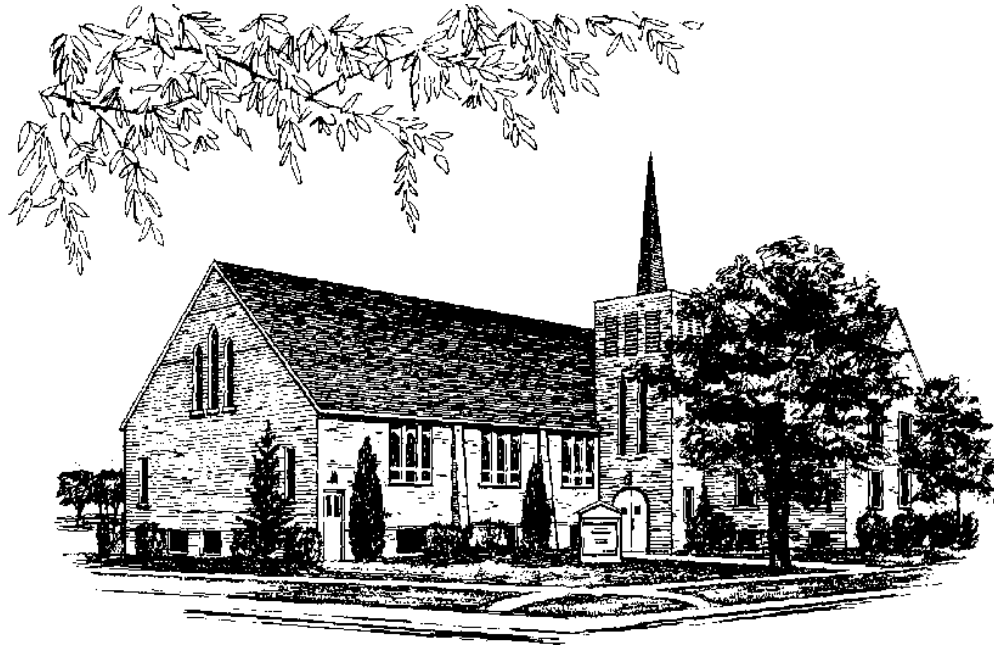


St. James Newsletter

August 2020



ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PO Box 369

Barnesville, Minnesota

Church Phone # 354-7198

churchoffice.stjames@gmail.com

www.stjamesuccmn.org

Church Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Monday – Thursday



August 2020 Newsletter



Happy beginning of harvest to all as we all fall back into schedule again. Within a few weeks we will begin gathering together some exciting fall events for our church. We really hope to see LOTS of your faces again at worship! We all miss having you here in the sanctuary. We are still practicing safe measures in all ways so know that **you are safe here with us**. We look forward to seeing those of you who decide to join us and we will continue to join ourselves together with those who choose not to join in person by prayer and don't forget, our LIVE worship on phone, computer, or smart tv at <http://rcl.ink/5an> or later at <http://rcl.ink/LPT> . We think of all of you often and we continue to pray that you stay safe and well!

[A few dates to keep in mind coming up!](#)

SEPTEMBER 6TH – WORSHIP AT 9:45 A.M. WITH HOLY COMMUNION

SEPTEMBER 8TH – BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING 7PM

SEPTEMBER 13TH- **“RALLY SUNDAY”** WITH WORSHIP AT 9:45 A.M. AND SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS WITH GAMES OUTSIDE AND GRILLED HOT DOGS SERVED! JOIN US!

SEPTEMBER 16TH – CONFIRMATION CLASSES RESUME IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FOLLOWING SOCIAL DISTANCING. **PLEASE HAVE ONE PARENT ATTEND WITH STUDENT.**

SEPTEMBER 20TH – WORSHIP AT 9:45 A.M. WITH HOLY COMMUNION FOLLOWED BY OUR ANNUAL **“CATCH UP AUCTION”** HELD OUTDOORS AT THE CLAY COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

SEPTEMBER 27TH – WORSHIP AT 9:45 A.M. AND OUTDOOR FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW.

OCTOBER 4TH – **CONFIRMATION DURING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:45 A.M.** WITH HOLY COMMUNION. PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT OUR CONFIRMANDS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1---Mya Askegaard	15---Matt Carter
1---Nathan Levenson	15---Alec Wheelright
2---Shane Egge	15---Alyssa Ernst
2---Tayler Ernst	16---Fred Janssen
2---Caden Ernst	17---Trista Ames
3---Dwight Affield	18---Jesse Jerger
3---Blake Wallace	18---Shaun Ernst
4---Jennifer Berg	18---Joseph Mark
6---Carol Seefeldt	19-Lindsay Christianson
7---Mackinzie Levenson	19---Claire Goebel
9---Kevin Ernst	20---Jacob Anderson
9--- Gerald Palmer 100 yrs old	25---Jill Iverson
9---Tabetha Fenner	27---Sharon Such
10---Janet Rogers	27---Tammy Anderson
10---Garrett Anderson	28---Trevor Krueger
10---Tyler Hooker	28---Elizabeth Holland
10---Rowynn Jerger	29---Joseph Thomssen
12---Darin Mulcahy	30---Robert Ernst
12---Donna Braton	30---Dana Berg
12---Katie Jerger	30---Zachary Bohmer
12---Shelly Stanton	
12---Marla Field	
13---Brian Field	
13---Thatcher Iverson	
13---Heather Leinen	

If there are any birthday dates omitted or wrong, please let the office know.



We have a special birthday for a special guy this month to celebrate! Gerald Palmer will be turning “100” years old on September 9th!! We wish we could celebrate such a milestone with him but even though we can’t, feel free to send him a card with birthday wishes to:

**Gerald Palmer
224 5th St NE Apt 11
Barnesville MN 56514**



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3---Sharon & Robert Hovland
10---Jolynn & Chad Jegtvig
17---Greg & Wanda Odness
17---Hailey & Jacob Grosz
18---Erica & Shaun Thomssen
21---Heather & Scott Leinen
22---Alex & Trista Ames
23---Wendy & Randy Affield
24---Marcia & John Hough
29---Danielle & Michael Holland
30---Brenda & Dean Cypher

\$ Automated Giving \$

St. James has implemented the options for online and mobile giving with a credit or debit card! **Give it a try!** Here is how:

Online: Visit the St. James website at <https://www.stjamesuccmn.org> and click on the “give” button in the upper right-hand corner.

Mobile: Visit the app store and search for **SecureGive Vision**, and install it. The first time signing up, the church must be chosen. Search for St. James United Church of Christ, as there are several St. James churches around country. Once the church is selected, the donation information will appear. **Give it a try!**

Services can be viewed at: Link to the church’s YouTube channel to view. Use this link to see all the past videos: <http://rcl.ink/LPT> or link to the live stream: <http://rcl.ink/5an>

Visit Us on Facebook, St James UCC, for updates and photos on what we have been up to and also for upcoming dates and events!

Prayer Shawl

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a program in our church being implemented under the auspices of the Board of Trustees. The following paragraph is part of what will accompany the shawl: *Praying with a prayer shawl is intended to be a reminder of God's ever-present love, which is always a part of you. Wear it in times of private prayer whenever you feel the need to feel closer, to be wrapped in God's loving care. Wrap the shawl around your shoulders, or drape it over your lap, or put it over you when resting-whatever makes you feel comfortable.* If you know of someone that is in need, please contact Beryl Janssen, Irene Schenck, Eleanor Siggerud or the office.



SPECIAL PRAYER IS NEEDED



Judy Siggerud
Janette Schmidt
Ashley Seykora
Arylis Dow
Angie Harrison Marquardt
Kyle Anderson
Sharon Hovland
Carla Durkee
Matt Holland
Ron Ellingson
Erma Egge

Gerry Palmer
Drew Suby
Leigha Ness
Levi Koep
Dorothy Seefeldt
Harold Schenck
Shirley Aberle
David Egge
Leland Egge
Jerad Egge
Egge

(If you know of someone you would like on the prayer list, would you please get permission from them or their family as some people are very private)

SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

Barrera, Murphy---USAF
Barfield, Beau---USN

Garza, Mario---US
Owen Jerald – US Army



Lloyd Lindholm has recently gone to his heavenly home. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Diaconate Board Update August, 2020

We have not had any meetings due to the COVID-19 and social distancing at this point

Absent : all diaconate members

Balance: \$82.48

The diaconate assisted in preparing the church for worship opening again following the recommended safety guidelines and procedures as well as assisted in implementing them. Individual disposable communion cups with wafers that can be thrown away have been purchased to use on communion Sundays.

Next Meeting Date: September 13th at 11:00 a.m. at St. James UCC in Fellowship Hall

Frankly Speaking,

It is impossible to believe we are nearing September already. Where has all the time gone? To say we are living in a less than usual time would be like saying that the time during WWII was noisy. The constant drum beat of scary news has taken its toll on people. Some of our friends and parishioners are living scared. They are afraid to go out of their homes out of fear of catching a virus. It is no way to live. When and where do we trust that a place or person is safe? I cannot vouch for every person or place. I can vouch for our sanctuary and our Sunday worship time. I encourage you to try it. We need to have people sit in the forward section of the sanctuary because of everything being on the screens. We have devised a way to avoid passing of everything to avoid spreading potential germs and we have a seating arrangement that allows for social distancing.

We are planning confirmation classes in similar ways. The R.E. board members are working on Sunday School plans that will also be safe or we will not do them.

Our task is to find new and safe ways to do things that allow us to move on, but move on we must. We will do everything we can to be safe and we will adjust and readjust to stay safe. Fear can be a good thing because it tells us to be on guard, but too much fear is never good. I am trying to find a balance. So, come and put your toe in the water on Sunday and see if you feel safe. Those who are coming tell me they feel safe. Among them are some cautious ones.

I asked Tammy to put in the newsletter the poem Invictus. It was John Lewis's favorite poem as it was of many who faced fear. Winston Churchill paraphrased the last two lines of the poem in his speech to the House of Commons on September 9, 1941 when he said, "We are still the masters of our fate. We are still the captains of our souls." Nelson Mandela, while in prison at Robben Island, would read this poem to other prisoners and felt empowered by its message. In fact, there was a movie made that showed the first year of Mandela's presidency, it was entitled "Invictus." I offer it to you in the midst of our time of fear.

God bless you and our church as we try to move forward placing our faith and trust in our Lord.

Be At Peace --Pastor Frank



\$\$\$ Catch Up Sunday \$\$\$

What: Catch Up Auction

When: Sunday, September 20th

Time & Place: 11:00 a.m. at the Clay County Fair Grounds

It's that time of year again when we need to "Catch Up" after the summer months. Please join us in the fun as we see and sell some of our talents of our members such as baked goods, crafted items, and much more at our yearly auction. Any and all donations of items are greatly appreciated. You can bring them in before or on that morning and drop them off in the church basement. **Get your bidding number and join us for FELLOWSHIP and FUN OUTDOORS!**

Pastor Frank asked me to include this poem in our newsletter for you to read. He refers to it in his "Frankly Speaking" this month.

Invictus

By William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but eh Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul.



Does anyone happen to know if the old candles that were used on the altar were in memory of anyone? They haven't been used in years but Greg and Wanda Odness would like to make a few things out of them for our catch-up auction. If you have any information on these, please email or call the church office. Thank you!

**Board of Trustees Minutes
Special Meeting
Monday, June 29th, 2020**

The St. James UCC Board of Trustees met for a special meeting in-person at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020.

Call to Order: The Trustee Board meeting was called to order by Moderator, Kristal Rick, at 7:03 p.m.

Members present: Dean Ernst, Bob Holland, Jim Martodam, Sandie Schmidt, Polly Thorsness, Kristal Rick, Ryan Erdmann, Wanda Odness, Chuck Anderson, and Pastor Frank.

Members Absent: Chuck Peppel

Opening Prayer: Pastor shared an opening prayer.

Adoption of Agenda: Agenda was not formally addressed due to this being a special meeting.

Secretary's Report: Secretary's report was not covered due to this being a special meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was not covered due to this being a special meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pastor's report was not covered due to this being a special meeting.

Old Business:

- A. Finance Presentation** – Jon Eisert from Bell Bank attended the meeting and presented information about the products and services that would benefit St. James. Jon has been with Bell Bank for 12 years, and has a focus on non-profit organizations. Jon's father-in-law is a pastor in Ada MN, and he understands the financial challenges that churches experience. Interest rates and the upcoming CD maturities were discussed, along with developing the long-term proposal for the congregation to approve at a congregational meeting later this summer. Ryan moved to place the CDs maturing in August into a Money Market Savings Account at Bell Bank at a current rate of .75% (subject to change) to keep the funds liquid until interest rates rise; Jim seconded. Motion carried.
- B. Midwest PPP Update** – Tammy indicated that all of the PPP loan money has been spent. She is working with Bank on completing the application for forgiveness, which is due by the end of December.
- C. Committee for Succession Plan** – The committee has not met. Trista Ames from the Diaconate Board volunteered to be on this committee, along with Jim from the Trustee Board.
- D. Re-Opening Update** – Feedback on reopening is positive. Attendees have indicated they feel safe. The air hasn't been turned off during the service; it becomes too unbearable very quickly. All attendees wear masks and social distance. Will continue this process until Labor Day.

New Business:

- A. Revolving Loan Renewal** – Polly moved to renew the revolving loan at Midwest Bank; Ryan seconded. Motion carried.
- B. September Plans** – Tammy asked about boards planning for September, such as the RE Board for Sunday School. The direction given is that we need to plan for normal

Board of Trustee Minutes June 29th Continued...

- C. activities beginning in September unless the direction changes due to the continued impact of Covid 19.
- D. **Catch-Up Auction** – Discussed options for holding this auction depending on the guidelines in place at that time. Tammy will contact the auctioneer to discuss and potentially reserve a date with him.

Polly moved to adjourn the meeting; Ryan seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm. The board closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: **Monday, August 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Polly J Thorsness, Secretary

Board of Trustees Minutes Monday, August 3, 2020

The St. James UCC Board of Trustees met in-person at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3, 2020.

Call to Order: The Trustee Board meeting was called to order by Moderator, Chuck Anderson, at 7:00 p.m.

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Members present: Bob Holland, Jim Martodam, Sandie Schmidt, Polly Thorsness, Ryan Erdmann, Wanda Odness, Chuck Anderson, and Pastor Frank.

Members Absent: Chuck Peppel, Kristal Rick, Dean Ernst

Opening Prayer: Pastor shared an opening prayer.

Adoption of Agenda: Ryan moved to approve the agenda; Sandie seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Ryan moved to approve the Secretary's report; Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Tammy reviewed the financial report. Jim moved to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit; Wanda seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Discussed potential backup for Greg Odness, Sandie will contact the school for potential technically savvy students that may be interested in filling in for Greg periodically. Jim moved to approve the Pastor's report; Wanda seconded. Motion carried. The natural gas topic was discussed, the church office will contact the City.

Old Business:

A. Committees

▪ Reports

a. **Staff Parish** – no report.

b. **Diaconate** – reviewed the bread/juice sets being used that include bread and juice. Bob moved to continue using these cups; Polly seconded. Motion

Board of Trustee Minutes August 3rd Continued...

carried. Chuck A. recommended the Diaconate have a formal meeting through Zoom or social distancing.

c. **RE Board** – will be meeting August 5th.

d. **Buildings & Grounds**

1. **Emergency Lighting** – completed.

2. **Rail for Back Stairs** – with Lucas Berg for painting.

3. **Update on Loan Renewal at Midwest** – this was completed. Have not had to use it yet.

B. **CDs from Parsonage** – these mature August 6th, will be deposited into the money market account at Bell Bank.

C. **Report/Update on COVID procedures** – Pastor reported our COVID impact to the city, and they have also contacted the Women's Guild and Tammy.

D. **Catch-Up Auction Plan** – Scheduled for September 20th. Discussed a different approach to the auction for social distancing, Ryan moved that we hold the auction at the fairgrounds if possible; Sandie seconded. Motion carried. Chuck A. will contact the fair board to see if it could be held at the fair board. Pastor and Wanda shared a couple of items they are making for the auction. Wanda asked who gave the old communion candles as a memorial, Tammy will put a memo in the newsletter to see if anyone knows who gave them to the church. She has an idea for making them into something for the catchup auction as they aren't being used any more.

E. **Rally Sunday** – This will be set by the RE Board at their meeting.

F. **Confirmation** – This is set for the 1st Sunday in October.

New Business:

E. **Plaques for Memorials** – Wanda shared that help is needed to attach the metal memorial plaques to the wood base. The board discussed other options for displaying the memorials. This has been tabled to research different options for presentation.

F. **Other**

a. **Succession Planning** – Jim, Trista and Pastor visited with the conference pastor and discussed the options of a search committee and also lay people from the congregation. Trista is taking the classes in the Damascus Project. Planning to form a committee with one person from each board to determine the direction needed to take and start the process, an email will be sent to the chair of each board. Once the committee is formed, Pastor will return to interim status.

Ryan moved to adjourn the meeting; Bob seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm. The board closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting: **Tuesday, September 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Polly J Thorsness, Secretary



We want to say “Thank you” to our buildings and grounds committee, Bob Hovland, Dean Cypher, and Abe Barrera, and our janitor Duane Duval, as well as all of the others who have done things to help clean up or try to solve the water issues we have had. Your help is much appreciated!



We want to thank all of you who have been giving donations to the church through the mail and online. All of these add together and make a difference! **We are so fortunate to have great members and you all make a difference in our church family!** Please know that we are here for you, if you need an ear to listen or just need to talk. We really hope more of you see the church as a safe place right now and can join us on Sundays for worship. We pray that you all stay well and we will make it through this together! Continue to pray.



A thank you to our members on our boards who have made adjustments in their ways and schedules so we can still have meetings and be safe at the same time.



Thanks again to Greg & Wanda Odness for making our services online possible and to Rosie Carr & Julie Jerger for their musical talents along with all of the others who make our services possible. We also want to thank Paul Randall and Travis Affield for stepping up to learn how our AV system works so we have substitutes when needed!

Thank you to ALL of our members for all you do to make us St. James UCC proud and strong!



Confirmation Class to Resume



Confirmation classes are set to begin/resume on Wednesday, September 16th, from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. All first year (8th graders) and second year (9th graders) should plan to meet in fellowship hall that night. **You will need to wear a mask and sit one family per table. Please bring at least one parent with you that evening for the topic that will be discussed.** More Information will be sent out before as well and if you have any questions feel free to contact the church office by email at churchoffice.stjames@gmail.com or call us at 354-7198.



Sunday School Rally Sunday

When: Sunday, September 13th

Time: 11:00 a.m.

We will gather outside for fun and games to kick off the year followed by hotdogs on the grill! **Please bring your children and grandchildren! If you know of anyone else with children or grandchildren that may be interested in coming please invite them! Children are a gift of GOD!**

Call or email the church office to get your kids registered!

We can't wait to see all of their smiles!!

Women's Guild Officers Meeting August 2020 Update

Guild Officers Meeting was not held on August 5th, 2020 (pending due to Covid-19).

No meetings have been held since the March 8th meeting due to Covid-19.

The Treasurer's report lists a balance as of June 30, 2020 of \$7658.86. (pending approval).

Items of new business are as follows:

1. A survey from the Barnesville Area Community Fund was sent to Sharon Hovland asking the Guild to complete the survey regarding non-profits. Discussion needs to be held to determine who should complete the survey as this should probably be presented to the Board of Trustees as the Guild isn't considered a separate non-profit but is part of the Church, which is.
2. Fall Bazaar. In the event one can be held, will there be enough time for Rugs and Quilts to get enough inventory built up for a bazaar, and can food be served. Discussion needed.
3. Election of Officers in November. Sandra Dallmann and Brenda Cypher will not be rerunning as Co-President and Secretary, respectively. They both will complete their 2020 terms. Please consider submitting your name on the ballot.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Cypher, Secretary



RE Board Meeting August 5th, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cathy Olson, Jenna Crabtree, Rita Nosal, Pastor Frank and Betty Picard

ABSENT: Ruth Cooper, Deb Leverson

Checking account balance: \$8,492.69. An anonymous donation of \$1,000 was received.

RALLY SUNDAY: Set for Sept. 13th. - Will have it outside, grill hotdogs, chips, dilly bars and veggie cups. Plans are to play non contact games, celebrate with hot air lanterns (biodegradable), ring toss, sidewalk chalk, etc. Emphasize will be put on precautions, i.e.,

RE Board Meeting Minutes continued....

taking temperatures, masks for 5 and above. this will be shared with guardians. A flyer will be sent out. Jenna will design one.

Multiple contacts are to be made by committee members!

CONFIRMATION: Tentatively set for Oct. 4th. Will be downstairs with social distancing or on the Saturday before with the two families of confirmands. (Mya Askegard and Kaylea Berg)

CONFIRMATION CLASSES will start Wednesday, Sept. 16th in the fellowship hall to allow social distancing.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION for preschool to 7th grade will begin Sept. 13th. Will have classes outside weather permitting. Discussed and agreed to purchase a plastic snow fence for outside. It will be set up on the Northside of church to have children's activities. Jenna will check into this. Discussed singing...will check with music leaders. Will need teachers. Will ask parents/guardians to have their children refrain from running around. Distracting to others. There are enough classrooms and fellowship hall to social distance within the church once it is deemed necessary.

We each need to make contacts with our Sunday school families.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Picard

An update on offerings taken in each week recently by mail or online or during worship since we do not have bulletins. *Highlighted weeks show deficit**

June 21, 2020

General Offering: \$ 745.00
Online Giving: \$ 596.25
Total Given: \$1,341.25
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

Benevolence: \$105.00
Per Capita: \$ 0.00
Total Given: \$10.00
Needed/week: \$58.00

June 28, 2020

General Offering: \$1,255.00
Online Giving: \$ 420.00
Total Given: \$1,675.00
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

Benevolence: \$ 5.00
Per Capita: \$20.00
Total Given: \$25.00
Needed/week: \$58.00

July 5, 2020

General Offering: \$1,025.00
Online Giving: \$1,460.00
Total Given: \$2,485.00
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

Benevolence: \$ 5.00
Per Capita: \$ 0.00
Total Given: \$ 5.00
Needed/week: \$58.00

Monthly Offering Update Continued....

July 12, 2020

General Offering: \$1,004.00
Online Giving: \$ 605.00
Total Given: \$1,609.00
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

Benevolence: \$50.00
Per Capita: \$ 0.00
Total Given: \$50.00
Needed/week: \$58.00

July 19, 2020

General Offering: \$ 580.00
Online Giving: \$ 396.25
Total Given: \$ 976.25
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

Benevolence: \$ 5.00
Per Capita: \$ 0.00
Total Given: \$ 5.00
Needed/week: \$58.00

July 26, 2020

General Offering: \$ 985.00
Online Giving: \$ 445.00
Total Given: \$1,430.00
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

Benevolence: \$ 5.00
Per Capita: \$ 0.00
Total Given: \$ 5.00
Needed/week: \$58.00

August 2, 2020

General Offering: \$ 725.00
Online Giving: \$ 1,005.00
Total Given: \$ 1,730.00
Needed/Week: \$ 2,404.00

Benevolence: \$ 105.00
Per Capita: \$ 0.00
Total Given: \$ 105.00
Needed/week: \$ 58.00

August 9, 2020

General Offering: \$ 1,335.00
Online Giving: \$ 345.00
Total Given: \$ 1,680.00
Needed/Week: \$ 2,404.00

Benevolence: \$ 5.00
Per Capita: \$ 0.00
Total Given: \$ 5.00
Needed/week: \$ 58.00

August 16, 2020

General Offering: \$ 1270.00
Online Giving: \$ 555.00
Total Given: \$ 1,825.00
Needed/Week: \$ 2,404.00

Benevolence: \$ 5.00
Per Capita: \$ 0.00
Total Given: \$ 5.00
Needed/week: \$ 58.00

August 23, 2020

General Offering: \$ 310.00
Online Giving: \$ 445.00
Total Given: \$ 755.00
Needed/Week: \$ 2,404.00

Benevolence: \$ 5.00
Per Capita: \$ 0.00
Total Given: \$ 5.00
Needed/week: \$ 58.00