



**April 14, 2024**  
**Mark's United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Ann Rodewald, Organist  
Kathy Jurk, Choir Director  
Scott Siekman, Reader

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

*To God Be the Glory*

## **Call To Worship:**

We are God's work of art--each one of us a precious gem, a marvelous melody, a potter's delight.

**We are God's handiwork--woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.**

We are the church of Jesus Christ - diverse in human qualities, but united in our call to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves.

**We are the Body of Christ - living in his truth, sharing his peace, carrying his hope, embodying his love, in the world for which he gave himself.**

Remind us of who we are and what our lives are about.

**Renew us and empower us to live out the miracle of who we are, by the power of God working among us.**

Together let us worship the living God.

**We open ourselves to God, who makes all things new. We praise you, O God! For you have brought us from death to life!**

The disgrace of God's people has been taken away from the earth because the Lord has spoken!

**We praise you, O God! For you have given us joy and gladness!**

(#734)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son;  
and to the Holy Ghost;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now and ever shall be,**

**world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## **Prayer:**

**O Heavenly Father, we your humble children, call upon you to bless us. We adore you whose name is love, whose nature is compassion, whose presence is joy, whose judgement is perfect, whose Word is truth, whose Spirit is goodness, whose holiness is beauty, whose will is peace, whose service is perfect. Let us receive your holy blessing this morning that we may go about the business of building your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn: (#426)**

*Blessed Assurance*

**Young At Heart:**



## **Affirmation of Faith: (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.***

## **Choral Anthem:**

*I'll Walk With Him*

## **Scripture Reading:**

Psalm 138:1-3, 7-8a ESV

*I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.*

*On the day I called, you answered me; my strength of soul you increased.*

*Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life. You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me. The LORD will vindicate me; your love, LORD, endures **forever**—*

## **Message:**

*Sonlight!*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

## **Offering:**

For the offerings, gifts, and tithes given both before and after the service; for the offerings made on-line and through Tithe.ly; for the gifts of your time, talents, prayers, support and encouragement in furtherment of this church's ministry and mission – we thank you.

## **Offertory Music:**

*Trust and Obey*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

## **Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

**O Holy One, take these humble offerings, our gifts and tithes, and make them be for the world a lifeline for those in need. Take our time, our service, and our prayers to help bring about your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. *Amen.***

## Lord'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.*

## Hymn of Sending: (#408)

*I Am Thine, O Lord*

## Benediction:

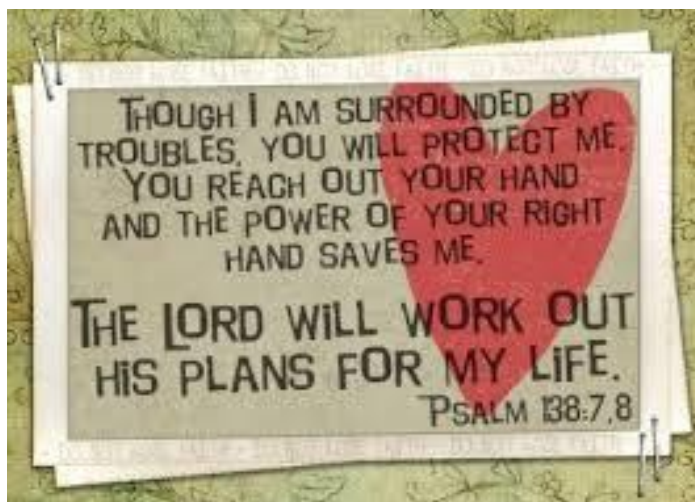
Lord, we ask your blessings today. Help us to desire to know you better each and every day. Help us to see you in our day-to-day living. Help us, not only to be better people, but to **want** to be better people.

Lord, we are so grateful for all you have done in the life of this young man. We are thankful for the ways you have led each of us into a relationship with you – deepened in our prayer time, strengthened in our study of scripture, confirmed in our fellowship with others in faith.

Let us go now in courage, in humble trust, in fervent grace to live the life you have called us to; not only as Christians but, as a body of Christ and church that is sharing Christ's message of love, grace, healing and service.

## Postlude:

*Postlude March*



# Staying Close, Staying Connected

## Our Church Celebrations!

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:**

*April 14<sup>th</sup> - Alivia Maxey*

*15<sup>th</sup> - Lee Schmitz*

*16<sup>th</sup> - Jerry Jetzer, Dorothy Mueller*

*17<sup>th</sup> - Ann Adams, Brenda Schultz*

*18<sup>th</sup> - Kathy Kaestner*

*19<sup>th</sup> - Julianne Luebke, Terri Schmitz*

### **ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK:**

*April 14<sup>th</sup> - Dean & Emily Sprenger*

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**ST. JAMES SPRING YARD CLEAN-UP-** Sat., April 20<sup>th</sup>, 9am (rain date April 27<sup>th</sup>)  
Please remove wreaths from St. James cemetery by Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

**QUILTING/SEWING GROUP** - meets Tues., April 16<sup>th</sup>, 9am to noon at St. Mark's

**BUNCO** - Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at St. James

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE MONDAY, APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>.** Email them to Karen at [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)

**ST. MARK'S CHOIR REHEARSAL** -next week Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 7pm



**WISCONSIN  
CONFERENCE**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ will be held Sat., April 20, from 9:00am - 2:00pm. at the Daycholah Center in Ripon.

New this year: A Youth Day Camp is offered to children/grandchildren of meeting attendees. Daycholah staff will lead a camp experience for youth in second through seventh grades. Interested in attending as a delegate? Contact Pastor!





St. James and St. Mark's  
Ladies join us for  
**BUNCO NIGHT**

Thursday, April 18th  
6pm at St. James.

A \$5 participation fee is optional

**Please join us and RSVP to  
Jackie Mueller or Tammy Serketich  
or email [tserketich@yahoo.com](mailto:tserketich@yahoo.com)**

**COME JOIN US FOR:**



at ST. JAMES UCC, 1:00pm  
SUNDAY, MAY 5th, 2024

OPEN TO MEN & WOMEN OF ST. JAMES & ST. MARK'S  
*Feel free to bring a friend!*

**It's VACATION BIBLE  
SCHOOL**

**Planning Time!**



Summer is just around the corner--  
and the time has come to start  
planning VBS!

Would your children attend?  
Would you be interested in helping  
with the planning and/or sessions?  
Contact Pastor Patrick!

**Sunday!**

If you've been seeking out and praying  
for a way for God to use you to make a  
difference in someone's life....

**HERE'S YOUR ANSWER!**

**St. James is in need of multiple Sunday School  
teachers starting in September!**

Previous teaching experience is not necessary. The curriculum  
is easy to follow and you will get help to get started. Being involved  
with Sunday School is a great way to answer God's call and make  
a positive difference (and it's fun!).

If you're a busy person, remember it's only one day a week!  
Contact Christine Gumm for more information.



## 4-Week Sermon Series:

April 21, 28, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>

- Week 1: The Bible is Historically Accurate
- Week 2: The Bible is Prophetically Accurate
- Week 3: The Bible is Scientifically Accurate
- Week 4: You Can Build Your Life On It

*"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matt 7:24*

**St. James U.C.C.**

# Brat Fry

**Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

**4 - 7 PM**

**13312 Pioneer Rd., Newton  
Spring Valley**



**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 meets 9-10am at both churches~**

**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: [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org)

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)

**WELCOME!**

***To the parents of young children:***

***Relax! God put the wiggles in children; don't feel you have to suppress those wiggles in God's house.***

- ❖ *Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to engage.*
- ❖ *Quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of the pastors, musicians and leaders.*
- ❖ *Sing the songs, pray and voice the responses. Children learn behaviors by mimicking you.*
- ❖ *If you have to leave the Worship Center with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."*