

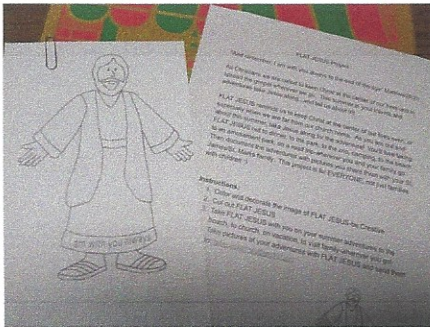
# The Country Church Herald

...Proclaiming the Word of God

NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2020

ON THE WEB [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org) FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

**Summer** is a time for vacation, camping, lakeside cabins, traveling... We work hard the rest of the year and this is a time we go away for a well-deserved break! But, does this mean a break from church or God? No, of course not. So how do we stay connected? How do we continue our prayers and conversations and serving others when we are away?

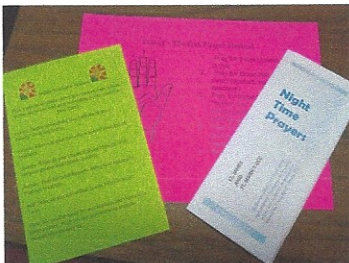


This summer we are introducing Church-On-the-Go! Within this Church-On-the-Go box you will find laminated game sheets for road trips: I Spy, the Licenses Plate game, Skittles prayers, Beach Ball Prayer and Thanksgiving (with your own beach ball), a Trip Talks booklet (put away the video games for a while) and most importantly - Flat Jesus.

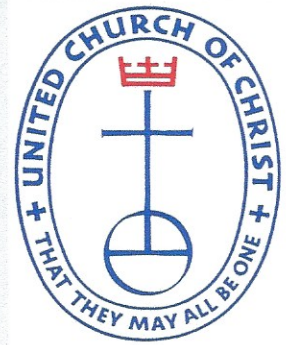
Color and decorate Flat Jesus any way you wish. Cut him out. And take him with you and take pictures of your adventures. Then, email us a picture and tell us about that adventure. Send the picture and story to: [flatjesusstmstj@gmail.com](mailto:flatjesusstmstj@gmail.com).



Even if we haven't fully gathered in in-person worship, pick up a Church-On-The-Go box at church before you leave for your vacation. Stay connected to your church, even while gone over the summer! We want to hear from you..



Special thank you to Kari, Chelsea, Henry, Williem Langenhahn and Sandy, Emma Perronne for putting all of this together.



ST. JAMES UCC  
1332 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!**

As of this writing, in-church Worship Services are planned to resume on June 14th. (see schedule below). You will be notified if there is a change.

**\*\*Additional information is found on the last three pages of this newsletter.**

**June 14th**

St. James: 9:00am Worship  
St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship

**June 21st**

St. Mark's: 9:00am Worship  
St. James: 10:30am Worship

**June 28th**

St. James: 9:00am Worship  
St. Mark's: 10:30am Worship

# ST. JAMES CONSISTORY MEETING

May 7, 2020 - 6:45 P.M.

The Call to Order was given by President Clarence Belitz. Members present were Pastor Patrick Schultz, David Lorfeld – Vice-President, Val Spindler – Treasurer, Deb La Duke – Secretary, Michelle Mauk, Tom Kleinhans, and Colleen Lauersdorf. No additions or corrections to the agenda. Pastor led us in prayer.

The Secretary's Report was emailed to members and posted in the newsletter. Motion to approve as printed made by Val and seconded by Tom. Motion carried.

Val reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Approximately one-fourth of the self-addressed stamped have been returned with support to meet expenses. We are very grateful to all who submitted money to meet financial needs. She also prepared a Yearly Comparison report. Due to the envelope campaign, we are slightly higher than last year. Motion to approve as printed by Deb and seconded by David. Motion carried. Val also presented a comparison study of online giving software companies. They are EasyTithe, Vanco, and Tithe.ly. Further information will be discussed at the June meeting. St. James will not be pursuing the PPP loan.

Building and Grounds: Tom will give the Town Notice Board a coat of paint. Mike Zoltheis continues to evaluate a light on the north side of the church. It is an automatic light but hasn't been working properly. Clarence finished fixing the kitchen cabinet doors and is now waiting to shop for matching stain.

## Old Business:

A Sure Foundation booklets have arrived. This resource from the Wisconsin Conference UCC, the Church Profile, and additional resources will be reviewed to develop an evaluation process for church and Pastor that is in agreement with all parties, is professional, and appropriate. Pastor suggests we form a committee from both churches of a few Consistory members and congregation members to work on this document. If interested, please contact Pastor or a Consistory member.

*Vision of Hope* – Tentative meeting set for July 6th, 2020 – Requests may be forwarded to Galen La Duke – President Vision of Hope.

*Christian Board of Education* – Sunday school ended early for 2019-2020 school year due to COVID restrictions.

*Service Committee* Brat Fry cancelled due to COVID restrictions.

## New Business:

- Pastor continues to make personal phone calls and send emails to members who are hospitalized and/or recuperating.

- Clarence continues to update the Korean Methodist congregation with church status.

- Remember to speak with a Consistory member or Pastor if you have suggestions.

- Pastor will continue to record services in his home office. The equipment to record is set up and works best there. The equipment is in need of updating and Pastor is continuing to watch for good prices on laptops, software, and programming.

- St. James has contributed \$50.00 for the ZOOM (social meeting media) license. St Mark's and the Wisconsin Conference UCC also contributed \$50.00 each. This allows for Consistories, Confirmation class, etc. to meet for extended periods of time. Free services were allotted up to 40 minutes. The Sunday service *You Tube* channel has grown in views and ranges between 50-100 each week. Brenda and Grace Schultz's duet has received over 100. Congratulations!

- Pastor has been looking into purchasing a new laptop/computer, software, licensing, and programming for his office and the church office. He will present a proposal to the Consistories when he has found the best option.

- Confirmation is currently being planned for May 30 and 31st. Each family will have their own scheduled time for service. We are still working with limits of 10 at a time in the church. Pastor will be asking a church member to be the videographer for the services. They can be added to the *You Tube* channel for congregation members to enjoy.

- The Consistory looked at several bids to clean the carpet, pews, and the building flooring. Val made a motion and Tom seconded to have Badger Carpet Care come in to clean the carpets and pews. Motion carried.

- A/V equipment update for St. James – The plan continues to be on hold.

- Reopening of church will depend upon recommendations from the Wisconsin Council of Churches and the Badger Bounce Back Plan guidelines from Gov. Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

- There was a suggestion to purchase/build a Communion table using Memorial money. Discussion will continue.

Next Meeting Date: June 11, 2020 at 6:30

Motion to adjourn at 8:45 from Tom and seconded by Colleen. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb La Duke – Consistory Secretary

# ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING

May 8, 2020

The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Mansker at 6:35 pm. Members present: Pastor Schultz, Bruce Mansker, Tara Vandoske, Dave Call, 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. Our OCWM goal was reviewed and was kept at \$5,800.

## Buildings and Grounds

Jerry Jetzer had a few questions about the lawn care regarding trimming low branches along the parking lot and filling in a low patch on the parsonage lawn. He will take care of those issues.

## Old Business

-The computer replacement for pastor was discussed. He will search for one that will meet the video needs required for recording and uploading church services.

-Updates were given on projects for 2020:

- Landscaping around parsonage--Tara will compile a list of the tasks usually completed regarding the lawn care. She will meet with Mike Scharl regarding landscaping around the parsonage. Mike will put a plan together.
- Church trim--Quote for \$2,460 (Dave)
- Louvers will be looked at.
- Refinish outside doors on south side (north side door is fine)--Quote for \$900. It was agreed to move ahead with this project
- Handicap accessibility in the sanctuary--Bruce reviewed the plans from when the addition was put on the church, but the HC Accessible Plan was not in the design books. He will do some further checking.
- Future topics--
- new hymnals?
- pew cushions (Louise)
- Sound System (Bruce)

## New Business

-We were approved for a federal loan through the Payroll Protection Program. After Bruce and Pastor sign the paperwork, Judy will make the payroll payments for this period of closure.

-Return to Church Planning--Discussion needs to continue to have a cohesive plan between the two churches. Bruce and Clarence will stay in contact and have a group meet each week to monitor the reopening process.

-Pastor's Report--Thankfully no one has been hospitalized. Pastor is cycling through the membership list making phone calls.

-Email communications from church--If you "unsubscribe", you will be unsubscribed from all group email communications from church. Contact Karen Mansker if you would like to be put back on the email list.

-Tara will work with the pest control company to come in to service the church.

-Confirmation--Individual confirmations will be done with family groups of 9 or fewer on either Saturday, May 30 or Sunday, May 31. The confirmations will be recorded and put on the church's YouTube channel.

## Next Consistory Meeting

6:30, Thursday, June 4. If in Phase One of reopening, we will meet at church. If not, we will meet virtually on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Roelse,

St. Mark's Consistory Secretary

American Legion Post 477 of St Nazianz presented Memorial Day Honors at 8am during a short ceremony at St. James Cemetery. The Legion post maintains a list of all veterans buried at each of the cemeteries visited.



What a beautiful Memorial Day morning to honor and give thanks to God and to our veterans who served in the armed forces and are buried at St. James UCC Cemetery!

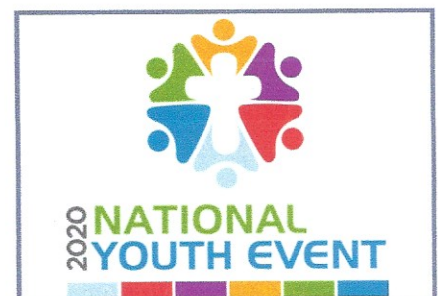


Thank you to Henry Langenhahn Sr., Henry Langenhahn Jr, William Langenhahn, Al Wippermann, and Clarence Belitz for laying new sod in the cemetery.

The 2020 National Youth Event will be an Online Event this year.

Find more details at:  
<http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020/>

If you have any questions please reach out to either Rev. Trayce Potter at [pottert@ucc.org](mailto:pottert@ucc.org) or Rev. Tracy Howe Wispelwey at [wispelweyt@ucc.org](mailto:wispelweyt@ucc.org)



Welcome  
To the **WORLD**  
Little One

We rejoice with Abigail Wasmer and her fiancé, Andrew Peterson, on the birth of their 8 pounds, 5 ounces, 21 inches long son, Andrew Michael Peterson, Junior on Saturday, May 16th.

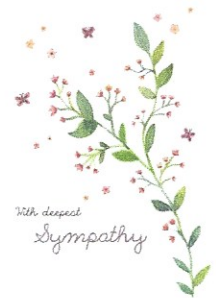


With  
Deepest  
Sympathy...

Our most heartfelt sympathy goes to Glenn Spindler and family on the passing of his wife, Karen Spindler, on Thursday, May 21st.

An obituary is not available at the time of this newsletter printing, and will be shared next month.

We share in sympathy with Pastor Patrick and Tim Schultz and their families on the passing their cousin, David Drossel, on Friday, May 22nd. Pastor Patrick will be officiating at David's service.



## 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](https://www.upperroom.org/special-editions?fbclid=IwAR1eS8JMmzvpajzdng9qZfQYU-mLXj6idxjj5Ptx2GZj_LIwL7wm-VT8geM)

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

## 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.*

## ST JAMES CELEBRATIONS

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Ashley Lutzke
- 5 Thomas Heckmann
- 6 Johnathon Koenig
- 8 Morgan Henschel
- 9 William Spindler
- 10 Mikaela Spindler
- Dean Sprenger
- 12 Michael Belitz
- 14 Amanda Wasmer
- 15 David Krause
- 16 David Gumm
- Austin Nye
- 17 Kathleen Hickman
- 18 Brittany Stolzmann
- 20 David Lorfeld
- 21 Steven Henschel
- 23 Bradley Mauk
- 24 Camryn Spindler
- 25 Rieck Beiersdorf
- Christine Gumm
- 28 Cheyenne Mueller
- 30 Allen Stolzmann

### JUNE

#### ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Dale & Doris  
Sprenger
- 10 Rick & Donna  
Wippermann
- 13 Jamie & Heather  
Henschel
- 26 Randall & Cindy  
Sohn
- 28 Steven & Linda  
Rozmarynowski



### Photos Wanted

I am still looking for pictures for the albums  
I am putting together for everyone to enjoy.

Pictures of the past up to the present.  
Group confirmation, Ladies Aid,  
Choir, Sunday School, Youth Group,  
Building, Celebrations, etc.

Give me a call and let me know you are  
interested in helping me out. You can give  
me the pictures or if you wish to keep them  
I can copy them and return them to you.

Marlene Kammann 920-565-2608

### 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 CELEBRATIONS

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Janet Schueler
- 4 Tim Miota
- 9 Ray Sixel
- 10 Tara Vandoske
- 11 Mike Summers
- 13 Emma Perronne
- 14 Sheri Kaestner
- 15 Finley Uttech
- 16 Steve Gabsch
- 17 Bruce Mansker
- 18 Michael Marcheske
- 19 Mary Ellen Schnelle
- 26 Tim Schultz
- 27 Glenn Spindler

### JUNE

#### ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Dave & Audrey  
Aardappel
- 3 Tim & Angel  
DeBlaey
- 6 Thomas & Stacy  
Hermann
- 11 Todd & Stacy  
Grunwald
- 15 Lee & Nancy Sixel
- 21 Robert & Barbara  
Pragalz
- 28 James & Patty  
Taylor

# ST. JAMES

## JUNE USHERS

Chairpersons:

\* David & Jackie Mueller

Raymond Henschel

Scott Henschel

Charles & Ruth Ann Kolb

Katelyn Mauk

Cheyenne Mueller

Cody Mueller

Jason & Jenny Riesterer

## JULY USHERS

Chairpersons:

\* Tanya Wasmer

Thomas Heckmann

Dale Krause

David Krause

Rachael Krause

Hank & Barb Reimer

Dan Sohn

Katie Sohn

Abigail Wasmer

Amanda Wasmer

### ATTENTION:

Please email:

karenchurchsec@gmail.com

or let a consistory member

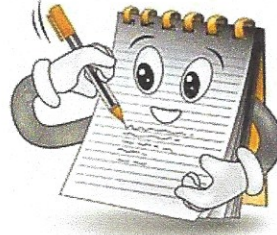
know of any address, phone

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

## JUNE USHERS

Chairperson:

Todd Grunwald\*

Ben Grunwald

Jacob Grunwald

John Grunwald

Katy Grunwald

## CANDLELIGHTERS

No Candle Lighters needed until Sept. 8th

## JULY USHERS

Chairperson:

Margene Reyer\*

Deanne Schultz

Linda Schroeder

Judy Steinbeck

Jane Vandoske

Like us on Facebook



Check out our Website  
[www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org)

*Following the COVID-19 outbreak many of us had mental images of the virus running its course, and life as we knew it would return to normal and we would return to our churches in triumphant celebration. Reality, however, has dictated a different story and we now realize the return to church will be anything but normal and will happen in phases.*

*The consistories of St. James and St. Mark's have been meeting weekly to stay abreast of the evolving COVID-19 situation and review the latest recommendations to determine how we can safely return to church. This has been a daunting task, sifting through hundreds of pages of documents, guidelines, and recommendations to determine the best course of action.*

*Fortunately, the Wisconsin Council of Churches has provided some guidance to help churches navigate the COVID-19 outbreak. The consistories are using portions of the WCC recommendations as well as other applicable resources to guide our actions and activities. Please be patient as we work to identify the best options to safely return to church while ensuring the health and safety of our congregations. As we progress through the phases of reopening, church services in general will look much different in the months ahead, but rest assured we will gather again soon.*

*A condensed excerpt of the WCC guidelines applicable to our churches, was prepared and has been included below.*

*Please be aware that we are continuing to explore what is best for our congregations and have NOT adopted any of these guidelines.*

*Bruce Mansker, President – St. Mark's Consistory*

## **Wisconsin Council of Churches - Model for Returning to Church**

In developing this document, we have consulted with public health experts, church leaders, and guidance developed by churches and judicatories around the United States. We offer it as a framework to guide clergy and lay leaders in making healthy and pastoral decisions, not as a fixed set of guidelines that will account for every circumstance. We recognize that all ministry is contextual. You will have to be aware of the needs of your congregation, your polity and theology, and local conditions. You may need to consult local health officials or your judicatory leaders as you finalize decisions. Remember, too: we may move back and forth between phases if second or third waves of infections emerge. The advice of public health officials may change as more becomes known about COVID-19.



## PHASE ONE - {Current State}

- **Online Worship:** Churches should continue holding online worship services only. Consider resuming recording in the sanctuary, while maintaining at least 6 ft of space between people – greater distance between those who are singing.
- **Life Rituals:** Weddings, funerals should be kept to less than 10 in attendance. If you need to help set a limit, consider using immediate family.
- **Groups:** Bible studies and small groups continue to meet online.
- **Church Office:** Limit office functions to only essential operations. Those in the office should be wearing masks; if you have more than one person in the office, make sure that surfaces, including the phone, are regularly sanitized.
- **Leadership Meetings:** Church leadership teams of less than 10 might consider meeting in person while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing or continue meeting online.
- **High Risk Individuals:** People over 60 and those with underlying conditions, whether staff or volunteers, should continue to shelter in place.

## PHASE TWO - {Tentatively Planning Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> Return to Church}

- **Worship, depending on size:**
  - Smaller churches with under 50 average worship attendance might consider holding in-person worship but make sure their space is large enough to allow for social distancing. Have a contingency plan for overflows beyond the approved number of people. Have a plan to clean surfaces between services.

### WCC general recommendations for worship:

- Whichever alternative you choose; we recommend continuing to share worship online as there will be many who are at high risk and cannot join you or may not feel safe to return even if precautions are in place.
  - **High Risk Individuals:** People over 60 and those with underlying conditions, should continue to shelter in place.
  - **Face Coverings:** Wear cloth face masks while at church, as is recommended in public spaces.
  - **Communion:** Recommend against offering communion currently. Offering Communion safely will continue to be a challenge, as touching a face mask (to remove or shift it) contaminates it. Proximity to the communicant is a risk to the communion minister and those receiving.
  - **Singing:** We recommend against singing in the sanctuary when the congregation is gathered. Singing is among the riskier behaviors when it comes to spreading droplets/aerosols which can carry the virus a significant distance and remain suspended in the air.

- **Minimize Physical Contact:** Implement no-touch alternatives for collecting offerings. Consider removing hymnals and use of bulletins as alternatives.
- **Social Distancing:** Have people spread out in sanctuary space with one family unit per pew; keep empty pews between families.
- **Fellowship / Hospitality:** We recommend against offering a fellowship/coffee hour. Encourage people to leave the building rather than mingling after services are complete.
- **Life Rituals:** Weddings, funerals, confirmations could take place in a more traditional way, with careful attention to guest lists to keep under the 50-person limit, and physical distancing plans.
- **Small Groups:**
  - Offer opportunities for Bible studies and small groups to meet in person or online.
- **Church Business:**
  - Regular office functions could resume while maintaining social distancing and wearing masks.
  - Church leadership teams might consider meeting in person while maintaining social distancing or continue meeting online.

### PHASE THREE – {Date to be Determined}

- **High Risk Individuals:** People over 60 and those with underlying conditions, whether staff, volunteers, or program participants, should continue to shelter in place.
- **Worship:**
  - Churches of all sizes can offer in-person and remote/online options.
  - Avoid crowding in the sanctuary to the extent possible.
  - Observe public health recommendations on Communion/Eucharist and consult your ecclesiastical authorities.
  - Observe public health recommendations on group singing. The Wisconsin Council of Churches will monitor recommendations from the CDC and Wisconsin's public health officials and offer updates.
  - Continue to use no-touch alternatives for passing the peace, collecting offering, and liturgical resources. Consider removing hymnals, use bulletins (do not reuse) as alternatives.
  - We recommend against offering a fellowship/coffee hour. Continue encouraging people to leave the building rather than mingling.
- It should be safer for Bible studies and small groups to meet in person.
- Office functions could resume as normal, with attention to cleaning.
- Groups, teams, and committees could meet in person.