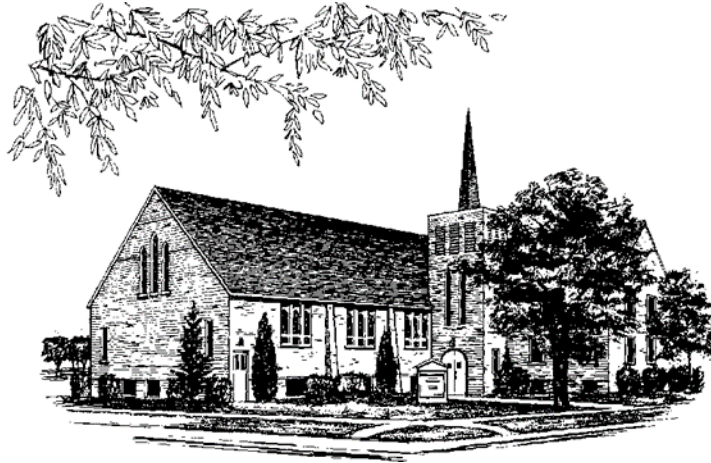


St. James Newsletter
March 2021



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



March 2021 Newsletter



We are open again to IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE!! We are following the same recommended guidelines of masks and distancing. We look forward to seeing those who decide to join us and also continue to join ourselves together with those who choose not to join in person, by prayer, and don't forget, our LIVE worship 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!

MARCH 21ST – LENTEN WORSHIP AT 9:45 A.M. WITH HOLY COMMUNION, SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:45-11:30 A.M., COFFEE HOUR 10:45 A.M.

MARCH 24TH – CONFIRMATION 7:00 P.M.

MARCH 28TH – PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 9:45 A.M., SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45-11:30 A.M., COFFEE HOUR 10:45 A.M.

MARCH 31ST – CONFIRMATION 7:00 P.M.

APRIL 1ST – MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP AT 7:00 P.M. WITH HOLY COMMUNION

APRIL 4TH – EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:45 A.M. WITH HOLY COMMUNION, COFFEE HOUR AT 10:45 A.M., **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

APRIL 5TH – BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING AT 7PM

APRIL 7TH – CONFIRMATION 7:00 P.M.

APRIL 11TH – WORSHIP AT 9:45 A.M., SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45-11:30 A.M., COFFEE HOUR 10:45 A.M., RE MEETING AT 11:30 A.M., DIACONATE BOARD MEETING AT 10:45 A.M.

APRIL 14TH – CONFIRMATION 7:00 P.M.

APRIL 18TH – WORSHIP AT 9:45 A.M. WITH HOLY COMMUNION AND OBSERVANCE OF EARTH DAY, COFFEE HOUR 10:45 A.M., SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:45 - 11:30 A.M.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1---Max Peppel
 1---Tyler Peterson
 2---Daniel Bohmer
 2---Jody Davis
 2---Lisa Davis
 4---Erica Field
 4---Grady Field
 5---Todd Keller
 5---Toni Affield
 6---Roxie Kara
 7---Julie Jerger
 8---Kelly Boyd
 8---Sheri Ernst
 9---Kimberly Ackerson
 9---Charles Anderson

10--Evan Lewis
 13--Lynn Miller
 14--Denise Frederick
 17--Shawn Thomssen
 18--Eric Ramacher.
 18--Serenity Hoffart
 19--Austin Ernst
 19--Kevin Ackerson
 20--Emmitt Hoffart
 21--Sandie Schmidt
 21--Dean Cypher
 23--Wanda Meyer
 24--Amelia Cihak-Decker
 27--Matthew Wever
 27--Abby Hough
 28--Donna Haberle
 28--Don Cornell, Jr.
 29--Angela Rasmusson

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



1--Greg & Darla Ackerson
 2---David & Idell Cihak
 2---Richard & Cheryl Schindler
 8---Tobbie & Shelly Krueger

24---Robert & Cindy Hilgers
 27---Robert & Donna Braton

A Message from the Interim Pastor's Office,
"For with God nothing shall be impossible."
(Luke 1:37)

In doing the work of the church, it sometimes seems like an almost impossible undertaking, the limited resources, the countless needs, conflicting viewpoints as to how best to get things done and the list goes on.

Nonetheless, I would suggest that each and every time we find ourselves caught up in such a whirlwind of thoughts, worries, and concerns, let us recall God's Word, "For with God nothing shall be impossible." That is to say, it is God who will determine what needs to be done as well as when and how!

Yes- there is no simple, sure-fire formula for doing the work of the church. All that we are asked to do is to give our best and leave the rest to God. The Christian life is like building a house; the bible reminds us to build on the foundation that Christ has given us, a spiritual house that will bring honor to God (I Cor. 3:10).

Whether a person serves as a deacon, volunteers to read the scripture, teach a Sunday School class, or share special music during the worship service, there is no specific pre-requisites or training that fully prepares us for that work. Nonetheless, our mission is clear, to try as best as we can to put God's Word in practice.

There are so many wonderful things going on in the life of St. James United Church of Christ. Keep up the good work!

--Interim Pastor Jim



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.

Board of Trustees Minutes

Monday, March 1, 2021

The St. James UCC Board of Trustees met at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1, 2021

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

Members present: Bob Hovland, Jim Martodam, Ione Hammer, Wanda Odness, Bob Holland, Ryan Erdmann, Kristal Rick, Chuck Anderson, Greg Odness and Dean Ernst.

Members Absent: None

Adoption of Agenda: Motion by Chuck to approve the agenda, seconded by Dean. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Dean moved to accept the Secretary's report and Chuck seconded. Motion carried. No Board Member has agreed to be Secretary, so Kristal agreed to take notes and asked Chuck as Vice Moderator to run this meeting.

Financial Secretary's Report: The monthly financial report was incomplete so will be approved next month. Pastor Jim's salary and retirement has been set up. Now need to update and sign the Compensation Agreement.

Pastor's Report: Lenten Services continue, and Pastor Jim is looking for two women volunteers to do a skit for Maundy Thursday. He reminds members that the UCC Annual Conference is in June and being done online. It is important that some attend as we search for a called Pastor. More details will be shared as we learn them. Motion to approve the Pastor's report by Jim, seconded by Bob Holland. Motion Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Committee Reports

1. **Staff Parish** – Motion by Ryan to approve the appointment of Char Grosz to the Staff Parish Board, seconded by Ione. Motion carried.
2. **Diaconate** – Report is included in the newsletter
3. **RE Board** – Report is included in the newsletter.
4. **Buildings & Grounds** – Robert Hovland will look into putting a motion light outside the south entrance as it is dark at the entrance. The light on the east side of that entrance does not provide light for that main entrance.
5. **Finance Committee** – Kristal reported they still plan to apply for the additional PPP program in March.
6. **Search Committee** – Jim reported they are waiting on information from Sharissa with the Conference.

Motion by Wanda to approve the Committee reports, second by Bob Hovland. Motion carried.

- #### **B. COVID Procedure Follow-up and recommendations**
- the board discussed the new precautions being taken and agreed they must continue to follow the MN Governor's regulations until they are lifted, to be reviewed March 18th so will discuss at the April Meeting again.

- C. Coffee Hour** – has been going well with individually wrapped snacks and served coffee, so will continue.
- D. Elevator Contract/Update** – The quarterly contract has not been paid. Motion by Ryan, seconded by Greg not to pay it until the company starts holding up their maintenance agreed on in the contract. Tammy can instruct them to call Bob Hovland.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. \$31,000 CD at Midwest Bank** – The board reviewed Midwest's current rates as the CD was maturing this month. Motion by Ryan to put it into a 12-month CD at 0.35%, seconded by Dean. Motion carried.
- B. Review of CDs and Maturity Dates** – this report was not ready but will plan to do quarterly in the future. Pastor reminded the Board to review with the UCC denomination as well. The Board has done that in the past and will continue.
- C. Pastoral Call Agreement and signatures** – Kristal will update the agreement with the retirement and other deductions now that all calculated correctly and get a copy to Pastor to sign.
- D. Appointing of 2021 Committees:** Tammy had provided an updated list of all the boards and committees, those voted on at the Annual Meeting and those now to be appointed by the Board of Trustees. Chuck thanked all who have agreed to serve for the coming term.
 - 1. Nominating committee**
 - 2. Finance Committee**
 - 3. Building and Grounds Committee**
 - 4. Endowment Committee**
 - 5. Auditing Committee**
 - 6. Memorial Committee**Motion by Dean, seconded by Kristal to approve the Committee Members. Motion approved.
- E. Standard Operating Procedures Review** – Motion by Jim to table the SOP approval until the April meeting, giving the board time to review further, seconded by Kristal, Motion carried.
- F. State Taxes and Federal Taxes (Recommendation from Salbers Office)** – The board discussed the options. Agreed to keep the withholding as is and the same for all employees. The withholding can instead be changed individually by changing their own withholdings on an updated W-4 tax form.
- G. Other:**
 - 1.** Jim asked that the wording be changed slightly on the annual meeting report. Kristal will update for the Board to review at the next meeting.
 - 2.** The Board reviewed the video consent statement that will be posted outside the sanctuary, per the discussion at the annual meeting and approved.
 - 3.** Greg asked about handicap accessible Sunday School rooms and the board discussed that there are options if the need arises, on both the lower level and sanctuary level.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. **Next Meeting Date: April 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

RE Board Meeting
Sunday, March 7th, 2021
11:30 a.m.

Present: Cathy Olson, Rita Nosal, Denise Frederick, Dianne Cihak, Deb Leverson, Pastor Jim Wilson

Absent: Jenna Crabtree

Treasure's report: \$500.00 donation to HOPE INC. Balance \$7,904.66

Old Business:

- A. Children singing at the February 14th worship service was canceled because of frigid weather.
- B. Sled Hockey fundraiser for HOPE INC at the Angels Arena in Fargo held on March 7th at noon. Several youth, adults and friends plan to attend.
- C. Confirmation class plans to go shopping for the local food pantry soon. Plans to help stock the shelves at the food pantry is not an option at this time due to COVID.

New Business:

- A. Denise is working on a bulletin board for kids and youth to display their art projects and share photos of activities at St. James UCC.
- B. Palm Sunday, March 28th, Sunday School children may help carry in Palms at the 9:45 a.m. worship service.
- C. Easter Sunday, April 4th, Cathy will order bubbles for all to blow which will replace the balloons we have sent off in the past.
- D. Hymnals have been placed in the pews at the request of our music leaders.

Next Meeting to be held on Sunday, April 11th at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Leverson, Secretary



SPECIAL PRAYER IS NEEDED



Judy Siggerud
Kaiser Schonert
Ashley Seykora
Leland Egge
Dorothy Seefeldt
Angie Harrison Marquardt
Kyle Anderson
Sharon Hovland
Carla Durkee
Christopher Cox
Cody Ellingson
Kristin Grommesh
Judy Malone

Richard Townsend-Anderson
Shirley Aberle
Jerad Egge
Ken Kolding Sr.
Matt Holland
Leigha Ness
Levi Koep
Gerry Palmer
Janette Schmidt
Harold Schenck
Ione Hammer
Krista Detloff
Gwen Tumberg

All who are or have been affected by the COVID virus

SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

Barrera, Murphy---USAF

Barfield, Beau---USN

Garza, Mario---US

Owen Jerald – US Army

Diaconate Board Meeting March 7th, 2021 at 10:45 a.m.

Present: Taylor Anderson, Kya Anderson, Don Cornell, Wendy Braton, Mary Lien, Ardys Randall, Jennifer Berg, Pator Jim

Absent: Rylee Anderson, Philip Rogers, Trista Ames

STANDARD ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

Balance: 350.00

1. Cards – 0
2. Baptisms – 0
3. Weddings - 0
4. Funerals – 1
5. Communion- Reviewed.
6. Greeters-
7. Home Communion – Pastor Jim making calls/contacts.
8. Ushering-
9. Worship-
10. Alter Roses –
11. Coffee Hour-

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Palms for Church- Tammy will order.

Discussion and review of need to change the cloths following Maundy Thursday service

Maundy Thursday service April 1st 7pm

Easter April 4th

Reviewed placement of the Hymnals

Verified contact info on contact list

Next meeting to be held on April 11, 2021 at 10:45 a.m. with elevator training with Bob Hovland

Submitted by: Jennifer Berg



LENT

We are traveling together through our **Lenten Sermon series on Sunday mornings during worship at 9:45 a.m. IN-PERSON.** These Sundays will also include a Lenten Lighting Liturgy with candles and a reading. **Please join us in your journey of faith through Lenten season!** If you are cannot join us in person, please join us online for worship service as we travel through our journey of faith together during this Lenten season at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings LIVE at <http://rcl.ink/5an> or you can also view at a **later date or time at <http://rcl.ink/LPT>** Others may feel free to view our worship services as well, whether near or far, **ALL ARE WELCOME HERE AT ST. JAMES UCC!**



We will have **Palm Sunday worship service on March 28th at 9:45 a.m.** The **children will be carrying palms in.** Please consider joining us! We are in need of a reader for the lighting of the Liturgy candles and scriptures! **Please consider stepping up and helping!**



We will be having a Maundy Thursday worship service with Holy Communion on Thursday, **April 1, at 7:00 p.m.** We are looking for **3 scripture readers and 2 women to be a part of a skit that requires NO memorization.** Please consider stepping up and being a part of our service.



Christ is Risen!! We will have Easter worship service with Holy Communion on Sunday, **April 4th, at 9:45 a.m.** We are looking for someone to light the Liturgy candles and read scriptures. We will be blowing bubbles in place of the balloons outside after worship. **There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES held on Easter Sunday.**



Should you need to reach our Interim Pastor Jim Wilson, he will be in the office Monday-Wednesday varied hours at this time. He is available if you need a visit or call and also if any emergencies should come up. Stop in and say HELLO!



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!



We are holding in-person worship services again! We follow the recommended safety guidelines due to the virus as our church family and their safety is of utmost importance to us! We would LOVE to have you join us!



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 get 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 the country. Once the church is selected, the donation information will appear. **Give it a try!**



Everyone who calls St. James U.C.C. home is encouraged to help us update our Church Membership

Directory! We NEED information from you including your landline and cell phone numbers, current or change of address, and birthdays & anniversaries of immediate family members. The directory is the Church’s way of staying in touch and keeping you updated as to what is happening in the church. **PLEASE send your information to the church office via regular mail or email. We also have forms you may fill out and drop off or mail in.**



CALLING MEN OF ALL AGES TO BREAKFAST



Attention men of all ages at St. James! We will have a men’s breakfast **each Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. at The Mainline restaurant in Downer, MN** throughout the Lenten season for any males who would like to join us! All are welcome and what a great way to begin the week and share in fellowship as we travel through the Lenten journey!



In observance of the Lenten season which has already began, St. James will be collecting canned food items for the Barnesville Area Food Pantry. There is a basket in the entryway where items can be placed. You will have a great impact on our community while you are reflecting on your life and the world around you.



We are having fellowship and coffee in Fellowship Hall after worship again on Sundays each week for all who wish to join us! **There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for serving.** At this time, we are serving coffee (we will use disposable cups or you may bring your own) and also a pre-packaged item to enjoy, however, the best part is seeing familiar faces again and the chance for fellowship to be had in a safe manner! **Please consider taking a Sunday by signing up!**



We are collecting Women's Guild Dues of \$10 each for the 2021 year as well as Per Capita dues of \$10 for each confirmed member. There are envelopes in the pews or in the entry that you can put in the offering plate, mail, or drop off in the office. Thank you!



Great job to all who contributed to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" already! We will continue to collect through the end of March but we are proud to say **WE REACHED OUR GOAL!!!** At this point, we have collected \$1005.00 to help domestically and internationally! **Great job St. James UCC!!**



Your contributions, by mail, by offering plate, by dropping it off, or by automated giving are very much appreciated! Thank you for all that you do for St. James UCC in any part or any way, you, as members, are appreciated today and everyday!

Sled Hockey Update

On Sunday, March 7, several members and friends of St James United Church of Christ, ranging in age from 6 to 69, participated in the bi-annual Sled Hockey fundraiser at the Angel Arena in Fargo in an effort to raise money for HOPE Inc in Moorhead, Minnesota.

HOPE Inc. provides sports and recreational opportunities critical to the health and development of children and adults with mobility challenges and their families. In addition to sled hockey- HOPE Inc. has programs in softball, curling, skiing, indoor soccer.

Fun was had by all as well as some competition! The two teams ended the day tying as each team took home a win! If you know anyone who could use HOPE Inc. services, please pass on their information as it is truly a wonderful organization with much to offer!

Thank you to the RE board for contributing funds for the fundraiser!

