

ST. JAMES WEEKLY E-NEWS

February 24, 2021



ARE WE READY TO RE-OPEN?

Please watch your email in-box for a survey that will help in deciding to reopen for in-person worship. Your participation is appreciated.

Worship Announcements

The weather is looking good for a **'parking lot' Communion service for Feb. 28th at 9:15 a.m.** Once in the parking lot, tune into **FM 88.3** on your car radio.

This Sunday's worship can also be found on our [Facebook](#) page, and posted to the website at [umcsj.org](#). 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](#).

A Word About Worship Attendance...

If you watch via Facebook, please give a thumbs up, or make a comment. This allows us to count you as being in worship.

We continue to offer free Daily Bread Devotionals.

They are available at the Connection Center table in the narthex.



Thanks to Charlie Christenson for clearing our snow on Monday morning.

Thanks to Nancy Von Der Osten for volunteering to clean the bathrooms and a few other parts of the building.

Thanks to Mary Schemm for reorganizing the resource closet.

Thanks to Bill Kraemer for fixing the door-stop on the entrance door.

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.

The Season of Lent



Jesus' Seven Last Words A Lenten Study and Sermon Series

Join us this Lenten Season for a bible study and sermon series on Jesus' Seven Last Words. We will meet via zoom on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm, **beginning on February 23rd**. **There is a packet of materials ready for pick up in the office during regular office hours. They were also email to everyone on Feb. 18th. The packet contains a short reading for each week with discussion questions, and an optional coloring page. There is no book needed.**

Jesus had a lot to say during his life - about who God is, about what justice looks like, about how we are to love ourselves, and our neighbors, and all the world. And, tradition has it, he kept teaching even in the very last moments of his life.

The Seven Last Words are the sayings of Jesus from the cross as recorded in the Gospel narratives. Some of them pull from his ancestors' prayers and songs, reminding us of his deep rootedness in Jewish tradition. Some of them echo themes he taught throughout his ministry - like connection and compassion - their recurrence here seemingly giving them extra emphasis. Some of them remind us just how very human he was. And many of them are words we might hear from the mouths of people in our world today, innocents who still suffer unjustly.

As you read, color and discuss, our prayer is that your experience of Lent is enriched, and your connection to the One whose words we remember is deepened, through this engagement.

This is the zoom link we will use starting on Feb. 23rd at 2:30 p.m.: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8985653369>

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 would love to answer any questions you may have about this valuable program.

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

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 your prayers in worship should you choose.

- For all the prayers of your heart, shared with God on your personal journey each day.
- Continued prayers for healing for Diane DeGrand, who had her first cataract surgery on February 18th.
- Continued prayers for Chris Bahr, who is recovering at home from surgery she had on February 15th.
- Continued prayer for Rachel, Goddaughter to Chris Bahr, who is in heart failure at the age of 41.
- Continued prayers for healing for Loni, a friend of Deb Kraemer, who needs healing due to complications of a cornea transplant.
- Continued prayers for all our shut-ins.
- Continued prayers for this nation and the world, that the Covid-19 vaccines are available soon to **all** who want them.
- Continued prayers for our nation. There is much work to be done.
- Continued prayers for *all* the essential workers.
- Continued prayers for our church family.
- Joys for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week. May you find a special way to celebrate.

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

There are many 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 at: umcsi.org/Give Online
4. Give on your smart phone or tablet through the Give Plus+ App. Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus+" by Vanco Services LLC and download for FREE. Search by our zip code, 54911. We are near the top of the list.
5. Set up auto withdrawal giving with our Financial Secretary, LuAnn Van Handel.



Note: Vanco Services LLC handles all online giving through the GivePlus+ app and our auto-withdrawal option.

Birthdays

- 2/24 Tyler Milbach
- 2/27 Holden Milbach
- 2/28 Sydney Davis
- 3/2 Mali Trueblood



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO PASS THE WINTER HOURS?

Try our puzzle sale! We are offering used puzzles available for sale for \$1 each until March 4th. You may come and peruse the fine selection of many puzzles during regular office hours, Monday through Thursday from **9am - 1:30pm**. This should help to fill some of the long winter days.

This sale is offered in place of the Used Book and Pie Social. The plan is to attempt the Used Book Sale in September. More details coming about that at a later date.

We also welcome jigsaw puzzle donations.

During lent we often think about what we might "give up" as we prepare for Easter through self-denial, prayer, and repentance for our sins. Here are some ideas to also consider...

Give up complaining...	focus on Gratitude
Give up pessimism ...	become an Optimist
Give up worry ...	trust Divine Providence
Give up bitterness ...	turn to Forgiveness
Give up hatred ...	return Good for evil
Give up negativism ...	be Positive
Give up anger ...	be More Patient
Give up pettiness ...	become Mature
Give up gloom ...	enjoy the Beauty all around you
Give up jealousy ...	pray for Trust
Give up gossiping ...	control your Tongue
Give up sin ...	turn to Virtue
Give up giving up ...	Hang in there!

"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.

St. James is one of the drop-off points for our area of the North East District

Drop-off is from 9a.m. to 1p.m. Monday to Thursday.

Annual Conference is June 18 & 19, virtually.

Items must arrive before June 17th, so they may be delivered to a central drop-off area. This will come before we know it. In this time of Covid-19 we are shopping less often, thus the reason for promoting early.

Requirements

- **All items must be NEW.**
- **Kits should contain only the requested items.**
- **They are concentrating on two kits this year. You may also give any of the items listed, individually.**

Another Option

You may also help by donating funds. For **every \$1 donated**, \$6.33 in relief supplies are sent to support those in need during a time of man-made or natural disaster.

If this is your preferred method of contributing to In-Gathering, please make any checks out to:

Wisconsin Annual Conference,
and put either
MMDC or In-Gathering
in the memo line.

Personal Dignity Kit

- 1 Bath Hand Towel - No kitchen towels.
- 1 Bath Washcloth - No kitchen towels.
- 1 Adult Toothbrush - No multipacks.
- 1 Bar Soap – 3 - 4 oz.
- 1 Shampoo – 15 - 18 oz.
- 1 Deodorant – 2 - 3 oz. - stick, roll on, or pump.
- \$2 for toothpaste and razor.

Place items in a 1-gallon re-sealable plastic bag
Video at [midwestmission](http://midwestmission.org) (scroll down to video)

These items may also be donated individually.

Homecare Kit

- 2 Liquid Household Cleaners 16 - 40 oz.
(no spray bottles)
 - 2 Dish Soaps 16 - 34 oz.
 - 2 Liquid Laundry Detergents 32 - 64 oz.
 - 1 scrub brush with or without handle
- Place items into a 5-gallon re-sealable bucket with a re-sealable cover.

These items may also be donated individually.

Other Drop-Off Sites In Our Area

Oshkosh Wesley - 761 Florida Ave.

wesleyumc761@yahoo.com

Contacts: Church 920-235-3070 or Vernita Green 920-235-2702

Please call to confirm your drop off time.

Green Bay Bethany - 1110 Echo Lane

Permanent drop-off/pick-up site

Contact: Church 920-494-8801 / office@bethanygreenbay.org or

Ron Vinger @ 920-499-7948, rkvinger@gmail.com

Open: Saturday 8:00 – noon. Please call to confirm your drop off time.