



**Sunday, October 15, 2023, Mission Fest
St. James United Church of Christ**

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor

Randy Sohn, Organist Cindy Sohn, Choir Director

Guest Speaker: Jessica Jensema, Exec. Dir. Project Angel Hugs

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” — Luke 23:42

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

Call to Worship: [Adapted from Matt. 5:14,16; 1 Cor. 9:23, Isa. 6:8]

L: Jesus said: You are the light of the world.

P: Let our light shine, giving glory to God.

L: Do all things for the sake of the gospel.

P: So may we share in the blessings of God.

L: He called out: Whom shall I send?

P: I answered: Here I am; send me.

Prayer:

We praise God, who is known to us in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We pray for God to bless us so that we may be a blessing to others. We pray for Jesus to be with us, as he promised to be, whenever we gather in his name. We pray for the Spirit to make our worship holy, joyful, and true. *Amen.*

Choral Anthem:

We All Are One

[Please Be Seated]



Young at Heart:

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Words of Assurance:

God promises to always love and forgive us — even when we don't follow God's way, or when we do things that hurt others. Everyone is sinful which is why we confess our sin together. When we confess our sin, we say that we are sorry for these things; we ask God to forgive us and help us live new lives. Because Jesus lived and died and rose again for us, we know that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. "Thanks be to God."

Hymn: #435

Praise to God, Immortal Praise

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 66:19 ESV
and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations.

Message:

Angel Hugs Project, Plymouth, WI

Jessica Jensema

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 ~

Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:

Let it be a joy to come to the altar and bring our gifts, our offerings and tithes. Our giving may be sacrificial or painful. But we give cheerfully knowing what we have to offer will be multiplied many times over for the betterment of others. *Amen.*

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: #16 - Binder

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Benediction:

Now to him who, by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us, is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, always and forever.

Go now with the words of God's commission on your heart: Go to love and serve the Lord through acts of generosity, kindness, love, forgiveness, and compassion in all that you do, all that you are, and all you will be. To the glory of his kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. *Amen.*

Postlude:



Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

October 15th – Denise Heling

20th – Todd Grunwald, Aric Jump, Joe Klapperich

21st – Chelsea Langenhahn

ANNIVERSARIES :

October 16th – Zachary & Sadie Koenig

Keri LaDuke-Rafeld & Jason Rafeld

17th – Ben & Cheyenne Behnke

19th – Cameron & Marissa Fitzgerald

20th – Milton & LaVern Wippermann

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

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



**CARRY OUT HAM DINNER
FOLLOWING TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE ☺ \$14 per meal**

FALL STUDY GROUP – Mon., Oct.16, 10am/5pm at St. Mark's. Bring your Bible.

JOINT CONSISTORY MEETING- Monday, Oct. 16th, 6pm at St. James

ST. JAMES ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL – 6:30pm, **Tuesday**, Oct. 17th

UNITED MEN & WOMEN'S BANQUET – at St. James on Thurs., Oct. 19th. For more information contact Lori Roelse or Scott Henschel.

HS YOUTH GROUP- Meet next week Sunday, Oct. 22nd, at 5:30pm at St. James.



OUR JOINT SMJ YOUTH, AS WELL AS ST. MARK'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, ARE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD for girls & boys ages 5-9. This month we're collecting clothing and personal care items.

Ideas: comb or brush, toothpaste, washcloth, fun adhesive bandages, reusable eating utensils, nail clipper & file, clothing & undergarments, wristwatch or jewelry, flipflops/shoes, hats, sunglasses, bags/backpacks/purses, hair accessories, flashlight, cold weather items.

Grieving?

Know someone who is?



When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our **Surviving the Holidays** seminar helps participants discover:

- How to deal with emotions
- What to do about traditions
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to find hope for the future

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Please join us for this encouraging seminar.

GRIEF SHARE®


www.griefshare.org/holidays

Saturday, November 4, 9-11am
Call today for more information
(920) 452-6520

Sponsored by Sheboygan eFree Church
www.e-free-family.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.

The idea of truly surrendering our needs to God and resting on his lap as serenely as a nursing baby is *very* difficult. We want to be self-sufficient. We don't want to rely on anyone else – even God. Often to our detriment. And often at risk of playing our part in God's grander plan. So, how do we get to this point of dependency on God in our lives?

- 1) We must recognize our own grasping, self-sufficient tendencies.
- 2) We must ask God for sensitivity to the ways we try to satisfy our needs without depending on him.
- 3) We must ask God to show us what our real needs are.
- 4) Finally, we just wait patiently for God to show us how he wants to meet our needs.

God will usually meet our needs through the ordinary means he has already placed in our hands – or the people who are already close to us. When we accept and engage in God's provisions it will be quite different than it was before. We will now realize God at work within us. The praise for our accomplishments will now be directed to God as will all honor and glory.

Sometimes God will satisfy our needs in ways completely beyond us and we will be surprised at how our needs being met fits with some grander plan. These are the moments of our lives to be treasured for a lifetime. Moments when we know beyond a doubt that God cares for us and that there is nothing he cannot or will not do for us.

Prayer: O Lord, when we are seeking peace of heart and mind, let us turn to you. Your grace is sufficient unto us. That grace alone, an undeserved and unearned gift, sets us free to love as you have loved us. May we see the world through your eyes. Feel the world through your heart. Hear the cries of need through your ears. And respond as with the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. We are one body in Christ now and always. *Amen.*

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."*