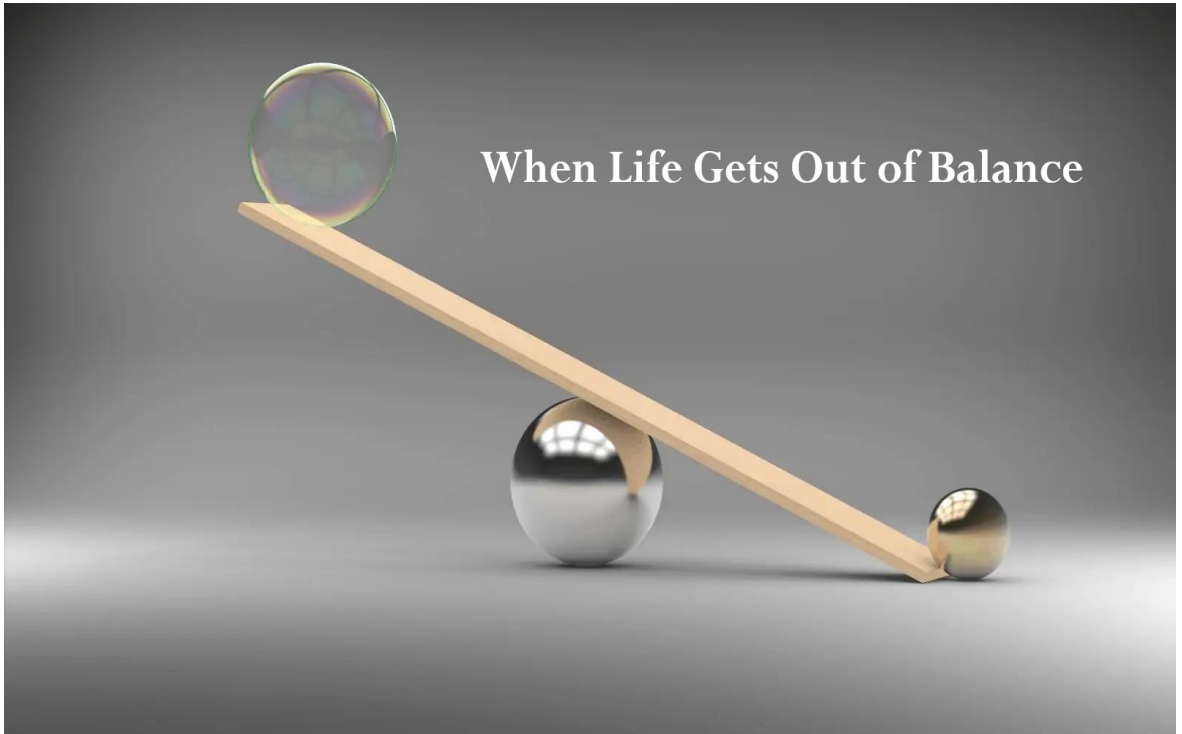




When Life Gets Out of Balance

Sunday, August 9th, 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:

In Times Like These

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

Call to Worship:

We worship because the Lord stands by us on difficult days.

Even when we aren't aware and feel alone.

We worship because the Lord gives strength.

Even when we feel so weak.

We worship because we have been rescued from ourselves and from Satan again and again.

Even when we are afraid that we have lost.

Come and worship the God who stands with us in our darkest days and promises to be with us to the end.

**We will worship in hope, seeking eyes to see and hearts to believe
in God with us.**

Prayer:

At the start of this day, we call upon your name, God of grace. As we run the race you have set before us, help us to keep our eyes on your goals, and not be turned aside by our own. When we falter, give us fresh strength and courage. When we are fleet-footed, let us give you all the glory. Keep us from wanting to win at other's expense or to count ourselves better than those at our side. All runners are your children. In the race you imagine, each one is a winner. **Amen.**

♪ Hymn

St. James (#464)

St. Mark's (#78)

*Dwell In Me, O Blessed Spirit
God of the Ages, History's Maker*

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.*



Prayer of Confession:

Holy God, Fountain of all blessing and grace: we confess there are times when we look at our work, at our accomplishments, with prideful ambition as if we were the source of our abilities and gifts. At other times, we look at our efforts with disgust and regret, as if your gifts in us are not enough. Forgive our pride and our despair, Holy God. Renew in us a humble trust in your guiding hand and a hope that your grace is sufficient for every step. Give us the courage to begin again, to jump into a new start with you and one another. We ask in Jesus' name.

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:

Words of Assurance:

Beloved children: **Hear and believe the good news, God's mercy and peace are upon you now and always. Amen.**

♪ Hymn

St. James (#1)

St. Mark's (#136)

Holy, Holy, Holy

Scripture Reading:

Galatians 6:9 (ESV)

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Hebrews 4:9-11 (ESV)

So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

Message:

When Life Gets Out of Balance

Dr. Patrick Schultz

Offering:

St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through our church website:
<https://stmarksstjamesucc.org/>

Offertory Music:

Help Us Accept Each Other

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:

God, both Holy and Grand, you were with us at the beginning of our lives, and you will be by our side when we draw our last breath. May you bless us richly that we remember you are by our side in between those two moments. Receive these gifts; bless them to the greater good of building your kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. *Amen.*

♪ Hymn of Sending:

St. James (#287)

St. Mark's (#426)

*God of Grace and God of Glory
Blessed Assurance*

Benediction:

Our gathered worship has ended, but our individual worship of you continues. The faith we celebrate here continues to be the faith we keep out there. As you have poured yourself out in worship – in song and in prayer, in fellowship and in unity, in scripture and Word – now may we go to pour ourselves out in service to the world God so loves. Let the church be the witness that God is at work in the world. Let the church be the witness that God is still speaking.

Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are, and all that you will be. And all God's people said...**AMEN!**

Postlude:

Jesus Is Coming Again



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

August 9th – Courtney Binversie, Debbie Brickner

10th – Amber Lutzke

14th – Lexis Kuester, London Kuester

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK TO:

August 9th – Ray & Debbie Brickner

10th – Richard & Linda Schroeder

13th – Joe & Cindy Klapperich

St. Mark's and St. James UCC 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.**

Sunday, August 16th all the undesignated offerings received will be donated to Menasha.



In addition to your weekly offering, please consider making an additional contribution to help out the Menasha families that were affected by the recent tornado.

Contact the church office at stmstjoffice@gmail.com if you would like to contribute but are unable to be attendance that day.

ST. JAMES STEWARDSHIP MEETING – Monday, August 10th, 5:30pm

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING – Thursday, August 13th, 6pm

**There's still time to sign up! Invite your friends
& neighbors...to this wonderful free experience!**

|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



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



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 (<i>fee per ball</i>)	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.*

Let us know who is coming to the picnic by completing the form that's located in the back of church or online at:

<https://bit.ly/jointchurchpicnic2026>

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 until Sept. 13th ~

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