



FROM ZERO TO  
**HERO**  
JUDGES 6

**Sunday, July 2, 2023**

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Kathy Jurk, Organist

Sandy Perronne, Reader

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

*American Hymn*

**Call to Worship: (Psalm 90)**

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

You return us to dust and say, "Return, o children of God!"

**For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past,  
or as a watch in the night.**

Let your work be shown to your servants and your glorious power to their children.

**Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.**

Let us pray together:

**Lord God, you hold me in the palm of your hand, protecting me from all evil. I live in your shelter, Almighty and Most High, even as I proclaim: You are my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust. When you call me, I will answer. May this worship service glorify you in all ways. Amen.**

♪ *Now Thank We All Our God*

Worship & Rejoice #14; Hymnal #72

**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.**

**Young at Heart:**



♪ *You Who Dwell In the Shelter of the Lord*

Worship & Rejoice #438; Insert

**Scripture Reading:**

Judges 6:11-16a ESV

*Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." And Gideon said to him, "Please, my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you."*

**Message:**

*An Unlikely Hero*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

♪ *Here I Am Lord*

Worship & Rejoice #559; Hymnal #13 Binder

**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:**

*Let There Be Peace On Earth*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

Faithful God, thank you for your gift of abundant, eternal life. Your generosity overflows to us. Everything we have is a gift from you. As we bring our offerings to you, we give back to you from the abundant blessings you have given us. May our gifts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our God. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, and power and strength, be unto you our God forever and ever. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, *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*.

♪ *Dwell In Me, O Blessed Spirit (Vs. 1, 2, 4)*

Insert; Hymnal #464

**Benediction:**

Renewed by the power of God's unconditional love and forgiveness; strengthened by the witness of Jesus to be of service to others, we go from this place rejoicing in the opportunities to serve our Lord in all that we do, and all that we are, and all that we will be. Go in peace and may the peace of God always be with you. *Amen*.

**Postlude:**

*Onward, Christian Soldiers*

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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)

# 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: Judges 6

The story of Gideon is a lesser known one to many. However, he plays a significant role in the history of the Israel nation. God sends an angel to commission Gideon to lead the Israelites. We might at first believe Gideon to be a mighty warrior – like David who slew the giant Goliath when he was but a young shepherd boy.

We might think that Gideon would have the strength of Sampson and the wisdom of Solomon. Afterall, only one of great stature can manage a task as big as this.

Yet, Gideon is a farmer – not a community leader. His is a smaller tribe. But isn't that just the type of person God tags time and time again to help heal, or lead, or bring about some significant change?

In a more current-contemporary time, there were 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence who helped wrought significant change for our nation. William Paca was a planter – a farmer.

Matthew Thornton “retired” and spent his remaining years farming and operating a ferry on the Merrimack. Abraham Clark was a farmer, surveyor and politician. Francis Hopkinson was a judge and lawyer by profession but also was a musician, poet and artist. John Witherspoon was a pastor. George Taylor came to the colonies as an indentured servant and eventually was an Ironmaster at the Warwick Furnace and Coventry Forge.

Many who have changed the course of history have humble backgrounds and simple beginnings. It's not power, wealth, or even authority that God looks for when commissioning someone. It's faith and heart.

God's blessings upon you all.

# NOTES:

**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.**



## Our Church Celebrations!

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

*July 2 – Matthew Lutze*

*4 – Brandon Cyr, Henry Langenhahn, Cody Mueller*

*6 – Heidi Belitz, Laurie Heckmann, Tom Kleinhans,  
Deb LaDuke, Wyatt Scharl*

*8 – Marissa Fitzgerald*

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

*July 5 – Kevin & Sherry Jump*

*8 – Larry & Sandy Perronne*

### **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."*



**ST. MARK'S/ST. JAMES RURAL CHURCH YOUTH VOLLEYBALL has a BYE this week and next week.**

July 9<sup>th</sup> – St. Mark's/St. James vs Immanuel/Bethel  
at Immanuel, 6:30pm

July 16<sup>th</sup> – St. Mark's/St. James vs Bethlehem at St. James, 6:30pm

July 23<sup>rd</sup> – St. Mark's/St. James – BYE week

July 30<sup>th</sup> – Volleyball Tournament, noon, at Bethlehem

**ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING – Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm**

**ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING – Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm**

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ 2023

Growing With God

August 15, 16, 17

9am to noon

at St. Mark's UCC



All children welcome!

# SPECIAL EVENTS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS.....



St. James and St. Mark's ladies join us for **BUNCO NIGHT**, Thursday, July 20th at 6:00 pm 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)

## JOINT OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE!

Sunday, July 23rd

10:00am at St. James

Hot dogs & potluck follow the Worship Service

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