

Philippians 4:6-7

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand.

Sunday, August 23rd, 2026

St. James & St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Ann Rodewald, Organist

Jacob Grunwald, 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:

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Call to Worship:

As we gather, we come together as people of the cross and resurrection.

We come as children of God, our creator.

Reconciled by grace through the Son and Savior.

And filled with God's love through the Spirit.

God is our provider, our protector, and our salvation. The voice of the world says:

"Turn to me to provide you food, shelter, and everything you need."

But we turn to the Word of God, our bread, to feed and sustain us.

Feed us now, God. Feed us by your Holy Spirit. Feed us by your Word and Good News.

Feed us that we might feed those around us.

We are yours now and always. We come today to worship and praise you.

Holy Sustainer, you were ever in and with Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem, guiding his choices and strengthening his courage each step of the way. As your beloved children, be with us and strengthen us on our journeys. Through our time of worship and our companionship with one another, teach us to recognize Christ in everyone we meet. Help us offer holy hospitality wherever it is needed, and free us from our fears of scarcity, that we may share from our abundance and be a blessing for others. **Amen.**

♪ Hymn

Sanctuary: Lord, Prepare Me

Start with the refrain printed below and then sing the verses on opposite page. Each verse is followed by the refrain.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn in 4/4 time, key of D major. The score is written for a two-part setting (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: "Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks - giv - ing,". The music features various chords indicated above the staff: F#m, Em, D, A, G, Em7, D, A, F#m, Em, D. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a refrain that is repeated.



(verse 1)

It is you, Lord
Who came to save
The heart and soul
Of every man
It is you Lord
who knows my weakness
Who gives me strength,
With thine own hand.

refrain

(verse 2)

Lead Me on Lord
From temptation
Purify me
From within
Fill my heart with
You holy spirit
Take away all my sin

refrain

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 Source of New Life, you promise to set us free from paths of fear, doubt, and denial. Yet we resist your invitation, seeing only what we must give up if we are to follow the path of Jesus. You call us to have faith in your sustaining presence and power, but your call takes us beyond anything we can see or touch. We fear placing our trust in things beyond our control. We doubt that you can bring water to the dry places of our lives or replace our suffering with joy. Forgive us when we turn away from your promise of abundant life. Heal us and lead us home, Holy One.

We turn to you now lifting 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:

Whenever we seek to leave behind our old ways and turn to God for help, God forgives our faithlessness and strengthens us for the journey ahead. We are the heirs of God's promises. We are the children of God's compassion and mercy. *Amen.*

♪ Hymn

St. James (#318)

St. Mark's (#447)

*Nearer My God To Thee
Because He Lives*

Scripture Reading:

Philippians 4:4-7 (ESV)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Message:

The Roller Coaster of Life

Dr. Patrick Schultz

People's 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:

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

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:

Faithful Giver of Life, you have done great things for us. In the life and teaching of your Son Jesus, you welcome us into your heart. Help us open our hearts to others, that we may be ever more willing to offer our hospitality, our support, and our material resources wherever they are needed. Bless these offerings in your holy name. *Amen.*

♪ Hymn of Sending:

St. James (#389)

St. Mark's (#590)

*Rise Up, O Men of God
Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

Benediction:

Go as people in whom the Holy Spirit dwells.

Go as people who carry the light of Christ with you.

Go as people dearly loved by the Father and set free from sin and death.

Go, and as you go, may our God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bring life through you to a creation which longs for the children of God to be revealed.

Go now in the Holy Spirit 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:

To the Glory of God

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 resumes at St. James on September 20th 😊 ~

St. Mark's UCC

1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.

2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*August 23rd – Gerty Free, Cindi Wipperman, Sara Wippermann
26th – Abigail Peterson, Matthew John Roelse, Alicia Schueler
27th – Carter Clemens
28th – Bradley Grunwald, Faith Grunwald*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK TO:

*August 24th – Ted & Dianne Kaczmariski
26th – Gerald & Jola Thiel
28th – Michael & Michelle Scharl*



GREAT NEWS!

**The special offering to help out the
Menasha families who were affected by
the recent tornado has been extended!**

**Monetary donations for Menasha
will also be accepted TODAY!**

The Mission of St. James & St. Mark's UCC 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.

****VISION OF HOPE** meets at 6:30pm Tuesday, August 25th.



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

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

"Sing A Joyful Song of Praise"



*Join the St. James Adult Choir
as we begin preparing for the
2026-2027 church year.*

*Rehearsals begin
Wednesday, September 9th - 6:30p.m.*

*New members are
always welcome!*

Questions??

*Contact Cindy & Randy Sohn
(920 – 565 – 4121)*

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.*

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>