



**May 12, 2024**

**St. James/St. 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:

*My Tribute*

*How can I say thanks for the things you have done for me?  
Things so undeserved, yet you gave to prove your love for me.  
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude  
All that I am, and ever hope to be, I owe it all to thee.*

## **Call to Worship:**

We are an Easter people, so raise your voices, for you belong to the Risen Christ!

**We belong to Christ, and so we share in Christ together.**

Just as we share in Christ together, so we are called to share Christ with the world.

**We share Christ by telling the world of God's love.**

How do we share God's love with the world?

**By loving, respecting, and honoring one another, especially those whom the world neglects, overlooks, and ignores.**

We are an Easter people, and you belong to the Risen Christ!

**Because we belong to Christ, we will share his love, pray for the world and invite those around us to know Christ more deeply.**

**Precious Lord, take my hand.**

**Lead me on. Let me stand.**

**I am tired. I am weak. I am worn.**

**Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.**

**Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

## **Prayer:**

**God of all creation, in Christ, we are reconciled, and so we ask for your uniting Spirit to help us to overcome all our divisions, to take away our fears of caring for neighbors we don't yet know, and from meeting peoples from other walks of life so that we may live in peace. In Christ's name, and by the power of the Holy Spirit and to your glory, *amen*.**

## **Hymn:**

St. James (#329)

St. Mark's (#424)

*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord  
How Can I Keep from Singing?*

## **Mother's Day Prayer:**

Lord, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks for our mothers. We are grateful that you chose to give us life through them, and that they received the gift of life from your hands and gave it to us. Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth.

We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood. Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else, we thank you for those women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect the love they showed us, and that they would be pleased to be called our moms.

We pray for older moms whose children are grown.  
**Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job well done.**

We pray for new moms experiencing changes they could not predict.  
**Grant them rest and peace as they trust you for the future.**

We pray for pregnant women who will soon be moms.  
**Grant them patience and good counsel in the coming months.**

We pray for moms who face the demands of single parenthood.  
**Grant them strength and wisdom.**

We pray for moms who enjoy financial abundance.  
**Grant them time to share with their families.**

We pray for moms who are raising their children in poverty.  
**Grant them relief and justice.**

We pray for step-moms.  
**Grant them patience and understanding and love.**

We pray for moms who are separated from their children.  
**Grant them faith and hope.**

We pray for moms in marriages that are in crisis.  
**Grant them support and insight.**

We pray for moms who have lost children.  
**Grant them comfort in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

We pray for mothers who have aborted a child.  
**Grant them healing and peace.**

We pray for moms who gave up their children for adoption.  
**Grant them peace and confidence as they trust in your providence.**

We pray for adoptive mothers.  
**Grant them joy and gratitude for the gift you have provided.**

We pray for girls and women who think about being moms.  
**Grant them wisdom and discernment.**

We pray for women who desperately want, or wanted, to be moms.  
**Grant them grace to accept your timing and will.**

We pray for all women who have assumed the mother's role in a child's life.  
**Grant them joy and the appreciation of others.**

We pray for those people present who are grieving the loss of their mother in the past year.  
**Grant them comfort and hope in Christ's resurrection.**

**Young at Heart:**



**St. James Hymn: (#464)**

*Dwell in Me O Blessed Spirit*

**St. Mark's Choral Anthem:**

*O God of Love*

**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.**

**Scripture Reading:**

Genesis 1:14-19 ESV

*And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.*

**Message:**

*Is the Bible Scientifically Accurate?*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

## 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.*

## Offering:

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

## Offertory Music:

*Whispering Hope*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

## Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving: (John15)

God of joy, we offer our gifts this day, as we reflect on the wisdom of your Word. Jesus urges us to hold onto him, to stay connected to him by his example, presence, and the fulfillment he brings. Our joy in him finds completeness when it is woven into his divine joy. Help us abide in him through love, obeying his commandment to love one another. In acts of service, healing, and generosity, may our joy be sustained, a shared and everlasting gift from the Son of God. In his name, we pray. *Amen.*

## Hymn:

St. James (#72)

St. Mark's (#712)

*Now Thank We All Our God  
Sent Forth With God's Blessing*

## Benediction:

Beautiful children of God, may he bless you with the strength to love one another even as he loves each and every one of you, that you may find the complete, total, and everlasting joy that comes when we abide together with God who is Love. Go now to love and serve the Lord... *Amen.*

## Postlude:

*Postlude March*



# Staying Close, Staying Connected

## Our Church Celebrations!

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

*May 13<sup>th</sup> – Katie Belitz  
14<sup>th</sup> – Alice Broehm  
16<sup>th</sup> – Andrew Peterson, Jr.*

### **ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK:**

*May 14<sup>th</sup> – Tim & Amanda Russart  
16<sup>th</sup> – Warren & Karen Vandoske  
18<sup>th</sup> – Pat & Noreen Flook*

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**TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL  
BEFORE SUMMER BREAK AT BOTH CHURCHES.**

**ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE** is Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE FRIDAY, MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>.**

**ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY** planned for May 19 @ 8:00 am. Rain Date May 26.

**ST. JAMES VISION OF HOPE** meets at 6:30pm Tues., May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU** for those who volunteered to teach Sunday School next year at St James.

**NEXT WEEK SUNDAY IS PENTECOST SUNDAY. COMMUNION WILL BE HELD DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICE.**

Collection boxes, along with “Wish Lists” for Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota are located at each church. Donations will be accepted through the end of June. You may also give a cash donation. If you have any questions, contact St. Mark’s members, Pat & Noreen Flook.





St. James and St. Mark's  
Ladies join us for

**BUNCO NIGHT**

Thursday, May 23rd  
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)



Memorial Day,  
Monday May 27th,  
at 8:30am

the Wagner-Eberke -Sukowaty  
American Legion Post 477  
in St. Nazianz will be  
conducting  
military honors at  
St. James Cemetery  
for those who lost their lives  
while defending their country.

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ 2024

Growing With God

August 13, 14, 15

9am to noon

hosted at

St. Mark's UCC



All children welcome!



**5 Week Sermon Series:**  
**April 21, 28, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>**

- Week 1: Is the Bible is Historically Accurate? -part 1
- Week 2: Is the Bible is Historically Accurate? -part 2
- Week 3: Is the Bible is Prophetically Accurate?
- Week 4: Is the Bible is Scientifically Accurate?
- **Week 5: 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*

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

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