

The Country Church Herald

...Proclaiming the Word of God

NEWSLETTER | JULY 2020

ON THE WEB www.stmstjucc.org FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Hello St. James and St. Mark's Church Family and Friends!

Your church leadership has been wrestling with this question: "When will our churches reopen?" for many weeks. The full answer to this question is complicated for several reasons:



First of all, we did not close down as a church. I've been very proud of our Consistories, church members, and volunteers who have continued to meet the needs of so many during this crisis time. Our ministry to the elderly, the shut-ins, the kids and students and adults, and community have changed in how we delivered, but did not stop

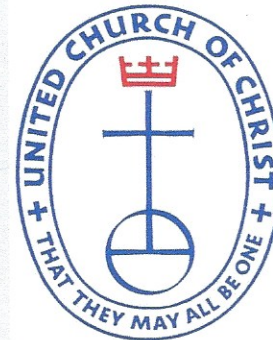
Secondly, we have continued to deliver music, prayer, and uplifting messages through social media and have engaged new participators we otherwise would not have. Having said this, I am very aware of how valuable physical space is to the life of a church. The relationships that happen there cannot be replaced. It is my prayerful and great desire to return to "meeting together" as it says in Hebrews 10:25, as soon as it is feasible, sustainable, and deemed safe for our congregations.

Third, over 90% of the churches in America average around 100 or less people in attendance. Ours is no different. While this puts us in a position to open more quickly than larger or multi-site churches, we must consider the general age of our congregations - both elderly and very young. With our smaller sanctuaries, we must take into consideration social-distancing and best safety/health practices under our conditions. And still, we must not sacrifice our on-line presence or the quality of it even as we begin the process of in-person worship. This medium is too far reaching and too effective to let that go right now.

Speaking in broad strokes, I am aware we are ministering to three groups of people:

1. Those who will run back to church as soon as we re-open the physical building.
2. Those who will hesitantly walk back to church after watching how reopening may affect contagion or virus transmission.
3. Those who will not come back to the physical building until there is a proven treatment or vaccine.

...continued on page 2.....



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

GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME!

July 5th—Drive-In Worship at
St. James, 9:00 am

Pastor's message, continued from page 1.....

Here is what I know now, and what I want you to know:

Your pastor/leaders are committed to seeking God for wisdom in decision-making. Like you, we are missing gathering together. Responsible leadership takes into consideration every variable and all perspectives that affect the ministry of St. James and St. Mark's. You would (and should not) expect nothing less from your leadership.

We will continue to have on-line worship posted to our Youtube Channel (St. Mark's & St. James UCC); we will continue to seek ways of safely connecting, deepening our faith and growing in our walk with Christ even while physically closed.

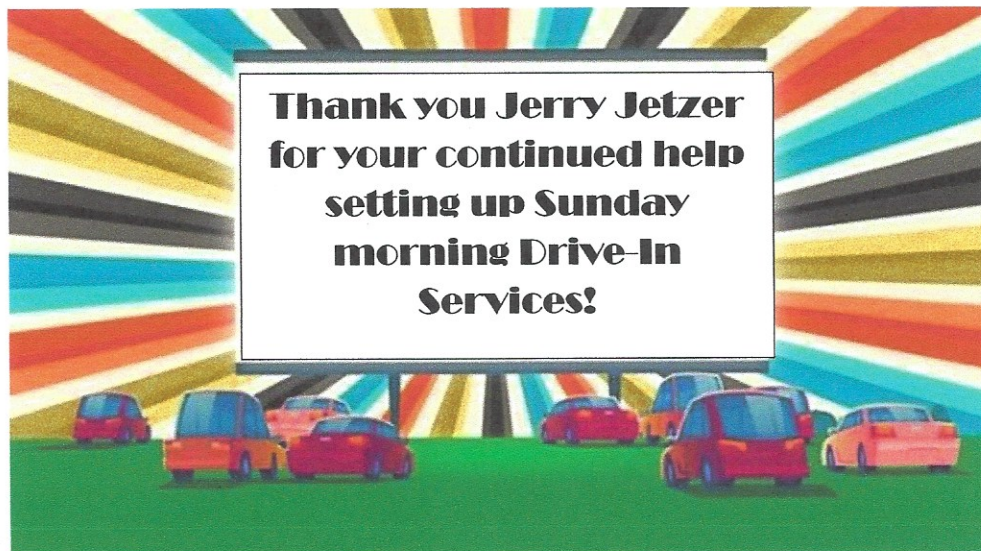
We are welcoming and inviting churches. These characteristics are very important and we want to make sure we provide an environment in which you are inclined to invite people.

As of June 22nd, we are in a holding pattern giving the recent positive cases reported in Sheboygan County. Your leadership is assessing week by week; in the meantime, we have begun Drive-In Services in the parking lots of both churches on alternating Sundays.

This is a great way to ease back into meeting in person, while maintaining safe distancing and healthy practices.

I know this does not answer every question you may have. Please know that your leaders are seeking God's guidance to help us worship in-person safely and sustainably.

Pastor Patrick



ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING

June 11, 2020 – 6:30

The meeting was called to order by President Clarence Belitz. No additions or corrections to the agenda.

Members present: Clarence Belitz-President, David Lorfeld – Vice-President, Val Spindler – Treasurer, Deb La Duke – Secretary, Michelle Mauk, Colleen Lauersdorf, and Tom Kleinhans. Pastor Schultz led the group in prayer.

Motion to approve the May Secretary's Report as printed sent through e-mail made by David and seconded by Val. Motion carried.

Val shared that approximately 30% of self-addressed stamped dues envelopes were returned. Please continue to send them in if you still have yours. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as printed made by Deb and seconded by David. Motion carried. Val has investigated options for online giving and suggested "Tithe.ly" as an easy and compatible program. Motion to have Val set up and manage the accounts made by Deb and seconded by David. Motion carried. She will also look to find communication for members on how to use.

Building and Grounds: Tom will be painting the Town Message Board. Mike Zoltheis has fixed the outdoor light on the north side of the building. Randy and Cindy Sohn discovered water on the floor in the north hallway. They cleaned up and made Consistory aware. Upon inspection, David added soil to that area and sopped it away from the building. This area will be monitored.

Clarence has worked on repairing several kitchen doors. Clarence purchased two dehumidifiers for the basement and they are working well. The carpet cleaning was completed by Badger Carpet Care and looks great. We are also looking to clean the green vinyl in the entryway with the same company. Presently this job is on hold. Jaime Binversie fixed the leaky urinal. We do have a new spare in the shed if needed. Deb received a quote from Professional Supply for cleaning and disinfection products for return to church. Michelle will check with Northwoods for a second option.

Old Business:

We have received copies of A Sure Foundation. Consistory members invited to read in preparation for evaluation of Pastor.

There were no Committee reports.

Confirmation services went well. Pastor and each of the four families were able to hold a private service. Jerry Jetzer recorded each service and Pastor uploaded them to our You Tube channel.

Pastor's new computer is working well.

St. Mark's will be hosting a "Drive-In" Service at St. Mark's on May 14th at 9:00. St James will host on May 21st at 9:00. All are invited. This service will be held in the parking lot in our cars. It will be broadcast on Radio station 88.7 FM. People will tune into the radio and listen as Pastor leads us in worship.

We are looking to purchase or make a Communion table. Discussion continues.

New Business:

All is going well with communications to members hospitalized and/or recuperating.

You Tube views are up overall by 10%. Videotaping will continue after reopening of church.

Clarence has been in contact with Chang Seiler (contact person) for the Korean Methodist Church. They will start their services when we do. Cleaning will occur between services.

Patrick will be gone for the July 12th and 19th services. Provided we will be back in the church, the 12th will be a hymn sing and the 19th will be led by a supply Pastor or Consistory/church members. Pastor will prerecord messages and upload to the You Tube channel if we are not in church.

Thank you to everyone who is able to give of their time or resources as we continue to make the best of our new circumstances. Closing church because of Covid has placed new considerations and challenges in front of us and knowing that we have many members from both churches working together is such a blessing!

Next meeting: July 1, 2020 – 6:30

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

Respectfully submitted,
Deb La Duke – St. James Secretary

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING

June 4, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. Members present: Pastor Schultz, Tara Vandoske, Judy Steinbeck, Louise Jetzer, Jacob Grunwald, and Lori Roelse. The group met virtually via Zoom. Pastor led us in prayer.

The Secretary's and Financial Secretary's reports were reviewed and accepted. Judy clarified questions on payments made from the Payroll Protection Program. Members' giving has dropped in May. Hopefully that will increase as we start services again.

Buildings and Grounds

- Downpayment has been made on the door refinishing project.
- Landscaping is being spruced up at the church.
- Mike Scharl provided an estimate for landscaping at the parsonage. We will discuss a budget and timeline next month.

Old Business

- Outdoor worship will start June 14. We will need to meet and plan for in-church services in the future.

New Business

- Pastor will be gone the weeks of July 6 (continuing education) and July 13 (vacation). He is working on plans for worship coverage for July 12 and 19.
- Karen Mansker will be gone on vacation July 9-11.
- Two weddings are coming up in July. Groups will be limited in size and will follow all social distances protocol.
- Vision Forward is a mission and vision planning effort. Pastor will be forming a team from each church to do this work. The process could take a year. The church profiles which were created during our pastoral search would be a starting point.
- Boundary Training will be completed by Pastor. It is required by the Conference. Emphasis is on maintaining healthy personal and professional boundaries.
- Some mission work may be forthcoming. A community member's home is in need of repair. A group may be formed to do this work.

Next Consistory Meeting

6:30, Thursday, July 2 at St. Mark's.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori Roelse, Consistory Secretary

We have a large supply of unused bulletins, preprinted from the supplier on one side, blank on the other, as a result of there not being church services for a few months. If anyone could use some extra scratch paper (possibly for kids' drawings?), please contact Karen in the office and we'll figure out how to get you some.



UPDATE :

We have been posting video recorded services to our YouTube channel since Holy Week. And, I've been asked from time to time – are people watching/viewing? I thought it would be helpful for all, if I shared some numbers of how we are doing on YouTube.

Since we began, we have 3,797 views (meaning someone has watched one of our posted videos). We have 19,879 impressions (someone clicked on, accessed, watched a portion of one of our videos). We have 48 subscribers (five new subscribers this last month). The number of views per video range from 47 – 122.

The devices used to view our videos include:

Game Console	0.2%
TV	4%
Computer	56.8%
Mobile Phone	26%
Tablet	13%

In the last 28 days

Our number of views is up 18%

Our watch time is down 1%

We have 1006 views

84% of our YouTube Channel Access has been through Facebook.

What does this all mean? It means we are reaching many people in a very new way. It means that our “online presence” is very important to continue, even as we begin our in-person worship (gathering in person at church). It also means that we have a new way of sharing our messages and inviting others to worship with us.

From time to time I talk about the importance of invitation. This can be difficult if we are not used to extending invitations to church when we are face to face with someone. With our on-line presence, we can email, message, or point someone to a particular message that speaks to something a person is going through; or is uplifting; faith building; encouraging... Young At Heart (or children's messages) can be shared. All of these can be posted and re-posted, commented on and liked on Facebook.

Ultimately, this is a new way for us to follow the Great Commission Christ imparted upon us ~ to go and make disciples in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Thank you to the many of our Consistories and church members who are helping to make this possible!

Pastor Patrick



In Loving Memory

Karen's funeral service was held on June 4th at St. Mark's. We extend our deepest sympathy to Glenn and family on her passing....

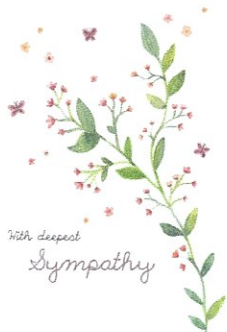
Karen Lavilla Spindler

Karen Lavilla Spindler, 80, of Sheboygan Falls, passed away unexpectedly on Thurs., May 21, 2020.

Karen was born on February 18, 1940, in Sheboygan, WI to Oliver and Laurretta (Damrow) Rautmann. She was a 1958 graduate of Kiel High School.

On November 15, 1958, Karen married Glenn in Town of Herman. Karen was employed at Howards Grove School District and RCS as a cook, and most recently at Acuity.

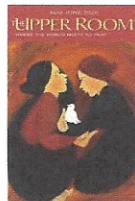
She was a longtime member of St. Marks UCC. She was also a member of the Red Hat Society. Karen enjoyed golf, solitaire, playing cards with "the sistas", spending winters in Arizona, reading, puzzle books, flower gardening, cooking, cake decorating, listening to gospel music, ballroom dancing with her husband, and especially getting together with family. She will always be remembered for her generous giving.



We extend our most heartfelt sympathy to Michelle, Jim, Allison, & Dawson Luckow and family on the passing of Michelle's dad, Herman Holzer, on Friday, June 26th.

PASTORAL CARE

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.



Our churches provide copies of The Upper Room, a bimonthly magazine, for anyone who wants to take one. They are usually available in the narthex of each church. Of course, with the church not open now, there is no access to this devotional.

The publishers of The Upper Room recognize this situation & have generously provided FREE downloads of the magazine by clicking on the link below (I'm not sure how long they'll continue to offer this free opportunity):

https://www.upperroom.org/special-editions?fbclid=IwAR1eS8Jmmzvpajzdng9qZfQYU-mLXj6idxjj5Ptx2GZj_LIwL7wm-VT8geM

REMINDER:

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

Your Church Consistory Members would be your contact in any nonemergency situation.

If you know of anyone who does not have the Internet, usually picks this magazine up at church to read, and would like a copy mailed to them, notify Karen at

karenchurchsec@gmail.com

ST JAMES JULY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ruth Ann Kolb
- 2 Matthew Lutze
- 4 Henry Langenhahn
Cody Mueller
- 6 Heidi Belitz
Debra LaDuke
Tom Kleinhans
Lori Heckmann
- 7 Rachel Stolzmann
- 8 Marissa Meyer
- 10 Jack Heckmann
- 11 James Becker
Ryan Lutzke
- 12 Linda Lutzke
- 13 Pat Kleinhans
Michelle Mauk
- 15 Thomas Spindler
- 16 Tanya Wasmer
- 17 Frederick Krause
- 20 Hailey Henschel
- 21 Randall Krause
- 22 Ronald Hansmann
- 23 Madisan Langenhahn
- 25 Tom Urness
- 26 Doris Sprenger
- 27 Katelynn Mauk
- 29 Chris Grotegut
- 31 Roger Lauersdorf
Grace Schultz

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Kevin & Sherry Jump
- 15 Tommy & Nicole
Spindler
- 23 Richard & Sarah Lutze
- 24 Hank & Barb Reimer
- 25 Jeff & Wendy Meyer
- 26 Henry & Kari
Langenhahn



Please notify Karen in the church office of any graduations so we can celebrate you with recognition in next month's newsletter!

karenchurchsec@gmail.com

*Thank you to Jane Vandoske
for her generous donation of
3 beautiful Hydrangea
shrubs that were planted in
front of the church, directly
under the cross!*



*These additions will add to
the beauty of our church!!
Thank You!!!*

CONFIDENTIALITY LAWS

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 HOSPITALITY ---
Is postponed until further notice.**

ST MARK'S JULY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Brandon Cyr
- 6 Wyatt Scharl
- 10 Emily Binversie
- 12 Steven Schnelle
- 13 Crissy Athorp
- 14 Gerald Thiel
Lindsay Summers
- 15 James Schuette
Jan Strynick
- 16 Deanne Schultz
Anna Marie
Bramstedt
- 20 Jane Vandoske
- 21 Emily Schultz
- 22 Owen Bramstedt
Janice Marcheske
- 25 Jay Schnelle
- 30 Wayne Grunwald
- 31 Amy Clemens
Grace Schultz

ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Richard & Mary Lou
Sixel
- 8 Larry & Sandra
Perronne
- 9 Bob & Tara Vandoske
- 13 Gary Van Auken &
Sandra Stark
- 23 Tim & Wendy
Schueler
- 23 Corey & Amy
Clemens
- 26 Tim & Deanne
Schultz

ST. JAMES

*You will be notified if we move to in-church Worship. These are assignments are being included "just in case".

JULY USHERS

Chairpersons:

* Tanya Wasmer

Thomas Heckmann

Dale Krause

David Krause

Rachael Krause

Hank & Barb Reimer

Dan Sohn

Katie Sohn

Abigail Wasmer

Amanda Wasmer

AUGUST USHERS

Chairperson:

* ValJean Macoe

Corra Gumm

David & Christine Gumm

Susan Kracht

Colton Marcoc

Gavin Marcoc

Randy & Val Spindler

Brett Spindler

Dean Sprenger

Lindsay Wippermann

ATTENTION:

Please email:

karenchurchsec@gmail.com

or let a consistory member

know of any address, phone

number,

and/or

e-mail

changes.



All church communications that are sent out 'in bulk' are being sent via Mail Chimp.

Notice that there is an option to subscribe/unsubscribe on each message. This means you are able to forward the email (newsletter/Sunday Morning message, etc.) to someone else and they can subscribe on their own.

It also means that you have the option of 'unsubscribing' if you no longer want to receive church communications.

Be aware that right now Mail Chimp is set up such that if you unsubscribe, you are unsubscribed to everything and will NOT receive any further church communications.

If you accidentally unsubscribe, send me a message and I can add you to the list again. I will only re-add you by your request.

ST. MARK'S

*You will be notified if we move to in-church Worship. These are assignments are being included "just in case".

JULY USHERS

Chairperson:

Margene Reyer*

Deanne Schultz

Linda Schroeder

Judy Steinbeck

Jane Vandoske

CANDLELIGHTERS

No Candle Lighters needed until Sept. 8th

AUGUST USHERS

Chairperson:

Pat Flook*

Noreen Flook

Jerry Jetzer

Louise Jetzer