

St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter
March 2020
Volume 5, Issue 3

News from Pastor Ken



Contents	
News from Pastor Ken	1
Pastor Ken News Cont.	2
Upcoming Events	3
Discretionary Fund	3
Prayers Needed	4
Outreach Ministry	4
Birthday	5
Anniversary	5
Spiritual Ministry	5
Worship Ministry	5
Earthly Gift Ministry	5
Roof Fund	5
St. Patrick's Day Poem	6
Christmas Tote Bags	7
Ministers Needed	7
Bottle Can Collection	7
Military Prayer List	7
Kid's Page	8
Altar Care	9
Communion Servers	9
Ushers/Greeters	9
Liturgist Readers	9
Scripture Readings	9

I must confess, mea culpa – mea culpa, I had a moment of envy when my daughter who lives in Alaska of all places found great pleasure in sending me pictures of her gardens starting to come up. Green shoots, little flowers, the whole bit. More confession, maxi mea culpa, my initial response was not as Christian as I would have liked. Now, in all fairness she lives in SE Alaska, Sitka, which is a temperate rain forest. Her winters are much milder than ours and so are the summers. But even so.....

All that being said, I love March if for no other reason than it's the month that officially starts spring, even though it may not feel like it.

Many of us struggle to get through winter and what has seemed like endless cold, grey days of winter. Just a couple days ago, as I was walking up the driveway looking at my muddy dormant gardens and I felt the warm sunshine on my face for a few moments but then again today the afternoon clouds and cold took over. What a feeling of hope I had even though I knew in my heart there is more than a little winter left. That is what I like about March. Somehow, we know that regardless of what winter weather is left to come that spring will not be denied. So notwithstanding my daughter's taunting, I wait with anticipation as the snow melts to see the little buds starting to appear and the daffodil shoots pushing up. And various church members keep me posted on robin sightings. There is hope.

There is hope and preparation for greater things to come. That is what this month in the church calendar is about as well. This year March is full of Lent. It started Feb 26 with Ash Wednesday.

Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

Lent provides us a wonderful opportunity to consider and pray about how we can get closer to being the person God would have us to be and to consider what it is God would have us to do.

Many consider Lent simply a time of giving up something we like for a few days, but I think that just as Jesus spent time in the wilderness contemplating his ministry, we too are called to spend time considering our own ministry. I encourage us all to use this time for planning and preparing. Lent is a time of spiritual preparation. I invite you not to simply give up something but to take time to prepare your spirit for an exciting new journey. Here are a couple suggestions. Spend an extra few minutes each day in prayer and meditation. Read a book on spirituality, commit to reading the Upper Room or Daily Bread every morning with your coffee (it's only a small page), read one proverb every day from the bible (there are 31), commit an anonymous daily and intentional act of kindness, you get the idea. Prepare yourself for what God has planned for you. Again, I encourage you to not just "give up" something but to add a little something that will feed your spirit.

Although most of us think of Lent as not an uplifting time of year I would like us to think about Lent the same way gardeners think about March. It is a time of thinking, planning, and preparing for spring. It is a time of great anticipation. We dream about and prepare for new growth in our gardens, we remember projects from last year that we want to finish, we sharpen our tools and start ordering seed. We remember the exciting successes of springs past and prepare to start this spring full of expectation and optimism.

This is my vision for us. As we begin our journey into Lent, let us not think of this as a season of spiritual winter but rather a time of preparing for our own spiritual spring, both personally and as a community of faith.

Remember, whoever you are and wherever you are at 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

Upcoming Events in March

- 3/1/2020 - Communion Sunday 9am – Discretionary Fund Collection
- 3/4/2020 - Prayer Service followed by discussion on various topics at St. Johns 7pm
- 3/10/2020 - Council 7pm
- 3/11/2020 - Prayer Service followed by discussion on various topics at St. Johns 7pm
- 3/14/2020 - Ladies Winter Tea
- 3/15/2020 - Communion Sunday 9am
- 3/18/2020 - Prayer Service followed by discussion on various topics at St. Johns 7pm
- 3/21/2020 – Euchre 6:30pm
- 3/22/2020 - Corn Beef Dinner at Perch Point 4pm – 7pm
- 3/25/2020 - Prayer Service or Seder Meal at St. Johns 7pm
- 3/29/2020 – Healing Service 9am

St. John's UCC – Soup and Bread Supper – March 18th at 6pm

The Mary Martha Guild will be hosting a Soup and Bread Supper on Wednesday, March 18 at 6pm, prior to our Lenten Service. The meal is being provided by the ladies of the Mary Martha. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Room.

Please let us know how many guests will be attending in your family. Everyone is asked to bring a non-perishable item (per person), which will be donated to the Down River Helping Hands. We look forward to seeing you there!

Easter Season Calendar

Mar 4 – 25 - 7pm Wednesday evenings - Brief evening prayer at St John's - discussion following after, if interested Bring a topic to discuss.

7pm Seder Meal either March 25 or April 1,

Maundy Thursday 7pm at St James

Good Friday w/ Stations of the Cross 12:30pm at St James

Good Friday w/Stations of the Cross 7pm at St Johns

Holy Saturday Great Easter Vigil 7pm at St James

Easter Morning 9am at St James

Easter Morning 11am at St Johns



Prayer List

Maraleen
Sharon
Linda
Andy
Wayne I.
Carole
Karleen
Karen

George
Claudette
Wayne B.
Shirley
Russ
Dan K.
Keith
Sue

Outreach Ministry

Kids in Distress

Current needs are as follows:

Girls size 10-12 and 14-16 underwear, Girls socks size 6-10 and 10-4, Boys size 4-5 and 10-12 underwear, Boys socks 3-9, Infant socks Boys & Girls, Women's underwear size 5, 6, and 7 for teenage girls. Baby onesies boys & girls all sizes, baby wipes, shampoo & conditioner

To put into 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 . With 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.

Helping Hands

Current Needs: Soup, pasta, jams/jellies, any non-perishable items

Children's clothing – anything from newborn to high school age

No expired or opened boxes of food accepted.

Blue Water Area Rescue Mission - B-WARM

B-WARM NEEDS

Both Men and Women houses:

Cleaning supplies: Toilet bowl cleaner, bleach, laundry soap, dishwasher detergent, bathroom cleansers, disinfectants.

Paper Supplies: Napkins, toilet paper and Kleenex, trash bags small & large

Medicines: Cold medicine, Day Quill, Tylenol, Motrin, Hand Sanitizer

Women's B-Warm House

Women's Shelter: PJ's of all sizes,

Happy Birthdays in March

3 – Taylor Lindke
12 – Becky Pittman
12- Nancy Uppleger
13- Kathleen McCarthy
15 – Josh Mahnke
18 - Amy Klomp
21 – Dan Klomp
24 - Kayla Wendt
25 – Hunter Wendt
26- Timothy Carl Pauley
30 – Don Robertson

Spiritual Ministry

Evening Prayer Service on Wednesday's in March at St. John's UCC at 7pm. Bring topics you would like to discuss after prayer service.

Please contact Sue Tews if you are interested in helping with Sunday school.

Worship Ministry

Looking for Liturgists, Communion Servers and Usher/Greeters during Holy Week. Let Robin Meldrum know if you are interested in any of these ministries.

Need help in the following ministries Communion Servers, Usher/Greeter, Liturgists and Altar Care. Sign-up sheets for each are provided in the basement.

Anniversaries in March

7 – Frank & Judy Tringali
7- Chris & Denise Brogan
16 – Cindy & Dan Klomp
17 – Collen & Rusty Stover
17 - Sharon & Gerald Fritz

Earthly Gifts

The Financial Goal for this month is \$5,852.00 like past months. The cost for a new parsonage roof will be approximately 7 to 8 thousand dollars depending how much hidden damage is found when the work begins within a few weeks considering the weather. So far, the month the donations are \$2,598.00 including \$306.00 euchre. Today is the last Sunday of the month so if you forgot you are more than welcome to open your donation envelope and put a few extra coins or whatever inside to help St. James meet its obligations.

Roof Fund

If you desire to donate just put it in the envelope with your regular donation and mark what sum should go to the fund. Any amount is a great donation.

The Discretionary Fund March 1, 2020

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 St. Patrick's Day



Wishing you a rainbow

For sunlight after showers-



Miles and miles of Irish smiles



For golden happy hours-



Shamrocks at your doorway



For luck and laughter too,

And a host of friends that never ends



Each day your whole life through!

Christmas Tote Bags for Local Community Charities

March 2020 collection is for washcloths, socks (all sizes) toys, notebooks.

The items accepted anytime: hygiene items such as: soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, washcloths, headbands, barrettes and bows, school supplies and toys.

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 2020 without running out of items.

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

1920 24th St
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 956-0768

Kids-In-Distress

Bev & Gordie Kulman
1114 S 7th St
St. Clair, MI 48079
(810) 326-4505

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.

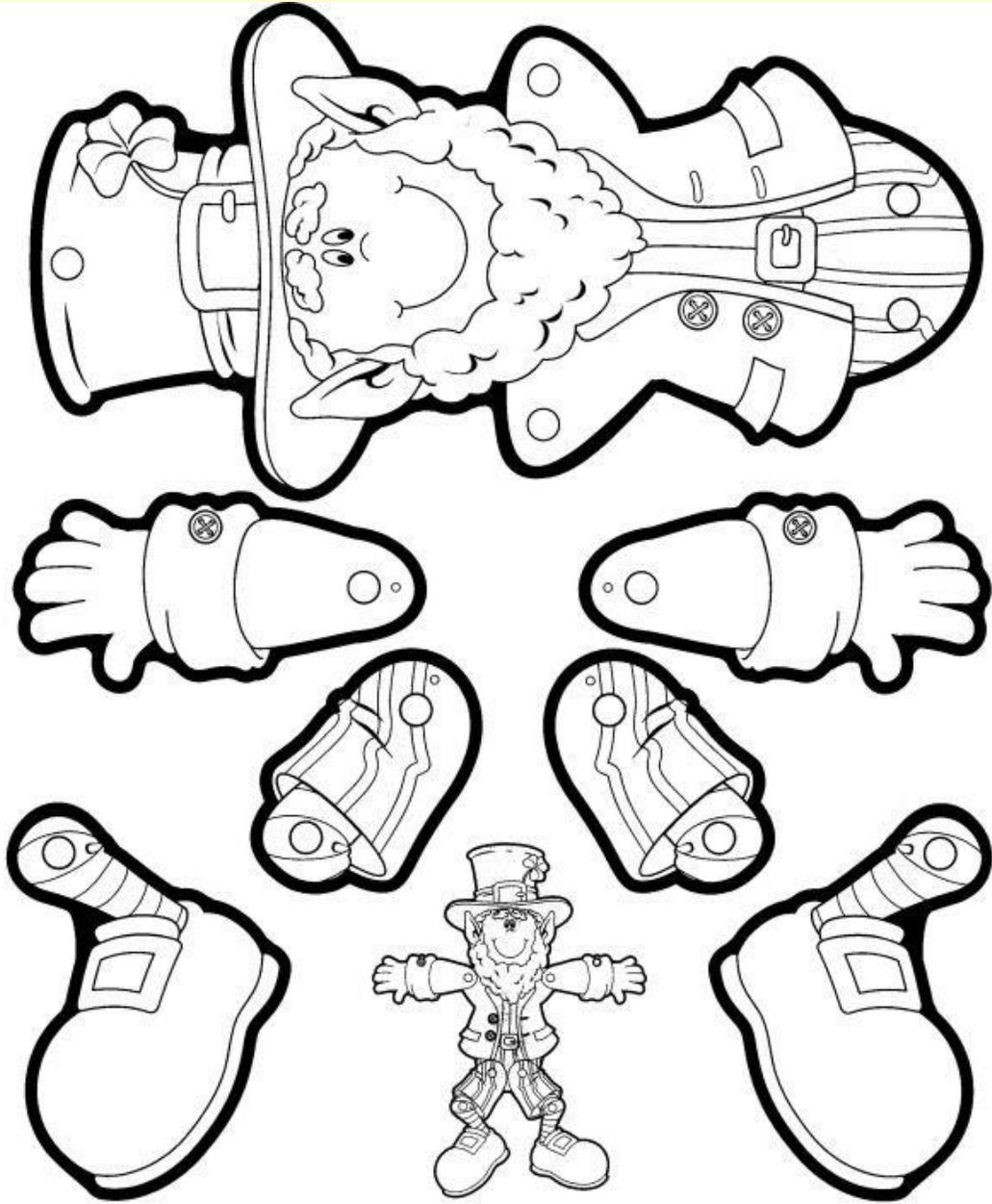


Military Prayer List

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.

PFC Shane David Kinney Army Airborne

Kid's Page



Leaping Leprechaun Patterns

Altar Care

March - Betty Robertson

Communion Servers

February Preparer: Robin Meldrum
Communion Servers: Robin & Glenn Meldrum

Ushers & Greeters

March 1 - Open
March 8 - Open
March 15 - Sharon & Jerry Fritz
March 22 - Open
March 29 - Open

Liturgists

March 1 - Open
March 8 - Open
March 15 - Open
March 22 - Open
March 29 - Open

Sunday, March 1
First Sunday of Lent
Gen 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7
Ps 32
Rom 5: 12-19
Matt 4: 1-11
Abundant Grace

Sunday, March 15
Third Sunday of Lent
Ex 17: 1-7
Ps 95
Rom 5: 1-11
John 4: 5-42
From the Heart

Sunday, March 29
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Ezek 37: 1-14
Ps 130
Rom 8: 6-11
John 11: 1-45
Breath of Hope

Sunday, March 8
Second Sunday of Lent
Gen 12: 1-4a
Ps 121
Rom 4: 1-5, 13-17
John 3: 1-17 or Matt 17: 1-9
Bold Blessing

Sunday, March 22
Fourth Sunday of Lent
1 Sam 16: 1-13
Ps 23
Eph 5: 8-14
John 9: 1-41
Restored



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



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