



*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here! Caring Neighbors*

Sunday, August 6, 2023

St. James and St. Mark's United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Darryl Gumm, Worship Leader and Guest Speaker

Kathy Jurk, Organist

Sandy Perronne, Reader

Centering Words: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male or female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:28

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Jesus Loves Me

Announcements

Welcome: (Responsively)

Darryl Gumm

Good morning!

In the United Church of Christ, we believe our still-speaking God created all of us and loves all of us no matter who we are or where we are on life's journey. So, welcome, one and all, to this worship service!

Call to Worship: "Hearts & Hands" (Darryl Gumm (2005))

God gave us one heart and two hands to help each other.

Let's use them every day to spread God's grace;

To all God's hungry, sick and needy children;

So God can raise them up, through us, in love.

Opening Prayer:

Creator, healer and loving God, your greatness is evident in every amazing detail of the complex and beautiful creation you have blessed us with. Thank you for investing in us through your son, Jesus Christ, who has been and is our teacher, sustainer, and inspiration of the common good. Help us to recognize, appreciate and respect how fragile life is as we strive to live in ways that bring healing and wholeness to all of humanity. Amen.

♪ *They'll Know We Are Christians*

#31 Binder; Worship & Rejoice #595

Statement of Faith:

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father, and to his deeds we testify:

He calls the worlds into being, creates man in his own image and sets before him the ways of life and death.

He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

He judges men and nations by his righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, he has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.

He bestows upon us his Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

He calls us into his church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be his servants in the service of men, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

He promises to all who trust him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, his presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto him. Amen.

Young at Heart:



Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37 ESV *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

♪ *Christ For the World We Sing*
#373 Hymnal; Worship & Rejoice #561

Message:

'Our Beliefs Matter'

Darryl Gumm

Offering Invitation: (All together)

There is no end to the possibilities of God among us. If we endeavor to grow in love... If we open ourselves to creativity and imagination... If we dare to dream with hope... God will guide us on paths that heal and transform. With gratitude for the Holy work of Love in this place, we share our gifts, tithes and offerings.

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:

May Thy Whole Truth Be Spoken Here

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Holy One, Creator, Loving God, the work of our calloused hands and the healing of our calloused hearts belong to you. May this offering be the gift you seek, the presence you desire; and may it teach us to make real the loving touch of your grace as we strive to live life in accordance with your magnificent plan. *Amen.*

People's Prayer and 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.*

♪ *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

#10 Binder; Worship & Rejoice #72

Benediction:

As we leave this place, may God go with us. In the coming week, may we have the courage to lend our hands and heart to a needy world. Inspire us not only dream God's dream, but to live it.

May it be so. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Marche Romaine

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

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



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

August 9 - Courtney Binversie, Debbie Brickner

ANNIVERSARIES:

August 4 - Charlie & Ruth Ann Kolb

7 - Andrew & Abigail Peterson

9 - Ray & Debbie Brickner

10 - Richard & Linda Schroeder



ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING – Monday, August 7th, 6:30pm

HS YOUTH GROUP – Trip to Reins on Friday, August 11th.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH:

- Communion served during the Worship Service
- Burning of Parsonage Loan at St. Mark's
- HS Youth Meeting – 5:30pm at St. Mark's

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Aug. 15, 16, 17, 9am to noon. To register either go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44AFAD2EAAFEC25-grow>

or call the church office:
920.693.8361 or email Karen:
stmstjoffice@gmail.com


St. Marks U.C.C. & St. James U.C.C.
Invite you to

POLKA & POTLUCK

Come for an afternoon of good friends, good food and good ol' fashioned dancing.

Featuring Carl Laack

Please bring a dish to pass. You can sign up at your church or online using this QR code.

	DAY AUG. 26 TIME 2PM	Spring Hope Barn 11424 Spring Lake Rd Kiel, WI 53042
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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.

Additional Text: John 16:27; Jude 1:21; Psalm 36:7; Romans 5:8

I've always been fascinated with math. But don't confuse fascination with expertise. When I was pastor of New Bethel in Scottsville KY a church member of mine was also a teller at the bank I went to. I went in one day and filled out the deposit/withdraw slip and handed it over to the teller right next to her. My church member, in the meantime, was telling her that I was her pastor.

This teller looked at the slip I had handed to her and exclaimed; "this isn't right! Your math is all wrong." My church member looked at her and said, "I said he could preach! I never said he could add." 😊

When I look at math today, and the homework my daughter does, I am flummoxed, baffled, intrigued and in awe. How does this work? That can't be. That doesn't add up to what I think it should. It's beyond me!

I find this to be true with God's math as well. One man speaks before a multitude. He shares some words and thousands come to accept Christ as savior and Lord. That doesn't add up.

Jesus takes a few loaves of bread and some fish and feeds thousands of people with much left over. Huh?

Experienced fishermen fish all night and catch nothing. Jesus comes along and says – drop your nets there. The fisherman says, we've been casting our nets there all night. No fish to be had. But he does it anyway. Their nets are filled to overflowing – almost capsizing the boat. This doesn't add up.

One man goes to the cross, Jesus Christ. And the sum of all our sins are forgiven – by one man's love. By God's love. It doesn't add up, I am flummoxed, baffled, intrigued. I am in awe. Jesus loves you this I know...

NOTES:

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."*