen (stmstjoffice@gmail.com or (920) 693-8361) know if you are interested in attending.

AGENDA:

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

This summer's Vacation Bible School journey carries us to
Ireland in *the Emerald Crossing*.



August 18-19-20 from 9:00am till 12:00pm.

**Open to all children kindergarten – 6th grade fall of 2026,
churched and non-churched.**

**Hosted by St. Mark's, St. James & Bethlehem UCC,
held at St. Mark's UCC,**

W1309 Orchard Road, Cleveland WI.

In a world filled with worry and confusion, our kids need to know there *is* a God who cares for them. At *Emerald Crossing* VBS, we'll journey through Ireland's lush landscapes, exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. We'll discover the life of the shepherd-king David and will learn how to cross from worry to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd.



Sign up for VBS online at:

<https://bit.ly/summer2026VBS>

OR by calling the church office: 920-693-8361

Each child registering before July 31st qualifies for a special door prize drawing!



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

A Father's Day Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Today we thank You for the gift of fathers — for their strength, their guidance, and their love.

Bless them with wisdom to lead with kindness, patience to nurture with understanding,

and courage to stand firm in truth and faith.

For fathers who are present, may they feel deep joy in the role You've given them.

For fathers who are far away, may Your presence bridge every distance.

For those who grieve the loss of a father, wrap them in Your comfort and peace.

Lord, renew their spirit when they are weary,

remind them of their worth when they feel unseen,

and fill their hearts with the assurance that their love leaves a lasting legacy.

We honor them today, and we entrust them to Your care —

in Jesus' name, Amen.