



Sunday, August 2, 2026
St. Mark's & St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Kathy Jurk, Organist
Lori Roelse, 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:

His Loving and Mysterious Ways

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

Call to Worship:

Praise God who has showered us with love.

Even in the dark times, God protects and guides us.

God has blessed us with a magnificent world.

If strife should assail, God calls us to be people of healing and action to help others.

Come! Let us worship God who is always with us.

Let us praise God that through all our trials and triumphs, God's love brings us hope.

Prayer:

God of mercy and love, be with us this morning as we hear the stories of Jesus and his compassion. Remind us again that we also need to be people of hope and compassion in this world which seems so dark. You, O God, open the doors of blessings. You reveal to us the many ways in which Jesus reached out to others at their time of need. Inspire our hearts and lift our spirits this day, in Christ's name and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. **Amen.**

♪ Hymn:

St. Mark's (#159)

St. James (#89)

*The King of Glory Comes
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

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 New Member: Lexie Kluenker

Prayer of Confession:

How amazing it is to us, O God of love, that you look into our hearts and forgive our sins – our wayward spirits. So many times, we have succumbed to the temptations of this world, seeking comfort in its fleeting enticements. We have turned deaf ears on the cries of those in distress and walked away from opportunities to give aid and comfort.

Remind us again of how Jesus entered this world, lived and died among us, and then rose again. How his compassionate touch not only healed bodies but restored and renewed spirits. Forgive our stubbornness and our selfishness. Remind us again, O Lord, of when you will come again in final judgement and draw those who have accepted you as Lord and Savior to an eternal home with him.

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:

Hear the good news! In this very instant, God has touched our hearts and offered healing and forgiving love. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Amen.

♪ Hymn:

St. Mark's (#96)

St. James (#272)

*O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing
Love Divine, All Love's Excelling*

Scripture Reading:

2nd Peter 3:3-10 NIV

Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in

keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Matthew 24:42 NIV

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Message: *The Second Coming: What Does it Mean?*

Dr. Patrick Schultz

Sacrament of Holy Communion (insert)

Offering:

St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through our church website:

<https://stmarksstjamesucc.org/>

Offertory Music:

“Wareham” The Future, All to Us Unknown”

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:

How wonderful it is and what a joy we have to return to God these gifts as tokens of the many blessings God has given to us. Let these gifts and our lives be used in service to others, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

♪ Hymn of Sending:

Crown Him with Many Crowns

St. Mark’s (#317)

St. James (#176)

Benediction:

Renewed by the power of God’s unconditional love and forgiveness; strengthened by the witness of Jesus to be of service to others, we go from this place rejoicing in the opportunities to serve others in Christ’s name. Go now,

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

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:

Silver Street

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.

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



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*August 2 – Rhonda Krause
3 – Jay Sommer, Sadie Koenig, Alan Wippermann
5 – Charlie Mohr
7 – Emma Russart, Davie Lorraine Vogel*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK TO:

*August 2 – Allen & Eunice Stolzmann
4 – Charlie & Ruth Ann Kolb
7th – Andrew & Abigail Peterson
8th – Jerry & Louise Jetzer*

***Remember to mark “I took Communion” on your Welcome Card
(and add your name 😊) and place in the offering plate.***

JOINT CONSISTORY MEETING – Tuesday, August 4th, 6:30pm at St. Mark’s

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

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

Next week is the last week of the sermon series based on questions submitted by church members. You are invited to come and learn “What Happens When We Give Too Much of Ourselves?”, which is based on the question *Why do people who have leadership roles in our church (consistory, search committee, teaching...) disappear from the church after their role/term has ended?*

|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