

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 Dec 27-Jan. 2, 2024

Announcements

We are in need of **two communion servers** for Sunday, January 7th. Please let Deb know if you are able to help.

The **office is closed** on Monday, January 1st.

The **Christmas "greens"** will be taken down on Thursday, January 4th at 9am. Help would be greatly appreciated.

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 and 5th Sundays. 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

Guest Speaker..	Jim Justman
Usher	Nancy Von Der Osten
Reader.....	Charlie Christenson
Counters.....	Tom Schemm & Rich Stewart
Sound	Bill Kraemer
Music.....	Praise Team



Birthdays

12/29 Preston Price 12/30 Bonnie Behling

Holiday Schedule

December 31st Worship

At **9:30am**, at **St. James**

This is a combined worship of St. James & Emmanuel UMC, at St. James with a guest speaker.

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

We are looking for pie makers. There will be a sign up sheet at the connection center soon. Also, we are in great need of books, puzzles, DVD, and CD donations.

Contact Chris Bahr for more information at 920-739-6759.



Thank you to Wendy Lind for arranging all the poinsettias so beautifully.

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

Please email the **office** or call at 920-734-5371, if you know of someone who does something special at the church. Thank you.

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 - or call **Pastor Ben** at 920-252-9822.

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

New Year Prayer:

Thank you Lord for giving me the brand new year ahead. Help me live the way I should as each new day I tread. Give me gentle wisdom that I might help a friend, give me strength and courage so a shoulder I might lend. The year ahead is empty, help me fill it with good things. Each new day filled with joy and the happiness it brings. 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.
- Continued prayers for Peggie Zepplin, who will be moving this week to CopperStone Assisted Living.
- Ethel Duhm asks for continued prayers for healing for her son, Michael, who had to have a few toes amputated.
- Continued prayers for healing for Tom Schemm's brother, John, who is now in rehab.
- Special prayers for those who are feeling the loss of loved ones this time of year.
- Continued prayers for the people of Ukraine, Israel & Gaza, and senseless loss of life and property.
- **Ongoing intercessory prayer...**

Prayers for Pastor Ben...

"Heavenly Father, we thank You that You are the joy of our strength. We ask that You grant joy and strength to Pastor Ben, in Jesus' name. Father, in the midst of challenges, help him to push through. Help our pastor draw on Your strength to overcome any and all obstacles. In Christ Jesus, 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.

Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.

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

EPIPHANY

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God's Son is the Light of the whole world.

Ponder the gifts of Epiphany with these two reflections, written centuries apart:

Your light, dear God, surpasses all other light, because all light comes from you. Your fire surpasses all fire, because your fire alone burns without destroying. The flames of your fire reach into the soul, consuming the sin and selfishness that lie there. But far from damaging the soul, your fire sets it ablaze with love. What moved you to enlighten me with your truth? The fire of your love was the reason. You loved me so much that you could not bear to see me confused and perplexed. Can I ever repay the burning love which you have given me? No, because I have nothing of my own to give. Yet you assure me that the love which you put into my soul is repayment enough. You desire only the joy of seeing me receiving your gift. What more perfect Father could there be!

~Catherine of Siena (c. 1347-1380)

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

~Jason Gaboury, campus minister in New York City

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, billebob57@gmail.com, or anyone on trustees for more information. Thank you for your assistance.



Zoom with the District Superintendent

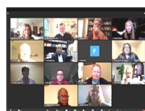
North East DS Park Hunter offers an open Zoom devotion and Q&A time for laity in the district on second Mondays at 6:30pm.



The next one will be **January 8, 2024**.

The Zoom link is...

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5027449756>



"Calendar of Giving"

Thank you to everyone who is participating in this much appreciated ministry. After 3-weeks we were able to deliver 2 car loads of food to Emmanuel's neighborhood pantry. Well done! In the 5 remaining weeks, imagine what we can do.

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. 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!



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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Cheers!</i></p> <p><i>To a joyful present and a well-remembered past... Best wishes for the holidays and a great New Year!</i></p>			<p>27 11am-1pm Vets & Friends Lunch</p>	<p>28 Office Closed</p> <p><i>How have you been God's hands and feet today?</i></p>	<p>29 Office Closed</p> <p>8am-10am Vets & Friends Breakfast</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Praise Practice 9:30 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>1 Office Closed</p> <p>4-11 p.m. Gamer club</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Vets & Friends Board meeting 6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11am-1pm Vets & Friends Lunch</p>	<p>4 Office Closed</p> <p><i>How have you seen God today?</i></p>	<p>5 Office Closed</p> <p>8am-10am Vets & Friends Breakfast</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Communion Sunday</p> <p>8:10 a.m. Praise Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Fellowship</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>4-11 p.m. Gamer club</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Men's Break- fast Black Bear 11am-1pm Vets & Friends Lunch 2 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>11 Office Closed</p>	<p>12 Office Closed</p> <p>8am-10am Vets & Friends Breakfast</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8:10 a.m. Praise Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>15</p> <p>4-11 p.m. Gamer club</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Ladies Nite Out Perkins</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11am-1pm Vets & Friends Lunch 2 p.m. Bible Study Cots meal Delivery</p>	<p>18 Office Closed</p>	<p>19 Office Closed</p> <p>8am-10am Vets & Friends Breakfast</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>How is God working in your life today?</i></p>
<p>21</p> <p>8:10 a.m. Praise Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>22</p> <p>4-11 p.m. Gamer club</p> <p><i>How have you been God's hands and feet today?</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11am-1pm Vets & Friends Lunch 2 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>25 Office Closed</p>	<p>26 Office Closed</p> <p>8am-10am Vets & Friends Breakfast</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8:10 a.m. Praise Practice 8:45 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Fellowship</p>	<p>29</p> <p>4-11 p.m. Gamer club</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Praise Team Practice</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11am-1pm Vets & Friends Lunch 2 p.m. Bible Study</p>	<p>Used Book and Pie Sale coming February 10th</p>		

Website: UMCSJ.ORG
Email: office@umcsj.org
Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/umcsj.org)

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
\(thetcol.org\)](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.

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)