

# ST. JAMES WEEKLY E-NEWS

*"Putting Christ first in all that we do."*  
Join us for worship every Sunday at 8:45 am  
100 W. Capitol Drive, Appleton

*The week of January 10-16, 2024*

## Announcements

Reminder: January 14th is **Kid's Church**.

In order to begin our preparation for the Book Sale, after some fellowship time this Sunday, we will need help **moving the book boxes** from the storage room to one of the Sunday school rooms. All help will be greatly appreciated. After Sunday, please put all book fair donations in the Sunday School Room. Thank you.

If you prefer to use weekly **offering envelopes** in 2024, they are available at the Connection Center along with a sign up sheet. Please put down your name and the number that will be on the box you choose.

We are in need of **Sunday morning Ushers** for 1st Sundays each month. If you are interested or would like to know more details please check with Deb from the office.

If you bought soup at the holiday fair, you may return the cleaned, empty **soup jars** for us to use next time. Please put them on the hallway counter near the AEDs. (The small hallway leading to the kitchen.)

## **Sunday's Laity Team**

Usher .....	Bonnie Budreau
Reader.....	Mary Thomas
Counters.....	Chris Bahr & Carol Carlson
Sound .....	Bill Kraemer
Music.....	Praise Team

Our **1st Quarter** mission offering  
goes to **UMCOR**

**Used Book and Pie Sale**  
February 10, 2024 from 9am-2pm

We are looking for pie makers.  
There is a sign up sheet and slips  
for pie pre-orders at the  
Connection Center.

Also, we are in great need of  
books, puzzles, DVD, and CD  
donations.

Contact Chris Bahr for more in-  
formation at 920-739-6759.



Thank you to Jack & Lori Larson for hosting hospitality this past Sunday. See Lori's recipe for cottage cheese jello fluff. It was a big hit!

Thank you to Tom Graf and Bill Kraemer for recent snow clean up.

Thank you to all the un-named, who share of their time and talents for the ministries of St. James.

## **Birthdays**

1/11 Bill Kraemer 1/12 Nancy Von Der Osten

### **Cottage Cheese Jello Fluff** (from Lori Larson)

16 oz small curd cottage cheese  
One small package sugar-free Jello, strawberry banana  
1 15 oz crushed pineapple, well drained  
One regular size Cool whip

Combined cottage cheese, Jello packet, and crushed pineapple together. Mix well so that Jello is completely combined with the other ingredients. Fold in Cool whip.

I use 1% low-fat cottage cheese. Any flavor of Jell-O may work. I have even used light Cool whip and it seems to go pretty good. It is a favorite of my grandchildren.

You can submit your prayer requests at any time by using this link, [prayer request](#).  
This link goes directly to Pastor Ben.

*Cast all your cares upon God. Lay all your burdens down at His feet. And anytime that you don't know what to do, cast all your cares upon the Lord. Amen.*

### *Joys, Prayers & Concerns...*

- For all the prayers of your heart, shared with God on your personal journey each day and may we give thanks for all answered prayers.
- Prayers for the community of Perry Iowa for being the unfortunate victims of the most recent school shooting.
- Continued prayers for the Milbach family. Their 3 year-old daughter MaCollin has had surgery to remove a tumor from her spinal cord. Prayers for healing and good test results.
- Continued prayers for healing for Tom Schemm's brother, John, who is now in rehab.
- Continued prayers for the people of Ukraine, Israel & Gaza, and senseless loss of life and property.
- **Ongoing intercessory prayer...**

Prayers for Pastor Ben...

*"We thank you Father that your eyes are on our shepherd, your ears are attentive to his prayers, and your face is against those who plot evil against him. For we know that in all things you work for the good of Pastor Ben who loves you. Amen."*

- Joys for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week.
- Prayers for all who serve or have served in the military and other civil service areas.
- Continued prayers for our church family, and special prayers for our shut-ins.
- Continued prayers for the victims of the continuing American epidemic of senseless gun violence.
- Continued prayers for the loss of life and property through the numerous conflicts around the world and various natural disasters.
- Keep in prayer all those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.
- Continuous prayers for our nation and our neighbors at home and around the world.

*Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.*

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." Romans 12:12*

### **FREE REFILLS**

God's kingdom is like free refills at a restaurant. Wait — what?

Jesus used common, everyday items to explain the kingdom of God; we can too! The kingdom is like free refills. Still thirsty after one soda or coffee? Get another — no charge. In fact, the kingdom of God is better than free refills because you don't even have to pay for the first glass.

It's like having a parent buy you a favorite meal when you're young. You sit back and savor it without the price crossing your mind. That's okay, because the generous giver loves you and wants to be with you.

Sure, that's simplistic, but so are Jesus' parables. Overanalyze them and they may fall apart. But ponder the single point each makes, maybe get a chuckle and an *a-ha!* out of it, and that parable has done its job. So grab another free refill — of your beverage and of God's love!

—Heidi Mann

### **Are you interested in becoming a member of the St. James family?**

If this is something you have been contemplating, Pastor Ben would love to have a conversation with you. You may reach Pastor Ben at:  
[wisconsinpastorben@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinpastorben@gmail.com) -  
or call **Pastor Ben** at 920-252-9822.

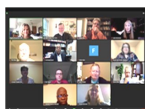
### **Shoveling Assistance Needed**

Winter is here and with it comes a great winter exercise opportunity! We are seeking people to do snow removal of our church sidewalk and the enter and exit aprons on Capitol Drive. Instructions on the operation of the church snow blower will be given. Please contact Bill Kraemer at, [billbob57@gmail.com](mailto:billbob57@gmail.com), or anyone on trustees for more information.  
Thank you for your assistance.



### **Zoom with the District Superintendent**

North East DS Park Hunter offers an open Zoom devotion and Q&A time for laity in the district on second Mondays at 6:30pm. The next one will be **February 12, 2024**.



The Zoom link is...  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5027449756>



From the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

**A great read!**

## ***Setting The Tone For 2024***

*by Rev. M. Park Hunter (North East District Superintendent)*

I have heard some folks say that the Bible is well and good, full of ancient wisdom, but doesn't really speak to our modern age of technology, division, and pessimism. I beg to differ!

Nathaniel would be a master of modern social media, where overreactions are par for the course. He goes from full snark in John 1:46 ("Can anything good come from Nazareth?") to gobsmacked praise in 1:49 ("OMG! Truly you are the Son of God!").

Which goes to show that times and technologies change, but people are still people. We're full of pride and jealousy, grab and boast. Whether gossiping under a first-century fig tree or hanging out on Facebook, our instincts are to put others down in order to lift ourselves up. Nor has the news changed that much in 2,000 years: rumors, wars, disasters, and politics are all grist for our grisly conversation mill.



John 1:43-47 paraphrase; created by MPH using <https://www.tweetgen.com>

Jesus' brother James wrote, "Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire... With [the tongue] we both bless the Lord and Father, and curse human beings made in God's likeness. Blessing and cursing from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!" (James 3:5b,9-10 CEB).

We recently made the shift from the tired old year of 2023 to the shiny new year of 2024. Traditionally this is a time of resolutions. We promise ourselves that we'll do something different so that the new year will be better than the old year. ... And then we pick up our phones and go right back to doomscrolling and trash talking. Got some juicy bad news or a half-baked hot take? Let's repost it and share it and fan the flames!

My sisters and brothers, it shouldn't be this way! In his commentary on Nathaniel in John 1:46, John Wesley wrote, "How cautiously should we guard against popular prejudices... But [Nathaniel's] integrity prevailed over that foolish bias, and laid him open to the force of evidence, which a candid inquirer will always be glad to admit, even when it brings the most unexpected discoveries."

As Christians, we have a better path. Instead of reposting popular prejudices, Jesus repeatedly invites us to "Come and see... Follow me" (1:39,43), words echoed by Philip to Nathaniel (1:46b). And what we witness in our Christian walk is a Jesus who consistently calls his followers to love God, love one another, love their enemies, love the least and the lost, love like Jesus loves. When we shape our lives according to the love of Christ, what unexpected discoveries we make!

A few years ago, I challenged a church to join me in a "Good News Challenge." For several weeks we gave up reading or watching bad news on TV and the internet. Instead we read scripture and looked for the Good News of God's kingdom breaking forth in the world around us. And we looked for ways to be witnesses to the Good News of what Jesus is doing. It was a transformative experience of positivity, love, and grace!

Isn't that our United Methodist mission? "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Wouldn't you like a better world? ... What are you going to do about it?

If you really want 2024 to be a new and better year than 2023, then it's time to set a different tone. Whether it's your online life or your day-to-day chats with family, friends, co-workers, and strangers, this year let us focus on the kingdom love of Jesus Christ and share it widely. Less cursing, more blessing!

*Prayer: Dear Lord, so far today I've done alright. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent. I'm really glad about that. But in a few minutes, I'm going to get out of bed. And from then on, I'll be needing your help. Amen.*

(<https://www.beliefnet.com/prayers/protestant/morning/morning-prayer.aspx>)



# January

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>"Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward."</p>	<p>1 Office Closed</p> <p>4-11 pm Gamer club</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 pm Vets &amp; Friends Board meeting</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11 am-1 pm Vets &amp; Friends Lunch</p>	<p>4 Office Closed</p> <p>How have you seen God today?</p>	<p>5 Office Closed</p> <p>8 am-10 am Vets &amp; Friends Breakfast</p> <p>4-8 pm Calvary's Cross</p>	<p>6 Epiphany</p> <p>9 am-4 pm Calvary's Cross</p>
<p>7 Communion Sunday Baptism of the Lord</p> <p>8:10 am Praise Practice</p> <p>8:45 am Worship</p> <p>9:45 am Fellowship</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>4-11 pm Gamer club</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00 am Men's Breakfast Black Bear</p> <p>11 am-1 pm Vets &amp; Friends Lunch</p> <p>2 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>11 Office Closed</p>	<p>12 Office Closed</p> <p>8 am-10 am Vets &amp; Friends Breakfast</p> <p>4-8 pm Calvary's Cross</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9 am-4 pm Calvary's Cross</p>
<p>14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>8:10 am Praise Practice</p> <p>8:45 am Worship</p> <p>9 am Kid's Church</p> <p>9:45 am Fellowship</p> <p>12:00 pm Calvary's Cross Church. (until 4 pm)</p>	<p>15 MLK DAY</p> <p>4-11 pm Gamer club</p> <p>5:30 pm Ladies Nite Out Perkins</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11 am-1 pm Vets &amp; Friends Lunch</p> <p>2 pm Bible Study</p> <p>Cots meal Delivery</p>	<p>18 Office Closed</p> <p>Where have you seen God today?</p>	<p>19 Office Closed</p> <p>8 am-10 am Vets &amp; Friends Breakfast</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 3rd Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>8:10 am Praise Practice</p> <p>8:45 am Worship</p> <p>9:45 am Fellowship</p>	<p>22</p> <p>4-11 pm Gamer club</p> <p>How have you been God's hands and feet today?</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11 am-1 pm Vets &amp; Friends Lunch</p> <p>2 pm Bible Study</p>	<p>25 Office Closed</p>	<p>26 Office Closed</p> <p>8 am-10 am Vets &amp; Friends Breakfast</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 4th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>8:10 am Praise Practice</p> <p>8:45 am Worship</p> <p>9:45 am Fellowship</p>	<p>29</p> <p>4-11 pm Gamer club</p> <p>6:00 pm Accountable Leadership Board</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30 pm Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11 am-1 pm Vets &amp; Friends Lunch</p> <p>2 pm Bible Study</p>	<p><b>Used Book and Pie Sale coming February 10th</b></p>		



# "Calendar of Giving"

Thank you to everyone who is participating in this much appreciated ministry. Another BIG load of non-perishable food has been sent over to Emmanuel's neighborhood pantry. Well done! One week remains. The last day to drop off food for this event is Sunday, January 14th.

Reminder, If shopping for food is not your thing, we will gladly collect money to donate to **Church World Service**, which is where CROP Walk collections were distributed. Make check out to St. James and mark your financial donation as "**Church World Service**".

We hope everyone will participate in whatever way you are able. Some suggested bargain places to shop are... Dollar General, Dollar Tree, and Aldi's, as well as your favorite store's weekly sale ads. Happy hunting!



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>Food Drive Begins</b>	November 20 <b>Graham Crackers</b>	November 21 <b>Cereal</b>	November 22 <b>Instant Potatoes</b>	November 23 <b>Peanut butter</b>	November 24 <b>Canned soup</b>	November 25 <b>Romen noodles</b>
November 26 <i>Place your items under the sanctuary tree</i> <b>Canned Tuna</b>	November 27 <b>Cereal</b>	November 28 <b>Pasta</b>	November 29 <b>Canned Chicken</b>	November 30 <b>Canned veggies</b>	December 1 <b>Tuna helper</b>	December 2 <b>Applesauce</b>
December 3 <i>Place your items under the sanctuary tree</i> <b>Soda Crackers</b>	December 4 <b>Canned Soup</b>	December 5 <b>Romen</b>	December 6 <b>Instant Potatoes</b>	December 7 <b>Rice</b>	December 8 <b>Peanut butter</b>	December 9 <b>Jam or Jelly</b>
December 10 <i>Place your items under the sanctuary tree</i> <b>Pasta Sauce</b>	December 11 <b>Romen noodles</b>	December 12 <b>Canned soup</b>	December 13 <b>Macaroni and Cheese</b>	December 14 <b>Applesauce</b>	December 15 <b>Canned veggies</b>	December 16 <b>Canned Tuna</b>
December 17 <i>Place your items under the sanctuary tree</i> <b>Pasta</b>	December 18 <b>Canned Tuna</b>	December 19 <b>Tuna helper</b>	December 20 <b>Canned veggies</b>	December 21 <b>Canned Fruit</b>	December 22 <b>Cereal</b>	December 23 <b>Canned Baked beans</b>
December 24 <i>Place your items under the sanctuary tree</i> <b>Jam or Jelly</b>	December 25 <b>Peanut butter</b>	December 26 <b>Pasta Sauce</b>	December 27 <b>Cereal</b>	December 28 <b>Canned Chicken</b>	December 29 <b>Canned fruit</b>	December 30 <b>Macaroni and Cheese</b>
December 31 <i>Place your items under the sanctuary tree</i> <b>Canned Tuna</b>	January 1 <b>Graham Crackers</b>	January 2 <b>Cereal</b>	January 3 <b>Canned soup</b>	January 4 <b>Peanut butter</b>	January 5 <b>Instant Potatoes</b>	January 6 <b>Romen noodles</b>
January 7 / 14 <i>Place your items under the sanctuary tree</i> <b>Rice</b>	January 8 <b>Canned Chicken</b>	January 9 <b>Canned Soup</b>	January 10 <b>Macaroni and Cheese</b>	January 11 <b>Applesauce</b>	January 12 <b>Peanut butter</b>	January 13 <b>Pasta Sauce</b>

Website: [UMCSJ.ORG](http://UMCSJ.ORG)  
Email: [office@umcsj.org](mailto:office@umcsj.org)  
Like us on [Facebook](#)

**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS:**

9 A.M. - 2 P.M.,  
MONDAY - WEDNESDAY



**St. Joe's Food Pantry**

Non-perishable donations are  
always welcome.

There is a continuing need for the

**12-count** egg cartons. (no 18 count please)

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Here is a hyper-link (you just need to click on it)  
to the Thompson Center Newsletter which is  
filled with all kinds of activities for those over 50  
years of age.

[BUZZ Newsletter - Thompson Center on Lourdes](http://BUZZ Newsletter - Thompson Center on Lourdes (thetcol.org))  
[\(thetcol.org\)](http://thetcol.org)

**Used Medical Equipment Needed**

The Lions Clubs of the Fox Valley have  
joined together to open a place that will  
loan out medical equipment. Late July is  
our target date to open in Appleton. We  
need to gather gently used and clean  
medical equipment listed below.

- Wheelchairs
- Rollators
- Gait Belts
- Walkers
- Ice Machines
- Grabbers
- Canes
- Travel Chairs
- Crutches
- Toilet Risers/Commodes
- Bed Rails
- Knee Scooters
- Transfer Benches
- Shoe Horns
- Incontinence Supplies

**Bring to:**

**312 W. Northland Avenue, Appleton**

**Did You Know?**

If you have an old pair of **eye glasses** that  
are no longer useful to you, you may do-  
nate them to the Lion's Club. Place them in  
the square bucket that is on the shelf next to the Con-  
nection Center table. If you need help finding it, ask  
Deb K.



**United Methodist Committee on Relief**

**If you would like to help with current disaster relief, gifts  
can be made through St. James by putting in the  
memo line... UMCOR.**

In this way they can put the money where it is  
most needed.

**Cans for COTS**

Did you know that St. James collects aluminum bever-  
age cans? If you find that you don't know what to do  
with yours, you may bring them in and we will recycle  
them. There is a collection container near the furnace  
room. All proceeds will go into the **COTS** mission.

Thanks to Chris Bahr for cashing in our cans and al-  
ways looking for the best value.

If you are interested in becoming part of the COTS  
Meal Assistance team, contact Kay  
Christenson at [christenson203@gmail.com](mailto:christenson203@gmail.com).

**Repurposed Pill Bottles**

We are collecting clear pill bottles for "Doctors with-  
out Borders." It does not matter what color they are as  
long as you can see through them. Just remove the la-  
bel, which will usually peel off, and bring to  
church. A white basket on the shelf near the Con-  
nection Center table is available to deposit them.



**Community Activities and Outreach Links**

[Vets and Friends](#) (meals and companionship for Vets  
and one friend or family member and more)

[The Thompson Center](#) (Retiree activities)

[St. Joseph's Food Pantry](#) (List of pantry needs)

[COTS](#) (Transitional shelter)

[Emmanuel UMC](#) (Wed. night meals)

[Pillars](#) (Housing assistance)

[Esther](#) (Interfaith social-justice organization)

[Leaven](#) (Resources & financial aide)

[NAMI](#) (Nat. Alliance on Mental Illness, Fox Valley)

[Fox Cities Salvation Army](#) (meal assist & pantry)

[Community Clothes Closet](#) (clothing)

[Holy Spirit, Darboy](#) (Free Sunday Supper dates)