

# ST. JAMES WEEKLY E-NEWS

April 14, 2021

## Announcements

First quarter giving statements are available in your church mailbox. Please pick yours up when you are in the building. Thank you.

We are looking for an usher for the in-person worship on the fourth Sundays of the month. Ushers take a head count, and direct the congregation where to find bulletins, offering plates and seating when needed. Please let Deb know if you can help.

**Reminder:** Now that we are slowly starting to have activities in the building again, it is a good time to remind everyone that all scheduling of building use must be first confirmed through the office to be sure the space is available. Thank you.

## Worship Information

Worship is now available in-person at **8:45 am**. You will also find a version of the worship service on our [Facebook](#) page, and posted to the website at [umcsj.org](http://umcsj.org). This will be a different service than you will get when you attend in-person.

Bulletins will no longer be emailed, or posted on the website, but will be available at in-person worship.

If you would like to make an online contribution to St. James, you can do so by clicking on this link, [online giving](#).



**Thank you** to Wayne DeGrand for once again fixing the candle holders on the altar, and for repairing the toilet in the nursery.

**Thank you** to Tom Graf for building new shelves in our storage room off the fellowship hall, and also for putting new floor covering on the floor of the media center in the sanctuary. Along with his time, Tom also donated some of the materials.

**Thank you** to Charlie & Kay Christenson for the donation of floor covering for the media center project.

**Thank you** to Wendy Lind for updating the church entrance sign.

**Thank you** to the restoration group for purchasing a new painting ladder for St. James.

**Thank you** to all the un-named, who share of their time and talents being the hands and feet of Christ for the ministries at St. James and beyond.

## A Mission Opportunity for St. James



COTS is looking for volunteers to help provide, prepare, and drop off meals for 20 or 40 men or women. You may choose to schedule a meal prep, which you can do in your own home. The need is for Monday, or Wednesday, or Friday.

Pastor Ben or Kay Christenson can answer questions you may have about this valuable program.

For more information click on this link, [COTS](#).

## Birthdays this week

4/15 Amber Bahr  
4/16 Jayne Lang  
4/18 Sherry King  
4/20 Mary Schemm

APRIL



## In-person Worship!

### Reminder, here are the basic protocols...

1. You are required to properly wear a face mask over your mouth and nose.
2. Physically distance from each other.
3. Bulletins and offering plates will be on tables at the back of the sanctuary to minimize contact with one another. You can pick up a bulletin and make an offering at the same time.
4. There are roped off designated seating spaces ready to help with distancing in the pews. Ushers can assist in leading you to a seat if needed. We ask that you begin by filling the seats farthest from the door. In this way those who come after you will not have to pass you to get to their seat.
5. The service will continue to be about the length it has been on-line in order to minimize exposure to one another.
6. Please observe proper hand washing etc.
7. Please wear your name tags. This will help Pastor Ben to get to know us faster. We did not have this luxury when we worshipped outside.
8. Please do not attend if you are not feeling well. We will continue to provide some form of a pre-recorded online service moving forward.

# St. James UMC 1st qtr 2021 Income VS expense

	2021		2020		2019		2018	
	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted	Actual	Budgeted
pledged income +	25,185.00	13,947	27,962.85	21,116	24,984.79	22,625.00	22,849.81	25,281.00
rental income	4300							
Easter/Christmas income	560							
interest/fundraising inc	39.5							
Salaries -	7,514.04	8,529.00	14,994.42	14,790.00	15,919.73	16,398.75	15,629.61	17,265.25
Other exp -	7,505.70	11,178.00	7,835.11	7,828.00	8,487.26	7,580.50	7,938.66	13,764.75
Actual gain (loss)	15,064.76		5,133.32		577.80		-718.46	

## The All Church Rummage Sale

**June 11 & 12**

You may begin bringing items for the rummage sale.

For now, you may put things in the game room.

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

You can now submit your prayer requests at any time by using this link, [prayer request](#).

This link goes directly to Pastor Ben. When possible, notification by noon on Thursdays allows us to mention your prayers in worship should you choose to have them shared.

## **Our 2nd Quarter Mission Offering**

*(April to June)*

**goes to assist with the Henderson Mission trip**

## **Henderson Settlement News**

This year's Henderson Settlement mission trip to Frakes, Kentucky is scheduled for **October 10-16, 2021**

We are once again making plans to go to Henderson. Most of the projects are housing repair, maintenance, or improvement. If you are interested in going or wanting to know more, please see Tom Graf or Gary Linstad.

We also need funds to finance the repairs we will do at Henderson. **To help** with this, we will have a brat fry **fundraiser at Festival Foods** on Northland on **June 5th**. Help is needed from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Again, contact Tom or Gary if you can help.

If you are unable to help, but would like to donate to this mission outreach project, donations can also be made by check or cash. Be sure to mark your donation, "Henderson."

- For all the prayers of your heart, shared with God on your personal journey each day and we give thanks for all the answered prayers.
- Prayers for Carol Carlson for healing from a fall.
- Continued prayers for John and Wendy Lind's brother-in law, Steve, who was diagnosed with melanoma bone cancer.
- Continued prayers for Rachel, Goddaughter to Chris Bahr, who is in heart failure at the age of 41.
- Continued prayers for Ed and Sharon Ramsaroop's neighbor, Lance, who is having health issues.
- Continued prayers for our nation.
- Continued prayers for *all* the essential workers.
- Continued prayers for our church family.
- Continued prayers for all our shut-ins.
- Joys for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week. May you find a special way to celebrate.

### **Ongoing intercessory prayer ...**

- For the United Methodist Church and it's leadership.
- For those in the 'sandwich' generation and the challenges that can occur.
- Continued prayers for all those who are going through various health issues.

*Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.*

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

*Romans 12:12*



## Soul Food: The Anti- and the Pro- April 12, 2021



*So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4, with invitation to read Colossians 3:1-17, NRSV)*

I note a trend in our culture that is troubling to me. It troubles me because it feels to me incomplete and negative. This trend is to be “against” things. We are fighting against prejudice. We are fighting against corruptions. We are anti-racist, anti-fascist, anti-immigrant, anti-establishment, anti-virus, anti-imperialist, and dozens, if not hundreds, of other antis-. Republicans are against Democrats; liberals are against conservatives. We too often define ourselves by what we oppose. Now I am not saying that it is not important to take a stand against evil or vices, but “being against” is not the same thing as “being for.”

The Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church launched a “Dismantling Racism” priority initiative. I am in full support of this work and am part of the Task Force on the Council of Bishops that is leading this initiative. It is very easy to define the work of this group – we oppose the thoughts, actions, speech, systems, and institutions that preference one people over others, especially people of color. We want to tear down the policies and programs that have privileged one group over others. We want to destroy the prejudicial mindsets that lead to violence, aggression, condescension, segregation, and colonialization. We wish to remove the influences and attitudes that undermine the self-esteem, pride of identity, and deride the precious benefits of cultural diversity. All of this is important work. But to what end?

As racism is destroyed, what rises to take its place? As we tear down, what do we build. As we deconstruct, what do we create? Our vision cannot simply be the elimination of the negative (do no harm), but must cast an image of something new and better and beautiful (do all the good we can). For me, this vision and image is shaped by the theological framing of Beloved Community. I capitalize the words on purpose because I believe they are a discernment of the divine intention of God. As Christian disciples I believe that our energy and effort should be aligned toward a return to Eden – a place for all people to live in peace and harmony, dignity and respect.

I am anti-racist, but more importantly I am pro-Asian and pro-black and pro-African and pro-Hmong and pro-Mexican and pro-Korean and pro-Central American and... You can expand my list to include any and all people – all the children of God in God's creation. I am anti-racism because I am pro-inclusion, pro-compassion, pro-peace, pro-mercy, and pro-justice. I am anti-oppression because I am pro-freedom, pro-possibility, pro-opportunity, pro-abundance, and pro-kindness. I am anti-evil because I am pro-good, and pro-wonderful, and pro-love.

Essentially, I am trying to “set my mind on the things above.” It is all too easy to focus on what is wrong, dissatisfying, problematic, and destructive. I need reminders and inspiration to shift my thinking from problems to solutions, from illness to healing, from broken to fixed, from harm to good. But our God is always calling us to a Promised Land, not merely out of Egypt. It is both/and, never either/or.

Of course, we must begin somewhere, and there is a lot of work to do to clear the ground of rubble and debris and devastation to make room for creation and building and restoration. But let us always remember we are moving toward a positive – Beloved Community – and away from a negative – an unjust, often hateful, and broken world. We are a people who reflect the glory of the Lord. Let us shine brightly with the world God longs to create in us, and not just the world we wish to leave behind. Praises be to God!

*Bishop Jung*