



The Country Church Herald

NEWSLETTER ~ DECEMBER, 2022

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



Dear friends and church family,

As we wrap up our 2022 year, I want to share with you something our Wisconsin Conference offers. It's called the Damascus Project. It is a program shared between the Wisconsin and Minnesota conferences and it is designed primarily to help our lay people receive the training they need to be better equipped for their current areas of ministry or their desired areas of ministry. A lay person is someone involved, or who wants to be involved, in ministry. And they need education or training but have no desire at this time to be ordained or go to seminary.

The Damascus Project: honors diverse theological perspectives; equips the saints to build up the body of Christ; gathers spiritual seekers, lay leaders, clergy together to learn; creates brave spaces to learn and grow in faith and in leadership.

If this is something you have been thinking about; if you have questions; if you think this is for other people but not you than contact me (pastor) at: schultzpw@gmail.com or stmstjoffice@gmail.com.

Also, check out this link:
<https://the-damascus-project.org/>

~Pastor Patrick

**DAMASCUS
PROJECT**

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

December 4th —

St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship
9-11:30 Kids' Program Practice
St. James: 10:30am Worship
9-10:00 Sunday School

December 11th -

St. James: 9:00am Worship
9-10:00 Sunday School
St. Mark's 10:30am Worship
9-10:30 Kids' Program Practice

December 18th —

St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship
9-11:00 Kids' Program Practice
**Children's Christmas Program at
5pm (kids arrive at 4:30)**
St. James: 10:30am Worship
**Children's Christmas Program dur-
ing the Morning Worship**

**December 24th— Both of the
Christmas Eve Worship Services
are held at St James:**
4:00pm Family Worship
7:00pm Candlelight Worship

December 25th —

Merry Christmas!
**There's only one joint
Worship Service at ST. Mark's
beginning at 10:00am.
NO Sunday School at both.**

*Sunday bulletins, & links to prayer
requests are posted under the 'Messages'
link on our church website:*

<https://www.stmstjucc.org/>
*Weekly recorded church services are avail-
able on our church YouTube channel: St.
Mark's & St. James UCC*

Mission Vision Planning

Two years ago, the Joint Consistory made the commitment to organize a collaborative team tasked with developing two areas of focus and commitment and put them into meaningful words and action. For various reasons the initial organization and development of this team did not get off the ground until recently following our 2022 fall Joint Consistory meeting.

The team consists of: Jason Riesterer, Janelle Davis, Clarence Belitz, Sandy Perronne, Bruce Mansker, Deb La Duke, Dr. Patrick Schultz. Our first meeting was held November 5th from 8am – 9am.

This team will focus on a mission statement and core values providing further definition of whom we are as a church, what our vision and direction are as the local church; and a missions assessment process that evaluates pastoral ministry, church ministry, and church leadership ministry. Both are necessary as we wish to grow and sustain our ministry and mission outreach, and to reach more people with the Good News.

The mission statement and core values of the church will be developed over time utilizing resources available to us, including:

Mission statement of the UCC denomination (approved in 2016)

A Vision: The Transformative UCC in Ten Years (approved at the denominational level in 2017)

Our own pastoral search materials and profile documentation

A Sure Foundation (a conference level resource)

Ministry Assessment Instrument (Mennonite Brethren Churches in British Columbia, Annual Conference, 1995)

We will take into consideration our own experiences, traditions, reason and scripture.

This team is committed to garnering relevant information from all our church members (those attending regularly, those no longer attending but are still members, regular attendees, college students, elderly and including our shut-ins.) We are committed to open and responsible transparent communication (there is no hidden agenda) and confidentiality when appropriate. As a team we will foster an environment where we can safely discuss ideas openly and frankly, with respect for one another, and where we are prayerfully, lovingly supportive of each other.

All action items will be reviewed and approved by the Joint Consistory. All relevant ministry and/or mission work areas to give attention to – focus on – improve, change, or eliminate will be communicated to the church body and appropriately voted on when necessary.

We began with a review of our overall agenda, goals, expectations. We briefly discussed the various resources we are using (additional resources will be added/used as necessary). We began the work of identifying what we do well in ministry (strengths) and what we do not do well in ministry (weaknesses). We started a checklist of areas for the church to focus on.

Stay tuned for more information as we gather input from our congregations. Our next meeting is December 3rd, 8-9am @ St. Mark's.

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING

November 10, 2022

The meeting was called to order on November 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Members present: Julie Herrmann, Jacob Grunwald, Judy Steinbeck, Louise Jetzer, Glenn Grunwald, Larry Perronne and Pastor Schultz.

The Secretary's report was reviewed, and a motion was made by Janell and seconded by Larry to approve. Motion carried.

The financial report was reviewed, and a motion was made by Jake and seconded by Louise to approve. Motion carried.

The Mission/Vision team met and set guidelines and expectations for why they are gathering. They defined the goals with the mission statement and the ministry assessment.

Choir microphones will be ordered.

We have decided to stay with Otis for inspections and testing of the elevator. Larry made a motion and Glenn seconded the motion to pay Otis the one-time \$125 fee they are requesting to make up for the loss in 2022. Motion carried.

Helpers are needed to work with Dave and Cindy Call who have volunteered to prepare food for Mission Fest.

Larry made a motion to have Janelle order two boxes of candles on Amazon that are battery operated to replace the real candles in the candelabras. Janelle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

On memorial Sunday, candles will be lit by the congregation in memory of those who have passed. A personalized candle will be given to the family members of those who have lost loved ones in the past year. Larry made a motion for Janelle to purchase two personalized candles on Amazon. Janelle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The church bells will be rung eleven times on Veteran's Day by Todd Grunwald.

Judy presented the quote for all carpets to be cleaned in the church by Heaven's Best. Larry made a motion to have all carpets cleaned and Janelle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

We are sponsoring two families for Christmas. Larry made a motion to sponsor the families through SCIO and Manitowoc Health and Human Services. Janelle seconded the motion. Karen Mansker will be notified to contact both locations and get lists for gift suggestions. Motion carried.

Communion will be served on Thanksgiving Eve, November 23rd at St. Mark's.

Poinsettias in memory of our loved ones will be ordered from Caan's this year for a cheaper amount instead of Millhome Nursery.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Larry made a motion to adjourn, and Glenn seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Herrmann, St. Mark's Consistory secretary

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY

November 7, 2022 6:30

The meeting was called to order by President David Lorfeld. Members present were Tammy Serketich - Vice-President, Wendy Henschel - Treasurer, Deb La Duke - Secretary, Jason Riesterer, Jamey Binversie, Jackie Mueller, and Pastor Patrick Schultz.

Prayer led by Pastor Schultz.

Motion to approve the Secretary's Report made by Jamey and seconded by Jackie. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Tammy and seconded by Jamey. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Mission/Vision Committee - Nov. 5 will be the first meeting. Pastor is organizing the purpose, guidelines, and timelines for the Committee. We also looked at ministry assessment tools which will be part of the committee's work.

Building and Grounds:

Mary Ann Vogel is offering to replace the dated stove in the kitchen and is also offering to donate the new ones. Thank you Mary Ann!! The singular stove will be replaced with two smaller stoves. Motion made by Deb and seconded by Wendy to accept Mary Ann's donation. Motion carried. The church will be responsible for the hook-up costs. Dates for removal of the old stove to be determined along with what will happen to it.

Water softener salt check and elevator check are complete.

We met with Mr. Bubolz from Valders to discuss the railings and timelines for completion.

Committee Reports:

Vision of Hope: Meeting November 28th.

Stewardship Committee: Will be hosting a time of fellowship on Memorial Sunday - November 20th.

Christian Board of Education: Sunday School has received the name of a Christmas family again and will be setting up a giving tree in the Narthex. Christmas program will be on December 18th during the late service. Amanda Russart will be the nominee for the Christian Board of Education at the Annual Meeting.

Service Committee: No report

Audio Visual: No report

Old Business:

Safe Sanctuary helper - We continue to look for an adult or two to be present during Youth Fellowship meetings. Please consider helping.

Consistory members - We have two members who have offered to join the Consistory. We are still in need of one more member. Please contact a Consistory member if interested.

Motion to use Memorial money from David and Warren La Duke, Nadine Miller, and Violet Weskopf's accounts for the basement decorations was made by Jackie and seconded by Jamey. Motion carried. The Consistory appreciates all the compliments received about the updates to the Fellowship Hall and basement hallway that were completed this year.

New Business:

Memorial Sunday is November 20

Candy bags for kids will be prepared again this year and ready to go by December 17th.

Tree decorating is on November 26th at 9:00

Poinsettia orders from Millhome Nursery are due by Dec. 1. Please fill out the forms and include payment and return to church as soon as possible.

Motion to let the 4-H group from Cleveland use the kitchen for their candy making fundraiser on Dec.10 was made by Jamey and seconded by Deb. Motion carried.

Congregation concerns: Checked with Pastor about a private baptism for a member. Plans to be finalized.

Next meeting date: Dec. 5, 6:30

Motion to adjourn made by Deb and seconded by Tammy. Motion carried.

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

EXTRA CHURCH NEWS.....

St. James Building Fund

December 4th is Building Fund Sunday at St. James. As always, we continue to have general building expenses that are paid thru out the year. Your support is appreciated and needed.

- Wendy Henschel, Treasurer

St. James Christmas Fund Sunday

December 11th is Christmas Fund Sunday at St. James. 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.

- Wendy Henschel, Treasurer

St. James Financial Closing

The books for St. James will close December 28th. Any contributions received after this date will be recorded for 2023.

- Wendy Henschel Treasurer

Joint Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, October 30th, the joint congregations met to discuss and approve the compensation and benefits package for Pastor Schultz for next year, 2023. After a motion and second by Sandy Perronne and Gert Free, a congregational secret ballot vote was taken. The Consistories recommendation passed and Pastor Schultz will receive a 4% pay increase. The benefits remain the same. Mark Jurk made a motion to adjourn and Carol Weiland seconded it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louise Jetzer

Acting Secretary

\$\$ St Mark's Financial Report \$\$

Letters have been sent out to everyone showing your financial donations to the church this year. Please contact Judy Steinbeck (920-917-2398 or stmarksfinsec@gmail.com) if you believe there is an error in your statement.

December 4 will be our last building fund Sunday for the year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

December 11 is Christmas Fund Sunday. Envelopes will be supplied. The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a special mission offering that congregations have been supporting for 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards.

A graphic with the words "thank you!" in a stylized, multi-colored font. The word "thank" is in blue and orange, and "you!" is in orange and blue. The letters are overlapping and have a playful, hand-drawn feel.

St. Mark's consistory would like to thank Dave and Cindy Call for all their help in preparing and planning for Mission Fest.

Thank you also to those who brought a dish to pass and for helping with set up and clean up. We greatly appreciate all your efforts in continuing this tradition at St. Mark's.



St. James would like to take this opportunity to invite you and your family to our **CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP** Saturday, December 24th at 4:00pm or the **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP** at 7:00pm. We are looking forward to a wonderful time of celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

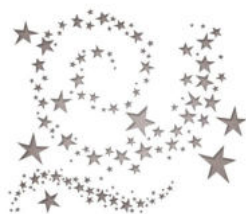
- St. James Stewardship Team



The Journey of the Three Wisemen

A Christmas Play adapted by Miss Emma Russart
Sunday, December 18, 2022 10:30 a.m. Service

Please join the Sunday School for a smile filled presentation of our beloved Christmas story.



There will be NO Sunday School for both churches on December 25th and January 1st.

Classes will resume at 9:00am on January 8th.

St. Mark's Sunday School Christmas

Program will be held at 5pm on Sunday, December 18th (kids need to be there by 4:30).

Program rehearsals:

Dec. 4, 9am-11:30am

Dec. 11, 9am-10:30am

Dec. 18, 9am-11am





Did you know that both St. James and St. Mark's have Giving Trees set up for the Christmas season? We have received several names from Manitowoc Human Services and Bridgeway (SCIO) of families that are in need of some Christmas cheer. If you are able and can contribute in any way...

WE/THEY APPRECIATE YOU!!

Donations will be picked up on December 18th. Thank you in advance for your generosity again this year!

St. Mark's members may either obtain family need items from the Giving Tree at church or Online (contact Karen at stmstjoffice@gmail.com for the link).

Both lists contain the same information and are updated regularly. If you prefer, a monetary donation may be made and the money will be used to purchase gifts on your behalf. If mailing a check, be sure it is mailed no later than Dec. 9th to allow time for shopping (or contact the church office to say a check is on the way: stmstjoffice@gmail.com or 920-693-8361).

ST. MARK'S CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

What is better than Christmas cookies? Having several different varieties!

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 3. I will let you know by Sunday, December 4 how many half-dozens to bring. Have your cookies at St. Mark's by 10:30 am on Sunday, December 11. 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.

Please let Lori Roelse know if you have any questions, 920-946-3540.

Merry Christmas! And Happy Baking!





Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family & friends of St. Mark's member, Dorothy Schnell, whose funeral was took place at St. Mark's on November 23rd. She will be missed.

Dorothy Schnell of Manitowoc was a devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, daughter, and friend. She passed away suddenly but peacefully, after a full day of loved ones visiting her at the hospital. Dorothy lived a full life. After graduating from Reedsville High School and Bellin College of Nursing, she went on to pursue her passion for helping others with a career in nursing. She worked in various areas of nursing for 37 years. In 1959, she married her husband, Bob, and they had two beautiful daughters, Faith and Robin. Dorothy and Bob were married for 52 years before Bob passed.

Dorothy was very proud of her extensive travel with her husband and friends. She visited 46 foreign countries, including those in Europe, Africa, and South America, as well as most of the attractions in the United States. Dorothy enjoyed dancing and listening to old-time music, especially polka. She loved playing cards with her friends and most enjoyed visiting her kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff at the Aurora Medical Center and Hospice in Two Rivers, and Randy and Dennis, for their care and compassion shown towards Dorothy. In place of flowers, donations can be made to Bellin College in Green Bay in Dorothy's memory, by visiting www.bellincollege.edu/support/online-donations/. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family by visiting www.lendmanfh.com



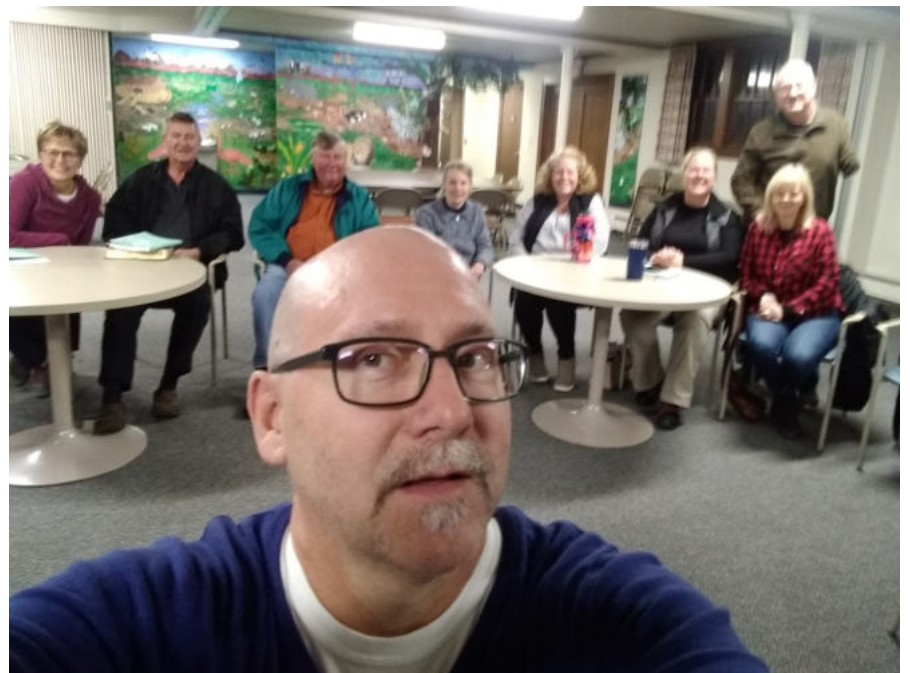
We hold the Jon & Julie Herrmann and their families in our hearts following the passing of Jon's mom, Corrine (Keen) C. Herrmann on November 18th.



Our season one study group of "The Chosen" has wrapped up. This has been a great 9-week study on the life of Jesus Christ, as seen through the video series "The Chosen." We met each Monday, one group at 10am and one at 6pm asking in-depth questions about meaning topics like: Being Called by Name; Jesus Loves the Little Children; The Rock Upon Which the Church is Built... and more.

We've had 21-22 people attending between the two groups. Half of whom are from other churches. Having a broad perspective and input has really added sustenance to our discussions. We've had good conversation that our youth and young adults would get a lot out of. Our older generation has raised great questions and enhanced our dialogue with wisdom and experience. And along the way many questions are answered, and many more raised.

We will begin *Season Two* January 9th. We're taking a nice break to accommodate the busy schedule of many during the November-December months. Our next study is *open to all*, regardless of age, church affiliation, or not having a church. It doesn't matter if you are familiar with the Bible or not. We're all learning together.

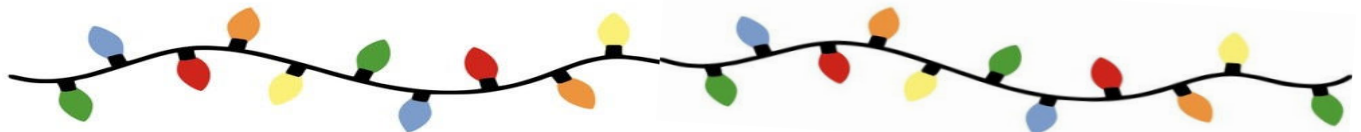


The Chosen Study Group

Weather Cancellations will be made available on the church voicemail 920.207.8361, the Church's Facebook Page, and via our email messaging.

You can also call a Consistory Member.

Please use your own discretion in deciding whether to go out in inclement weather.



ST. JAMES CHOIR:

Practice in December is on these Wednesdays: 7th, 14th & 21st and begins at 6:30 pm.

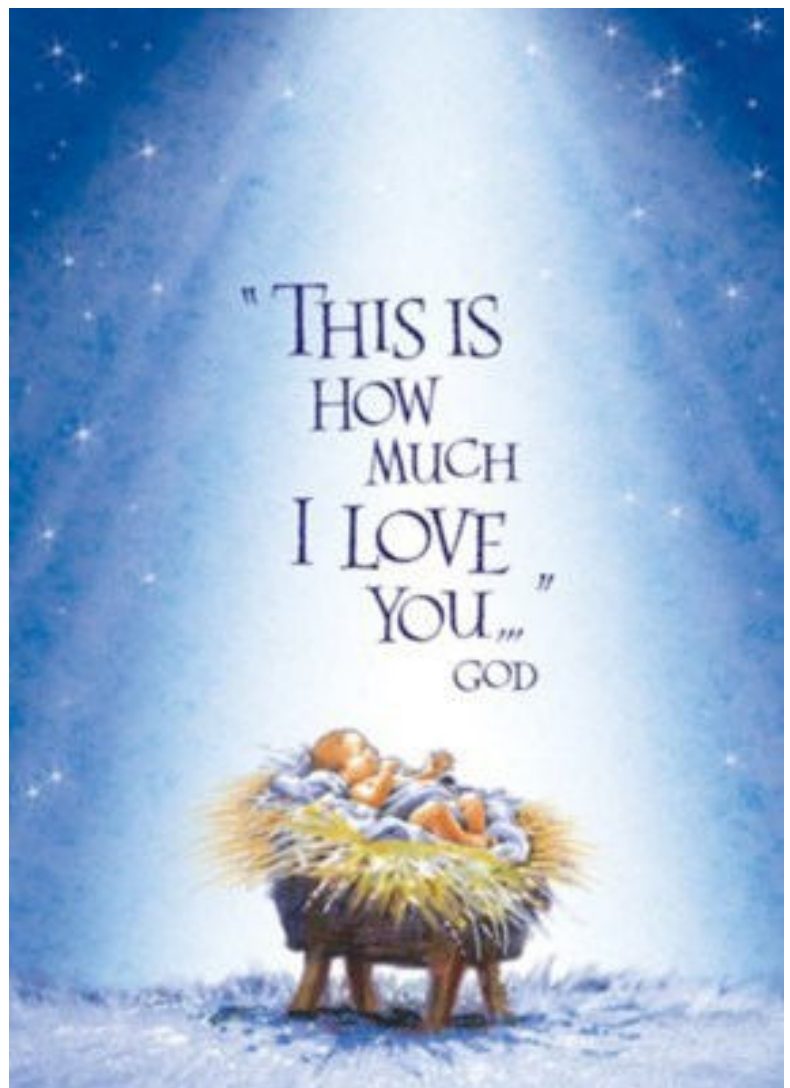
We welcome new members and would love to have you join us!



ST. MARK'S CHOIR:

Choir practice at 7pm on these Wednesdays in December: 7, 14, 21.

Come & join us!



**Congratulations,
Abbey & Brett Sheldon**

on the birth of your
daughter,
Blair Alyssa Sheldon,
on
November 4th!



Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization

Bulletin Bites, December 2022



- ◆ The winter market will continue every first and third Saturday through April, from 9am-12pm. We will continue to offer EBT and the \$15 Double Your Bucks match at every market! We have had some unexpected transitions in Bridgeway, as well as some hardships among our aftercare families, such as serious medical issues, mental health instability, and reduced employment. If you are able to help some of our families with holiday gifts, we would be grateful that they have an opportunity to create warm memories during difficult times. Please contact executive director, Lisa Stephan, at: lisa@sheboygancountyinterfaith.org
- ◆ Two families currently call Bridgeway “home”. Another family of three will be moving into Bridgeway before Thanksgiving. SCIO’s mentoring program is going strong! We plan to ring bells for the Salvation Army and go to Evergreen Park to look at Christmas Lights in addition to having a Holiday Party. Please hold the Bridgeway family in your thoughts and prayers as we venture through a season of change with new residents.
- ◆ End of Year Giving: We have experienced many challenges in 2022 but remain mission-focused! As we enter the season of giving, please keep SCIO in your heart. It is our goal to enter 2023 with robust community support and the financial means to grow our three programs: Bridgeway, Family Pathways, and the farmers market. We are grateful for your continued generosity.
- ◆ Bridgeway is in need of paper products. Paper towel, kleenex, and toilet paper would be greatly appreciated. SCIO families are in need of transportation assistance. Daily bus passes and gas cards are welcomed donations as the winter season approaches.

HS YOUTH NEWS



*Mason Jar mixes for sale! Each jar is \$10. You have your choice of Double Dutch Chocolate Holiday cookies (with red and green M and M's :)), Gingerbread cookie mix, and Peppermint Hot Chocolate mix. These make great gifts for others, or for yourself! Directions for preparation are on each jar. The proceeds will go toward the cost of the high school youth's attendance at a winter retreat entitled "Soulstice" at the Daycholah Center in Ripon.

*Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, December 4, St. Mark's, 5:30 p.m. The youth will serve dinner to our volunteers from the past year and a half and we will view a slideshow of all the youth have been doing during that time. If you have volunteered your time with the youth since I began the youth group, please RSVP by December 1 so that we can make sure we have enough food!

*The youth Christmas Party is in the planning stages. Stay tuned for more information....

Here's information about the winter retreat the Youth is planning to attend:

Friday, January 6 - Sunday, January 8, 2023 | \$240

WINTER SOULSTICE RETREAT: A Winter Camp Experience (High School and College-Age Retreat)

Daycholah Center

January 6-8, 2023

\$240

Start off the new year with a time of rest and renewal! The *Winter Soulstice Retreat* offers high school youth and college-age young adults an opportunity to come to Daycholah Center to enjoy a fun winter camp experience while also setting aside time for reflection and exploration of who we are and where we are on our faith journeys. Experience faith in community, meaningful worship and great music, silence and time for prayer, getting to know new people and hanging out with friends. Rest from the stress of school, listen to God's word, connect with yourself and others, and find satisfaction in silence and fun activities. Be inspired by the music and worship leadership of Andra Moran (✓ <http://www.andramoran.com/>).

✓ [REGISTER](#)

Questions about registration? Contact Chris Kocos at Daycholah Center (✓ [email Chris](#) or 920-745-4746)

Questions about the program? Contact Lisa Hart ([email Lisa](#) or 608-438-1571)

Note: Bring one adult chaperone for every 5 youth.

ST. JAMES USHERS

December

*Kim Grotegut
Jean Henschel
Tom Kleinhans
Amy Christianson
Alyssa Grotegut
Ashley Grotegut
Christopher Grotegut
Brian and Sheila Hemb
Rieck & Sandy Beiersdorf

January

*Tanya Wasmer
Abigail Peterson
Amanda Wasmer
Allyson Wasmer
Tammy Serketich
Tom & Nancy Nye
Karie & Jeremy Ladwig
Alivia Maxey
Hannah Schmitz
Kendra Schmitz
Lee & Terri Schmitz



"Application for Funding" forms are available in the narthex, from **VISION OF HOPE** Committee members, or under "More" on our church website.

We welcome specific requests as well as your suggestions for using our semiannual gifts from the Wagner Foundation.

STUDENTS! Use this form for tuition help (currently \$1,000) each year.

JOIN ST. JAMES VISION OF HOPE COMMITTEE!

There is an upcoming opening on this committee. Questions about or interest in joining our quarterly meetings? Ask any consistory member for details.

ST. MARK'S GREETERS

December

Charlie Mohr
Joanie Mohr
Bob Vandoske

January

Bruce Mansker
Karen Mansker
Janelle Davis

HOSPITALITY

Dec. 4th — Sandy Perronne

Dec. 11th — **

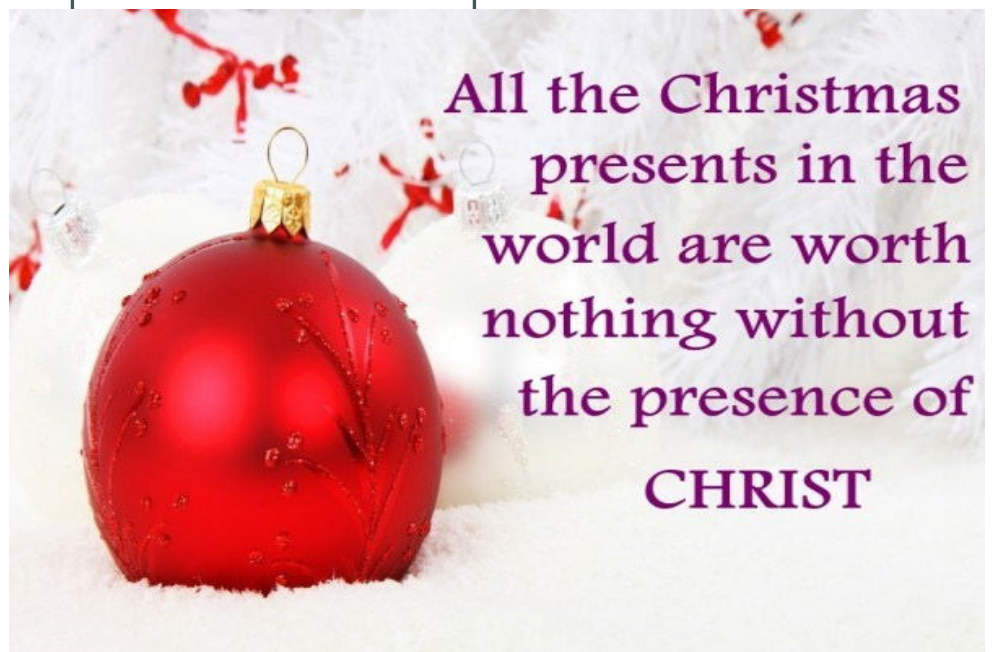
Dec. 18th — Margene Reyer

Dec. 25th — **

*If you are interested in providing hospitality on the two Sundays marked **, please contact the office.*

Be sure to sign up on the 2023 Greeter Sign-Up List posted on the bulletin board next to the elevator.

**Words to Remember
from
St. James Stewardship
Team:**



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 Galen LaDuke

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 William & Dorothy
Mueller
31 Jeremy & Karie Ladwig

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.

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.

Confidentiality laws 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 DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Tyler Bramstedt
Jim Taylor
7 Benjamin Grunwald
10 Brianne Vandoske
11 Jacob Grunwald
13 Andrew Roelse
16 Janell Davis
22 Michael Scharl
24 Lee Sixel

ANNIVERSARIES

- 28 Mike & Amy Summers

CHURCH

ATTENDANCE

St. James		St. Mark's
49	Oct. 30	56
44	Nov. 6	60
—	Nov. 13	62
(*Mission Fest at St. Mark's on the 13th)		
52	Nov. 20	51
(Thanksgiving Eve-Nov. 23)		
55	Nov. 27	51

Please report any corrections or additions on the birthday and anniversary lists to Karen in the church office to ensure they are correct in future publications:
stmstjoffice@gmail.com

THANK YOU!



It's getting to be about that time again....time to start preparing the 2022 Annual Reports! As you can guess, it is quite the huge job and I'd love to be able to get a head start on the task.

Therefore, I'm asking that as soon as you're able please forward your materials for your church's Annual Report to Karen at stmstjoffice@gmail.com or drop off a copy off to be scanned in.

**Reminder that I include what you give me in the reports. I do not edit or check calculations.

St. James Annual Reports due Jan. 2nd
St. Mark's Annual Reports due Jan. 9th



**Wisconsin Conference
United Church of Christ**

Wisconsin Conference Life Newsletter November 16, 2022

Update on Conference purchase of Daycholah Center

Progress continues toward the Wisconsin Conference's eventual purchase of Daycholah Center from United Church Camps Inc., an investment that will transform our Outdoor Ministries by alleviating UCCI's debt, paving the way for a long-term post-pandemic resurgence of camp and retreat programming. Work on the contract is nearly complete, with closing expected to take place by mid-December.

At the same time, the Conference staff is beginning to prepare for the eventual move from our current home base in DeForest to Daycholah on Green Lake, where we will occupy offices in the lower level of Spring Grove Lodge. Although most of our work will continue to take place remotely, and most meetings will occur virtually, we are excited about the prospect of holding in-person events in the beautiful Ley Chapel.



of departure.

The Trost Center, home to the Conference offices for the past 30 years, has been listed for sale, a difficult decision for the board of directors. Although we recognize that the rise of remote work has significantly reduced our use of the office, letting go of this hallowed space will be painful. We are planning a time for all who have loved the Trost Center to gather for a time of sharing and a litany

If you have questions about the Daycholah transaction or the plans for the Conference office, please email Conference Minister [Franz Rigert](#).



When we baptize someone into our faith, the people gathered for worship say to the newly baptized, “We promise our love, support, and care.” Our support of OCWM Basic Support helps to make that promise a reality.

Lisa Hart, Associate Conference Minister for Faith Formation and Justice Ministries, hosted a training for Our Whole Lives at the Daycholah Center in August. Our Whole Lives is a comprehensive lifespan sexuality curriculum produced by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association. “The church has a responsibility to help people get factual information about their bodies, to empower them to make decisions for themselves, and to learn how to show care for others,” Lisa says.

The leaders trained at the OWL retreat will become facilitators in their local congregations. Working with groups of children, youth and adults, they provide accurate, age-appropriate information that helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their relationships, sexual health and behavior in the context of their faith.

Continued on next page.....

"Now that I spent a weekend learning about the Our Whole Lives sexuality program, I am so excited to share these resources with our youth," said the Rev. Julia Hollister of First Congregational in Sheboygan, reflecting on her experience at the retreat. "I look forward to all the crucial conversations that will be generated through our engagement with this material that affirms body and soul."

The Daycholah Center provided leaders the gracious space they needed to learn new ways of talking about human sexuality. "Many of our participants commented on how restorative the weekend was," said Amy Johnson an OWL training and Minister for Sexuality Education and Justice with the National Setting of the UCC. "That is unusual for our trainings because they are so full in content and time-intense over a weekend. I am convinced that having these trainings at Daycholah Center significantly contributed to the restoration and healing that happened over the weekend."

Whether it's an OWL Training or one of the many other programs offered by the Wisconsin Conference, the gifts of your congregation to OCWM Basic Support make possible all the work of the UCC beyond your local congregation and strengthen the ministry of your congregation.



Cedric Harmon and Amy Johnson, OWL trainers at the Daycholah Center