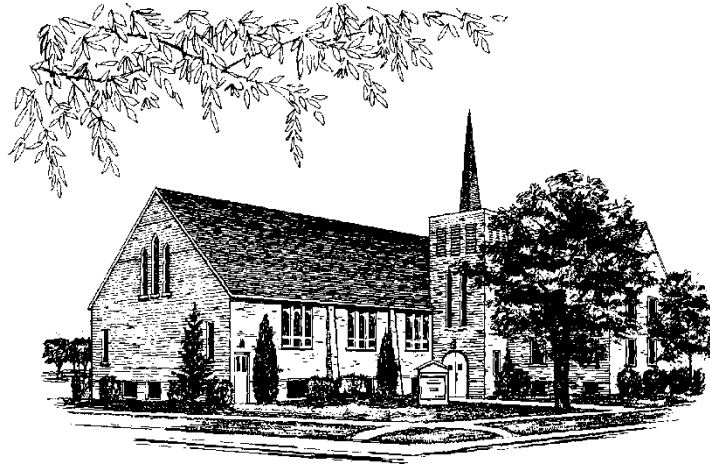


**St. James Newsletter  
Summer – June & July 2020**



**ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*PO Box 369*

*Barnesville, Minnesota*

*Church Phone # 354-7198*

[churchoffice.stjames@gmail.com](mailto:churchoffice.stjames@gmail.com)

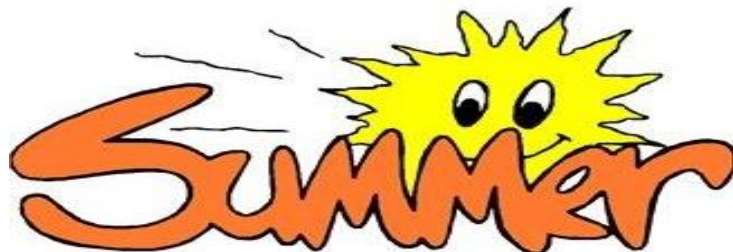
[www.stjamesuccmn.org](http://www.stjamesuccmn.org)

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

**Monday – Thursday**



**June – July 2020 Newsletter**



Hello to all and welcome Summer! We hope you are all doing well and feeling fine! We are so excited to have opened our worship services up on Sundays as of June 14<sup>th</sup>! We will be following guidelines and restrictions as directed for the safety of all of our precious members, young and old. We do understand, however, that some of you will be unable to join us due to various reasons. We want you to do what is right for YOU. We will be having Holy Communion on the first and third Sunday of the month as we did before, however, bread will be provided but NO grape juice will be served. 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!

**June 14<sup>th</sup>** -- Worship Service resumes in the sanctuary every Sunday at 9:45 a.m., however, **there will be NO COFFEE HOUR allowed at this point any Sunday.**

**June 21<sup>st</sup>** – Happy Father's Day! Worship at 9:45 a.m.  
Holy Communion

**June 28<sup>th</sup>** – Worship service at 9:45 a.m.

**June 29<sup>th</sup>** – Board of Trustee Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**July 4<sup>th</sup>** – Happy Independence Day!

**July 5<sup>th</sup>** – Worship service at 9:45 a.m.  
Holy Communion

**July 12<sup>th</sup>** -- Worship service at 9:45 a.m.

**July 19<sup>th</sup>** -- Worship service at 9:45 a.m.  
Holy Communion

**July 26<sup>th</sup>** -- Worship service at 9:45 a.m.



**STAY SAFE & CONTINUE TO PRAY**



Our weekly online Bible Study lead by Trista Ames was held Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. They studied the book of James and completed it as of last week. If there is interest in continuing through the summer months, please let the church office know and Trista would be happy to continue on Wednesday nights, otherwise, she will begin again in the fall. **A special “Thank you” to Trista Ames for providing us the opportunity to share together in understanding our faith! We are blessed to have you!**



Pastor Frank would like you to know it was wonderful having those of you who were able back for worship service on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>! We know these times are unsettling so do what is right for YOU. We miss you all! All went well but remember we are open to feedback and suggestions at any time!



We want to say “Thank you” to our buildings and grounds committee, Bob Hovland, Dean Cypher, and Abe Barrera for their help and time in getting our staff parking signs up and in keeping a close eye on our church to make sure maintenance is taken care of.



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 pray that you all stay well and we will make it through this together! Continue to pray.



A “Thank You” to the members of the Diaconate Board that assisted in helping Pastor Frank prepare our church and sanctuary for the recommended guidelines and procedures to open our worship service on June 14<sup>th</sup> as well as assisting in following them that Sunday morning. Thank you for all you do for St. James UCC!



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

## Frankly Speaking,

We are living in interesting times. A time of angst and a time of potential change. Will it be change on the margin or will it be the profound change that is needed? In my sermon on June seventh I said that prejudice is a world-wide problem. The white race has taken upon themselves the roll of the superior race for a very-long time. It is engrained in everything. We forget that our founding documents were written by white men who believed women were second class and who were slave owners. That bias has never left.

We have a very-significant problem in our criminal justice system. The inequities are glaring and again are world-wide. Native Australians, the Aborigines, make up less than 2% of the population but occupy more than 20% of prison population. In our country the sentencing guidelines for crack cocaine are much higher than for cocaine. Crack is known as the poor man's coke. The percentage of black and brown folks filling prison beds are as distorted as the Aborigines. It has been that way for a long time. It is the norm. What happened to Mr. Floyd also happens globally. There was recently a black prisoner killed by guards in Britain in the same fashion all the while he was crying out, "I can't breathe."

I grew up in northern ND. Near the town of Dunseith. Our family farm was about five miles from Dunseith and about 13 miles from Bottineau, but we always said we were from Bottineau because Dunseith was a town on the edge of the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation. When someone knew you were from Dunseith you were Indian, period. I took a tremendous amount of bullying as a child because kids were sure I was native. One of my regrets from childhood is lying about where I was from, but prejudice is taught and I had a lot of lessons.

I have heard many a person say that black, brown and native folks should just get over it and just be Americans, not African Americans or Hispanic Americans. That would be easier if they felt like they had an equal place at the table. I refer to myself as being French Canadian because that is my heritage. The vast majority of my relatives are in Canada but that does not make me unamerican.

Part of the difficulty that we keep missing is the psychological trauma that years of shaming and harsh prejudice has taken.

A child that grows up in domestic violence will likely be violent in their adult life. A woman who grew up seeing their father abuse his wife will often marry an abuser. A child who grows up in poverty will likely be poor as an adult.

Breaking the cycle of poverty, of hopelessness, of prejudice and learned helplessness is not easy. Breaking the cycle of some feeling superior to others will equally as difficult but we must try.

I grew up in abject poverty and with horrific violence, alcoholism, bigotry and hate of anyone who was not white. I have accomplished a lot of things in my life but the one thing I am most proud of is breaking the cycle of bigotry, the cycle of violence and the cycle of alcoholism, but all those things leave scars so even though many years have passed, I still struggle with some of the life-long side effects. I did not do it alone and neither can the poor or those minimized because of

## Frankly Speaking Continued....

color or heritage do it alone today. I had some wonderful angels along the way. Angels who along the way that said, "you are better than this." Angels that kept telling me "I could do it". ***Our task is to be those angels to others.***

We are asking our police to rethink how they function, but we should ask nothing of them we would not ask of ourselves. We have asked them to be domestic abuse counselors, child welfare advocates, school counselors, and alcohol and drug counselors. In New York city there are 5500 police officers assigned to schools but only 500 school psychologists. When we ask our police to be all things to all people we should not be surprised when one goes off in the wrong direction.

I frequently look to artists in times of cultural stress to see how they are expressing things we do not have words for. I would recommend two poets to you. The first is Langston Hughes (1902-1967). His poem Let America Be America Again is powerful. The other is Mya Angelou. Her poetry always provokes thought as does her writing. Her work will live forever. Let us be at peace with one another.

**Be At Peace -- Pastor Frank**



### **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!



### **JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

1—Sharon & Dennis Braton  
6—Carolyn & Bill Gabel  
10—Marjorie & Del Peterson  
11—Chuck & Tammy Anderson  
21—Karen & LeRoy Johnson  
24—Ron & Debbie Jerger  
24—Keith & Rosie Carr  
25—Kathy & Bill Braton  
28—Robert & Donna Ernst

### **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

4—Paul & Kristen Dubbles  
14—Troy & Janet Sailer  
18—Dennis & Julie Jerger  
20—Bruce & Susan Bowen  
25—Tom & Joy Fisch  
27—Fred & Beryl Janssen  
27—Larry & Janet Rogers  
28—Clyde & Sandy Dallmann

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





## JULY BIRTHDAYS

1—Robert Mark	16—Donna Ernst
1—Mark Keller	17—Shelby Berg
1—Sharon Hovland	18—Karissa Braton
2—Carolyn Gabel	19—Carla Rick
3—Stacy Grosz	21—Walker Erdmann
4—David Strom	22—Jered Affield
4—Lori Ernst	23—Susan Davis
5—Marsha Hough	24-- Diane Peterson
6—Sharon Braton	24—Jordana Jerger
7—Joshua Ullrich	24—Ellen Oie
9—Keith Carr	25—RaNelle Bang
10—Jean Carver	26—Robin Askegard
11—Erma Egge	26—DeLoyce Anderson
11—Jerry Barrera	26—Thomas Anderson
12—Cindy Kunz	27—Jacob Lilequist
13—Natasha Ullrich	28—Mici Braton
15—Dana Ernst	29—Cathy Wheelright
15—Kelli Frosli	29—Deb Leverson
15—Kyla Schroeder	30—Jim Schenck
	31—Judy Neubauer

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

### 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.



### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

1—John Hough	14—Taelyn Peppel
2—Darin Montplaiser	15—Vivian Nicklay
2—Alyssa Hewson	16—Kamrynn Ford
3—Shawna Swenson	16—Tom Berg
4—Debra Kolding	17---Barb Christianson
4—Jason Ernst	18---Jill Krueger
4—Phillip Rogers	18---Ivan Nelson
5—Matthew Ouellette	18—Austin Carr
6—Brooks Durensky	20—Carol Mulcahy
7—Dustin Akers	23—Molly Hooker
7—Ryan Liebelt	23—Lindsey Jerald
8—Carrie Affield	23--Addison Anderson
8—Lance Olson	23—Easton Anderson
9—Jace Nosal	25—Kaitlyn Levenson
10—Laura Bowen	26—Grace McEvers
10—Angela Bowen	28—Amber Levenson
10—Ruth Holland	28—Jace Krauth
10—Rylee Anderson	29—Jerry Johnson
11—Polly Thorsness	30—LeRoy Johnson
13—Brian Keeping	31—Darcy Quam
14—Tina Ford	

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

### **SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY**

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

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





### **SPECIAL PRAYER IS NEEDED**



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

Judy Siggerud  
Drew Suby  
Leigha Ness  
Levi Koep  
Dorothy Seefeldt  
Harold Schenck  
Shirley Aberle  
Lloyd Lindholm  
David Egge  
Leland Egge  
Jerad 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)*



**Janet Holt, Allan Altner, Janice Beckett, and Gerri Seefeldt have recently gone to their heavenly homes. Please keep their families in your prayers.**

### **Board of Trustees Minutes Monday, June 1, 2020**

The St. James UCC Board of Trustees met via in-person and Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 1, 2020.

**Call to Order:** The Trustee Board meeting was called to order by Moderator, Kristal Rick, at 7:02 p.m.

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

**Members Absent:** None.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor shared an opening prayer with the board.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Chuck A. moved to approve the agenda; Polly seconded. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** Wanda moved to approve the Secretary's report; Jim seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tammy reviewed the financials with the board. Tammy had a discussion with Secure Give regarding our fees and some improvements to be made. Tammy indicated that in 2019, our online giving was approximately \$10,000. Year-to-date 2020, we are already at \$10,000. Tammy will be testing a toggle switch with Secure Give that will show the donor the fee amount and give the option to cover that with the donation, if desired. Chuck A. moved to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit; Dean seconded. Motion carried.

## **Board of Trustee Minutes Continued...**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor's report was discussed. Chuck A. moved to for a committee to work with Pastor Frank on an outline for a succession plan, open up committee membership to other boards; Bob Holland seconded. Motion carried. Jim volunteered to be on the committee, Tammy will ask the other boards to obtain other volunteers. Jim moved to approve the Pastor's report; Wanda seconded. Motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

#### **A. Committee Reports**

- **Staff Parish** – No report.
  - **Diaconate** – No report.
  - **RE Board** – No report.
  - **Buildings & Grounds** –
    - a. **Emergency Light in South entry** – Lee recommended all emergency lights be replaced. They are on order.
    - b. **Handicap Pew Project** – No update.
    - c. **Rail for Back Staircase** – Phil Swenson still has this in his garage, waiting for it to be painted.
  - **Evangelism** – No update.
  - **Finance Committee** –
    - a. **Update on PPP Loan** – an update was provided regarding the usage of the PPP loan and plans to use up all of it. We cannot pre-buy utilities with the PPP funds, will be used on salaries.
    - b. **Investment Update** – Kristal gave an update on conversations had with Midwest and Bell banks. Chuck A. recommended the board hear the options Bell Bank has. Kristal will check to see if John is available to attend the next meeting. Chuck A. moved to renew the current 90-day CD into another same term CD; Bob seconded. Motion carried.
- B. Propane Update** – Tammy shared that we have a full tank going into the fall. Will discuss pre-buy at the August meeting. Ryan suggested looking at the comparison between propane and natural gas again.
- C. Standard Operating Procedures Update/Review** – The change proposals were reviewed; Polly moved to approve the changes; Bob seconded. Motion carried.
- D. Parking Signs for Staff** – The signs have been received, and are awaiting installation by the Buildings & Grounds committee.

## Board of Trustee Minutes Continued...

**E. Re-Opening Worship Services** – Discussion was held on reopening services for attendance. Area churches have varying plans. The limit is 25% of the church capacity. Chuck A. moved to open up church services Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> with agreed upon protocols; Bob seconded. Motion carried. Tammy will send an email and paper mailing with the notification of church reopening and the protocols to be followed:

- Must wear a mask
- Air to be turned off when services start to reduce recirculation
- Pews will be marked with available seating, with every other pew being vacant. Immediate families can sit together.
- Entrance to the church will be limited to the South door.
- Only one person or family in the elevator at once.
- No hugging.
- Communion – no wine, only bread.
- No offering – plates will be at the entrance to the church for offering.
- No fellowship.

### **New Business:**

A. **Other** – Jim moved to approve Greg buying headphones for improved sound management; Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Ryan moved to adjourn the meeting; Chuck A. seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. The board closed with prayer.

Next meeting: **Monday, June 29, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Polly J Thorsness, Secretary



### **Diaconate Board Update June, 2020**

We did not have a meeting in June due to the Covid-19 virus and state regulations

**Absent** : all diaconate members

Balance: \$321.02

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.

There will be no meeting in July and future meeting dates are pending guidelines at that time.

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

**May 3, 2020**

General Offering: \$3,240.00  
Online Giving: \$ 645.00  
**Total Given: \$3,885.00**  
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

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

**May 10, 2020**

General Offering: \$1,690.00  
Online Giving: \$ 720.00  
**Total Given: \$2,410.00**  
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

Benevolence: \$55.00  
Per Capita: \$ 0.00  
**Total Given: \$55.00**  
Needed/week: \$58.00

**May 17, 2020**

General Offering: \$1,180.00  
Online Giving: \$ 440.00  
**Total Given: \$1,620.00**  
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

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

**May 24, 2020**

General Offering: \$ 390.00  
Online Giving: \$ 520.00  
**Total Given: \$ 910.00**  
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

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

**May 31, 2020**

General Offering: \$ 894.00  
Online Giving: \$1,035.00  
**Total Given: \$1,929.00**  
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

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

**June 7, 2020**

General Offering: \$ 660.00  
Online Giving: \$ 695.00  
**Total Given: \$1,355.00**  
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

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

**June 14, 2020 (20 in attendance – also includes mail)**

General Offering: \$1,527.00  
Online Giving: \$ 625.00  
**Total Given: \$2,152.00**  
Needed/Week: \$2,404.00

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



We hope you all stay “cool” in all ways these next months ahead! We are blessed to have such a WONDERFUL congregation at St. James UCC! Stay well and safe and of course “COOL” - Tammy Anderson

