

ST. JAMES WEEKLY E-NEWS

December 30, 2020



Worship Announcements

January 3rd will include a guest preacher, Rev. Carrie Kreps Wegenast. You can find it on our [Facebook](#) page, and posted to the website at [umcsj.org](#) on Sunday. It is removed from the website around noon each Thursday.

Rev. Carrie Kreps Wegenast works as a Chaplain in a meat processing plant. She is ordained in the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church. She lives in Appleton with her husband, Pastor Markus Wegenast, and their two children.

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.

Other Announcements

The office will be closed on December 31st.

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



We are looking for jigsaw puzzle donations for a puzzle sale.

It has been decided that conditions are not right for our usual Used Book & Home-baked Pie Sale.

Instead, from January 6th to February 11th, we are offering our used puzzles available for sale during regular office hours, Monday through Thursday from 9am -1:30pm. This should help to fill some of those long winter days.

The plan is to attempt the Used Book Sale in September. More details coming about that at a later date.

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.



Thank you to the Thomas family for doing some shoveling on Christmas Eve morning.

Thank you to Tom Graf for clearing the snow by the entrances and the sidewalk after Christmas.

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](#)

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](#)
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.

This message was in my inbox when I got to church on the Monday after Christmas. It was addressed to the whole Praise Team. I felt it worth sharing...

Hello, I just want to say that it has been my pleasure to "do sound" for the Praise band for quite a while now. My goal is to make you sound as good as possible. There might be times I come up a bit short. I am here to serve, so please let me know if you need an adjustment to be made that helps you out. I will take suggestions on the mix.

I enjoy listening to you practice and perform. I am awed by all of you... A family composed of a retired truck driver, retired social worker, grocery store worker, along with a nurse and a former childcare worker- now church administrative assistant. Just normal, yet special, people who continually give the gift of your voice and instruments to all at St James. So many hours invested. I always leave practice feeling better than when I came. My mood after a "bad day" is much improved after listening to your performances.

I thank you all. Music is so powerful; it is a huge part of St. James services. You are so important.

Try listening to the recordings on a quality sound system or good headphones. It makes a difference.

The next challenge is to get our lawn services and Facebook recordings to sound as good as possible. We are still learning and trying things with different equipment.

I just wanted you to hear a loud... "Thank You"

Bill

I think I speak for all of us in saying, "Thank you Bill for all the love and care you put into helping us sound the best we can, even through these challenging times."

Birthdays

12/30 Bonnie Behling
1/2 Theresa Griesbach
1/3 Dorothy Paul
1/3 Bob Olson
1/3 Michelle Price
1/3 Lyra Cruz



Our 1st Quarter Mission Offering

(January to March)

goes to UMCOR

United Methodist Committee on Relief

Joys, Prayers & Concerns...

Prayers for all that will be left behind in a year we never thought possible. As we look ahead with anticipation and hope for better days, let's remember the blessings that remain. As we say good-bye to 2020, I think these words from the song *Good Riddance* by Green Day are fitting...

*Another turning point, a fork stuck in the road.
Time grabs you by the wrist,*

directs you where to go.

*So make the best of this test and don't ask why.
It's not a question, but a lesson learned in time.*

Here's to prayers for a Happier New Year.

Deb

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 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.
- Continued prayers for all the essential workers.
- Continued prayers for Martina Olson's husband, Bob, who suffered a stroke. He is currently at Manor Care.
- 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.

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

Romans 12:12

The 12 Days of Christmas (Wednesday is day 6)

The 12 days of Christmas is the period in Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, the three wise men. It begins on December 25 (Christmas) and runs through January 6 (the Epiphany, sometimes also called Three Kings' Day). The Wisconsin Annual Conference currently has a very good daily devotion on the 12 Days of Christmas. To read it click on this link, [Devotion](#). Each day a new one is added. Also, below is a different take on the song of a similar name.

The Twelve Days of Christmas Praise

by - Carroll Roberson

1. On the first day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me... Salvation...full and free.
2. On the second day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me...Everlasting life and Salvation...full and free.
3. On the third day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me...Peace in my heart, Everlasting life and Salvation...full and free.
4. On the fourth day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me...Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting life and Salvation...full and free.
5. On the fifth day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me...Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting life and Salvation...full and free.
6. On the sixth day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me...Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting life and Salvation...full and free.
7. On the seventh day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me...a Body glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting life and Salvation...full and free.
8. On the eighth day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me...a Robe and a Crown, a Body glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting life and Salvation...full and free.
9. On the ninth day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me...Mansions up above, a Robe and a Crown, a Body glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting life and Salvation...full and free.
10. On the tenth day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me...a Street of pure gold, Mansions up above, a Robe and a Crown, a Body glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting life and Salvation...full and free.
11. On the eleventh day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me...a Thousand Tongues to sing, a Street of pure gold, Mansions up above, a Robe and a Crown, a Body glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting life and Salvation...full and free.
12. On the twelfth day of Christmas, Jesus gave to me...Eternity to praise, a Thousand Tongues to sing, a Street of pure gold, Mansions up above, a Robe and a Crown, a Body glorified, Power from on high, Joy for my soul, Love for all men, Peace in my heart, Everlasting life and Salvation...full and free.