



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
Detours
Guardrails &
Signs

Sunday, May 14, 2023
St. James United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor Ann Rodewald, Organist
Cindy Sohn, Choir Director Scott Siekman, Reader

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Peace in the Valley

Call to Worship:

Wisdom cries out in the streets.

We hear and struggle to understand.

Come and listen to the words of life and love.

We hear and proclaim our faith in the one who brings life.

Let us worship the God of life and wisdom,
whose words guide our life on the right paths.

Prayer:

Loving and caring God, we come this morning seeking wisdom and guidance for our lives. Open us to your words of life and love and truth. May we proclaim with our tongues what we know in our hearts. In this time of worship, help us more fully understand what it means to truly be a disciple, a follower of the way of Jesus, a follower of the path of wisdom. May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, our rock and our redeemer. *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.

Mother's Day Prayer:

Lord and Ruler of all that is seen and unseen, we approach your throne on behalf of the mothers whom you have entrusted with the care of your most precious little ones.

We thank you for creating each mom with a unique combination of gifts and talents. We thank you for the sacrifice of self each mom gives for her children. For the late nights spent rocking a colicky infant. For the hands calloused from washing, wiping, scrubbing, mixing, baking, stirring, hugging, patting, disciplining, holding, writing, erasing, painting, and pouring. We thank you for the gift of time moms give for their kids, whether it's stay-at-home moms, working moms, and moms who have some combination of the two. We thank you for the flexibility of moms, for their tirelessness, their perseverance, and their devotion.

We pray you give each mom strength. Help her to see in every mundane task the almighty and eternal importance you place on motherhood. Help her to understand that the most radical, world-changing events may be happening in her own home.

We especially pray for single moms, who must lean solely on you for the fathering of their children. We thank you that your big arms surround children who may never know their earthly father. We also pray for mothers who never had the honor of bearing children but whose nurturing extends to the many poor and needy who cross the threshold of their lives.

May you be the daily bread of tired mothers; their living water; and their source of spiritual and physical strength. May each mother find rest in you!

Most of all, Lord, on this day in which we honor mothers, may we love and cherish the special women who have born us, who have nurtured us, and who have prayed for our well-being. May our hearts overflow with gratitude to you, who formed and knitted each of us in a mother's womb. *Amen.* [excerpt from D. Darling]

Young at Heart:



St. James Choir Anthem:

St. Mark's: (#476)

*In This Fellowship of Faith
I Need Thee Every Hour*

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 5:15-17; Proverbs 27:12 ESV
Ephesians 5:15-17 ESV *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

Proverbs 27:12 ESV *The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.*

Message: Guardrails: Avoiding Regrets in Life

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

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:

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

In Retrospect

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

God, we hear and we respond to your words of wisdom, your words of call and life. May these gifts, not only of our money, but of our very selves—our words, our thoughts, our actions—be acceptable to you, and help spread your words of life and love. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending:

St. James: (#4)

St. Mark's: (#438)

*Come, Thou Almighty King
On Eagle's Wings*

Benediction:

Go forth with the words of wisdom crying in your ears. Go forth with songs of hope singing in your heart. Know that you are called to be faithful followers of the One who will always be near you, will always guide and encourage you to walk the path of life. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Festal Postlude



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.

****Today is the last day of Sunday School for
summer break for 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:

May 14th - Alice Broehm

16th - Andrew Peterson, Jr.

19th - Jean Henschel, Carson Spindler

20th - Noreen Flook

ANNIVERSARIES:

May 14th - Tim & Amanda Russart

16th - Warren & Karen Vandoske

18th - Pat & Noreen Flook

20th - Brian & Sheila Hemb

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."

SOCIAL TODAY following the worship service at St. James.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 3 STUDY GROUP – Monday, May 15th, 10am/5pm
at St. Mark's

HS YOUTH MEETING – Next week Sunday, May 21st, 5:30pm, St. James.



**Bunco night, Thursday May 18th at
6:00 pm at St. James.**

**St James and St Mark's ladies welcome!
Please join us and RSVP to
Jackie Mueller or Tammy Serketich or
email tserketich@yahoo.com**

VISION OF HOPE – 6:30pm next week
Monday, May 22nd

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES due Tuesday, May
23rd. Email them to Karen at:
stmstjoffice@gmail.com

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE, Monday, May
29th, 8:15am at St. James Cemetery by the
Wagner-Eberle-Sukawoty American Legion
Post in St Nazianz

THERE'S ROOM FOR ONE MORE!

We have 16 youth and adults going to Cleveland OH for mission work through Next Step Ministries. The dates are July 16 - 21st. And we have one open spot we are trying to fill. Anyone may go who is 16 or older with written permission from a parent or if 18 and older, no permission form needed!

We're still doing fundraising, although the funds for 17 "missionaries" are covered - except for a \$50.00 payment you would need to make. If you are interested in joining us, or know of someone who is, let me know.

You can contact me via email or phone
(Cell: 608-352-9544)

Thank you!
Pastor Patrick

BRAT FRY

Location: Tietz's Piggly Wiggly
714 S. Wisconsin Drive
Howards Grove, Sheboygan

When: Saturday, June 3, 2023
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Also... **BAKE SALE** - Baked items will be
available for good will offering

St. Marks UCC is raising funds for a **youth mission trip**.
Our destination - **Cleveland, Ohio** through Next Step Ministries.

We will be **servicing the community** by doing yard work, small
construction projects, working at the local food bank, and more.

Help us **provide our youth** the opportunity to
build new **relationships**, connect with the **community**, and
have an **experience** they will never forget.

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.

A guardrail is a system designed to keep vehicles from straying into dangerous or off-limit areas. We use guardrails all the time although we don't pay attention to them until we need one.

The interesting thing about guardrails is that guardrails are not usually located in the most dangerous part of the road. Guardrails are actually located and constructed in areas where you could actually drive. The point of a guardrail isn't to say, don't drive onto this particular area. The point of a guardrail is that just beyond that is a point of danger: oncoming traffic, curves, mountainsides, edges of bridges... Theoretically speaking, guardrails are constructed in areas where you *could* drive, but guardrails are there to keep us from moving into an area where there's actual danger. No one has ever regretted establishing a guardrail – but there are plenty of people who look back and wish there *had* been a guardrail.

Consider the parts of life in which we tread very dangerous grounds... name them with me: drinking and driving, infidelity, theft, cheating on your taxes, cutting corners at work, drugs, being emotionally – physically – psychologically abusive, racism, bullying... the list goes on, right? So, what if we consider a new definition for guardrails?

How about this: A guardrail is a personal standard of behavior that becomes a matter of conscience. These standards are given to us (the foundation of them at least) through the law or judicial systems. Through experience and learning from others. And at the very core of our understanding and learning is our Bible, Christian teachings/learnings, and the mentoring of Christian leaders.

What areas in your life need guardrails?

Prayer: Lord, be our guardrail against all evil. Endear within us the strong desire to learn more about your wishes and guidance. Fill us with the strength and courage to act as you would have us. *Amen.*

Notes: