

The Country Church Herald

...Proclaiming the Word of God

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

May, 2023

**May 7th—Confirmation at St. Mark's
Building Fund Sunday at both churches**

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

**May 14th—Mother's Day
Last Day of Sunday School**

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

May 21st -

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

**May 28th - Pentecost
Communion at Both Churches**

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

**Sunday bulletins & links to prayer requests are posted under the 'Messages' link on our church website: <https://www.stmstjucc.org/>
Worship Services are recorded weekly and uploaded to our church
YouTube channel: St. Mark's & St. James UCC**

Other Special Church Events this Month:

Wednesday, May 10th, St. James Brat Fry, 4-7pm, Take-Outs Only

Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th, 8:15am, Wagner-Eberle-Sukawoty American Legion Post in St Nazianz conducting military honors at St. James cemetery to respect our Veterans.

More information about both of these events in articles in this newsletter.



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR PATRICK:

On Saturday, April 22nd, I attended the Northeast Association annual meeting at Daycholah. I am grateful for an understanding congregation that not only supports my time away but encourages me to go away. Wait a minute. That didn't come out right.

Daycholah (on Green Lake) is the new home office of the conference. The conference recently sold their building in Deforest and moved just in time for the annual meeting. It is indeed a beautiful location – ideal for retreats, camping, conference meetings...

We were blessed to have two excellent keynote speakers for the day. The first was Rev. Dr. Stephanie Perdew of the Cherokee Nation who is also the new director for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Damascus Project. You can find more information about her at: [Rev. Stephanie Perdew - Wisconsin Conference UCC \(wcucc.org\)](#)

Our other speaker, Rebecca Edler, is the Sustainability Coordinator at the Sustainable Development Institute at the College of Menominee Nation. You can find out more about her at: [Staff, Faculty, & Team Members - College of Menominee Nation](#)

Both spoke of their tribes and the sustainable efforts to maintain the land, clean air, and clean water. I left the conference meeting feeling that there is a lot more for me to learn about and to do in regard to their topics.

The business of the day went well. New officers and team members were elected to a variety of district level committees. And while there are a few more gaps to fill, everything is looking very good. Interestingly enough, all 53-54 UCC churches in our district were represented on Saturday. I understand this hasn't happened in a while. There was a special mention of St. Mark's who was one of only 7-8 churches who qualified in their support of the greater ministry for 5 For 5 Churches.

The budget for last year (2022) was met and the proposed budget for 2024 approved. It should be noted that Jane Anderson spoke to our declining churches and numbers, which of course result in lower financial amounts to conference ministries and support. There is greater interest for more and more churches to explore a shared ministry [essentially yoking one pastor to two or more churches] than ever before.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.....

... PASTOR PATRICK'S MESSAGE CONTINUED....

She also spoke of the importance of churches ensuring their membership rolls are accurate. In other words, ensure the people you have on your membership list are active and participative (with obvious exceptions for shut-ins, very elderly, infirmed...) The amount churches are asked to give to (or pledge to) the conference is based on the number of members on the church's membership list. As membership declines the needed amount to meet the budget is spread across the other churches. If a church has 10 – 20 – 30 (fill in the number) on the member rolls that are not actually active, that overall number is calculated and is the basis for all churches' conference giving expectations.

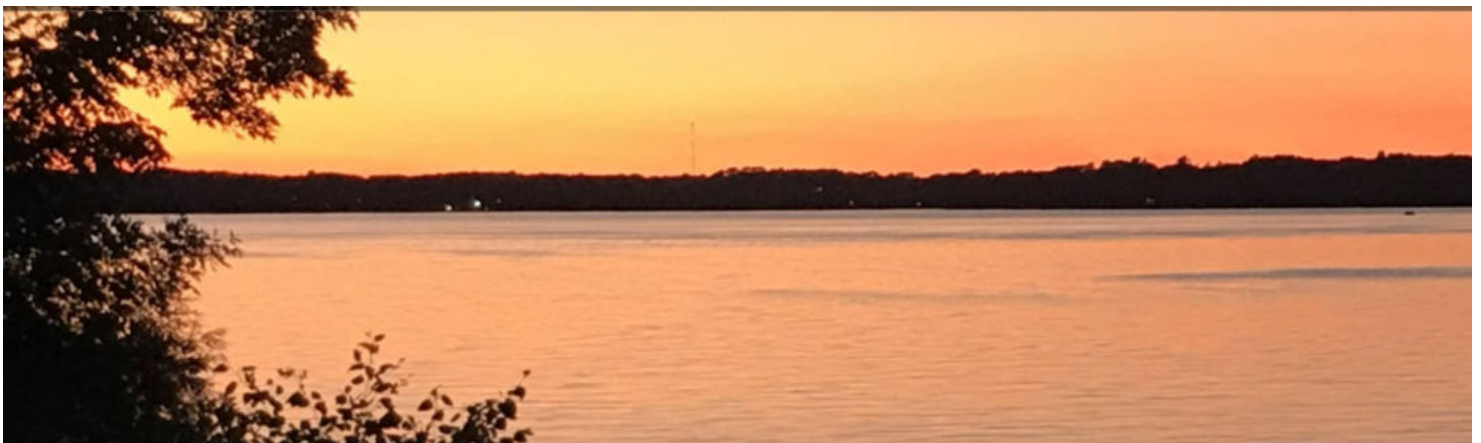
So, if (let's say) 20-25% of the churches across the conference have inaccurate membership rolls, all the churches will be paying a higher rate to make up the difference.

Lastly, from a personal point of perspective. Some of you know that I tend to find large meetings, conferences, and so on – not very worthwhile. There are a hundred other things I can think of doing that would make better use of my time. However, this annual meeting was very well done. It started on time, it ended on time, the speakers were very engaging, and the material easy to follow. The meeting was held in the chapel overlooking Green Lake. A more beautiful vista is hard to imagine. The greeters and helpers were great. The food served was very good. And I was able to reconnect with a number of my colleagues I haven't seen in a while.

All in all, a good weekend!

God bless you, my friends. See you on Sunday.

Pastor Patrick



To learn more about Daycholah Center and the camp opportunities it offers visit:

<https://ucci.org/daycholah-center/>

ST. MARK'S CONSISTORY MEETING

April 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order on April 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Members present were Glenn Grunwald, Larry Perronne, Judy Steinbeck, Linda Schroeder, Ben Grunwald, Julie Herrmann and Pastor Schultz. Janell Davis was absent. Pastor led us in prayer.

The financial report was read by Judy and reviewed by the consistory. Linda made a motion to accept the report and Larry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Larry to accept the Secretary's report and the motion was seconded by Linda. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor has requested hanging the Books of the Bible created by the confirmation class in the fellowship hall.

The Mission/Vision team will be sending out a ministry focus survey via email to the congregation and team members will be present for a few weeks on Sunday to answer questions.

Projects:

Larry and Glenn will be working on repairing the pastor's office ceiling tiles and the bell tower leak. Larry will call Fasse Paint to find out about the expense of repainting the parking lot lines.

Glenn will talk with Jerry to discuss options for spot cleaning the carpeting instead of having it professionally cleaned. Will discuss it at the next meeting.

We reviewed and revised the duties of the consistory and received binders to pass on to each new consistory member.

Old Business:

Louise Jetzer and Sheila Hemb have been added to the youth fellowship account at Cleveland State Bank.

Plans were made for communion on May 7th for Confirmation. Wine, grape juice and communion glasses are needing to be purchased. Larry and Linda will be serving communion and Julie will be getting the supplies. The choir should be served the bread first and then the wine or a separate plate can be prepared and put on the altar for the choir to pass amongst themselves.

St. James will be hosting the United Church Men and Women's scholarship banquet in October. St. James service members will be helping prepare for the event.

New Business:

Linda made a motion and Larry seconded allowing Judy to write out checks up to \$5,000 without a second signature needed and anything over \$5,000 another signature would be required. Motion carried.

Larry made a motion to continue with T&L Services at \$65 per lawn cutting. Linda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The faucet outside the parsonage back door is broken and needs to be replaced.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5/4/23 at 6:30 p.m.

Linda made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Larry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Herrmann
Consistory Secretary

ST. JAMES CONSISTORY

April 3, 2023 6:30

- The meeting was called to order by President Jackie Mueller. Members present were Jason Riesterer – Vice-President, Sheila Hemb – Treasurer, Tammy Serketich – Secretary, Jamey Binversie, Wendy Meyer, Scott Henschel, and Pastor Patrick Schultz.
- Prayer led by Pastor
- Motion to approve the Secretary's Report made by Jamey and seconded by Wendy
Motion carried.
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Tammy and seconded by Scott.
Motion carried.
- Pastor's Report:
Mission/Vision Committee will meet on April 15th
Mission Trip -16 members from St. Marks and 1 member from St. James will be going to Cleveland Ohio. Limited spots were available. Hoping to also have someone from St. James to help organize/plan next year.
- Building and Grounds:
Yard Clean up April 15 at 9:00; Rain date April 22
Parking Lot -Dave Mueller had a paving expert look at our parking lot. Recommendation: it isn't feasible to fill in cracks. We will fill in ourselves for the time being, but will need to resurface in the future.
Sunday school room floor -Jackie will contact Badger Floor Care
Entry way chairs – Sheila will check memorial monies and will check with families if any interest.
- Committee Reports:
Vision of Hope: Nothing new to report
Stewardship Committee: Met March 21. We currently have 113 contributing members. There will be a social after church on May 14th
Christian Board of Education: Nothing new to report
Service Committee: Nothing new to report
Audio Visual: Nothing new to report
- Old Business:
Safe Sanctuary helper – Consistory will review binder information and discuss next month.
United Churchmen and Women – There will be a meeting April 26. Scott is attending and will have more information regarding the banquet being sponsored by St. James.
Communion Supplies
Maundy Thursday – Communion; Wendy
Easter Sunday – Communion; Scott
- New Business:
160th Church Anniversary –Special service to be held Sunday, November 5, 2023
Mission Fest – Sunday, October 15th. Bring any guest speaker ideas to our next mtg.
Delegates for NE Assoc. Mtg – Jackie will make an announcement in church
- Congregational Concerns were discussed and will be taken into consideration.
- Next meeting date: Monday, May 1st at 6:30 pm
- Motion to adjourn made by Jason and seconded by Wendy. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Serketich,
Consistory Secretary

This year, Memorial Day is on Monday May 29, 2023, and will mark the seventy-seventh year that the Wagner-Eberle-Sukawoty American Legion Post in St Nazianz has conducted military honors at local cemeteries to respect our Veterans. The first honors were performed in 1946 and have continued every year since then. One of our Post members, Jerry Augustine, has been involved for fifty-three years.

The ceremony consists of a memorial prayer, the reading of the name of each Veteran buried in that cemetery, a three-round volley by the Honor Guard, and the playing of taps.

The schedule for this Memorial Day, 29 May 2023, is as follows:

7:15 – Ucker Road – near St Nazianz

7:30 – Holy Trinity – School Hill

7:45 – Meeme Center Cemetery

8:00 – St Fidelis – Spring Valley

8:15 – St James – Spring Valley

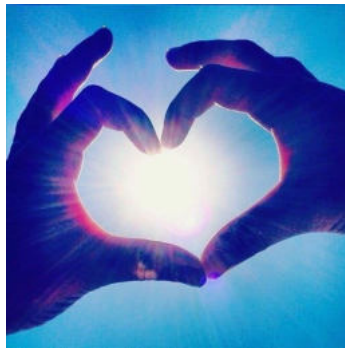
8:30 – St Isidore – Osman

8:45 – St Thomas the Apostle – Newton

9:00 – Salem Ebenezer – Newton

9:15 – St John – Newtonburg

10:15 – Salvatorian – St Nazianz



Mission Trip Fundraising Events

**June 3rd Brat Fry at Howards Grove Piggly Wiggly,
from 10am-2pm**

**Kwik Trip Car Wash Cards and Seroogy Candy Bars are also
for sale to support our trip.**

Thank you so much for your support!

The Mission Trip Team of St. James & St. Mark's

BRAT FRY

St James UCC

13312 Pioneer Road, Newton
(Spring Valley)

Wednesday, May 10, 2023
4 - 7 pm

Brats
Hamburgers
Chicken
Tortes

Take Outs Only



ST. JAMES BRAT FRY REMINDER:

Brat Fry volunteer helpers and torte donations are appreciated.

Sign up sheets are in the church narthex.

Chairman: Mary Ann Vogel 920.693.8352, email: wvogel3@yahoo.com

Co-chairs: Wendy Henschel & Tammy Serketich.



St. James UCC
May 14th, Mothers Day,
Social Gathering after the 9:00 service

LET'S GET
SOCIAL!

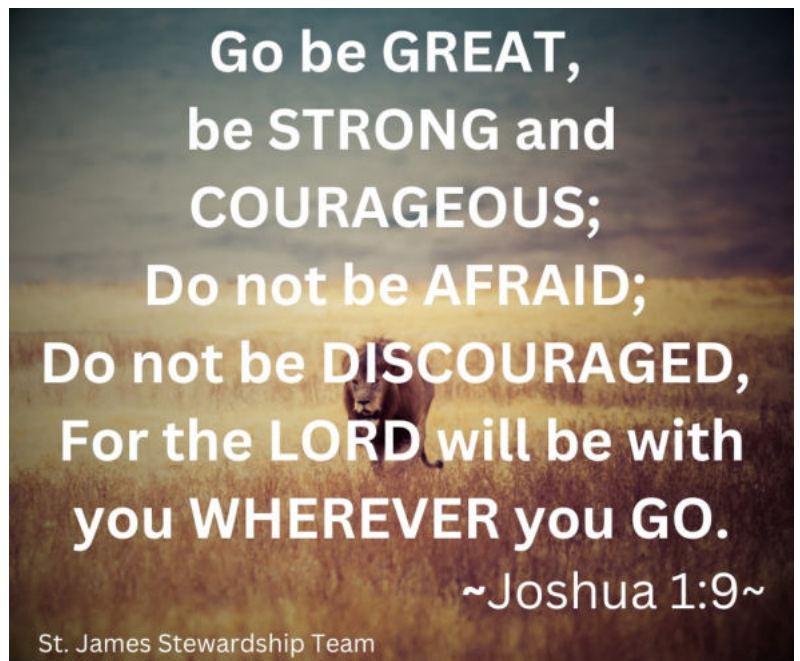


HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

In April we enjoyed TWO extra youth activities: Game Night and a trip to Get Air Trampoline Park! We do not have any "extra" youth activities planned for the month of May, but we do have one of our own, Raymond Henschel, graduating very soon! Let's all keep him in our prayers during this transition from high school to LTC!

May 7 at 5:30 we will meet at St. Mark's, and we will meet at St. James on May 21 also at 5:30. Thank you to Janell Davis for preparing a meal for us and to Judy Steinbeck for being our extra adult when we get together at St. Mark's!

It takes a village, as they say, and we're grateful for all of you who make up our village!
~Brenda Schultz



These sweet volunteers enthusiastically helped with the yard clean up at St. James on Saturday, April 15th.

Attention St. James Ladies

Join us for fellowship and some Bunco fun on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Where: St. James UCC, church basement

What: Bunco

(easy to learn and lots of fun, laughs and fellowship)

Needed: A \$5.00 participation fee for a chance to win.

Light appetizers and refreshments will be provided.

To sign up, contact Tammy Serketich or Jackie Mueller or email tserketich@yahoo.com



VISION OF HOPE

The next Vision of Hope Meeting is Monday, May 22nd, at 6:30pm.

"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.

May Giving to Our UCC Mission

May 7th is Building Fund Sunday - as always, we continue to have general Building expenses that are paid throughout the year. Your support is greatly appreciated and needed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheila Hemb, St James Treasurer





Parsonage Loan Update

On April 2, Larry Perronne from the St Mark's consistory put out a plea to members concerning the remaining balance for the parsonage loan. At that time, we owed \$10,458.74. I am happy to report that some of our members came through for us. Between April 9 and

April 23, we received \$7,150.00 in member donations which was put towards the principal on the loan. That brings our balance to \$3,308.74.

Thank you so much to all of the members who contributed. We are so close to paying this loan off! It is great how our congregation has come together and made this possible. We are so fortunate to have such great responses and positive contributors and we would love to see this paid off so we can focus on upcoming projects.

If you find that you are able to give additionally to help us pay off this loan, any amount would be appreciated to make this happen.



Sheboygan County Interfaith Organization

Bulletin Bites

May 2023

- ⇒ Four families currently call Bridgeway home. We are looking forward to warmer weather and outdoor activities. Plans are underway for our annual Bridgeway camping trip. Please consider donating any of the following before July 7th: sunscreen, bug spray, bottled water, inflatables for water play, paper plates, plastic utensils, pudgy pie irons.
- ⇒ Please join us in wishing Alex well, a program assistant from Lakeland University, as she heads to Boston College to pursue a Master of Social Work degree. Extra prayers are appreciated!
- ⇒ Mission Moment: SCIO recently restructured staffing resources to better meet the needs of the community. Due to the significant increase in clients needing assistance with community resources, we developed the Client Advocate position. The Client Advocate has been very busy working with families who inquire about Bridgeway and Family Pathways. She is currently assisting 3 families who are in need of housing and 4 families are working through the intake process for supervised visitation.
- ⇒ We would like to focus on our pantry in the coming month and would appreciate any help with Mac and Cheese, jarred sauces (such as spaghetti or alfredo), and frozen vegetables. We are continually grateful to our partners in faith!

ST. JAMES USHERS

MAY

*Alan Wippermann
Rick & Donna Wippermann
Tim & Noel Wippermann
Cindi Wippermann
Sara Wippermann
Lindsay Wippermann
Tom Urness
David Lorfeld
Linda Lorfeld

JUNE

*Mark & Kathy Stolzmann
Allen & Eunice Stolzmann
ValJean Marcoe
Colton Marcoe
Gavin Marcoe
Clarence & Heidi Belitz
Scott Henschel
Raymond Henschel



ST. MARK'S GREETERS

MAY

Janice Marcheske
Mike Marcheske
Deanne Schultz

JUNE

Ben Grunwald
Jacob Grunwald
John Grunwald
Katy Grunwald
Luke Grunwald
Todd Grunwald

READERS

May 7— Sandy Perronne
May 14— Scott Siekman
May 21— Lori Roelse
May 28— Jacob Grunwald

HOSPITALITY

May 7th — Sandy Perronne
May 14th — **
May 21st — Margene Reyer
May 28th — **

****If you're interested in hosting one of these days, contact the office.**

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

<u>St. James</u>		<u>St. Mark's</u>
61	April 2	76
39	April 6	**
**	April 7	61
92	April 9	102
22	April 16	52
51	April 23	56

April 30th will be reported next month.



In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

ST JAMES MAY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Timothy Heckmann
Brian Henschel
- 4 William Heckmann
- 7 David Lutze
- 13 Katie Belitz
- 16 Andrew Peterson, Jr.
- 19 Jean Henschel
Carson Spindler
- 22 Daniel Kleinhans
- 28 Jared Luebke
Carlene Sohn
- 29 Carson Russart
- 30 Kelly Luebke
Handrow

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9 Jamey & Amanda
Binversie
- 14 Tim & Amanda
Russart
- 20 Brian & Sheila Hemb
- 21 Randall & Karen
Krause

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.

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!

Community UCC in Elkhart Lake

is hosting our

Fall Fish Fry drive-thru

at Anchor Lanes

Friday May 12th, 2023

4:00-7pm

We will be serving our famous 3-piece beer battered Cod, German potato salad, bread, tartar sauce, veggie, coleslaw, and a dessert.

All for \$15



ST MARK'S MAY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Luke Grunwald
Layla Schultz
- 5 John VanDerMale
- 8 JoAnn Grant
Henley Hermann
- 13 Alyssa Boutelle
- 14 Alice Broehm
- 20 Noreen Flook
- 21 Owen Schnelle
- 22 Samuel DeBlaey
- 25 Roxi Bernhardt
- 26 Stacy Hermann
- 27 Steven Schultz
- 28 Wendy Schnelle

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Steven & Mary Jo
Gabsch
- 2 Jared & Emily Urban
- 16 Warren & Karen
Vandoske
- 18 Pat & Noreen Flook
- 31 Mark & Kathy Jurk

HERE'S A FUN ACTIVITY FOR YOU

(Thank you for sharing, Margene :)

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, *The Chronicle*, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.