



Confirmation Sunday

April 14, 2024

We Gather In God's Presence

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Randy Sohn, Organist Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Jackie Mueller, Consistory President

Time For Gathering and Fellowship

Ringing of the Bells & Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

Introduction of the Confirmand and Recognition of the Parents

Parents: Dean and Emily Sprenger Parker Joshua Sprenger

It Takes a Village:

Parents; Godparents; Grandparents; Aunts and Uncles; Sunday School Teachers;

Church members; Pastors; and trusted friends...

*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.

*Opening Prayer

Our 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.*

Young at Heart:

Presentation by Parker Sprenger:

Introduction of self and Bible Verse:

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

Why this scripture is meaningful:

Statement of Faith:

I believe that in the beginning God created everything from nothing and that he was the father of Jesus, is our Shepherd, and leads us. I believe that God loves us more than we know, and loves everyone in different ways. I believe that God is always with us in times of need and in our day-to-day lives. We are all God’s children and Jesus calls us to be the church and the body of Christ.

I understand the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion. God has a purpose for me even though I may not know what it is. I feel called to help the church with my energy through various church activities. I feel closest to God when I am playing music, games and petting my dogs.

Vows of Faith and Commitment (See Bulletin Insert)

Confirmation Prayer:

Parker Sprenger

O Holy Spirit of God, take me as your disciple. Guide me, illuminate me, sanctify me. Bind my hands, that they may do no evil. Cover my eyes that they may see it no more. Sanctify my heart that evil may not dwell within me. You are my God. You are my guide. Whatsoever you forbid me, I will renounce. And whatsoever you command me, in your strength I will do. Lead me then unto the fullness of your truth. Amen.

St. James Choral Anthem:

Do Lord, Remember Me

The Word in Scripture

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—

Sacrament of Holy Communion:

Friends, let us come out of the darkness and join together in the light of God's love. You are invited to this table of life as we join together and seek communion with God.

God is with you!

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our Creator.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise, O Lord!

You created the world by speaking life into being. You placed within us and within each plant and animal of your creation amazing abilities to form and nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season, child by child. You covenanted with your people and gave them Law that showed the way of Life – a path of peace, justice, mercy, reverence, and love.

You sent Jesus, your Son, to walk in the way of Life – that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world.

He rose in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.

We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh. Through his resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people. It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God that we gather this morning and remember together that . . .

on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer, we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup, and celebrate with joy the eternal Life offered to us through Jesus Christ. Let your Holy Spirit be poured out upon us and these your gifts of bread and cup. All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. Amen.

As we prepare to eat the meal, let us share together the proclamation of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

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:

Walking with the Master

~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.*

Closing Prayer:

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.

Let us close our time of worship by joining hands, and praying the 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.*

*Closing Hymn (#464)

Dwell In Me

Postlude:

Sing and Rejoice Greatly



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*April 14th – Alivia Maxey
15th – Lee Schmitz
16th – Jerry Jetzer, Dorothy Mueller
17th – Ann Adams, Brenda Schultz
18th – Kathy Kaestner
19th – Julianne Luebke, Terri Schmitz*

ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK:

April 14th – Dean & Emily Sprenger

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

QUILTING/SEWING GROUP – meets Tues., April 16th, 9am to noon at St. Mark's

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

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE MONDAY, APRIL 22ND. Email them to Karen at stmstjoffice@gmail.com

ST. MARK'S CHOIR REHEARSAL –next week Wednesday, April 24th, 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

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 5th, 12th

- 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



St. James U.C.C.
Brat Fry
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

4 - 7 PM

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



- *brats
- *hamburgers
- *chicken
- *dessert

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

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office:
stmstjoffice@gmail.com

WELCOME!

To the parents of young children:

Relax! *God put the wiggle 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."*