

TO BE SENT BY  
**JESUS**  
IS TO BE SENT  
**AS JESUS**

**Sunday, September 10, 2023**  
**St. James and St. Mark's United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Ann Rodewald, Organist      Scott Siekman, Reader

“You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.”  
Acts 20:20

Meditative Music

Bells Ring

Prelude Gathering for Worship:

*The Lord's My Shepherd*

L: In the presence of God who has created and is creating,

**P: we come with excitement and expectation.**

L: In the presence of God who has come in Jesus our Christ,

**P: we come with hunger and hope.**

L: In the presence of God who works in us and others by the Spirit,

**P: we come with amazement and joy.**

L: Let us worship God.

**Prayer:**

God of young and old and in-between, you invite us to share in the new life Christ brings. You value each person here. You welcome us. You declare that whoever we are and however we have come to be here, we are a family – your family. And so here, at home with you, we gather for worship and praise in Christ’s name. *Amen.*

**Hymn:**

St. James (#461)  
St. Mark’s (#397)

*Savior Like a Shepherd  
The Gift of Love*

**[Please Be Seated]**

**Young at Heart:**



**A Time of Renewal/Re-creation:**

Gracious God, you are the source of all our yearning and desire for fullness of life; you are the vision that helps us continue to dream.

**Forgive us when we fall short of your hopes for us and help us to become so filled with the joy of your presence that we might live each moment with gratitude and receive every person in our life as a precious gift, through Christ, with Christ and in Christ we pray.**

Thanks be to God for the Spirit who lives in us. Praise be to God who is always working things together for good.

**We are loved.**

**We are forgiven.**

God is in the turning, while turning our lives around.

**God is beyond us.**

**God is between us.**

**God is within us.**

**We believe that, with God’s help, we will continue to grow spiritually, as individuals and as a Christian community, reaching out to all brothers and sisters with love and respect. Amen.**

**Hymn:**

St. James (#207)  
St. Mark’s (#350)

*Jesus Calls Us  
The Summons*

**Scripture Reading:**

Acts 20:18b-24 NIV

*When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.*

*"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.*

**Message:***Sent Forth By Jesus Christ***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:***Give Thanks*

*~ The offering is brought to the altar ~*

**Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

**It is the Spirit that gives life to all our good works. Therefore, let the Spirit move us so our good works may shine and share God's message of love for all. Multiply these gifts with your blessing, O God, and may they be used for your work of justice and joy. *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:**

St. James (#282)  
St. Mark's (#466)

*Faith of Our Fathers!  
Take My Life and Let It Be*

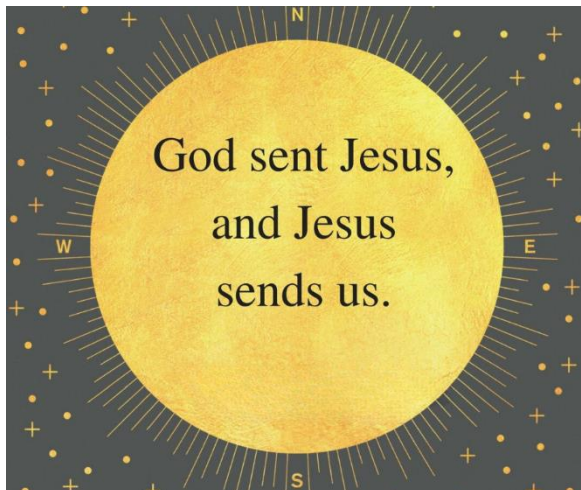
**Benediction:**

Risen Lord, you have ascended, but we remain. As you prayed that we should not be taken out of the world, send us now into the world. Keep us one as we depart and keep us faithful as we go.

Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that your do, all that you are and all that you will be to the glory of God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. *Amen.*

**Postlude:**

*Chorus Of Praise*



***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.***

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)

# Staying Close, Staying Connected

## Our Church Celebrations!

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

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> - Cole Binversie, Tammy Serketich

11<sup>th</sup> - Barbara Pragalz, Mike Spindler

12<sup>th</sup> - Dianne Kaczmariski, Dawson Luckow, Douglas Luebke,  
Mason Scharl, Randy Sohn

15<sup>th</sup> - Alexa Rae Dexter

### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> - Scott & Tammy Dexter

15<sup>th</sup> - Amy & Karl Christianson

16<sup>th</sup> - Tom & Cora Kleinhans



**TODAY IS BUILDING FUND SUNDAY!**

**ST. JAMES CONSISTORY-** Monday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm

**SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES AT BOTH CHURCHES NEXT WEEK SUNDAY, SEPT. 17<sup>TH</sup>, 9 TO 10AM.** See the newsletter articles from each church for more information. *Invite a friend, your cousins, your grandkids and the neighborhood kids to join us!*

## Fall Study Group

Two four-week long back-to-back sessions.

Study begins: **Monday, September 18**

**10:00 AM & 5:00 PM (possibly 5:30 PM)**  
at St. Mark's UCC

**AUTHENTIC  
FORGIVENESS**



**FACING  
YOUR FEARS**



**NEW FALL STUDY GROUP BEGINS** Monday, September 18, 10:00 AM & 5:00 PM (possibly 5:30 PM) at St. Mark's UCC. There are no books or other material to purchase. You will need to bring your Bible. If planning on attending, either email or call the church office with your preferred time ([stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com) or 920.693.8361) Feel free to invite a friend, another church member, a neighbor or co-worker to join us. Good for ages 18 and up!

## Cornhole Get -Together for the Guys of St. James & St. Mark's

October 1st  
2:00  
at St. James

Refreshments Provided

# BUNCO



St. James and St. Mark's ladies join us for **BUNCO NIGHT**, Thursday, Sept. 21st 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)



# 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 Readings: Romans 9:1-4a, 2 Cor 4:8-12, 1 Cor 9:18, 23

“A leader’s calling is to shepherd the flock by being willing to die for it.” Strong words indeed. Yet, this is the theme of this passage. In it, Paul teaches three things about suffering: 1) Christians take on suffering that they can easily avoid because of their commitment to the gospel of Christ, a cause that makes such suffering worthwhile. 2) People will be motivated to suffer for the gospel when they see their leaders suffer for it. 3) Leaders not only suffer for the gospel, but they also suffer for those whom they lead.

Underlying Paul’s message is encouragement. Paul visits each city, and encouragement is indicated by the use of the word *parakaleo* three different times. Translated it means **to call to or for, encouragement**.

Paul, as an evangelistic preacher is an encourager. In the Bible evangelism and encouragement are often done by the same person – a healthy balance for anyone doing evangelism. There is no place in the Bible for a specialist evangelist who concentrates solely on his public ministry, leaving personal ministry to others.

Like God, Paul encouraged the people through three means. 1) God encourages us through his presence expressed in the incarnation of Christ and through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. 2) Just as God encourages us through his Word, so too human encouragers do it by expounding the Word in teaching. 3) As God encourages us through his actions on our behalf, we encourage others through deeds of kindness. Where do you find encouragement in your ministry?

Prayer: Almighty God, God of all, subservient to none, hear our prayers. Grant us the courage to do your ministry – especially when it challenges us, inconveniences us, and especially when we face great sacrifice in the face of carrying out the mission you placed upon us. *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."*