

St. James United Church of Christ

9008 Meisner Road, Casco, MI 48064 / www.ourstjameschurch.org/

News from Pastor Ken

Newsletter
May 2019
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Is it me or has this has been a strange year for weather? There have been several days of near 70-degree weather. 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.

It makes me think that mother nature is struggling to let go of her wintry past and even though she wants spring to happen she struggles with making the commitment to spring. So she gets stuck between the two. Can't quite let go of the things she likes about the past and has anxiety about what the unknown spring can bring. In the meantime, it makes a bit of a mess of what's going on today weather-wise. Interestingly, that reminds me of my life journey sometimes. If I try too hard to hold on to the past even though some of it was unpleasant while at the same time being anxious about committing to the future even though in my heart I am aware of its wonderful possibilities I have a tendency to not allow myself to experience the full potential of the present moment.

All that being said, 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 coming alive already. It is like they could not wait any longer. 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, I am actually thinking about a couple new garden ideas for this year. They are always a work in progress. Once again, we will see how the plan unfolds.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ May 5 - Communion
Sunday 9am
 &
Discretionary Fund
- ◆ May 14 - Council Meeting
7pm
- ◆ May 18 - Church Clean-Up
8am
- ◆
 Euchre - 6:30pm
- ◆ May 19 - Communion
Sunday - 9am
 &
Last Sunday of Sunday
School
 &
Breakfast at Riviera in
Marine City at 12pm
- ◆ May 27 - Memorial Day

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.

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, and know that God is at work in your life right now. Even if you cannot see 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.

Take care and be well, Peace
Ken

**The Discretionary Fund
May 5, 2019**

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.

Prayers for....



Karen Marie
Sue
Rich
Maraleen
Clark
Tony
Baby Charlee
Trudy
Amy
Sharon
Linda
Russell

George
David
Deborah
Lynn
Johnnie
Peggy
Joanne
Claudette
Lorene
Russell
Dorothy
Russ
Darrell

Outreach Ministry

Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

Clothes 3T, 4T, 5 & 7/8, Boys and girls
Size 6 shirts, shorts & pants, socks,
underwear, baby hygiene items, baby
wipes, shampoo & conditioner, pots &
pans, towels

To put in to perspective the impact
KIDS has on the community, in 2018
they distributed... 4,611 baby outfits,
1,766 coats, 3,723 pairs of shoes,
9,605 socks, and underwear, 18,249
shirts and 14,417 pants.

KIDS also collect's overly worn with
holes or stains and sells them to a
recycle company . We the money they
raise it allows them to purchase items
that are needed and helps keep the
washer and dryers running to do
laundry for the children they serve.

St. Augustine Richmond Food Pantry

Current Needs: pancake mix, syrup,
jams and jellies, and boxed potatoes

Blue Water Area Rescue Mission - B-WARM

B-WARM NEEDS

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

Paper products: paper towels, napkins, toilet
paper and kleenex

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

Hygiene Items: shaving cream, disposable
razors, deodorants, shampoo

Special needs: van, volunteers to make
telephone calls, grant writer, part time cook,
someone who can assist in sewing projects

Happy Birthdays in May

5 – Eileen Riley
13 – Bev Kulman
13 – Lisa Mahnke
18 – Nancy Maedel
24 – Roberta Fisher
27 – Lyn Robertson

Anniversaries in May

1 – Bev & Gordie Kulman
2 – Betty and Don Robertson
20 – Jennifer & Mark Uppleger

Earthly Gifts

Worship Ministry

Spiritual Ministry

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

Last day of Sunday School is May 19th.

New member service will be held in May, date to be announced later. Please see Pastor Ken if you would like to become a member of St. James UCC.

The April Budget was \$5,852.00 and as of 4-19-19 only \$2,087.00 was received. Please do what you can to help St. James meet its financial obligations.



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 loved one's, family member or friend's name, rank and branch of service to Roberta Fisher to be placed on the list.

PFC Shane David Kinney Army Airborne

Roof Collection

Financial assistance also is needed to repay the investment fund for the new roof. If you can please mark your regular giving envelope how much you desire to give to the ROOF FUND or place your donation in the small pew envelope with your name or envelope number and deposit it in the collection plate.

Bottle / Can Collection

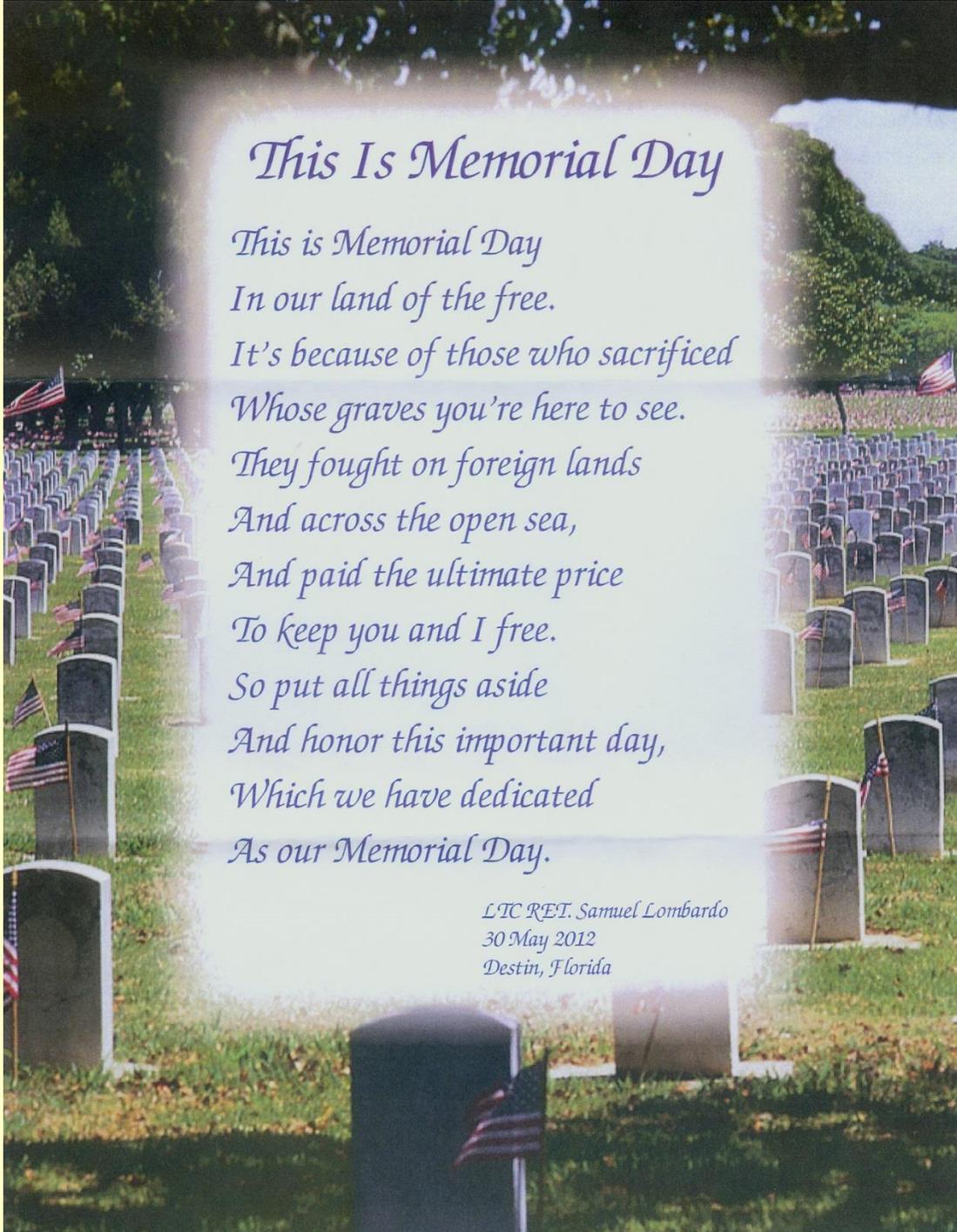
We are collecting empty and clean bottles and cans with a deposit on them to support our Christian Education Program. Please bring them to church, there is a box in the basement, back room, by the door for them.

Memorial Day Poem

This Is Memorial Day

*This is Memorial Day
In our land of the free.
It's because of those who sacrificed
Whose graves you're here to see.
They fought on foreign lands
And across the open sea,
And paid the ultimate price
To keep you and I free.
So put all things aside
And honor this important day,
Which we have dedicated
As our Memorial Day.*

*LTC RET. Samuel Lombardo
30 May 2012
Destin, Florida*



Christmas Tote Bags for Local Community Charities

We collect the below items for boys and girls from the age of 2 to 14 years old. Our goal is to fill 100 tote bags by November 11, 2019 without running out of items. **May 2019 collection is for toys for ages 5-14 both boy and girl (we have plenty for 2-4-year-old)** . Items accepted anytime are: hat, gloves, socks, toys, school supplies (pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, small note books, glue, crayons), socks (All Men, Women and Children - all sizes), hygiene items such as: toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, dental floss, headbands, barrettes and bows, soap, washcloths

Ministry Needing Helpers!!!!

Members are needed to take the items received for donation to B-Warm, Kids-In-Distress and Richmond Food Pantry (St. Augustine). As you see the boxes/tubs getting full please feel free to help in this ministry by taking the items to the designated places. **Call first**, to make sure they are open for deliveries.

B-Warm	Kids-In-Distress	Richmond Food Pantry
1920 24th St Port Huron, MI 48060 (810) 956-0768	Bev & Gordie Kulman 1114 S 7th St St. Clair, MI 48079 (810) 326-4505	St. Augustine 68035 Main St Richmond, Mi 48062 (586) 727-5215

Giving Tree

The Christmas Tree in the church basement has been left up in order to collect hats, mittens, gloves, scarfs and socks for the Christmas Tote Bags that we fill in November. Please give generously. When we have enough of the items then we can take the tree down.

Altar Care

May - John & Marilyn Beattie

Communion Servers

May Preparer: Robin Meldrum
Communion Servers: Robin Meldrum & Shelley Kargula

Ushers & Greeters

May 5 - Open
May 12 - Open
May 19 - Open
May 26 - Open

Liturgists

May 5 - Open
May 12 - Open
May 19 - Open
May 26 - Open

Scripture Readings for May

Sunday, May 5
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 9: 1-6, (7-30)
Ps 30
Rev 5: 11-14
John: 21: 1-19
The Way Forward

Sunday, May 19
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 11: 1-18
Ps 148
Rev 21: 1-6
John 13: 31-35
Imagine

Sunday, May 12
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 9: 36-43
Ps 23
Rev 7: 9-17
John 10: 22-30
Life-giving Acts

Sunday, May 26
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 16: 9-Ps 148
Ps 67
Rev 21: 10, 22-22.5
John 14: 23-29 or John 5: 1-9
Disciples Together



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MAY NEWSLETTER