



The Country Church Herald

NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2021

ON THE WEB www.stmstjucc.org **FIND US ON FACEBOOK & YOU TUBE!**



Our Calendar is Full:

The other day I had a conversation with our Office Manager, Karen. She exclaimed to me, as we were looking at the calendar, just how full it was! And it's true, our church calendars are full and what a wonderful thing that can be.

We have Advent, then Christmas Eve services (two this year). The 4:00pm Christmas Eve service will be a Family Service with young families and children in mind. Christmas service is on Saturday morning. Then we're on our way into the new year with a new series called, "Be the 99"

But worship on Sunday morning isn't the only thing happening in the life of our churches. Both Sunday Schools will be hosting a children's Christmas program. The youth will gather to box up the generous donations and supplies for Operation Christmas Child and they will be shipped overseas. Adopt-a-Family gifts are being collected for Christmas.

I have been working with several mission-laity from Saron UCC to co-organize a July 2022 mission trip to Knoxville, TN. We have a lot of room for ages 12 – 18, plus adults. I am excited about this opportunity with our youth and the building of relationship with sisters and brothers in Tennessee.

Our youth continue to meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month. In fact, the Operation Christmas Child has been their mission focus for November and December.

Both choirs are rehearsing and singing on Sundays, for which I am truly thankful. Two study groups (studying different topics/parts of the Bible) will continue to meet into the new year. One on Monday and one on Thursday. And I'm sure I'm leaving something off the list!

It is a great way to end the year together. With a focus on outreach, serving those in need, and worshipping our Lord.

Our calendar is full, thanks be to God.

~Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

ST. JAMES UCC
13312 Pioneer Road
Newton, WI 53063
920.693.8100

ST. MARK'S UCC
W1307 Orchard Road
Cleveland, WI 53015
920.693.8361

PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

**COME JOIN US,
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME!**

December 5th—

St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship

9-11:30am Sunday School
Program Practice

St. James: 10:30am Worship

9-10:15 Play Practice; Sunday
School after Young at Heart Message

December 12th—

St. James: 9:00am Worship

Sunday School after 'Young at Heart'
Message, Play Practice 10-11:30am

St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship

9-10:30am Sunday School Program
Practice

December 19th—

St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship

9-11:30 SS Program Practice

5:00pm Sunday School Program at STM

St. James: 9-10:15 Sunday School Play
Practice,

10:30am Sunday School Program at STJ

**Dec. 24th— CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
With Communion ~Both at St. Mark's**

4:00pm Family Service

7:00pm Candlelight

**Dec. 25th—CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP,
with Communion**

10am at St. James

**Dec. 26th—No Worship or Sun.
School**

*Sunday bulletins & links to prayer requests
are posted under the 'Messages' link on
our church website:
<https://www.stmstjucc.org/>*

PASTOR APPRECIATION IDEAS

Quoting the Rev. Nathan Athorp during the United Church Men & Women Scholarship Presentation held at Grace Congregational UCC in Two Rivers on October 21:

"Over the past couple of months, I'm not sure I could even tell you how many times I have heard stories of my pastoral colleagues feeling completely burned out. They are tired. They are frustrated. They are seriously questioning their personal call to ministry. And honestly, many of them are exploring options that would allow them to exit the ministry."

Wow! ... I would *never* want that to happen to *our* pastor. Certainly now, more than ever, we need increased and longer vacations! For pastors, this is essential!

A while back I read an article that said: "Other than being the president of the United States, the most stressful 'job' is that of being the pastor of a local church."

Pastor Patrick and his family are God's gift to our churches. His calling in life is overseeing our souls through teaching, preaching, counseling, whatever it takes.

Selflessly caring for our members' souls puts a huge emotional burden on a pastor's heart and mind and adds enormous mental and physical stress. Pastoring extracts a unique and heavy toll.

What can we do to lessen that toll? Some ideas might be:

- ◆ Pray for Pastor Patrick and his family.
- ◆ Fill our church pews as we worship God every Sunday.
- ◆ Send him a Christmas card.
- ◆ Write a note expressing appreciation for him as well as for Brenda and Grace's outstanding teaching and musical talents!

Warmest wishes to you and your families for God's peace and joy this holiday season and for abundant blessings in 2023.

Joanne Fessler



**Joint Congregational Meeting
St. James UCC Church
November 7, 2021**

The purpose of today's joint congregational meeting was to vote on Pastor Patrick Schultz's compensation package for 2022.

Meeting was called to order by President Clarence Belitz at 10:40 a.m. after the late service. It was explained that the Joint Consistories met on October 18 and discussed several proposals presented by Pastor. Consistories voted and decided to go with a 3% increase as the recommendation. Church members were presented with a handout explaining all benefits. Time was allowed for questions and comments.

Charlie Kolb made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Consistories and go with a 3% increase. Henry Langenhahn Sr. seconded. Ballots were handed to all members. The results were: 42 yes votes and 7 no votes. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Scott Henschel and seconded by Randy Sohn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb La Duke
Consistory Secretary – St. James



The way Christmas and Christmas Eve falls this year means:

We will have two (2) Christmas Eve services at St. Mark's ~ 4:00pm (family-oriented service) and 7:00pm (traditional service).

On Christmas day the service will be held at 10:00am at St. James.

Because this falls on Friday and Saturday, the Joint Consistory voted to not have a Sunday morning (day after Christmas) service.

Watch for Information in the back of your church regarding the Christmas Adopt-A-Family.

Wrapped gifts are due Dec. 12th. Be sure to attach the Label that tells who the gift was bought for and what is in the package :)

**St. Mark's: There is also an Online sign up component. It is located on our church Website: www.stmstjucc.org under the newsletters link. A separate Mail Chimp email will also be sent out to St. Mark's members containing that separate link.



ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING

November 1, 2021 6:30

- The meeting was called to order by President Clarence Belitz. Members present were David Lorfeld – Vice-President, Wendy Henschel – Treasurer, Deb La Duke – Secretary, Jason Riesterer, Tammy Serketich, Jamey Binversie, and Pastor Patrick Schultz who led in prayer.
- Motion to approve the Secretary's Report made by Wendy and seconded by Tammy. Motion carried.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Deb and seconded by David. Motion carried.
- Pastor's Report:
The Consistory finished Just Say Yes. Copies will be available for church members to borrow and read. St. Mark's will be meeting on Thursday, 11/4. They are looking to add two members for the Mission Vision Committee.
- Building and Grounds:
Railings for the sanctuary can possibly begin in January. Binversie Woodworking from School Hill is booked until then. Bill Heckmann will continue plowing for the church. Communication continues with the Manitowoc Health Department on water quality in church.
- Committee Reports:
Vision of Hope – Meets on December 6 – 6:30
Stewardship Committee – They are still waiting for envelopes from the recent mailing to be returned. Review of membership list continues.
Christian Board of Education – Sunday School will be presenting a Christmas Program on December 19 during regular service. Jamie Henschel organized a shopping trip and dinner with Sunday School students. Their mission was to shop for Coats for Kids. Thank you and well done!
- Old Business: none
- New Business:
Joint meeting of both congregations – Nov. 7 St. James to discuss and vote on Pastor's compensation package.
Memorial Sunday Nov. 21 – We will be remembering Jill Schuette, Dawn Marcoe, and Jackie Henschel this year. Thank you Heidi Belitz for making special candles for each family.
New Committee members : Consistory members compiled lists to replace exiting committee members. Calls will begin soon to fill those positions.
Tammy and Wendy will assemble candy bags this year for children at Christmas.
Date for decorating church for the Advent season– Nov. 27 – 9:00
Ushering list – We will continue to invite all members to help with ushering again this year.
- Congregation concerns – Return to Safe Sanctuary policies addressed. Permission given to the Cleveland Clever Clovers 4-H group to use the kitchen on December 3 & 4 for the candy making fundraiser.
The outdoor signs for church posted along Hwy. 42 could use repair. We are looking for volunteers.
- Next Meeting Date: December 2, 6:30
- Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Jason and seconded by Wendy. Motion carried.

ST. JAMES FINANCIAL CLOSING

The books for St. James will close December 27th. Any contributions received after this date will be recorded for 2022. We would like to thank everyone for your contributions, volunteering, and supporting our church through these trying times this year.

– Wendy Henschel, Treasurer

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by president, Lori Roelse. Members present: Dave Call, Julie Herrmann, Glenn Grunwald, Jacob Grunwald, Pastor Schultz and Louise Jetzer.

Tara Vandoske was present and expressed concern about enhancing the church service with more upbeat music. We suggested she be involved with the Ministry Assessment Committee and she will contact Deb LaDuke and get connected with upcoming meetings to discuss possibilities.

The Secretary's report was reviewed and accepted by Glenn and seconded by Jacob.

The Financial Secretary's report was reviewed and accepted by Dave and seconded by Glenn.

The building and grounds committee will do a fall walk through of the parsonage and church.

Kendra Kelling from Habitat for Humanity will be speaking at Mission Fest on 11/14/21. Jacob has the technology ready for her presentation. No meal will be served due to Covid-19.

On Memorial Sunday, November 21st, pastor will ask the families of members of St. Mark's who have passed away in 2021 to come up and light a candle in memory of their family member. After this, he will invite people in church if they would like to come up and light a candle in memory of their loved ones."

We will discuss a proposal with St. James consistory members on the possibility of a paid position for a youth leader for both churches together.

We will continue to keep covid-19 safety protocols in place with spacing between pews and communion in individual packets.

We will continue to bring up topics on what we are willing to do to attract new members.

Christmas tree decorating will take place on December 1st by Dave, Cindy and Glenn.

Our next consistory meeting will be on Monday, 12/6/21 at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Herrmann, Secretary

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- Judy Steinbeck, Financial Secretary

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD PACKING



Five of our youth gathered to pack 27 shoeboxes to send to children overseas who may never have received a Christmas gift, nor heard of Jesus. But, thanks to them, and both of our church congregations who donated so freely, we are able to reach these 5-9 year olds and bring them toys, school supplies, clothing items, and personal items as well as acquainting them with the Good News!

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this event. We hope to do it again next year and perhaps reach even more children!

Our next HS Youth Group Meeting is Sunday, December 12th, from 5-7:30pm at St. James.

ST. JAMES CHOIR

St. James choir practice is on Tuesdays, Dec. 7th, 14th, and 21st starting at 6:30pm.



ST. MARK'S CHOIR

St. Mark's choir practice will be held on Wednesdays, Dec. 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd beginning at 7:00pm.



St. James Choir

ST. JAMES

St. James Sunday School Christmas program will take place on December 19th during the late 10:30am service. Program practice is as follows.

December 5th- Play practice 9am to 10:15am

Church service 10:30am Sunday School after "Young at Heart" message

December 12th- Church service 9am Sunday School after "Young at Heart" message

Play practice 10am to 11:30am

December 19th- Play practice 9am to 10:15am

Sunday School Christmas program 10:30am

December 26th, 2021 and January 2nd, 2022 is Sunday Schools winter break.

Returning after winter break, beginning January 9th. Sunday Schools starting time will be 9am to 10am at all times. If church service should start at 9am, we will begin Sunday School after the "Young at Heart" message.

Outreach's next project will be our special Christmas family for the 2021 year.

Christine Gumm continues to head up our fundraising of Serogy's candy.

Any questions may be directed to Sandy Beiersdorf at 920-693-8000 or sandrabeiersdorf@gmail.com



ST. MARK'S

St. Mark's Sunday School program schedule is as follows:

Sunday November 21st 9am- 10am. - read through Christmas program and pick parts. Everyone should be present from here until the program

Sunday November 27th - 9am to 10:30am practice

Sunday December 5th - 9am to 11:30

Sunday December 12th - 9am to 10:30

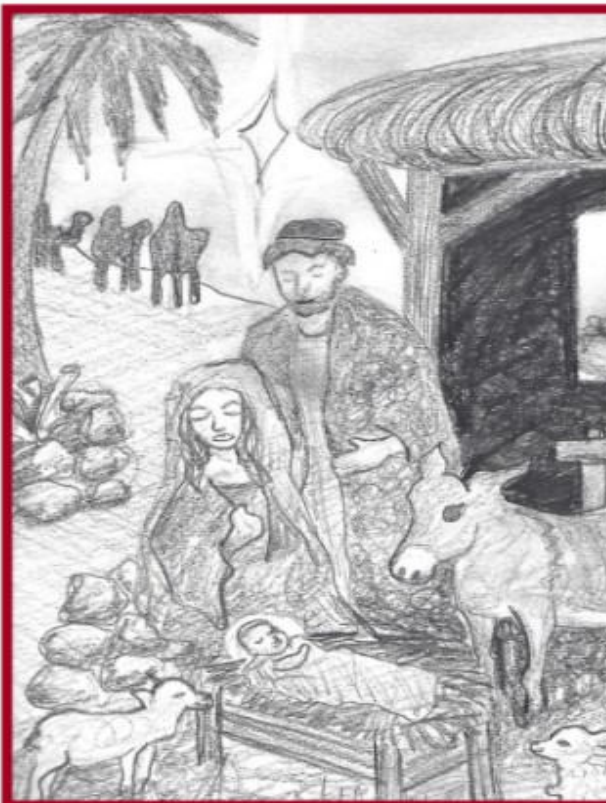
Sunday December 19th - 9am to 11:30

Sunday December 19th - Program at 5pm



This schedule is tentative and subject to change depending on how things go. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

Please contact one of the Sunday School teachers if you have any questions:
Anna Marie Bramstedt, Tara Vandoske, Michelle Scharl, Brenda Schultz



LIVING NATIVITY

**Come! Celebrate
the birth of Jesus!**

See and hear a live 15 minute outside presentation
of the Christmas story with animals.

Friday, December 3rd — 6 to 9 p.m.
Saturday, December 4th — 6 to 9 p.m.
Sunday, December 5th—4 to 7 p.m.
(every 20 minutes)

Signed Presentations for the Hearing Impaired
Saturday, December 4 at 6, 7 & 8 p. m.

Visit our special display of Nativity sets
inside our school.

Join us in Bethlehem (gym) for musical
entertainment, cookies and warm drinks.

Free Admission, Parking and Refreshments

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

441 Millersville Avenue
Howards Grove, WI
(920) 565-3780
stpaulshowardsgrove.org

Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization



Bulletin Bites

December, 2021

- ◆ Bridgeway could use the following items: hand soap, wrapping paper (holiday or birthday), dryer sheets, and 3 matching holiday vinyl tablecloths.
- ◆ The SCIO Winter Farmers Market has begun! The market will be held the first and third Saturdays from 9am -12pm, at the First Congregational Church UCC, 310 Bluff Avenue, Sheboygan. We have new vendors and new products to share. We also continue to offer EBT services and DYB vouchers!
- ◆ **MISSION MOMENT:** The farmers market has been actively working with low-income patrons to increase access to fresh, locally grown produce. Over \$15,000 was spent in food share at the 2021 summer market, and the Double Your Bucks program that is sponsored by St. Nicholas Hospital increased their buying power by adding another \$8,000. We also were able to distribute 245 Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program booklets to low-income seniors to purchase \$25 of fresh produce at the market in 2021. The farmers market aligns beautifully with our mission to “advocate for social justice, dignity and to improve the quality of life for all people”.
- ◆ Bridgeway remains focused on helping moms and kiddos accomplish their goals. Mental health counseling, debt reduction, and actively searching for affordable housing top the list this month. Our case manager is working with 10 families through outreach with the hopes of bringing those in who meet the criteria for residency when openings occur. Until that time, we continue to provide food and other basic necessities to help ease their burden of homelessness or vulnerable living conditions.



A Mission Trip to Knoxville, TN is being planned for the summer of 2022 through Next Step Ministries and is being coordinated by St. Mark's/St. James & Saron UCC churches!

Mission Trip details:

- Date of the trip will be from Sunday, July 17 – Friday, July 23, 2022 (probably leaving on Saturday and returning on Saturday). Work involves light construction, painting, food pantry...
- Cost is \$429.00 per person-transportation costs are not included, fundraising will offset some of the cost.
- 60 spots are available. We are looking for people interested in attending, especially youth from ages 12-18.
- A fun day on Friday is built into the trip schedule.

Any youth and/or adults who are interested in this opportunity, please plan on attending an in-person information meeting on Sunday, December 5th, at 4 p.m. at Saron UCC. Specific trip information will be shared at this meeting. You can sign up for the trip and make a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit the night of the December meeting or by the sign-up deadline of January 9th, 2022.

If you cannot make the meeting but are interested in knowing more about the trip or if you are interested in participating in the trip, please contact Pastor Patrick.

Next Step Ministries has COVID protocols in place which will be explained at the meeting.

Check out Next Step Ministries at: www.nextstepministries.com

This is the link for information specific to Knoxville:

<https://nextstepministries.com/mission-trips/knoxville-tennessee/>

ST. JAMES USHERS

DECEMBER & CHRISTMAS

* Jim & Michelle Luckow
Henry & Bonnie Langenhahn, Sr.

Allison Luckow
Dawson Luckow
Ashley Lutzke
Ethen Lutzke
Linda Lutzke
Linda Lorfeld
Abigail Wasmer
Amanda Wasmer

January 2022

*Dale & Doris Sprenger
Pat Kleinhans
Linda Rozmarynowski
Hannah Schmitz
Kendra Schmitz
Lee & Terri Schmitz
Allyson Wasmer
Tanya Wasmer

If you or a family member are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Patrick at 920-693-2858 or leave a message on the church's answering machine at: 920-693-8361.

There have been some changes to the confidentiality laws. These changes make it difficult for pastors to obtain information about anyone in the hospital. If you or a loved one will be in the hospital, please call the church office 920-693-8361 or contact Pastor Patrick at 920-693-2858.



ST. MARK'S GREETERS

DECEMBER

Mike Scharl*
Michelle Scharl
Larry Heling
Denise Heling

January 2022

Bruce Mansker*
Karen Mansker
Janell Davis

CANDLE LIGHTERS

DECEMBER

5 - Julia Uttech, Bryce Schnelle
12- Wyatt and Colten Scharl
19 - Brianne and Reid Vandoske
26 - Hillary and Haley Hermann

JANUARY

2 -Sierra Bramstedt, Hillary Hermann
9 -Colten Scharl, Bryce Schnelle
16 -Brooklyn and Brianne Vandoske
23- Colton Scharl, Zander Miota
30- Bryce Schnelle, Colten Sommer



"Application for Funding" forms are available in the narthex, from **VISION OF HOPE** Committee members, or under "More" on our website. We welcome specific requests as well as your suggestions for using our semiannual gifts from the Wagner Foundation.

PLEASE NOTE THAT A PRIVACY SECTION HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE FORM. Effective Jan. 1, 2021, old forms without a completed "privacy choice" section will not be accepted.

STUDENTS: Use the "Application for Funding" form for tuition help (currently \$1,000) each year.

For unto us
a child
is born,
to us
a son is given
Isaiah 9:6

ST JAMES DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Ellen Mae Surfus
- 10 Scott Weinfenbach
- 16 Keith Mauk
- 24 Jenny Riesterer
- 25 Raymond Henschel
Noel Wippermann
- 27 Ethen Lutzke
- 28 Tim Russart
- 31 McKenna Jo Fitzgerald
Galen LaDuke

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 William & Dorothy Mueller
- 31 Jeremy & Karie Ladwig

Christmas Fund Sunday

December 12th is Christmas Fund Sunday at St. James & St Mark's. The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Your Support is greatly appreciated.

- Wendy Henschel, St. James Treasurer
- Judy Steinbeck, St. Mark's Financial Secretary

Pastor Patrick has designated Tuesdays & Fridays as his day of Sabbath and his day out of the office During those two days each week, you may contact him in case of an emergency only at 608-352-9544.



Confirmation Class, 2022



CHURCH ATTENDANCE

St. James		St. Mark's
41	October 31	42
56	November 7	64
no services	November 14	38
51	November 21	60

ST MARK'S DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Tyler Bramstedt
Jim Taylor
- 7 Ben Grunwald
- 10 Brianne Vandoske
- 11 Jacob Grunwald
- 13 Andy Roelse
- 16 Janell Davis
- 22 Mike Scharl
- 24 Lee Sixel

ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Mike & Amy Summers

Building Fund Sunday

December 5th is Building Fund Sunday at both churches. As always we continue to have general building expenses that are paid throughout the year.

Your support is appreciated and needed. -

- Wendy Henschel, St. James Treasurer
- Judy Steinbeck, St. Mark's Financial Secretary

