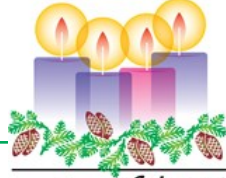
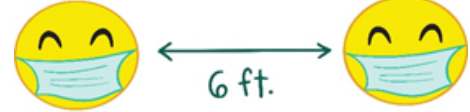


ST. JAMES WEEKLY E-NEWS

December 16, 2020



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*



Worship Announcements

Sunday worship can be found on our [Facebook](#) page, and posted to the website at umcsi.org on Sunday. It is removed from the website around noon each Thursday.

For your convenience bulletins are posted on the website home-page on Thursdays as well as emailed.

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

Reminder: Clicking on any blue underlined words, will take you directly to the site being referenced.



Thank you to Bill Kraemer for repairing the light in Deb's office, and replacing the lights in Pastor Ben's office and bathroom.

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

A Word About Worship Attendance...

Worship attendance is a challenge in this time of COVID-19. You can help! If you watch via Facebook, simply giving a thumbs up, or making a comment allows me to count you as being in worship. If you watch only via the website, perhaps drop the office a quick email indicating that you watched the service. It does not matter when you are tuning in to watch. It is great feedback, that we are making a difference on your spiritual journey with God. Your help is very much appreciated.

Other Announcements

Check out our [Facebook](#) page for weekly Sunday school lessons.

If you know of someone who does something special at the church, please let the office know so we may mention them here. Phone number, 734-5371 or email the [office](#). Thank you.

"Like" us on [Facebook](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/umcsj/>

There you will find video of Sunday worship and much more.

St. James United Methodist

Christmas
Eve SERVICE

7:00 PM

On Facebook Live

There are now 5 ways to give to St. James:

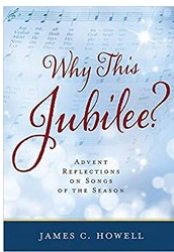
1. When you attend an in-person worship service.
2. Mail in your gift or pledge to:
St. James UMC
100 W. Capitol Drive
Appleton, WI 54911
3. Donate on our website by clicking on: umcsi.org
4. Give on your phone through the Give Plus+ App. Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus+ Church" to download for FREE. You can also find St. James on the Give Plus+ App on your smartphone or tablet! Search by our zip code (54911) and we are the 2nd church listed!
5. Set up auto withdrawal giving with LuAnn Van Handel.



Note: The same company that handles our auto withdrawals, also does the online giving.

Advent Bible Study

As part of our Advent journey, Pastor Ben is also doing a bible study using the book, "Why This Jubilee? Advent Reflections on Songs of the Season" by James C. Howell.



The study is done via zoom on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. through December 22nd. All are welcome to join in.

Zoom link for the Tuesday, 2:30 class is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8985653369>

A Note From Pastor Ben...

You can still be part of the Advent series! Short videos of you and/or your family sharing about your favorite Christmas Carol would be very welcome; something that we could edit into our online worship service or share periodically throughout the month on the church Facebook page. Often a short video from a phone or tablet can be emailed. You can send these directly to me at wisconsinpastorben@gmail.com. If you would like to participate but are not comfortable with technology, please contact me and we will work to make it happen. We could meet at the church, socially distance outside your home and find ways to help each other. I hope to hear your favorite Christmas Carols as we share this journey together.



Ben Morris, Pastor



Our 4th Quarter Mission Offering
(October to December)
goes to **Salvation Army**

Joys, Prayers & Concerns...

You can now submit your prayer requests at any time by using this link, [prayer request](#). The link goes directly to Pastor Ben. Let us know by noon on Thursdays, so we are able to mention it in worship.

- For all the prayers shared with God on your personal journey each day.
 - Prayers for all our shut-ins.
 - Prayers for the Zion UMC congregation for the damage to their building this past Sunday. Thankfully no one was injured when a car driven by one of their elderly members entered their building just before they were to begin worship.
 - Prayers for our nation as the COVID-19 vaccine begins to be administered, and patience and perseverance as we all wait our turn.
 - Continued prayers for Tom Schemm's mom, Joanne, who has tested positive for COVID-19. So far she is symptom free and doing well.
 - Continued prayers for Charlie Christenson's sister, Anne. She is doing better, but still in need of prayer.
 - Continued prayers for the essential workers and all who work in the medical and social services field.
 - Continued prayers for Martina Olson's husband, Bob, who suffered a stroke. He is currently at Manor Care.
 - Continued prayers for our teachers, students, and families, as they find ways to safely and effectively hold classes.
 - Continued prayers for all in our church family.
- Ongoing intercessory prayer ...**
- Joys for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week. May you find a special way to celebrate.
 - Continued prayers for this nation and the world.
 - Prayers for national unity, for things that are both seen and unseen.
 - For all who serve or have served in the military and other civil service areas.

*Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.
"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer."
Romans 12:12*



Stewards Rejoice

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ for you". 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

The third Sunday of Advent is celebrated as JOY Sunday. Last Sunday we lit the third candle that symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle". To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came from humble, unimportant people like them. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. This candle is colored pink to represent joyfulness and rejoicing.

The third Sunday also marks the half-way point of the season; two weeks behind us, and two weeks ahead. In other years, "crunch time" is usually filled with preparations: choir, special music, visits to shut-ins, in person study groups, decorations, children's program, Christmas Eve plans, etc. But this year, COVID concerns have changed many of our norms. Yet this church, our church, continues to witness the light of Christ with everything we have done. So, as we seek other ways to witness our God of Light, let's renew our joy to continue to live as grateful stewards for the abundance of our lives.

Lastly, note that the scripture reading above sums up stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

May God, who is always with us, continue to be our light throughout Advent and into the New Year. God bless you and your loved ones.

Merry Christmas!

Tom Schemm



'Twas The Night Before Christmas

by Tom Schemm

'Twas the night before Christmas and most of the town,
Not a sign of Jesus was anywhere to be found.
The people were all busy with Christmas time chores.
Like decorating, and baking, and shopping in stores.
No one sang, "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed."
Instead, they sang of Santa, dressed-up in bright red.
Mama sipped her hot toddy while Papa's Tom & Jerry was on his lap.
And they'd sip away, sip away, with each present they'd wrap.
Then what from T.V. did suddenly appear?
'Twas an ad which featured a sale down at Best Buy they'd hear.
So away to the mall they all flew like a flash.
Buying gifts on credit... and others with cash!
And, as they made their way home from their trip to the mall,
Did they think about Jesus? Oh, no... not at all.
Their lives were so busy with their Christmas time things,
They had no time to remember the Christ Child, King of all Kings.
There were presents to wrap and cookies to bake.
Not one thought for the One who died for their sake?
To pray to the Savior... they had no time to stop.
Because they needed more time to "shop till they drop!"
On Macy's! On Scheels! On Target! On Penney's!
On Fleet Farm! On Zales! On Maurices! A quick lunch at Chili's!
From the stores downtown to the stores at the mall,
They would dash away, dash away, and visit them all!
And up on the roof, there arose such a clatter,
As Papa hung lights... using his brand new ladder.
He hung the ones that would flash.
He hung lights that would twirl.
Yet, he never once prayed to Jesus, the Light of the World.
Christ was born in a manger and then lived among us,
He was forsaken and beaten this I will discuss,
As I raised my children they knew their salvation was won,
For God so loved the world that He gave His own Son,
Christ died on a cross like a hog to the slaughter,
This is the story I will tell to my granddaughter,
In 3-days He rose and He now sits with the Father,
So give Him all glory if it's not much of a bother,
And instead of being busy, overworked, and uptight,
Put Christ in your Christmas for a peaceful good night!
*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior,
which is Christ the Lord". (Luke 2:11)*

Birthdays

- 12/16 Jon Krein
- 12/17 Debra Ebben
- 12/18 Mark Ebert
- 12/18 J.R. King
- 12/19 Tenley Lang
- 12/21 Kelsey Shepard

Anniversaries

None this week



Sending you warm wishes

