



Sunday, September 24, 2023
St. James and St. Mark's United Church of Christ
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor
Ann Rodewald, Organist
Jacob Grunwald, Reader

*What sort of gathering are we? A full-blown church of rock-solid disciples
or something different? Something... messier?*

Meditative Music
Bells Ring
Prelude Gathering for Worship

Call to Worship:

L: Awaken us O Lord, to this new day of rest and renewal.

P: Renew our spirits in this time of worship. Give us rest in the busyness of our day.

L: Bind us O Lord, to you in all ways.

P: Let your will be our will today and always.

L: Bless us O Lord, that we may fully realize who you would have us be.

P: Let your blessings be an outpouring through us to those around us.

Prayer:

O God of those who have gone before us, our hearts swell with thankfulness as we enter this sanctuary. We come knowingly and admittedly recognizing the differences among us. And we come gratefully, with great joy, knowing there is a place for all of us. May our time together be a celebration of your grace, mercy, and love. Amen.

Hymn:

St. James (#30)

St. Mark's (#654)

[Please Be Seated]

*Come, We Who Love the Lord
Holy Ground*

Teachers' Installation and Young at Heart:

[See Insert]



Prayer of Confession:

Compassionate and Merciful God, in our worst moments we dislike ourselves, maybe despise ourselves. We are easily tricked by voices other than your own. We are easily led down paths not of your choosing. We are easily swayed into choices that are destructive to us personally and relationally. When we should seek to know you more deeply and more dearly our vision is clouded by self-ambition and self-concern. Forgive us God, as we repent. Have mercy on us, as we confess. Be graceful and grant us one more chance.

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.

Hymn:

St. James (#280)
St. Mark's (#486)

*Blest Be The Tie That Binds
Have Thine Own Way, Lord!*

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 100:3 ESV

Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Psalm 100:3; 1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV

1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

Message:

Messy Church: Where Nobody Fits; But Everyone Belongs

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, 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 to 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:

St. James (#406)
St. Mark's (#496)

*In Christ There Is No East or West
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

Benediction:

Precious God, today, as in days past, you have blessed us with your presence in this place. Now, as we leave, go with us that your blessings may be shared with those who are most different from us.

Go now to love and serve the Lord in all that you do, all that you are, and all you will be. *Amen.*

Postlude:

St. James is hosting a social time with refreshments following today's church service.



**NEXT SUNDAY, OCT. 1ST,
we celebrate
WORLD COMMUNION
and
NEIGHBORS IN NEED
OFFERING SUNDAY.**



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

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

Staying Close, Staying Connected

Our Church Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK TO:

*September 24th - Claire Clemens, Jon Luckow,
Michelle Luckow, Geraldine Scheffler
26th - Richard Binversie, Daniel Sohn
27th - Eion Heling, Sandra Kracht-Jones
30th - Olivia Bramstedt*

ANNIVERSARIES:

*September 26th - Steve & Jenny Schnelle
28th - Jon & Diane Luckow
Charlie & Joanie Mohr
Jay & Dawn Schnelle
30th - Jason & Anna Marie Bramstedt*



HS YOUTH GROUP MEETS TONIGHT, 5:30pm at St. James.

FALL STUDY GROUP, TOMORROW, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH - 10am/5pm at St. Mark's. Bring your Bible.

ST. JAMES ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL - 6:30pm, Wed., Sept. 27th



TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR THE UNITED CHURCH MEN AND WOMEN'S SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET to be held at 6:30 on Thursday, October 19 at St. James.

St. Mark's and St. James are hosting this year's banquet. We would love to have several of our members in attendance as we recognize people pursuing a career in ministry. Contact Lori Roelse or Scott Henschel for tickets. Cost is \$18 per person. Tickets need to be requested by October 1.

Lori can be reached at 920-946-3540 or laroelse@gmail.com



St. James Mission Fest!

St. James UCC

13312 Pioneer Rd, Newton WI 53063

Ham Dinner Carry outs only

Sunday, October 15, 2023

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Please join us in worship at 10:00 am.

Guest speaker from Project Angel Hugs.

Dinner will include: Ham, German Potato Salad, Corn, Applesauce, Coleslaw, Dinner Rolls, Pumpkin or Apple Pie

Cost: \$14.00 per meal

Thank you for supporting "Our Church's Wider Mission".

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: Luke 19:1-10; Matthew 14:13-21

The New Testament is rife with stories of acceptance from walks of all life. As a swindling tax collector – chief tax collector actually – Zacchaeus was not welcome in his community and probably didn't welcome many to his home. Yet here is Jesus opening closed doors by inviting himself to tea! God the Father welcomes us through Jesus with arms open wide. How are we going to respond? How are we going to share this welcoming Jesus with others?

On a Galilean hillside Jesus challenged his disciples to feed a crowd of 5,000 men plus women and children. They were able to put together a few loaves of bread and some fish. But that was it. Jesus accepted these, blessed them, broke the bread and both bread and fish were multiplied. He then asked his disciples to share with the large crowd. A crowd of people from all over the region. Mixed ethnicity. Uncertain belief. Language barriers. Animosity of one to another? What a mixture!

The disciples must have wondered how they would ever feed so many. Nevertheless, we know the rest of the story: there were twelve baskets of leftovers, representing the twelve tribes of Judah.

Throughout his life Jesus shared meals with people of all ages and all walks of life, sharing his life with theirs. And as a way to remember him he left a meal that tells his story and involves us in it. How do we see Jesus in our hospitality, welcome, acceptance of differences?

God speaks to us in different ways, through the words of scripture and often through other people or situations. Do we always hear what God wants to say to us? If we look back over the past year, can we say that our faith in Christ has grown in some way? Good questions for us to think upon.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, make us to be more like you. *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."*