



**Sunday, November 19, 2023**  
**St. Mark's United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Kathy Jurk/Randy Sohn, Organist  
Lori Roelse, Reader

*"Those who trust in the Lord are like Mt. Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever." (Ps 124:1)*

Meditative Music  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship:  
St. Mark's  
St. James

*Chorale Prelude on "Gott Sei Dank"*  
*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

## **Call to Worship:**

L: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

**P: God, we delight in your creation. We thank you for soft breezes, crisp apples, and changing seasons that remind us of your presence and provision.**

L: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

**P: God, we delight in our connectedness. We thank you for friends who check in, for church family who lift one another up, for neighbors who show up in the good and challenging times.**

L: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

**P: God, we delight in your peace that dwells among us. We give thanks for neighbors who offer help in times of trouble, gentleness in the midst of pain, and acts of kindness during seasons of struggle.**

L: Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving and rejoicing!

**P: Come! Let us worship God together.**

## **Prayer:**

**God of Grace, God of Mercy, God of Abounding Plenty, thank you for calling us friend, for being with us always, for reaching out to us when we have turned from you. We cannot stand on our own; we fall into death without you. We fall from faith, left to our own. We are friendless without you.**

**You fill us with joy. Your love carries us on our darkest days. Today, let us give faithfully back to you in heart, soul and mind, body and spirit. Let our faith be known to others through our generosity in building your kingdom here on earth.**  
*Amen*

## **Hymn:**

**St. Mark's (#248)**

**St. James (#23)**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light  
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

**[Please Be Seated]**



**Young at Heart:**

## **Prayer of Confession:**

Faithful God, we confess that we do not give attention to the things that are of you. We listen to rumors and gossip instead of what is true and honorable. We do not hold fast to justice. We do not train our hearts on what is pure and pleasing to you. In our words and our deeds, we stray from all that is commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise. We do not attend to all we have received and learned of your good news, and so we do not live in peace with you or with our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray. Free us to live as your grateful people.

*Silent prayers of confession.*

## Words of Assurance:

Rejoice! and receive the good news: God listens to us when we pray. God hears our confession and saves us by grace. May the peace of God guard us in mind, heart, body and soul now and forever. Thanks be to God! *Amen.*

## The 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.*

## Reading:

*Psalm 123 (ESV)*

*To you I lift up my eyes,  
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!  
Behold, as the eyes of servants  
look to the hand of their master,  
as the eyes of a maidservant  
to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,  
till he has mercy upon us.  
Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us,  
for we have had more than enough of contempt.  
Our soul has had more than enough  
of the scorn of those who are at ease,  
of the contempt of the proud.*

## Hymn:

St. Mark's (#466)

St. James (#256)

*Take My Life and Let It Be  
Lord, Speak to Me*

## Reading:

*Philippians 4:4-13 (ESV)*

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is*

*anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*

*I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

**Message:**

*The Disinherited*

**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. Mark's

St. James

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

*Prayer*

*God Sends Us Along*

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

Lord of peace and serenity, receive the gifts we bring this day as we present them in thankfulness and joy. We bring ourselves as our offering, that in living lives of truth, justice, honor, and excellence, we might please you and be worthy of your never-failing love and presence with us. Grateful that Christ and the Holy Spirit might dwell in us, we pray in Jesus' holy name. *Amen.* [Phil 4:4-13]

**People's Prayer ~ 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.*

**Hymn:**

St. Mark's (#342)

St. James (#476)

*Rejoice, the Lord is King!*

*Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing*

**Benediction:**

May God's peace follow you wherever you go, guiding and guarding you, that you may live in joy and thanksgiving with God, self, neighbor, and all creation. Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are, and all that you will be. *Amen.*

**Postlude:**

St. Mark's

St. James

*In His Holy Name*

*Praise Him With Trumpets*



## Our Church Celebrations!

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

*November 21 – Isabella Dexter, Cheyenne Spindler  
22 – Allison Luckow, Jonathan Meyer, Reina Scharl  
23 – Keri LaDuke-Rafeld, Wendy Meyer  
24 – Alex Perronne*

### **ANNIVERSARIES :**

*November 20 – Rowan & Katelynn Sibley  
21 – Keith & Michelle Mauk  
25 – Henry & Bonnie Langenhahn*

### **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 meets 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](http://www.stmstjucc.org)

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)



**ST. MARK'S – SIGN UP** either in on the paper in the church entryway or online for your choice of month to usher in 2024.

**ST. MARK'S** – Are you looking for a way to brighten the Christmas of a family in need? **CHECK THE GIVING TREE** in the church entryway for opportunities! St. Mark's has 'adopted' a family through Manitowoc County Human Services. The wrapped labeled (with the recipient and contents) gifts are due back at church on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The tree contains the same list that is available on Sign Up Genius, both lists are updated regularly.

**HS YOUTH GROUP MEETING** – TODAY., Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm at St. Mark's

**FALL STUDY GROUP** – Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 10am/5pm at St. Mark's. Bring your Bible.

**THANKGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE WITH COMMUNION**, Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm at St. James

**NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, IS MEMORIAL SUNDAY**, a time to prayerfully remember all who have entered Eternal Life this past church year.

**ST. JAMES VISION OF HOPE** meets next Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm.



## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Our joint SMJ Youth, as well as St. Mark's Sunday School, are collecting items for girls & boys ages 5-9. This month we're collecting toys. Monetary gifts are also accepted.

Ideas: **Ball**      **Toy cars**      **Yo-Yo**      **\*Etch A Sketch®**

**\*Slinky®**      **Interactive toy**      **Kaleidoscope**      **Building blocks**

**Other small toys and figures**      **Small board games**      **Small doll**

**Plastic dinosaurs, animals, and action figures**      **\*smaller versions of these items**

## ST. MARK'S COOKIE EXCHANGE

If you would like to participate in a cookie exchange, sign up on the sheet in the church entry. Package your cookies in groups of 6 in bags, boxes, or plates. Signups are due by Saturday, December 9. I will let you know by Sunday, December 10 how many half-dozens to bring. Have your cookies at St. Mark's by 9:00 am on Sunday, December 17. After the church service, you will have a beautiful assortment of cookies to take home. A maximum of 12 people may participate. \*If you would like to bring extras for Pastor to take along on his home visits, that would be welcomed as well. questions.



-Contact Lori Roelse with

**SUPPORT  
THE MISSION TEAM**  
To Elliot County, Kentucky

**KWIK TRIP CAR WASH CARDS**

**\$36 FOR 5 ULTIMATE CAR WASHES (VALUED AT \$50)**

It's that time of year! Time to gather those last-minute gifts and stocking stuffers for family, friends, teachers, co-workers, you name it. It's the perfect gift for any driver; salt and cars don't mix!

Available NOW through Dec. 22nd!

CONTACT: ANNA MARIE BRAMSTEDT (920)698-7656 OR ANY OTHER MEMBER

## 2024 Mission Trip Elliott County, Kentucky

Our Trip will be: July 14-19, 2024

All are welcome!

We held our first mission trip meeting but there is still time for you to join!

To reserve your spot, please contact Anna Marie Bramstedt with your \$50 (non-refundable) deposit. I have 35 spots held until November 20th (first come, first serve). After that spots are no longer guaranteed, they are dependent then on Next Step Missionaries availability.

Any further questions, please contact Anna Marie Bramstedt @ 920.698.7656 or jaab93000@tds.net

**Contact Anna Marie Bramstedt by Sunday evening, Nov. 19th, if you want to go along on the Mission Trip this summer. She is calling in the reservation number early Monday morning.**

\*If any interest arises after Sunday, keep in touch with Anna Marie as spots may still be available, just not guaranteed.



# 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.

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice”*. Who comes to your mind when you hear “rejoice”? Why do you think the person acts that way? What might you learn from the person?

“This is not to say, even here on the threshold of Thanksgiving, that there isn’t room for grief or sadness. Suffering strikes even during the holiday season. Some might be dreading gathering with family, knowing there is pain there... We don’t ask to accept the brokenness or endure abuse but note that we see beyond the pain of the moment to the wholeness that is offered. We give thanks for the promises of God, even when we can’t feel them at the moment.”

How have you experienced this? Can you think of someone who needs to hear those words? How might you reach out to them?

“Joy, says Paul, is revealed in gentleness, in how we treat those around us, in how we respond to slights against us, and in how we reach out to those who are hurt. *“Let your gentleness be known to everyone,”* says Paul.

Let it show. Joy is found in the knowledge and experience of the nearness of God, a nearness that diminishes anxiety and brings out a willingness to connect with God with gratitude and with hope (*in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God*). Joy is found in that communion, that peaceful confidence that comes from living in Christ”

**Prayer:** Loving God, we give thanks for your many blessings in our lives. We pray that your peace, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds as we bring our anxieties to you. In this week of Giving Thanks, help us cultivate a spirit of thankfulness in our daily lives and express our gratitude not only in words but also in our actions. *Amen.*

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## NOTES: