



I know that not everyone agrees with me (surprising, eh) but I love this weather. It's perfect ...warm sunny days and cool gentle nights. I enjoy the change in temperature but even more the incredible palette of color that surrounds us in trees, bushes, fall flowers and vegetables. Even fall sunrises and sunsets seem more glorious. The colors are beautiful, the air is crisp, and it is perfect window open a crack sleeping weather. Even my nutty dogs enjoy the cool air and piles of leaves to play in.

Just like the weather, it has been a year of change for many of us. Even though I know what season follows fall, I have come to accept that this is what the journey looks like. However, I also realize that before long the cycle will be complete and with certainty, spring will arrive. Until then, I enjoy the seasons as they come, each with its own unique challenges, joys and beauty. Just like life itself. So take heart, keep the faith, enjoy and be part of the great transformation.

Getting back to fall and my gardens, fall gives me a great appreciation for gardening and gardeners, and the joy of being a steward of God's creation. The older I get the more I realize it is the simple things in life that make me happy... ah life is good.

And...speaking of gardens and transformation. It has also been a big year of transformation for my gardens with much hard work and creative input from Chris and Matt. They have worked hard all summer and it has been wonderful turning a year's worth of ideas into realities with even more to come next year.

When I think of my own gardening experience, I think that is how our spiritual journey works as well. Some seem to be born into it while others of us go kicking and screaming. Then sometimes quickly, sometimes slowing we find ourselves moving from tolerance to enjoying it and often without even noticing, a spiritual transformation occurs. The only thing required was the willingness to participate and to be open to the possibility of change.

As always, while in the garden I remember, ever so humbly, the many gifts that have been given to me. During this harvest time I am reminded of God's grace and abundance in my life and the importance of sharing that abundance with others. Even sharing the story of our own journey can have a profound effect on others.

I encourage you to share your journey with others that they too may experience the joy and hope of transformation and perhaps encourage them to take the first steps into their own spiritual garden. It is exciting to be a part of the St James garden of growth and harvest. We at St James invite you to sense your ministry, feel your call and join us in this journey together, each according to our talents and energy.

In the garden at home and here in our St James' spiritual garden there is always plenty to do and each helping hand regardless of how large or small makes life a little easier for everyone. Any gardener will tell you how much better things look and taste when we have taken part in their creation. Whatever your gift and ability, regardless of how significant, or insignificant, you may think it is, know that we are all richer because you are here sharing those gifts. Whatever we do, we do in the light of God's unconditional love, boundless mercy and unending grace.

We look forward to growing together and invite you to join us on the journey and harvest.

Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's path, there is a place for you here at St. James and we welcome you.

One more thing. I have been sharing this little prayer a friend passed on to me. Seems appropriate for fall.

Dear God, thank you  
for all that you have given me  
for all that you have taken from me  
for all that you have left me

Amen

Take care and be well, Peace      Ken

## Altar Care for October

Roberta Fisher



Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> - Open

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> – Open

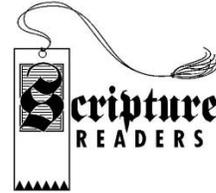
Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> – Don & Betty Robertson

Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> –

## Communion Servers for October

Prepare: Doris Doss

Serve: Doris Doss & Becky Pittman



Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> - Open

Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> –

Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> –

Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> - Open

Please consider signing up as Usher & Greeters and/or Scripture Readers.

## Scripture Readings for October

### **Sunday, Oct. 4**

\*Job 1:1; 2:1-10

\*Ps 26 or Gen 2:18-24

\*Ps 8

\*Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12

\*Mark 10:2-16

**Enfolding Love**

### **Sunday, Oct. 11**

\*Job 23:1-9, 16-17

\*Ps 22:1-15

\*Ps 90:12-17

\*Heb 4:12-16

\*Mark 10:17-31

**What Must I Do?**

### **Sunday, Oct. 18**

\*Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

\*Ps 104:1-9,24,35c or Isa 53:4-12

\*Ps 91:9-16

\*Heb 5:1-10

\*Mark 10:35-45

**Great Service**

### **Sunday, Oct. 25**

\*Job 42:1-6,10-17

\*Ps 34:1-8 (19-22) or Jer 31:7-9

\*Ps 126

\*Heb 7:23-28

\*Mark 10:46-52

**Take Heart**



Prayers for ....

Ellen, Joe, Carmela, Doris Suess, David, Karen Marie, Mary, Barbara, Anne Enders, Leo Solomon, Carlene Kaniski, Sue, Kenny Murphy, Scott, Erin, Charlie, Jeremy, Carol, Rachel, Ken, Mimi, Dan, Kathy, George, Barb, Maraleen, Jeanette, Chris, Marion, Kyle, Bradley

For those

- in recovery and those struggling with addiction
- imprisoned and those responsible for their care
- homeless, hungry and abused
- having difficulty in their relationships
- facing financial hardships and issues with employment
- home caregivers
- those in the armed forces, for protection and peace
- traveling mercies for those on geographic and spiritual journeys
- our own personal transformation

If there are updates to the prayer list including names to be added or removed, please contact me via phone or email. Thank you

Also, just as a reminder we have a box in the vestibule for submitting prayer request. I check it every week to add names to my weekly prayer list. It is the little wood church that we all keep tripping over in the doorway to the vestibule☺.

Be kind to yourself, Peace

Pastor Ken

**REV. DR. KEN GADD, PASTOR** can be reached at (810) 326-0592 or [kgadd@ourstjameschurch.org](mailto:kgadd@ourstjameschurch.org) for all your pastoral needs.



## Kids In Distress



Donations needed this month are: boys jeans sizes 3-10, diapers all sizes, children's underwear and socks all sizes. They are also still accepting shoes for recycling. There is a bin in the basement for donations. If you get them here....we will get them there.



## CHRISTMAS WREATHS

Boy Scout Troop 390 is having their annual fundraiser. They are selling wreaths, grave blankets, hanging baskets and poinsettias. This is a pre-paid sale and orders will be taken until October 25. For more information contact Becky Pittman (586 212-9437).

## In need of Usher/Greeters and Liturgists

We invite you to participate in the ministry of the church by being an usher/greeter or liturgist during our worship services. Many have found that serving in these roles has enriched their worship experience. Please sign up for a Sunday of your choice on the clipboards downstairs.

## Adventures in Faith Announcement

Please do not forget Adventures In Faith is still collecting cans and bottles for our adopted children. Please leave them in the garage, by the back door or contact Don or Betty Robertson and they will pick them up.

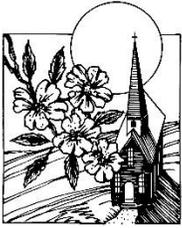
## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD®



A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' Name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.

St. James will once again be joining in the effort to bring joy at Christmas time. Boxes will be available at the church. We would like to present a challenge.....if we can fill the space and spill into the back pew (usually occupied by Don & Betty) on the west side of the church.....Don and Betty Robertson (Don is our council president) will move to the front pew.

Collection dates are Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup> with delivery due Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Let's get started and meet the challenge. We can bring joy and have fun doing it.



WEDNESDAY  
NIGHT  
SERVICES

### **First Wednesday of the month Evening Prayer**

Starting in October we will be celebrating evening prayer at 7:00pm the first Wednesday evening of the month.

### **Wednesday Evening Discussion Groups**

And in October and November the remaining Wednesday evenings there will be a discussion group on a topic for that month. Through October I thought it would be informative to share and discuss a little about who we are and what we believe as UCC and why, the symbolism and design of the church, how we understand the bible, our sacraments and what they mean, etc.

#### Other month topics may include:

Prayer and meditation made easy

Our personal Spiritual Journey. Journey of a thousand miles starts with one step

The Sermon on the Mount. Blessed... so what does that mean?

World Religions. By whatever name God is called.

The Lord's prayer. Do you hear what you're saying?

### **"Thoughts from the Pastor about Communion"**

I want to share with you something that is important to me and I hope to you as well.

Communion, whenever and however we celebrate it is one of our most significant sacraments. We in the UCC only have two, Baptism and Communion. A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as a sure and certain means by which we receive that grace. Communion is a sacrament commanded by Christ for the continual remembrance of his life, death and resurrection. The benefits we receive are the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our union with Christ. When we come to the Communion table we should examine our lives, repent our sins and be in love and charity with all people. The celebrating (taking) of Communion should be done prayerfully and thoughtfully.

I encourage you when participating in Communion to do so slowly, deliberately and prayerfully, allowing yourself time to be present in the moment and to experience the full measure of God's grace.

Peace to you all

Ken

