



Join us in this sermon series called Highways and Byways. As we ready ourselves for summer travel & vacation trips, I want to provide some reminders and guidelines to help deepen our faith. Whether you enjoy "stay-cations" or vacations, travel and trips, or staying home Christ remains at the center of our lives. Let his Word guide us on our way.

Highway: a main direct road
Byway: a little traveled side road
Guardrails
Detours &
Signs

Sunday, April 30, 2023
St. Mark's/St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Randy Sohn/Ann Rodewald, Organist
Kathy Jurk, Choir Director Jacob Grunwald, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

St. James: *Lovingkindness*

St. Mark's: *This is My Father's World*

Call to Worship:

Jesus is the way to peace, truth and happiness.

As we understand Jesus's life and come to know Him, Easter and Christmas take on new meaning. They become special, holy days that remind us of His goodness and grace.

The pathway to Jesus is a narrow and difficult road to walk. Christianity is not a lifestyle. It is not rules of conduct, nor is it a society of people who have joined together by the sprinkling or covering of water.

Christianity is a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, savior and redeemer.

Jesus invites every man, woman, and child into a close relationship with himself as brothers, sisters, and friends.

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy... (1 Peter 1:8)

And so, we say to God,

We worship you today, with all our heart, mind, body and soul.

Prayer:

Heavenly God, we come before you today with humble hearts. We praise you for your goodness and mercy. We thank you for your many blessings in our lives.

We ask for your guidance and wisdom as we gather in your Holy Name. Open our hearts and minds to hear from you even as we recommit ourselves to following you, not only today, but every day. In Jesus' precious name, *Amen*.

Doxology:

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.

Hymn of Praise:

St. James: (#220 The Hymnal)

St. Mark's: (#350 Worship & Rejoice)

Lead Us Heavenly Father

The Summons

Young at Heart:



Affirming our Faith: The Apostle's 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 Hymn: #20 Binder

Living For Jesus

St. Mark's Choir Anthem:

The Power and The Glory

Scripture Reading:

Judges 5:6 ESV

*In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath,
in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned,
and travelers kept to the byways.*

Message:

[Highways and] Byways of life

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Peoples Prayer and Pastoral Prayer:

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.*

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:

St. James: *There Is A Fountain*
St. Mark's: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Caring and compassionate God, bless the gifts we give and help them to be used to sow seeds of kindness, healing, hope, and justice. When we as a church falter, remind us that Christ, our Good Shepherd, never falters. In Christ, we pray. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending: #319 (Worship & Rejoice, Insert for STJ) *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Benediction:

May you go forth carrying the joy that is yours as a child of God and an heir to resurrection life through Jesus Christ. May that joy fill you up and fuel your journey as we continue down the highway of life, asking in the wake of the resurrection, "What now?" *Amen.*

Postlude:

St. James: *Song of Triumph*
St. Mark's: *Postludium*



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 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



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

April 30th – Ryan Binversie

*May 2nd – Luke Grunwald, Timothy Heckmann,
Brian Henschel, Layla Schultz*

4th – William Heckmann

5th – John VanDerMale

ANNIVERSARIES:

*April 30th – Gene & Kathy Kaestner
Thad & Crissy Athorp*

May 1st – Steven & Mary Jo Gabsch

2nd – Jared & Emily Urban

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."*

ROUND TABLE MEETING TODAY AT ST. MARK'S FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE (members of the Mission & Vision Team will lead the meeting). An additional Round Table Meeting will be held at both churches next week Sunday, May 7th, following the Worship Service.

CHURCH MINISTRY ASSESSMENT SURVEYS DUE TOMORROW, MONDAY, MAY 1ST. Your input is valuable, please take the time to share your opinion either on the Online survey (the link was emailed to you) or on the paper copy that is at your church.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 3 STUDY GROUP – Mon., May 1st, 10am/5pm at St. Mark's

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY – Monday, May 1st, 6:30pm

CONFIRMATION CLASS – Wednesday, May 3rd, 6-7:30 pm at St. Mark's

ST. JAMES CHOIR PRACTICE - Wed., May 3rd, 6:30pm

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY – Thursday, May 4th, 6:30pm

MISSION & VISION TEAM MEETING – Saturday, May 6th, 8-9am at St. Mark's

BRAT FRY

St James UCC

13312 Pioneer Road, Newton
(Spring Valley)

Wednesday, May 10, 2023
4 - 7 pm

Brats
Hamburgers
Chicken
Tortes

Take Outs Only

GPS

Grow – deeper in our faith and relationship with God.

Pray – pray daily for family, neighbors, and others.

Study – read the Bible, pray over what we read, ask questions.

Billy Graham gave us over 70 years of meaningful Christian guidance. As I contemplate the byways of Christian life, here are 10 he shares:

Read your Bible daily. Do not be content to skim through a chapter merely to satisfy your conscience. Hide the Word of God in your heart.

Learn the secret of prayer. Every prayer that you pray will be answered. Sometimes that answer may be “Yes” and sometimes “No,” and sometimes it is “Wait,” but nevertheless it will be answered.

Rely constantly on the Holy Spirit. We know that the Holy Spirit prays for us (Romans 8), and what a comfort that should be to the weakest of us.

Attend church regularly. The visible church is Christ’s organization upon earth. Christians need one another, we need to gather together to worship God, and nothing can take the place of church attendance.

Be a witnessing Christian. We witness in two ways: by life and by word – and the two, where possible, should go hand in hand.

Let love be the ruling principle of your life. Jesus said to those who followed Him, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:35).

Be an obedient Christian. Let Christ have first place in all.

Learn how to meet temptation. Temptation is not sin. It is *yielding* that is sin. Let Christ through the Holy Spirit do the fighting for you.

Be a wholesome Christian. Our lives and appearance should commend the Gospel and make it attractive to others.

Live above your circumstances. Don’t let your circumstances get you down. Learn to live graciously within them, realizing the Lord Himself is with you.

Notes: