

# St. James United Church of Christ

9008 Meisner Road, Casco, MI 48064 / [www.ourstjameschurch.org/](http://www.ourstjameschurch.org/)

## News from Pastor Ken

Newsletter  
May 2018  
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I know that everyone has a story for when the weather has been worse or better or different but.... this has been just an odd winter / spring for weather. There was a week when it started in the 60's and ended in the teens. There has been snow in the middle of April. We have had days that included a little winter and summer all in a day of spring. This weather has been teasing us for over a month.

In spite of it all, I cannot believe how excited I am about the possibility of spring. I cannot wait to spend more time in the yard and in the garden. The gardens seem to be alive already. It is like they could not wait any longer, regardless of the weather. I love watching the gardens come alive.

Taking care of the garden has become a series of great life lessons for me. One of those lessons is that I am still learning to balance the hard work of gardening with remembering to take time to enjoy the garden. I find seeking that balance an interesting metaphor for life. We sometimes get so busy doing life that we forget to enjoy life. However, that being said, I am actually thinking about a couple new garden ideas for this year. They are always a work in progress. As always, we will see how the plan unfolds.

I love the sight, sound and smell of spring, full sensory overload. The garden in early spring serves as a wonderful reminder of all the miracles of life. Just like in our own lives, there is a lot of amazing stuff going on, but because it often happens just below the surface, we sometimes forget to notice it. There exists an amazing opportunity for transition, both in our yards and in our lives. Often where and when we least expect it.

**Upcoming Events**

- ◆ May 6 - Communion Sunday  
Discretionary Fund
- ◆ May 8 - Council Meeting
- ◆ May 9 - Discussion Group at St. John's
- ◆ May 10 - Ascension Day
- ◆ May 12 - Clean-up Day
- ◆ May 13 - Mother's Day  
Breakfast &  
Communion Sunday
- ◆ May 16 - Discussion Group at St. John's
- ◆ May 19 - Euchre
- ◆ May 20- Pentecost &  
Communion Sunday
- ◆ May 23 - Discussion Group at St. John's
- ◆ May 25 - Poppy Day
- ◆ May 27 - Trinity Sunday
- ◆ May 28 - Memorial Day
- ◆ May 30 - Discussion Group at St. John's

So this Easter season I hope you continue to look for the miracles wherever and whenever they may appear, regardless of how big or how small they may be. Remember, this is truly a season of hope and resurrection. As I work in the garden and experience the joy of new life, my hope is that each of us has the opportunity to experience new life spiritually as well.

With all of challenges that life brings, both in the world and in some of our own homes, it is sometimes hard to remember that God is with us always and at work in our lives. I think that is one of the true miracles of Easter and spring. We are reminded with every winter there comes a season of rebirth and new hope. Sometimes it just takes a while for us to notice it.

So, look around, take a deep breath or two, okay, maybe for some of us three, and know that God is at work in your life right now. Even if you cannot see it or feel it yet, God is preparing you for a personal Easter transformation.

Remember that whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace and there is a place for you here.

And remember, be kind to yourself.  
Take care and be well, Peace  
Ken

## Prayers for....



Karen Marie  
Sue  
Scott  
Mimi  
Dan  
Rich  
Maraleen  
Dale  
Irene  
Clark Russell  
Tony

George  
David  
Deborah  
Lynn  
Johnnie  
Paul  
Peggy  
Marion  
Roslynn  
Joanne  
Baby Kennedy

## Outreach Ministry

### Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

High chair, crib, twin sheets and spring and summer clothes for both boys and girls in all sizes.

### St. Augustine Richmond Food Pantry

In need of... assorted jams and jellies, boxed potatoes, Hunts Manwich, pancake mix/syrup, instant oatmeal, Hamburger Helper and granola bars.

### Blue Water Area Rescue Mission - B-WARM

#### B-WARM NEEDS

Cleaning supplies: Toilet bowl cleaner, bleach, laundry soap, dish washing detergent, bathroom cleansers.

Men's clothing: sweatshirts, coats, and jackets.

Paper supplies: paper towels, napkins, toilet tissue, kleenex.

Miscellaneous: deodorants, shaving cream, shampoo, disposable razors.

### The Discretionary Fund May April 6, 2018

Did you know this fund is utilized to aid with rent, utilities, medical supplies, food and transportation to doctors, etc.?

This is generated from the loose change collected the first Sunday of each month. Please empty your pockets and change purses that day to meet the needs of our church and community.

## Happy Birthdays in May

1 – Brenda Maedel  
2 – Sue Tews  
5 – Ellen Riley  
13 – Bev Kulman  
13 - Lisa Mahnke  
17 – Chad Teltow  
18 – Nancy Maedel  
23 – Cindy Klomp  
24 – Robert Beattie  
24 – Roberta Fisher  
27 – Lynn Johnson  
29 - Julie Erhardt  
31 - Ian Wendt

## Anniversaries in May

1 - Bev & Gordie Kulman  
1 - Audrey & Dave DeFer  
2 – Don & Betty Robertson  
2 – Bill & Lynnette Osterland  
10 – Patti & Jerry Maedel  
20 – Mark & Jennifer Uppleger

## Spiritual Growth Ministry

Last day of Sunday School is May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion Groups will be held at St. John's at 7pm starting Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup> thru Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. The discussion will be on the various versions of the Lord's Prayer

## Worship Ministry

### Volunteers Needed Please sign-up

Please consider signing up for the ministries of Usher/Greeter, Liturgists and Altar Care. Sign-up sheets for each are provided in the basement.



### Military Prayer List

I will be including a list in the newsletter of our men and women in the military, to acknowledge those who serve and to pray for their safety. Please submit your love one's, family member or friend's name, rank and branch of service to Roberta Fisher to be placed on the list.

## Earthly Gifts

Our financial goal for April is \$5,750.00. Contributions so far this month is \$3,388.00. Please contribute what you can to help meet the financial obligations of St. James.

### Roof Collection

Contributions are still needed to replace the \$25,000.00 used from the investment fund to replace the church roof. As of last Sunday, with the great turn out for Euchre, \$500.00 assisted in reducing the amount needed to repay the investment fund to \$16,629.00. Donations can be made by using your regular envelope and marking it how much goes to the roof fund or use the small donation envelope in the pew marking it with your name or envelope number, so your contribution record can be updated. Thanks to all the helpers to make the Euchre a success and for the donations no matter how small to reduce our goal.



## **Memorial Day Prayer**

**Dear Heavenly Father,**

**With a sober heart we come before You this Memorial Day. We pause for a moment and call to mind all the men and women who have died in the service of our nation since 1776.**

**Dear God, please look with mercy on our brave and selfless brothers and sisters, who did not shirk from their task but gave themselves completely to the cause of defending and protecting us all. Bless all who have given their lives for the sake of liberty, and grant them eternal rest with You.**

**We remember also our brave men and women now serving in our Armed Forces, both at home and abroad. Dear God, send out Your angels to protect them all. Help them discharge their duties honorably and well. Please bring them safely home to their families and loved ones. Please bring Your peace and mercy to our troubled world.**

**We ask this, Father, in the name of Jesus, Your Son.  
Amen.**

## Christmas Shoeboxes

We collect the below items for boys and girls from the age of 2 to 14 years old. Our goal is to fill 100 boxes by November 2018 without running out of items. May 2018 collection is TOYS, notebooks and socks (**no small children socks**). Items accepted anytime are: hat, gloves, socks, toys, school supplies (pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, small note books, glue, crayons), hygiene items (soap, washcloths, combs, toothbrushes, floss), headbands, barrettes and bows.

We have made 100 tote bags to be included in each shoebox this year. Thank you to all who contributed their time, material/cord or lunch items.

We can no longer provide toothpaste, toy guns or army men, paint sets and glue bottles.

If you are not a shopper, you can still donate to this worthy cause by providing a cash donation or monies to cover the **\$9.00** mailing costs.

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### St. James Annual Grounds Clean-up Day

Clean-up of the outside church grounds and the cemetery is on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am. Please come prepared for some gardening and clean-up. Please bring tools that you may need such as rakes, garden hoe, gloves, kneel pads, etc. Come when you can make it we will be here till the afternoon at least.

### Bottle / Can Collection

We are collecting empty and clean bottles and cans with a deposit on them to support our Christian Education Program. Please bring them to church, there is a box in the basement, back room, by the door for them.

## Kid's Page

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMORIAL DAY MEMORIES

**Directions:** Memorial Day is celebrated in the United States on the last Monday in May. Do you know why Memorial Day is important? Use the information you find at the Web site provided below to answer the questions on this page. Fill in the circle next to each correct answer.



**Web Resources:**

The History of Memorial Day

<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/memorial/index.jsp?page=history>

1. At first, May 30 was set aside to honor people who died in which war?  
 World War I                       Revolutionary War                       Civil War
2. What was Memorial Day called originally?  
 Veterans Day                       Decoration Day                       Remembrance Day
3. Who made the first Memorial Day proclamation?  
 James Garfield                       Lyndon Johnson                       John Logan
4. What city has been proclaimed the official birthplace of Memorial Day?  
 Washington, D.C.                       Waterloo, New York                       Richmond, Virginia
5. In which year was Memorial Day moved from May 30 to the fourth Monday in May?  
 1868                       1866                       1971

**Something to Think About:** On Memorial Day this year, how will you honor the men and women who died serving your country?

**Learn More:** Explore the links at May 30<sup>th</sup> in History at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/may30.html> to learn more about the history of Memorial Day. Then complete the Memorial Day word search at <http://sunniebunniezz.com/puzzles/memdykws.htm>.

**Altar Care**

May - John & Marilyn Beattie

**Communion Servers**

**Preparer:** Bev Kulman  
**Communion Servers:** Bev Kulman & Robin Meldrum

**Ushers & Greeters**

May 6 - Open  
May 13 - Open  
May 20 - Open  
May 27 - Open

**Liturgists**

May 6 - Open  
May 13 - Open  
May 20 - Open  
May 27 - Open

**Scripture Readings for May**

**Sunday, May 6**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 10:44-48  
Ps 98  
1 Jn 5: 9-13  
Jn 15: 9-17  
**Friends Together**

**Sunday, May 20**  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
Acts 2: 1-21 OR Ezek 37: 1-14  
Ps 104: 24-34, 35b  
Rom 8: 22-27 or Acts 2: 1-21  
Jn 15: 26-27: 16:4b-15  
**Spirit for All**

**Sunday, May 13**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26  
Ps 1  
1 Jn 5: 9-13  
Jn 17: 6-19  
**Guided in Prayer**

**Sunday, May 27**  
**Trinity Sunday**  
Isa 6: 1-8  
Ps 29  
Rom 8: 12-17  
Jn 3: 1-17  
**Mysterious Encounter**



St. James United Church of Christ  
9008 Meisner Road  
Casco, MI 48064

Phone:  
(586) 727--1623

Fax:  
(586) 27-0833

E-mail:  
kgadd@ourstjameschurch.org

We're on the Web!  
[Ourstjameschurch.org](http://Ourstjameschurch.org)



## MAY NEWSLETTER