

The Country Church Herald

...Proclaiming the Word of God

ST. JAMES UCC
13312 Pioneer Road
Newton, WI 53063
920.693.8100



ST. MARK'S UCC
W1307 Orchard Road
Cleveland, WI 53015
920.693.8361

PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

AUGUST 2026

August 2nd - COMMUNION

St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship

St. James: 10:30am Worship

No Sunday School

August 9th

St. James: 9:00 Worship Service

No Sunday School

St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship

August 16th

St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship

St. James: 10:30am Worship

No Sunday School

August 23rd

St. James: 9:00 Worship Service

No Sunday School

St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship

August 30th

St. James: 9:00am Worship

St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship

No Sunday School

The Love of God

Unconditional, eternal, transformative.

Such is God's love that you are cherished no matter your past,
no matter your position in life. Your color, your gender
preference, your social status are not a factor in determining
God's love for you. It is always there. You are always loved.

God's love – it just is.

Visit our Church Website: <https://www.stmarksstjamesucc.org>
Worship Services are recorded weekly and uploaded to our church
YouTube channel: St. Mark's & St. James UCC
Visit & follow our Facebook page: St. Marks & St. James UCC
(Invite your family & friends to our Facebook page)



...FROM PASTOR PATRICK....

WHY I PREACH

I've been a pastor of churches for over 21 years, with numerous opportunities to preach before being appointed to my own church(s). While the day-to-day activities are quite diverse one thing holds true - I've got to prepare a sermon. One preacher friend told me, while I was still early in my years, 'Those Sundays... they just keep coming!'

However, I can't say I feel pressured by that ever-looming deadline - Sunday morning. For much of my career, I've preached multiple services on Sunday mornings. The holidays bring more opportunities (Thanksgiving eve, Christmas eve and day, Easter, mid-week Lenten services and so on).

Sometimes it's a lot to prepare for. So why do I do it? I harken back to a question I was asked by the inimitable Dr. Ellsworth Kalas, one of my preaching professors, "What arrogance drives us preachers if we feel we have a right to take twenty or twenty-five minutes of time from thirty or one hundred or four hundred people and leave them with no new insight, no quickening of mind or spirit to repay them for the time they've invested?" Now, this is the kind of pressure that motivates me!

I preached before ever going to seminary or taking a preaching class. And when I felt called to become a pastor it was always with preaching first and foremost at the core of my pastorate. I spent an addition three years after seminary earning a doctorate in preaching.

I preached 25 years ago, just as I preach today, with passion and conviction and hopefully now with a deeper understanding of scripture. I preach because I was called to. I preach from the Bible because it's the right thing to do. And while the Bible can be complex in its language and ideas, there is a wonderful revelatory light bulb moment when we find out that it has meaning to us, and to me personally, today!

I preach to share this thing we call the Good News with people who come in on a Sunday morning beat-up from the week; overwhelmed by life; down; depressed; seeking answers; and a better understanding of where they fit in the grand scheme of things. This too is the kind of pressure that motivates me!

I preach to turn others toward Christ, with invitational preaching. To make Jesus, not merely relevant, but to make him accessible - reachable - knowable... So, others can know his welcoming embrace when we come to him and the lifting of those heavy burdens when he forgives our sins.

I preach because I love to see people writing down notes during the sermon. And then coming up to me with additional questions, or a comment, 'I never knew that before'. I preach because I love the people of my congregation and I want to do all that I can to ensure I will see them once again when we are called home to be with the Lord.

This is why I preach.

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES

July 7, 2026

- The meeting was called to order at 6:36 by President Jamie Henschel. Members present were Jamie Henschel, Matt Lutze, Cindy Klapperich, Kris Zolltheis, and Galen La Duke.
- Absent: Tanya Boman, David Lutze, Pastor Patrick
- A motion to approve the May Secretary's Report was made by Cindy and seconded by Jamie. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Galen, seconded by Matt. Motion carried.
- Building and Grounds:
 - Landscaping – T&L has not been available. Galen will look into finding another landscaper.
 - Bell Tower Flashing – No date has been set to begin this work. Galen will follow up.
 - We reviewed the 'Summer' to do list for building and grounds.
- Committee Reports:
 - Christian Board of Education: Sunday School Starts September 20th.
- Old Business:
 - Mission & Vision statement display – This is completed and Cindy is taking care of the billing.
 - Broken pew repair – This was discussed, as another pew is drying out. No action taken.
 - Fire extinguishers – Cindy has taken care of this, and Galen has filed the report.
 - Two mobile shelving units have been purchased and are in use. Another one was requested and approved.
 - A list of church keys was distributed. Kris will contact a few people on the list.
- New Business
 - Congregation concerns:
 - A motion approve requested funding of Vision of Hope for travel for Dorothy Mueller and Linda Rozmarynowski to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to deliver clothing was made by Kris and seconded by Galen. Motion carried.
 - The work on our churches' profile for the pastoral search was discussed. All is proceeding well.
 - After a discussion of the church's website, a motion was made by Matt and seconded by Galen to discontinue use of the present website without payment and to proceed in looking for a new web designer.
- Next meeting date: August 4, 2026, Joint Meeting.
- Motion to adjourn was made by Matt seconded by Galen. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristin Zolltheis, Secretary

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 2026

Tyler Bramstedt called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Members present were Tyler Bramstedt, Brenda Miota, Judy Steinbeck, Mike Bernhardt, Wendy Schueler, Lori Roelse, Dr. Rev. Patrick Schultz, and Jody Binversie.

Pastor led us in prayer.

The Financial Report was given by Judy. She ran through activity on several accounts. As usual, everything agrees with the bank. She mentioned that a member from St. James made a generous donation toward VBS. She also made payments toward OCWM, Strengthen the Church and Leadership Forward. Jody made a motion to accept the report. Mike seconded. Motion carried.

The Secretary's Reports from our regular meeting on May 7, 2026 by Brenda Miota and Joint Consistory meeting on June 2, 2026 by Kristin Zolltheis were reviewed previously online. Wendy made a motion to accept the reports. Jody seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report focused on Vacation Bible School coming up August 18 - 20, 2026. They will be journeying to Ireland in *The Emerald Crossing*.

All building projects are currently on hold.

Old Business:

- Mission Statement display is underway. We paused our meeting to look at the progress. The letters are outlined and ready for paint. There was some discussion on how the painting process would go with the texture currently on the wall.
 - Website address on exterior sign - Jody will follow up.
 - Mission Trip Meals - Mike attempted twice to reach Liz Kroll, but no luck. We hope to lock in dates to provide meals in the fall once the Warming Center reopens.
 - Parsonage and church leaks - these issues still have not been addressed. After some discussion, it was proposed that the big, bay window in the parsonage be replaced in the near future.

New business:

- Pastor's retirement - His last service will be on January 10, 2027. There was discussion of two services versus one final service. Additional discussion will be proposed at the upcoming Joint Consistory Meeting.
- Profile Team - Lori shared details of their progress. There have been three meetings so far and all is going fairly well. The team has experienced some difficulty regarding listing both churches on the one profile. Upcoming meetings are set for July 20, 2026 at St. Mark's at 12:00 p.m. and July 27, 2026 at St. James at 6:00 p.m. The hope is to submit the profile after this last meeting and the next Joint Consistory meeting. Lori also informed us that interim pastors are few, but fortunately supply pastors are more available. The Search Committee members are set.

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING MINUTES,

continued....

- Elevator Phone - we discussed the cost associated with the two church landlines and internet services. No changes to be made.
- New Consistory Members - Tyler and I (Brenda) will be ending our three-year terms in early January. One member of the congregation has already agreed to replace Tyler.
 - If anyone has interest in serving on the Consistory, please reach out to any current consistory member.
- Church Mutual Risk Assessment - Judy mentioned receiving an email from our insurance provider requesting a risk assessment be done. Judy will be the contact person and will keep us informed.
- Communion - The next Communion Sunday will be August 2, 2026. Lori will bake the bread. Tyler will check for other supplies. Tyler and I have committed to serve. We will need two more.
- Family Picnic - The event is set for September 13, 2026 at St. Marks at 10:00 a.m. The event will follow the same line up as last year: food (venison hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, salads and desserts), outdoor games, cotton candy, dunk tank, bingo, etc. Families will be able to sign-up via the newsletter.

Pastor mentioned that he will be on vacation the first two weeks of September. Reverend Kim Henning has agreed to provide services on September 6, 2026, but he is still looking for someone to lead service on September 13, 2026. Even though he will not be leading service, he will be attending the Family Picnic once again volunteering his time to sit in the dunk tank.

The next Joint Consistory meeting is set for Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at St. Mark's at 6:30 p.m.

The next regular St. Marks Consistory meeting is set for Thursday, August 13, 2026, also at St. Mark's at 6:00 p.m.

Tyler asked for a motion to close the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Jody made the motion and Lori seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda L. Miota

RCF

Hey St. Mark's Members....

We are in need a representative for the Rural Church Fellowship. The Rural Church Fellowship is comprised of representatives of the area churches (Doris Sprenger is St. James' rep.) and work together on events that bond our local UCC churches. Some of the activities include funding a mission trip, supporting the youth volleyball teams, CROP Walk and hosting the annual Sheepshead Tournament. Meetings with a fun bunch of people are held approximately four times a year.

See Judy Steinbeck for more information.

ST. MARK'S FINANCIAL NEWS

This month, I would like to inform you about the special offerings that we give to the Wisconsin Conference UCC.

OCWM – Our Church's Wider Mission. We have pledged to give \$6,000 to this fund. This has been our annual commitment for a number of years. We have donated a total of \$1,955.00 year to date. That is only one third of our total commitment. Please consider this mission when making your upcoming donations.

Leadership Forward – We pledged to give \$6,000 over a five-year period from 2022 to 2027. We have paid a total of \$3,924.00 thus far which leaves a target of \$2,076.00 over the next year and a half.

OGHS – One Great Hour of Sharing. This donation responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. This collection is taken in March. We contributed \$255.00 this year.

STC – Strengthen the Church. This donation is used to build up the UCC including leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. This collection is taken in June. We contributed \$165.00 this year.

NIN – Neighbors in Need. This donation is used to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. This collection is taken in October. We will supply special envelopes when we take that collection in October.

Christmas Fund. This donation is used to aid our ministers with direct financial support for those facing financial difficulties. This collection is taken in December. Again, we will supply special envelopes when we take that collection in December.

You should all be proud that Our church has been a 5 for 5 donor for many years. Let's continue to support these important missions.

We also pay annual dues to the conference of \$5 per member. With 160 members, we paid a total of \$800.00 this year.

Thank you for your support for all of these important projects.

Your financial secretary,
Judy Steinbeck

**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!*



GENERATIONS SUNDAY

at Spring Hope Barn

July 19, 2026





The Chicken Dance



YOUTH VOLLEYBALL – 2026

The Tournament will be held at noon Sunday, July 26th at Bethlehem UCC.



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!*

Want to help with VBS this year?
Let Pastor Patrick know, there's a place for you!

Spread the word! Please invite your family and friends.



Let us know who is coming to the picnic by completing this form or the online form: <https://bit.ly/jointchurchpicnic2026>

Responses are appreciated by September 1st.

Adults' names: _____

Phone number _____ email _____

Children's names and ages: _____

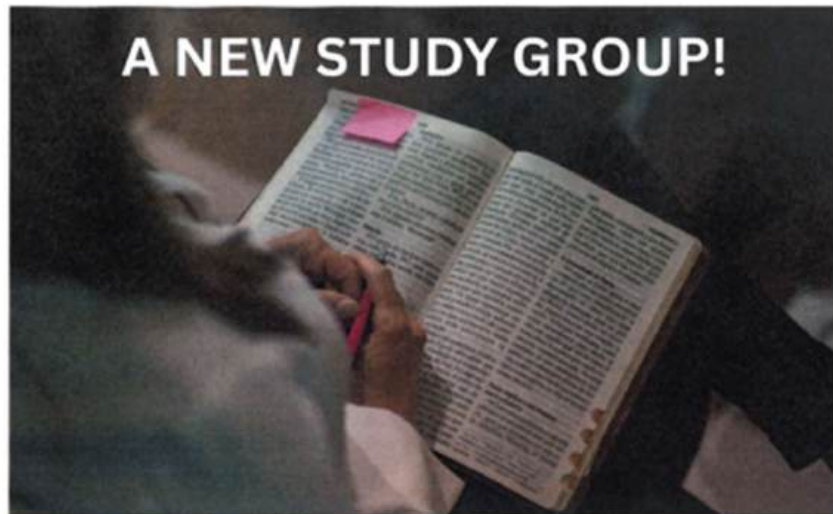
My family is willing to bring: salad bars (circle one)

I have the following yard game(s) that could be used at the picnic:

Circle: croquet bocce ball ladder golf corn hole other _____

We are collecting new and gently-used items for prizes for adults and for children.
There will be a box at each church in which to place donations.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP, DON'T MISS OUT!



**Pastor Patrick is planning 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 of the sessions or all the sessions you will be welcomed!

If you are interested in attending, either respond to Pastor Patrick directly or either email Karen at stmstjoffice@gmail.com or call and leave a message on the church office phone (920-693-8361).

*note: The study group is open to all, you do not need to be a member of St. Mark's or St. James to attend.

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

MORE OPPORTUNITIES CLOSE TO HOME!

Cancer Support Groups



Join us.

There is no substitute for being with people who truly understand what you're going through in a spirit of respect, encouragement and support.

Meets weekly for cancer patients:

- Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m.

For information, call 920-320-2739, or visit hfmhealth.org/cancersupport.

**Froedtert Holy Family
Memorial Hospital
Cancer Center Conference Room
2300 Western Ave., Manitowoc**

No RSVP is necessary.

This support group is open to the community, regardless of where you receive care.

The Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin health network complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate, exclude or treat people differently on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex (consistent with the scope of sex discrimination described at 45 CFR § 92.101(a)(2)), or any other group protected by law.

Attention: If you speak another language, assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call: 414-805-3000 (TTY: 1-800-947-3529)

Español (Spanish): ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al: 414-805-3000 (TTY: 1-800-947-3529)

Hmoob (Hmong): LUS CEEV: Yog tias koj hais lus Hmoob, cov kev pab txog lus, muaj kev pab dawb rau koj. Hu rau: 414-805-3000 (TTY: 1-800-947-3529)



Holy Family Memorial

Sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity

MK_CAIFM_1002 (04/26)
15985

Wisconsin Gospellers Brat Fry Fundraiser!

Saturday, August 1st from 9 am - 2:30 pm - Come on out to Miesfelds to help the Gospellers raise funds to promote their mission: to bridge cultural divides and touch souls through the transformative power of gospel music.

COUNTRY • SOUTHERN GOSPEL • BLUEGRASS

*Voices of Peace
Peace Church, Potter*

**21st Annual
Gospel Music Fest**

2026

Hilbert Civic Park • Hwy 57 • Hilbert, WI

Friday, August 21 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 22 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

RAIN OR SHINE
AT THE PARK



FREE ADMISSION
Bring lawn chairs! • Bring your family!
Food available! • Nondenominational!

PLEASE NO COOLERS!

Free will offerings will be taken.
100% given to the bands.

For more information
contact Bud or Carolyn at:
920-756-3830 • 920-470-0423
e-mail: bud.mcatee@gmail.com
www.voicesofpeacemusic.net



Voices of Peace
Potter, WI



The Chitans
Odon, IN



Skylight Quartet
Grand Rapids, MI



Mulkins Family
Peaslee, IL



The Williamsons
Wetumka, OK



Larry Delawder Family & Barney
Mathias, WV



Don Shire
Bedford, VA



Common Bond Quartet
Raceland, KY



Rocke Brothers
Hortonville, WI



The Garms Family
Arkansas, WI



SaltLight
Waverly, IA



Ambassadors of Grace
Thompson, MO



Matt Carroll Family
Excellio, MO



The Loynachans
Winterset, IA



The Foremans
Fulton, MO



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ST. JAMES USHERS

AUGUST

*Galen & Deb La Duke

Bill Heckmann

Caroline Heckmann

Jack Heckmann

Thomas Heckmann

Dale Krause

Randy & Karen Krause

David Krause

Rachael Krause

SEPTEMBER

*Kris Zolltheis

Marissa Fitzgerald

Jonathan Meyer

Brian & Wendy Henschel

Amanda Henschel

Morgan Henschel

Jeff & Wendy Meyer

Scott Zolltheis



ST. JAMES VISION OF HOPE

"Application for Funding" forms are available in the narthex, from VISION OF HOPE Committee members, or under "More" on our church website.

We welcome specific requests as well as your suggestions for using our semiannual gifts from the Wagner Foundation.

STUDENTS!

Use this form for tuition help (currently \$1,000) each year.

NEXT MEETING:

ST. MARK'S GREETERS & READERS

AUGUST

Greeters Needed

SEPTEMBER

Greeters Needed

READERS

August 2nd - Sandy Perronne

August 9th - Scott Siekman

August 16th - Lori Roelse

August 23rd - Jacob Grunwald

August 30th - Jacob Grunwald

****Let Pastor or Karen know if you're interested in reading.**



If you or a family member are in need of pastoral care or are hospitalized, please contact Pastor Patrick by calling the church office, 920-693-8361, or Pastor Patrick's cell phone, 608-352-9544. You may also email Pastor: schultzpw@gmail.com

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

St. James

37

25

32

50

June 28

July 5

July 12

July 19 – Generations Sunday/Joint Service

St. Mark's

40

36

39

July 26th will be reported next month.

St. James August Celebrations!

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Linda Rozmarynowski
- 2 Rhonda Krause
- 3 Sadie Koenig
Alan Wippermann
- 4 Emma Russart
Davie Lorraine Vogel
- 10 Amber Lutze
- 14 Lexis Kuester
London Kuester
- 17 Heather Henschel
- 23 Cindi Wippermann
Sara Wippermann
- 26 Abigail Peterson
- 30 Kendra Schmitz
Kathy Stolzmann
Emmett Vogel
- 31 Kevin Jump

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Allen & Eunice Stolzmann
- 7 Andrew & Abigail
Peterson
- 4 Charles & Ruth Ann Kolb
- 13 Joe & Cindy Klapperich
- 17 Galen & Debra LaDuke



Please report any
corrections or additions on the
birthday and anniversary lists
to Karen in the church office:

stmstjoffice@gmail.com

OR call 920-693-8361

so that the information will be
correct on future publications.



Please let Karen, church
secretary, know if you have a
change in your mailing address,
email or phone number.

You may either note the change
on the Welcome Card, email the
church office:

stmstjoffice@gmail.com or call
the church office 920.693.8361.

St. James Stewardship Team:

When someone tells you,
"I run things at my house."
It usually means the
washing machine, the
vacuum cleaner and the
dishwasher.

St. Mark's August Celebrations!

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Larry Heling
- 3 Jay Sommer
- 5 Charlie Mohr
- 9 Courtney Binversie
Debbie Brickner
- 18 Julie Herrmann
- 23 Gerty Free
- 26 Matthew John Roelse
Alicia Schueler
- 27 Carter Clemens
- 28 Bradley Grunwald
Faith Grunwald
- 31 Joanie Mohr

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Jerry & Louise Jetzer
- 9 Ray & Debbie Brickner
- 10 Richard & Linda
Schroeder
- 20 Glenn & Terri Grunwald
- 21 Mike & Janice Marcheske
- 22 Larry & Denise Heling
- 22 Brett & Abbey Sheldon
- 24 Ted & Dianne Kaczmariski
- 26 Gerald & Jola Thiel
- 28 Michael & Michelle Scharl