

# St. Johns United Church of Christ

## News from Pastor Ken

March 2022

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Greetings to all.

What a fickle winter we have had and then there is the weather. No snow, then a winter's worth of snow. Single digit temperatures and 50 degrees in the same 48 hours. Snow, ice, sunshine, cold and gray. It is the time of year when Mother Nature starts to think about spring but still loves the way the snow clings to the trees and the ice twinkles in the moon light. I cannot say I blame her.

Nonetheless, I really enjoy March if for no other reason than it is the month that officially starts spring, even though it may not feel like it.

Many of us struggle to get through winter and what can seem like endless cold, grey days. Just a couple of days ago, as I was walking up the driveway looking at my icy-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, I wait with anticipation as the snow melts to see the little buds starting to appear and the daffodil shoots pushing up. And I watch my bird feeders to see what new arrivals are making an early appearance. 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 starts March 2 with Ash Wednesday. 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,

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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 do not just mean our role in church. In fact, I am thinking about our greater purpose in life. When I recognize that I have always belonged to God, before-during and after this physical experience, I realize that all that I do and say is a ministry of some sort or another.

I encourage us all to use this time for a little, thinking, praying, 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 of suggestions. Consider one or two as a daily practice. Spend a few extra minutes each day in prayer and meditation. Read any book on spirituality, commit to reading the Upper Room or Daily Bread every morning with your coffee/tea (it is only a small page), read one proverb everyday 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. Who knows, you may find it rewarding enough to continue.

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

**Happy Birthdays in March**

3-28 - Jack Leonard

**Anniversaries in March**

3-10 - Linda and Ron Leonard  
3-11 - Bernetta and Joe Borneman  
3-17 - Carolyn & Ben Hosford



**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 be placed on the list.

Joshua Bieske   Sgt. First Class   US Air Force

**Prayers For .....**

.... Claudette, Shirley, Barb, David, Bev, Ralph, Rosemary, Sue, Frazer, Lee, Arnie, Wayne, Danielle, Harvey, Lynn, Don, Lois, Marion, Tom, Brenda, Ben, Carolyn, Joy, Bill, Prange Family, Jenney, Wanda, Trisha, Ljupka (Lupe-ka), Tamara, Ken, Kathy, Michael, Gina, Jim, Faith, Linda, Families of St. John & St. James

**Worship Ministry**

**Volunteers Needed**  
**Please sign-up**

Please consider signing up for the ministries of Usher/ Greeter, Liturgists, Communion Servers and altar Care.

**\*\*Live streaming of Sunday Services will continue at 9:00am on the St. James Facebook page and St. Johns Sunday Services will continue at 11:00am on the St. Johns Facebook page. Both will be available as a video any time after the live streams.\*\***

# Kid's Page



## St Patrick's Day Word Search



Find all the words on the list.

X G Q S W X  
 P C M O Q L G O E V J W  
 A X T K C L W D A S D C F F Q X E K  
 V H O N O Y D L R R R A I N B O W I  
 L S L T I A Z O I U B P A X U P X A Z T  
 H I F C K A L G W E R N Q B F A A E T W  
 V W D Q X N S - Y C Y D H Z S D X R H T P X  
 K Z K G W F F K Z G F E M U G F H A Z R F S  
 F N O T W O F C E O X U H O L I D A Y O  
 L O S - T I O U S H K C Z M E  
 T J M Z R W K M D  
 B V O I M W - M E C D H Q  
 T M L P P Q F L K A Y I X B V  
 U H J V U P G N J E H W H K R K B Z P  
 Q W O E Q J I Y Q Y A Q M J S C E T J Z T  
 P R O I R I S H D Z F X A N D B U M X Z Q  
 K X N R P Z D G C P A E J D Y D P E L I B J G  
 Y B S Z A C H Y J T D Z F N F Q W V L J T  
 E K H O T C Z P U H - C S F Z F H B X J R  
 S N H Y R A F P F C L B Q G B Y L O I  
 A J X A I N J C L O W F N D W J T  
 B M U C E R O V U Z U J Z  
 Y Q K T V E H R Z  
 M E R  
 K R R

MARCH  
 GOLD  
 PATRICK  
 LIMERICK  
 PARADE

RAINBOW  
 CLOVER  
 IRISH  
 POT-OF-GOLD  
 SHAMROCK

LUCKY  
 SAINT  
 HOLIDAY  
 FOUR-LEAFED-CLOVER  
 WISH

## St. Patrick's Day Poem



*An old Irish blessing*  
*May love & laughter light your days,*  
*and warm your heart & home.*  
*May good & faithful friends be yours*  
*where ever you may roam.*  
*May peace & plenty bless your world*  
*with joy that long endures*  
*May all life's passing seasons*  
*bring the best to you & yours.*



## Meeting Minutes / Reports

St. John's United Church of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
January 10, 2022

Call to order: 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call/Council Members: Georgia Phelan, Carolyn Hosford, Shari Faucher, Katie Phelan, Miriam Guyor, Don Weichert, Pastor Ken Gadd. All present.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ken

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Miriam to accept Agenda. Second by Shari. Carried,

Minutes of last meeting: Motion to accept minutes as presented by Shari, second by Don. Carried.

Calendar Updates: Motion to move Annual Meeting from January 16 to February 13, 2022 by Shari, second by Carolyn. Carried.

### Ministry Reports

1. Worship  
All visitors who signed guest book in 2021 received notes.
2. Fellowship  
We are waiting to hear the date for St. James' 2022 Chili Cook Off before setting the date for our Chili Potato Dinner.
3. Outreach
  - a. We will be putting out a box to collect donations for our cooperative effort with St. James for the Christmas tote bags. The list will be updated monthly. The first donations have been sent to St. James.
  - b. St. John's/St. James tornado relief fund. St. John's raised \$820. Pastor Ken will be donating it through the Eastern Michigan Conference.
  - c. We will look into a cooperative effort to support Blue Water Safe Horizons with the effort already supported by St. James. A program will be set up for the Sunday School students to gather donations for the Blue Water Area Humane Society, followed by a field trip by the student to the shelter to deliver donations and help socialize the puppies and kittens.
4. Spiritual Growth  
Sunday School: Pastor Ken has ordered an "all in one" curriculum that covers Ages 4-12 with a seasonal theme.
5. Earthly Gifts
  - a. Treasurer's Report: Shari made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Second by Katie. Carried. It was noted that despite lower attendance last year, we still ended in the black. Also, the new Profit and Loss report can be used for the Annual Report.

1. 2022 Budget: Modifications have been made to the budget, as it will now contain revenue items as well as expense items and will include the 2021 actual numbers for comparison. It will also be separated by Ministry areas.
2. End of year donations: We received two separate \$500 donations. One was annotated to be applied to the general fund while the other one was not.

Records/History Book- no report

#### Pastor's Report

1. The Annual Report and Budget are prepared, the storm donation will be sent to the Eastern Michigan Conference and Sunday School curriculum is ordered.
2. Pastor Ken did over 35 funerals in 2021.
3. He has spent a lot of time pastoring this past year and feels it is a privilege to give comfort and hope to people during these trying times.

#### Unfinished Business

1. New contract with AT&T will be less than projected, saving \$600 per year.
2. Draft use agreement/community room. Tabled
3. Office filing system. Miriam and Georgia will be reorganizing the church office.
4. Community kitchen. Tabled.

#### New Business

1. Annual meeting: will ask for approval of updated By-laws.
2. Annual meeting potluck: will use sign up that is already started.
3. Addition of 7th Council Member: we have a potential nominee.
4. Flags: both are in bad repair. Miriam made the motion to purchase new flags with monies from the Memorial Fund. Second by Carolyn. Carried.
5. Envelope order: We will get a 10% discount, Georgia will order them.
6. Sympathy cards, flowers, etc: We will look for a member/members to take care of sending cards, ordering flowers, etc. for the congregation.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Shari at 8:00 p.m. Second by Georgia. Carried.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Ken

Next meeting: February 14, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

12:00 PM  
02/08/22  
Cash Basis

St. John United Church of Christ  
**Profit & Loss**  
January 2022

	<u>Jan 22</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Disaster Relief	-760.00
Envelope Offering	15.00
Initial Offering	50.00
Interest Income	0.96
Mary Martha Donations	50.00
Miscellaneous Income	
Coffee Hour	42.00
TOPS #1904	20.00
Tuesday Night AA	100.00
Total Miscellaneous Income	162.00
Plate Offering	4,556.79
Total Income	4,074.75
Expense	
Bank Service Charges	5.00
Dues and Subscriptions	120.00
Internet and Phone	34.08
Payroll Expenses	3,191.66
Reimbursement	13.50
Utilities	386.72
Total Expense	3,750.96
Net Ordinary Income	323.79
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest Earned on CD	3.21
Total Other Income	3.21
Net Other Income	3.21
Net Income	<u><u>327.00</u></u>

## Scripture Readings for March

### **Sunday, March 6**

#### **First Sunday in Lent**

Deut 26: 1-11

Ps 191:1-2, 9-16

Rom 10: 8b-13

Luke 4: 1-13

#### **Wilderness Companions**

### **Sunday, March 20**

#### **Third Sunday in Lent**

Isa 55: 1-9

Ps 63: 1-8

1 Cor 10: 1-13

Luke 13: 1-9

#### **Open Invitation**

### **Sunday, March 13**

#### **Second Sunday in Lent**

Gen 15: 1-12, 17-18

Ps 27

Phil 3: 17-4:1

Luke 13: 31-35 or Luke 9: 28-36, (37-43a)

#### **Strong & Tender**

### **Sunday, March 27**

#### **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Josh 5: 9-12

Ps 32

2 Cor 5: 16-21

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

#### **Embracing Love**

## Message from St. Johns Council President

As I write this article, our Annual Meeting held yesterday, February 13, is in the books. We had a wonderful turnout of our congregation, so it was worth waiting for! Minutes from that meeting will be shared with everyone once our Secretary has had time to get them typed up, I expect in a week or two.

As usual, we heard reports from our officers and Ministry Directors, with good news and updates to share all around. Our new budget for the coming year was reviewed and approved. Probably the most notable item this year was the update to our By-Laws. This update, following review by Pastor Ken and myself, with input from Council, will bring this important document not just up to date, but in line with how our church actually functions today. It had been quite awhile since a review and update and, like everything else, things change over time. We now have a very functional set of By-Laws for the foreseeable future. I hope to include your copy of the new By-Laws in this newsletter.

Many thanks to all who prepared food for the Potluck following the meeting. As usual, we had plenty of wonderful food to share with our church family. I have to admit, I just love a good potluck!

As we pass through the last month or so of winter, please remember our Ministry work. Our Sunday School students are collecting items for the Blue Water Humane Society for the next few weeks. This will culminate with a visit to the animal shelter by our students, coordinated by Council member Katie Phelan, who also happens to be the shelter director. Our kids will not only deliver the goods, they'll also get to spend time helping to socialize the pets waiting for their new forever homes. Sounds like a good time to me!

Our collaboration with St. James' to collect items for tote bags to be distributed next Christmas continues. Collection boxes for these items, along with the pet products and the Mary-Martha Guild's Helping Hands food donation box are all located in our Fellowship Hall, as are lists of needed items. Personally, I try to bring at least one item, even if it's small, each week to support these worthy efforts.

If you know of any member or friend of St. John's who is ailing, please let us know! Contact either Pastor Ken or myself and we will make sure they are added to our prayer list. My number is 586-242-2410 and Pastor Ken's is 313-402-0858.

If you are a fan of winter, I hope you enjoy these last weeks of crisp air and snowy days. If you're not, don't despair- March is the last month of winter and April will start the big change over to warm earth and flowers 😊

In God's love,  
Georgia

### **March Activities**

Wednesday, March 2 – Soup & Salad Dinner (Bring a dish to Pass) – 6pm at St. James  
Ash Wednesday Service – 7pm at St. James

Sunday, March 6 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am.

Wednesday, March 9 – Mary Martha Guild Meeting – 12pm. – Carolyn Hosford Hosting  
Zoom Discussion Group, The Apostles – 7pm

Sunday, March 13 – Sunday Worship – 11am.

Monday, March 14 – Council Meeting – 6:30pm.

Sunday, March 20 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am.

Sunday, March 27 – Sunday Worship – 11am.  
St. James Corn Beef Dinner at Perch Point – 4pm.

### **April Activities**

Sunday, April 3 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am

Wednesday, April 6 - Zoom Discussion Group, The Apostles - 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 10 – Sunday Worship – 11am.

Wednesday, April 13 - Zoom Discussion Group, The Apostles - 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 14 - Maundy Thursday - 7:00 pm at St. James'

Friday, April 15 - Good Friday - Noon at St. James', includes Stations of the Cross  
7:00 pm at St. John's, includes Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 16 – Holy Saturday - 7:00 pm St. James'

Sunday, April 17 - Easter Service - 9:00 am service at St. James'  
11:00 am service at St. John's

Sunday, April 24 – Sunday Service – 11am.

### **May Activities**

Sunday, May 1 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am

Monday, May 9 – council Meeting – 6:30pm.

Sunday, May 15 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am.

Thursday, May 19 -Rummage Sale Prep Day - 9 am-?

Friday, May 20 - Rummage & Bake Sale, St. John's - 9 am-5:00 pm

Saturday, May 21 - Rummage & Bake Sale, St. John's - 9 am-3 pm

Sunday, May 22 – Sunday Worship – 11am

Sunday, May 29 – Sunday Worship with Healing – 11am.

## **Additional Activities**

### **Sunday Services**

Sunday Service is in person 11:00 a.m. Service is also available via online streaming on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. If it is not available on our Facebook page, please try St. James' - it is the exact same service. Both will be available to view as a video any time after the live streams.

[www.facebook.com/Stjohnsuccmarinecity](http://www.facebook.com/Stjohnsuccmarinecity) or [www.facebook.com/St.James-United-Church-of-Christ-10150090210425008](http://www.facebook.com/St.James-United-Church-of-Christ-10150090210425008).

### **Council Meetings**

Church Council's next meeting is March 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

### **Sunday School**

Sunday School meets Sunday during service.

### **Coffee Donations**

There is a container on the counter by the coffee pots for freewill donations to help pay for the cost of Coffee Hour. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

## ***Giving Lasts All Year!***

St. John's & St. James' Christmas Charity Tote Bags: Some needed items:

School supplies:

Colored pencils/markers

Crayons

Pencil sharpeners/erasers

Scissors/rulers

Toothpaste/Floss

Washcloths

Socks- for ages 2-14

Headbands/barrettes/bows

Toys ages 2-14

Donations accepted all year to accumulate 100 of each item;  
distribution is via local organizations. Donation box & COMPLETE LIST on table.

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We're on the Web!  
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## MARCH NEWSLETTER