



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 7, 2023
St. James United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Randy Sohn, Organist

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Joys Are Flowing like a River

Call to Worship: (Romans 10)

The Word is near us in this place. God's presence is everywhere.

We come to God's house to praise God's name!

The Word is near us in this place. God's glory is everywhere.

We come to God's house to confess our belief in the risen Lord!

The Word is near us in this place. God's power is everywhere.

We come to God's house to believe in God!

The Word is near us in this place. God's love and acceptance are everywhere.

We come to God's house to be saved!

Opening Prayer:

Almighty and most gracious God, we give you thanks for this day and for calling us here to your house of worship. We gather to praise your name, for your faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Signs of your faithfulness are all around us:

**love, mercy, forgiveness, new life,
and the gifts of your Son, Jesus Christ,
and the Holy Spirit.**

Help us claim your faithfulness as we seek to increase our faithfulness to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: #12

For the Beauty of the Earth

Young at Heart:



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.

Hymn: #43

When Morning Gilds the Skies

Scripture Reading:

Genesis 37:18-28 ESV

They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

Message:

Detours

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

Sacrament of Holy Communion:

Blessed are you, O God, who with your Word and Holy Spirit created all things and called them good. In Jesus Christ your Word became flesh and came to dwell among us. Through Jesus' suffering and death, you destroyed the power of sin and death. You raised from the dead this same Jesus, who now reigns with you in glory, and poured upon us your Holy Spirit, making us the people of your new covenant.

On the night of the last supper Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said *“Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”*

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said: *“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

We now offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ’s offering for us. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for you the body of Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and 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:

Praise Him! Praise Him!

~ The offering is brought to the altar ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

There are many ways to respond to God's faithfulness, love, and mercy in our lives. We come now, seeking to be faithful disciples of Jesus; God bless our tithes, gifts, and offerings to the greater good and to your glory. *Amen.*

Hymn of Sending: #373

Christ for the World

Benediction:

May the God of Jacob, Joseph, Reuben, and Judah;
Peter, James, John, and Andrew;
Mary, Martha, Ruth, and Lydia,
grant you grace to abide in God’s love,
give you peace to abide in God's forgiveness,
and the power to live in God's faithfulness. Go now to love and serve our Lord in all that you do, all that you are, and all that you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

Go Forth With Joy

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.*



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

May 7th - David Lutze

8th - JoAnn Grant, Henley Hermann

13th - Katie Belitz, Alyssa Boutelle

ANNIVERSARIES:

May 9th - Jamey & Amanda Binversie

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 BOTH CHURCHES FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE. Members of the Mission & Vision Team will lead the meeting

HS YOUTH MEETING – TODAY- 5:30pm at St. Mark's.

THE CHOSEN SEASON 3 STUDY GROUP – Mon., May 8th, 10am/5pm at St. Mark's

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

BRAT FRY

Wednesday May 10th

4 - 7 pm



Brats * Hamburgers * Chicken * Dessert

St James UCC

Spring Valley
13312 Pioneer Rd., Newton



Ladies,
wear your hats to
church at St James on
Mother's Day,
May 14th at our 9:00
am service.

BUNCO

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

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.

Detours happen. We're on the journey of life, heading down the highway, but then life hands us something and our journey of life is no longer going the way we thought it would go. We detour.

Phil Hansen, an artist specializing in pointillism, developed a tremor in his hand. Pointillism is a very fine, precise art form where hundreds of thousands of dots (points) make a grand picture visible when you take a step back. His dream had been to become an artist known for excellent pointillism, but with the shake that dream faded away.

Devastated, he stepped away from art until a neurologist suggested he “embrace the shake.” What does that even mean? In time, Phil began to explore art once more and what he realized is that limitations have a way of inspiring creativity. When life doesn't go the way you had planned you can step away, walk away, run away(?) Or, you can think creatively. Necessity breeds creativity, right?

He began to think of his art form being performed with limited resources. And he asked himself a question, what would my art look like if all I had was a banana and a needle. He sat down with his needle and banana and proceeded to create a picture of the creation of Adam.

He explored other venues of expression with Starbucks coffee Cups, black and white imagery of Bruce Lee by karate chopping the canvas after dipping his hand in to the ink. He realized that his expressionism was at a dead-end, rather he had merely detoured. On this detour he discovered gifts he never would have known. Life is a journey of detours. What new gifts will you discover?



Will our detours define us, or will they take us to new heights?

Notes:

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