

ST. JAMES WEEKLY E-NEWS

December 23, 2020



Worship Announcements

We live streaming our Christmas Eve worship service at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook. You will also find it at [umcsj.org](https://www.umcsj.org), shortly after.

Sunday worship for December 27th will include a guest lay speaker from Emmanuel. You can find it on our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/umcsj) page, and posted to the website at [umcsj.org](https://www.umcsj.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.

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

The office will close at noon on December 24th.

The office will be closed on December 31st.

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



Thank you to Wendy Lind for further enhancing our worship area for Christmas Eve.

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.

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.

If you "follow" us you will get automatic notifications to your phone or computer, whenever something new is posted.

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: [umcsj.org](https://www.umcsj.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.



AN IDEAL STEWARD

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who is highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Luke 1:28

As Christmas fast approaches and Advent is drawing to a close, let us remind ourselves of the importance of the season: Preparing for the coming of the Christ Child.

This past Sunday we lit the fourth candle which represents peace. It is called the "Angel Candle," also known as the "Love Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace. He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. It's color is blue (or purple), as in weeks 1 and 2. This fourth candle represents the culmination of love through the Messiah.

Mary said yes, Joseph stayed by her side, and on the holiest of nights, God gave his Son to a world in need. Neither Joseph or Mary knew what was ahead. Yet, they relied on the Lord for their strength and we do too.

That's why after Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary taught us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity. Likewise Jesus' love helps us to see the world with fresh eyes and hearts filled with joy.

As the whole universe waits for this blissful day to honor Christ, our Savior's birth... let peace, comfort and joy surround you. Merry Christmas!

Tom Schemm

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.
 - Continued prayers for Lois Bodam. She is now home from the hospital and doing well.
 - Continued 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 Charlie Christenson's sister, Anne. She is doing better, and may be returning home from rehab, just in time for Christmas.
 - 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.

Birthdays

- 12/23 Carol Carlson
- 12/27 Mackenna Gyrion
- 12/28 Martina Olson
- 12/28 Issabelle Davies
- 12/29 Preston Price



Birthdays & Anniversaries

sending you warm wishes



Anniversaries

None this week

Our 4th Quarter Mission Offering

(October to December)

goes to **Salvation Army**

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

Romans 12:12