

St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter
April 2020
Volume 5, Issue 4

News from Pastor Ken



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Well, generally this time of year we are all talking about winter fatigue. However this year, our attention seems focused on more challenging things such as the health of family, friends and our communities. We are concerned about our physical, emotional and financial welfare in a world that seems full of uncertainty.

It is in these times that I am reminded that we are called to function in faith rather than fear. Living in faith does not mean living without fear. Living in faith rather than fear in faith allows us to function and live through or fear. Let's be clear, that is not a statement encouraging reclus living. In fact, quite the opposite, living in faith requires a live of spiritual and social responsibility, loving our neighbors as God loves us and loving God with all our heart, mind and spirit.

Many of you have inquired about why the date of Easter varies every year. We have had both earlier and later Easters. Well here is how it was decided. We can thank our Pagan friends in part for this. In 325CE the Council of Nicaea established that **Easter** would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. From that point forward, the **Easter** date depended on the ecclesiastical approximation of March 21 for the vernal equinox.

Here is what I know for sure. Whether it feels like it or not, Spring and Easter are here. I saw a couple robins the other day and a couple little green sprouts poking up through the winter mud as I walked through my gardens. It must be spring!!

As we finish this Lenten season the end of March and enter Easter, remember it is just like the transition from winter into spring. During what seems to be the endless cold dark days of winter, we start to experience the new life that rises up from what we once were sure was dead.

Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

That is what the Easter season offers us as well, to seek and experience new life, new life in our congregation and new life for ourselves.

This Lenten season was a powerful season for me as I hope it was for you, filled with reflection, preparation and discernment. We spent time this Lenten season considering our own personal journey through the wilderness into Jerusalem. We prayed about what we bring to the cross and more importantly, what resurrection and transformation we have come to expect in our own lives this Easter. Over the past weeks, we have been talking about discovering the Christ within us, to be the resurrected, living Jesus we know God has called us to be.

As we come into spring, expect the miracle of new life. Expect to be transformed. Again, that is what Easter is all about. Some miracles are large, and some are small, some require that we look for them. A number of them even require that we work to reveal them. However, if we do look, if we keep expecting them and are willing to do what God asks us to do; those miracles will just keep coming.

I am excited about what this Easter season has in store for us all, personally and as a community in Christ. I encourage you to keep your heart, mind and spirit open. Let us plan together, pray together, and work together. Let us prepare to be transformed.

I invite you all to participate in the Holy week services including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Easter Eve Vigil and of course Easter morning Communion service. Invite those you have missed to join us and share in this time of personal transformation and renewal.

Take care and be well, Peace
Pastor Ken

Upcoming Events in April

April 5 - Palm Sunday Service with Holy Communion - 9am

April 9 - Maundy Thursday 7pm at St James

April 10 - Good Friday Service with Stations of the Cross 12:30pm at St James

Good Friday Service with Stations of the Cross 7pm at St Johns

April 11 - Holy Saturday Great Easter Vigil 7pm at St James

April 12 – Easter Breakfast – 7:30am

Easter Morning Service 9am at St James with Holy Communion

Easter Morning 11am at St Johns

April 14 – Council Meeting 7pm.

April 19 - Sunday Service with Holy Communion - 9am

Prayer List



Maraleen
Sharon
Linda
Andy
Wayne I.
Carole
Karleen
Karen
Colleen

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: Manwich, snack pack pudding cups, juice boxes/pouches, boxed instant oatmeal, pancake mix/syrup and one-pound bags white rice. Clothing items for children from newborn to high school.

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 April

7 – Tammy Czenkus
9 – Wayne Baumgarten
9 – Jason Szymanski
12 – Butch Lomerson
13 – Al Bryant
29 – Christa Beattie
30 – Frederick Erhardt
30 – Douglas Bishop

Spiritual Ministry

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 April

4 – Marilynn & John Beattie
8 – Becky & Dave Pittman
20 – Bernice & Mike Callahan
25 – Ellen & Dan Riley

Earthly Gifts

This is the last Sunday of the Month with our goal being \$5852.00 for March and only \$2873.00 being received. The roof for the parsonage was \$6500.00 so \$10,000.00 was requested from our Investment Fund to cover this expense and cover the shortage for normal expenses. In this critical time we are in, please still remember St. James to keep us warm and the lights on.

The Discretionary Fund April 5, 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.

Have a Blessed Easter

What is Easter?

It's not about the eggs to hunt
It's not about a bunny
It's not about brand new clothes
Or candy as sweet as hunny

On this day many years ago
A man named Jesus Christ
Upon a cross for you and me
Gladly gave his life

Not for sins that He had done
Or crimes He must repay
He did it all for you and me
For our sins He died that day

But that's not the end of Jesus Christ
They put Him in a grave
But three days later He rose again
Our sin debt had finally been paid

So this Easter as you hunt for eggs
Dressed up in brand new clothes
Don't think about the Easter Bunny
Think about why Christ arose

Christmas Tote Bags for Local Community Charities

April 2020 collection is for washcloths, socks (all sizes) and toys.

The items accepted anytime: hygiene items such as: toothpaste, washcloths, headbands, barrettes and bows, and school supplies. We are also in the need of material to sew the tote bags with.

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](tel:8109560768)

Kids-In-Distress

Bev & Gordie Kulman
1114 S 7th St
St. Clair, MI 48079
[\(810\) 326-4505](tel:8103264505)

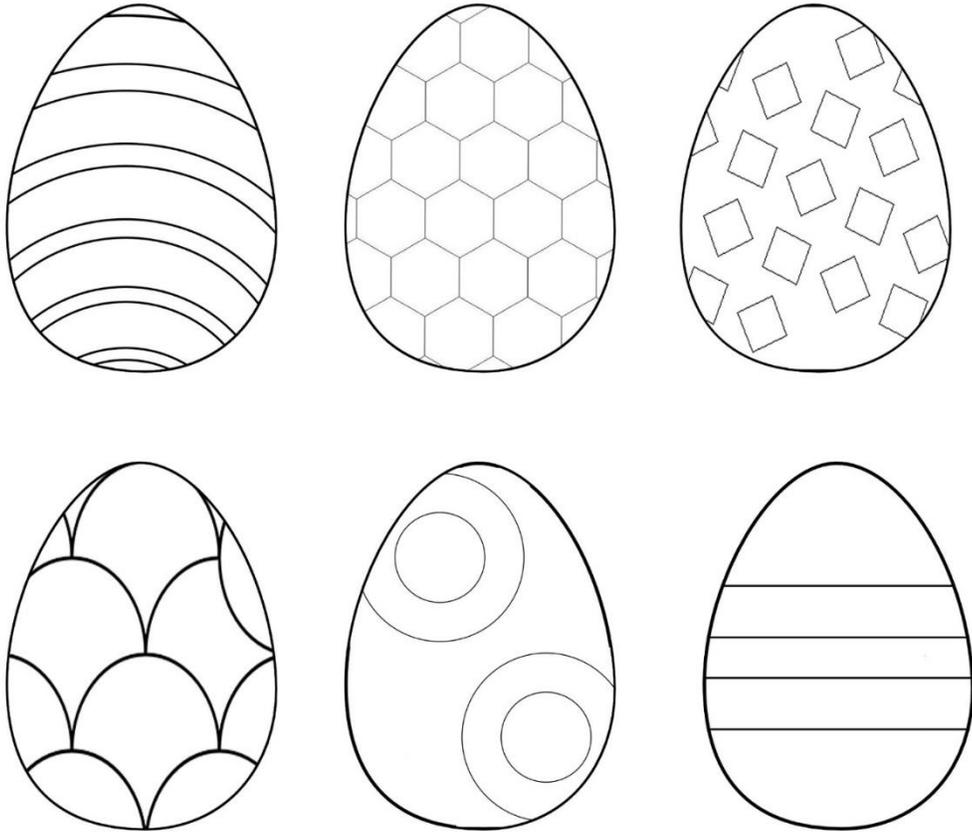
Bottle / Can Collection
We are collecting empty and clean bottles and cans with a deposit on them to support our Christian Education Program. Please bring them to church, there is a box in the basement, back room, by the door for them.



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



Let's decorate
Easter eggs! Color and
cut out!

Altar Care

April - Sharon Fritz

Communion Servers

April Preparer: Roberta Fisher
Communion Servers: Roberta Fisher /
Mark Tews

Ushers & Greeters

April 5 - Sharon & Jerry Fritz
April 12 - Open
April 19 - Bev & Gordie Kulman
April 26 - Open

Liturgists

April 5 - Bev Kulman
April 12 - Open
April 19 - Open
April 26 - Open

Scripture Readings for April

**Sunday, April 5
Sixth Sunday in Lent**

Liturgy of the Palms

Ps 118: 1-2: 1-4a

Ps 118; 1-2, 19-29

Matt 21: 1-11

Isa 50: 4-9a

Ps 31: 9-16

Phil 2: 5-11

Matt 26: 14-27: 66 or Matt 27: 11-54

**Sunday, April 12
Easter**

Acts 10: 34-43 or Jer 31: 1-6

Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24

Col 3: 1-4 or Acts 10: 34-43

John 20: 1-8 or Matt 28: 1-10

**Sunday, April 19
Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

Ps 16

1 Peter 1: 3-9

John 20: 19-31

Holy Language

**Sunday, April 26
Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Ps 116: 1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1: 17-23

Luke 24: 13-35

Breaking Bread



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