



Sunday, July 26, 2026
St. James & St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist

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:

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

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

Call to Worship:

Enter into this Holy Space, be welcomed and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

O come let our worries and cares be lifted away; let us worship and bow down kneeling before the Lord our God.

May the grace and peace of our Lord be in abundance. Let healing and wellness be known, not only for our sake but our sisters and brothers in need.

Bless us O Lord, that we may become the ones you would have us be.

Bless us, O Heavenly God, that we may bless those around us.

Almighty and everlasting God, who both banishes all affliction, of soul and of body, and who through his mercy restores to those to serve him clean hearts and renewed spirit.

Show forth your power upon those in need; redeem us and crown us in your glory with steadfast love and mercy.

Prayer:

God, your extravagant love has called us together. Long before we even knew you, you already knew us, and had chosen us to be part of your own family— sisters and brothers with our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. What amazing love You have shown toward us! And so, we come before you with praise and thanksgiving, offering you the worship of our hearts and lives, and opening ourselves to the prompting and leading of your Holy Spirit. Receive our worship—our praise and prayers and offerings— through the intercession of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. May the time we spend here in your presence bring honor and glory to your Name. **Amen.**

♪ Hymn:

Gather Us In

St. James (#47 Binder)

St. Mark's (#649)

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.*



St. James Baptism: Josephine Kate Sibley

Prayer of Confession:

Creator of all things, who rejoiced in your creation at the beginning of the world; forgive us our sins of greed, selfishness, and carelessness by which we daily damage the beauty to which we have become insensitive. By war and violence, we destroy families and their means of livelihood. We cut down great forests that are the homes of people, animals, and birds. We pollute our air and water with the excess of our greed, without thought for the disposal of what we waste. For all this, we ask not only forgiveness, but also the power to turn away from our headlong course of destruction, and instead to share in your constant work of creation in preparation for the time when your kingdom comes to earth as it is in heaven. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who became part of your creation and gave his life for the whole world.

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:

Hear this and receive this good news:

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed us from the power of sin that leads to death. In the name of Jesus Christ, we have been forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

Scripture Reading:

James 5:13-15 ESV

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Message:

Where Prayer and God's Grace Intersect

Dr. Patrick Schultz

♪ **Hymn:**
St. James (#45 *Binder*)
St. Mark's (#515)

In the Bulb There is a Flower

People's Prayer:

Generous, beneficent, and just God we come before you as you have taught us through your Son Jesus Christ, in prayer. There is much heaviness today: in this world, in our hearts, in our lives, in our schools, and even in your Church. And yet, your glory shines forth like a ray of light on a cloudy day. You wash away the sins and troubles of our hearts like a soft fallen rain cleanses the sidewalk and brings a breath of freshness, and newness of life. And so, we are renewed in you. Hear our prayers Lord:

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:

Come and Find the Quiet Center

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:

Steadfast God, you search our hearts and know our needs even when we struggle to find the words. In your mercy, you strengthen us in our weakness and bind us together in love that cannot be broken. As we bring these gifts today, may they bear witness to your enduring promise: that nothing—not hardship, nor fear, nor even death itself—can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus.

Bless these offerings, that they may bring hope to the weary, peace to the troubled, and joy to the hearts of your people. Through Christ, our Redeemer and Companion, we pray. *Amen.*

♪ **Hymn of Sending:**
St. James (Insert from *Worship & Rejoice*)
St. Mark's (#422)

Amazing Grace - verse 3 acapella

Benediction:

Go forth in the blessing and assurance that nothing can separate us from the love of God. May this good news inspire us all to take up the hard work of building community and acting for the flourishing of all our neighbors, because we do not act on our own—we act on the power of God's never-ending love.

Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are, and all that you will be.

Postlude:

2+-

NEXT WEEK SUNDAY COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED.

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.*

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?*

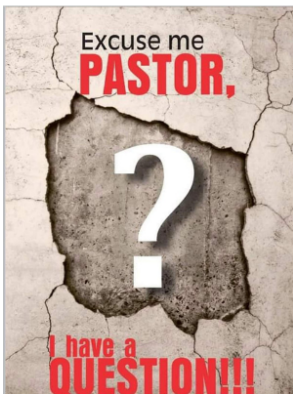
July 26 Death and Prayer

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!*





Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

July 26 – Doris Sprenger, Alissa Uttech

27 – Ann Rodewald, Katelynn Sibley

29 – Chris Grotegut

31 – Amy Clemens, Grace Schultz

August 1 – Larry Heling, Linda Rozmarynowski

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK TO:

July 26 – Henry & Kari Langenhahn

Tim & Deanne Schultz



TODAY IS THE YOUTH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT AT BETHLEHEM UCC! Coaches & Captains meet at 11:45 and then the tournament begins at noon. Food will be available to purchase. Bring a chair and cheer our team to victory!

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Mark's & St. James invite you to a

JOINT FAMILY PICNIC DAY!

Sunday, September 13, 2025 (rain or shine)

Held at St. Mark's UCC, W1307 Orchard Rd, Cleveland

10:30 JOINT WORSHIP

followed by LUNCH & GAMES

(no service at St. James)

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs (donations appreciated)

GAMES FOR ALL AGES

Bingo Yard Games Croquet Fish Pond
Pick-a-Duck Corn Hole Ring Toss Balloon Dart
Ladder Golf Dunk the Pastor (*fee per ball!*) ...And More!

We will even have cotton candy!

When the event draws nearer, we will be asking for donations of prizes, as well as the use of yard games and canopies.

CHURCH PROFILE COMMITTEE

MEETING – Monday, July 27th, 6pm
at St. James

**NEXT WEEK SUNDAY
COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED.**

JOINT CONSISTORY MEETING –

Tuesday, August 4th, 6:30pm
at St. Mark's

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

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
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!*



A NEW STUDY GROUP!

A new study group will begin the week of September 21st. It's a 7-week long Adult Confirmation curriculum, and you are invited to attend!

It will be 1.5 - 2 hours long, held in the evening (it should still be light out). Whether you can come

to some of the sessions or all the sessions you will be welcomed! The study Group is open to all, you do not need to be a member of St. Mark's or St. James to attend.

Please either reply to this email, or respond to Pastor directly or to Karen in the office (920-693-8361stmstjoffice@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Here is the 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 in Our Daily Lives