

# St. James United Church of Christ

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

Newsletter  
May 2020  
Volume 5, Issue 5

## News from Pastor Ken

### Contents

News from Pastor Ken	1
Pastor Ken News Cont.	2
Discretionary Fund	3
Prayers Needed	3
Outreach Ministry	3
Birthday	4
Anniversary	4
Spiritual Ministry	4
Worship Ministry	4
Earthly Gift Ministry	4
Memorial Day Poem	5
Christmas Tote Bags	6
Ministers Needed	6
Bottle Can Collection	6
Military Prayer List	6
Kid's Page	7
Scripture Readings	8



Well, it looks like we are all camping out in our respective homes a little longer. Regardless of how you feel about all this I hope that you are taking care of yourself and are considerate of those around you if you need to go out. Unfortunately, unique situations such as this seem to bring out both the best and worst in people. That is why it is particularly important to remind ourselves of who and whose we are. By the fact that we label ourselves Christian, we represent the nature of Christ to everyone we meet along the way. Let people know that they are not alone in this journey. We are also called to share the message of mercy, love, compassion and hope with all that we meet along life's path whether that is done physically or virtually. These are indeed challenging times. It is our call to be the true face of Christ to all that we meet along the way whether neighbor, family members, believer, or nonbeliever, regardless of how they vote and by whatever name they call the creator.

In the meantime, call somebody, send a greeting card, email, check in on your family, friends and neighbors. Volunteer safely at a food bank, sew a face mask, shop for essentials for a shut in. Wave or give a thumbs up to first responders and healthcare workers, even your local veterinarians. Say thank you to the grocery and other essential store workers. They are front liners too.

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.

## Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

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.

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



### Prayer List ....

Maraleen  
Sharon  
Linda  
Andy  
Wayne I.  
Carole  
Karleen  
Karen  
Colleen

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

## 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 May

1 – Brenda Maedel  
2 – Sue Tews  
5 – Ellen Riley  
9- Shelley Kargula  
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

### 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 May

1 - Bev & Gordie Kulman  
2 – Don & Betty Robertson  
2 – Bill & Lynnette Osterland  
10 – Patti & Jerry Maedel  
13 - Jason Szymanski & Jeremy Geneja  
20 – Mark & Jennifer Uppleger

## Earthly Gifts

This is the last Sunday of the Month with our goal being \$5885.00 for April and only \$2546.55 being received. In this critical time please remember St. James.

Donations can be mailed or delivered to Ralph our Treasurer at 8326 Meisner, Casco, MI 48064 or mailed to St. James UCC, 9008 Meisner, Casco, MI 48064. Mailboxes are checked daily.

Giving can also be done through St. James website's "Giving" page. Giving through the St. James website can be done via a Debit/Credit card or Paypal.

Thanking everyone for their contributions to help make St. James solvent.

### The Discretionary Fund May 3, 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.

# Memorial Day Remembrance



**Broad stripes and bright stars.... gave proof....**

## Veteran

I was a proud veteran  
That served my country well  
To those that would listen  
I had many stories to tell.

We fought for America's freedom  
In far away places on foreign land.  
Wherever the battle for democracy raged,  
America's finest made a stand.

We fought for your future  
And the right to remain free.  
For we saw what freedom meant  
To those not blessed with Liberty.

For you and yours  
We would gladly have given our life.  
We faced the fears and perils of battle  
We braved endless turmoil and strife.

Please remember us veterans  
And the sacrifices we made for you.  
Please share the blessings of freedom,  
Proudly wave the red, white and blue.

Lynne Carey  
Copyright 2004

**that our flag was still there.**

**Broad stripes and bright stars ....**

**gave proof .... that our flag was still there.**

## Christmas Tote Bags for Local Community Charities

### May 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.

**If you are out in store that has any these items, pick them up and bring them to church once we start to have services at St. James. Thank you!!!**

---

### 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

Color the below Poppies in remembrance of our lost veterans.



## Scripture Readings for May

**Sunday, May 3**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 2: 42-47  
Ps 23  
1 Peter 2: 19-25  
John 10: 1-10  
**Powerful Witness**

**Sunday, May 10**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 7: 55-60  
Ps 31: 1-5, 15-16  
1 Peter 2: 2-10  
John 14: 1-14  
**Enduring Witness**

**Sunday, May 17**  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 17: 22-31  
Ps 66: 8-20  
1 Peter 3: 13-22  
John 14: 15-21  
**Witness of Love**

**Sunday, May 24**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
Acts 1: 6-14  
Ps 68: 1-10, 32-35  
1 Peter 4: 12-14, 5: 6-11  
John 17: 1-11  
**Spirit of Witness**

**Sunday, May 31**  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
Acts 2: 1-21 or Num 11: 24-30  
Ps 104: 24-34, 35b  
1 Cor 12: 3b-13 or Acts 2: 1-21  
John 20: 19-23 or John 7: 37-30



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



## MAY NEWSLETTER