



Sunday, July 12, 2026
St. James & St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist
Scott Siekman, 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:

The Best of Friends I Have in Heaven

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

Call to Worship:

Give thanks to God!

We thank God for joy, for laughter, for abundant blessings of every kind.

Give thanks to God at all times and for everything!

**We thank God, when we can and as we can,
for struggles, for solitude, for fears.**

Give thanks to God at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank God that, in Christ, our joys as well as our pain, our losses as well as our laughter, are in God's heart and hands.

Prayer:

Lord God, heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts to you in prayer, trusting in your help: You have promised to be our keeper – to guard our going out and coming in from this time forth and forever more, and so we ask that you would be with us, fill us with your Holy Spirit, uphold those unable to be here this morning, and provide a special blessing for those joining with us virtually.

We look forward to the day of Christ's return in glory. Help us, through the Spirit, to walk according to your will and in this way show reverence for your holy name which you have bestowed upon us in Baptism. **Amen.**

♪ Hymn:

St. James: *(Insert from Worship & Rejoice)*

St. Mark's: (#496)

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Young at Heart



Prayer of Confession:

Faithful God, we confess that there have been times when we have been tempted to trust in the ways of this world. Yet, we know you are faithful, even when we are faithless. Through the Holy Spirit, guide us, convict us, lead us where you would have us to follow. Help our trust to remain steadfast in your love.

God, we thank you for your Word. May it continue to speak to us from Genesis to Revelation. May we use it to show love and not to inspire hate. May we use it to show others the Way. May it renew us as we travel the road you've set before us. May it continue to give us peace in the middle of chaos. May it continue to restore, renew, and revive us. Thank you for your Word!

Hear now the silent fears and worries of our hearts as we lift the complexity and harmony of life to your heart and trust that you hear and hold us as we pray in shared silence:

A Moment of Silence:

Assurance of Pardon:

In Christ, God sent redemption for all.
In Christ, God feeds our hungry souls.
In Christ, God gives the cup of salvation
to thirsty people.
We give thanks to God for everything:
forgiveness, hope, new life. *Amen.*

Affirmation of Our Faith:

The 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.*

Scripture Reading:

Revelation 4 ESV

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

*“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”*

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

*“Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”*

Message:

To Heaven To Stay

Dr. Patrick Schultz

♪ Hymn:

St. James: (#80)

St. Mark's: (#504)

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

People's Prayer:

Eternal God, we thank you today for your goodness. You have given us beautiful days. You bless us richly with goodness daily. We thank you and praise you.

We live in a time of considerable confusion. We ask today for your wisdom as Solomon asked for wisdom.

We are often fearful as was Solomon. We live in a time of peril, war, and world unrest. Different and competing interests strive for our attention and loyalty. Help us, O God, to pray for wise and discerning spirits.

- Give us wisdom to know good from evil.
- Give us wisdom to assess the clamoring voices and concerns with which we are daily bombarded.
- Give us wisdom so that we might learn to be accepting of all the diverse people you have created.
- Give us wisdom to be peacemakers and mediators of understanding where there is conflict.
- Give us wisdom when we are in conflict to make it possible both for us and for those with whom we differ to save face and win and move forward hand in hand.
- Give us wisdom not to violate any of your creatures by discriminating against them.
- Give us wisdom to discern what is of ultimate value for our souls and to make wise choices.

O God, give us wisdom.
O God, give us discernment.
O God, give us the will to be faithful.
O God, give us the power to love.

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:

Children of the Heavenly Father

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:

Mighty God, Maker of heaven and earth; your work of creation and building is always before us! We give our gifts on this day in hopes that we might be builders alongside you in the creation of your kingdom here on earth! May our gifts reach those who are hurting, who feel disconnected from your love, that they too may join us in the stonework of kingdom-building, whose mortar is the sharing of Christ's love with the world. In Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

♪ Hymn of Sending:

St. James (#287)

St. Mark's (#716)

*God of Grace and God of Glory
God Be With You*

Benediction:

May the transforming love of God work in your lives, today and always. Go forth into the world with peace, love, and joy. Follow Christ wherever he leads you. Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are and all that you will be.

Postlude:

Stand Up and Bless the Lord



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*July 12th – Linda Lutzke, Steve Schnelle
13th – Crissy Athorp, Pat Kleinhans, Michelle Mauk
14th – Lindsay Summers, Gerald Thiel
15th – Jim Schuette
16th – Tanya Boman, Anna Marie Bramstedt,
Deanne Schultz
17th – Frederick Krause*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK TO:

July 13th – Gary Van Auken & Sandra Stark



ST. JAMES/ST. MARK'S YOUTH VOLLEYBALL TEAM TAKES ON SARON UCC AT 6:30PM TONIGHT AT ST. JAMES.

Next week Sunday is a bye week.

NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, JULY 19TH, IS GENERATIONS SUNDAY. THERE WILL BE ONE JOINT SERVICE AT 11AM AT SPRING HOPE BARN (see back of this bulletin for more details).

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.

Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:

St. Mark's & St. James UCC

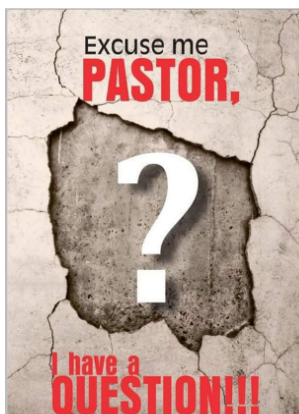
Like us on Facebook



Check out our Website: <https://stmarksstjamesucc.org/>

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

A New Sermon Series Based on Questions Submitted by Church Members



June 14 Standing On Holy Ground

Questions: *How long have you been here, at St. Mark's? And why did you become a pastor?*

June 21 Forgiveness

Question: *If I can't forgive myself how can God?*

June 28 In the Beginning

Questions: *God created man both male and female, then he later created Adam, then Eve. Did Adam and Eve have belly buttons? Whom did Cain marry after he was banished? Who were the men he was worried would kill him?*

July 5 God, Country, Family

Based: *The Marine Corps' "God, Family, Country" order of service underscores that faith guides the Marine's character, family sustains them, and the nation is the mission they are sworn to protect*

July 12 Heaven

Questions: *Can heaven ever be crowded or overpopulated? How do we find our family when we get there?*

July 19 Why Do Confirmation?

Questions: *Why is Confirmation so important? Why do we do confirmation?*

July 26 Death and Prayer

August 2 The Second Coming

Questions: *What is meant by Jesus' second coming, does it mean when we pass away and see him again?*

August 9 What Happens When We Give Too Much of Ourselves?

Questions: *Why do people who have leadership roles in our church (consistory, search committee, teaching...) disappear from the church after their role/term has ended? Great question!*

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.

****NOTE: JOINT SERVICE AT 11:00a.m. AT SPRING HOPE BARN
ON SPRING HOPE BARN ON SUNDAY, JULY 19TH**

A NEW STUDY GROUP!

Pastor Patrick is making plans for a study group, which is scheduled to begin the week of September 21st. 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. 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



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

Outdoor Service led by
Pastor Patrick Schultz

Noon

Potluck & Social
Bring a dish to pass

12:30 PM

Music by 2/5's
Party Band

NEED MORE INFO, CHECK OUT WWW.SPRINGHOPEBARN.COM