

# ST. JAMES WEEKLY E-NEWS

January 6, 2021



## Worship Announcements

Sunday worship can be found on our [Facebook](#) page, and posted to the website at [umcsj.org](http://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

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.

## "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.*



Thank you to Wendy Lind and LuAnn Van Handel for switching out the sanctuary decorations.

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.*

## 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](http://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.

## Birthdays

1/6 John Lind  
 1/11 Bill Kraemer  
 1/12 Joyce Sherman  
 1/12 Emily Milbach  
 1/12 Nancy Von Der Osten



### Our 1st Quarter Mission Offering

(January to March)

goes to **UMCOR**

United Methodist Committee on Relief

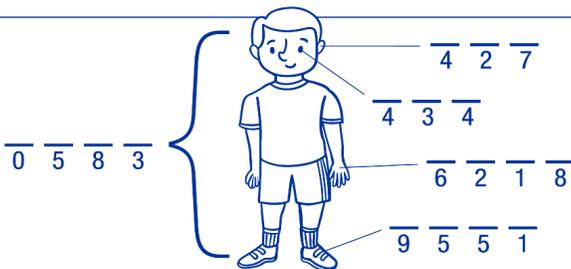
# For the kids



## WORKING IN UNISON

Just as body parts work in unison, the church — the body of Christ — is to work together for God's purposes.

**Directions:** Fill in the letters for each body part. Add up each part's number total, and use those totals to complete the Bible passage.



Now if the <sup>20</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ should say, "Because I am not a <sup>17</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, I do not belong to the <sup>16</sup>\_\_\_\_\_" ... And if the <sup>13</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ should say, "Because I am not an <sup>11</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, I do not belong to the <sup>16</sup>\_\_\_\_\_" it would not for that reason stop being part of the <sup>16</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. If the whole <sup>16</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ were an <sup>11</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole <sup>16</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ were an <sup>13</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, where would the sense of smell be? ... As it is, there are many parts, but one <sup>16</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:15-17, 20, NIV

Answer: body = 16, eye = 11, ear = 13, hand = 17, foot = 20

## 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 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.
- 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.
- For all who serve or have served in the military and other civil service areas.
- For those in the 'sandwich' generation and the challenges it can pose.

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

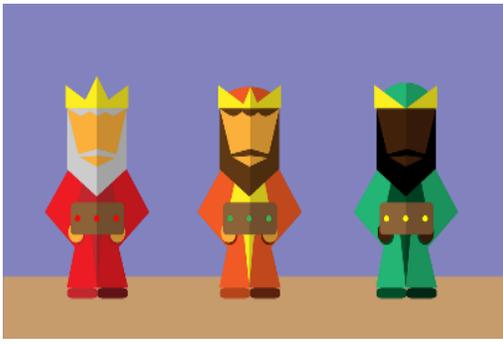


### A New Mission Opportunity for St. James

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](#).



### THREE TEACHING POINTS OF EPIPHANY (January 6th)

The church celebrates Epiphany on Jan. 6 each year, 12 days after Christmas Day. On Epiphany, we recall the arrival of the wise men to visit the newborn baby Jesus. The season of Epiphany stretches from Jan. 6 until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The season varies in length because the date of Easter changes yearly. Epiphany might be as long as nine weeks or as short as four weeks.

While the season of Epiphany does not get as much hype as the preceding seasons of Advent and Christmas, it is an important time of the church year nonetheless. After all the December celebrations die down, Epiphany reminds us that Christmas is just the beginning of the story.

#### THE MAGI

While secular culture generally celebrates Christmas on a single day, the church extends the celebration of Jesus' birth until the arrival of the magi on Jan. 6. Most of us are familiar with the story of the wise men from the popular hymn *We Three Kings*. They follow a star to find the Christ child and bring him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:1-12)

Epiphany is a good opportunity to expound on some of the details of the story that make the magi so remarkable. First, the wise men are paying attention. They "observed his star at its rising" and realized it was a sign (Matthew 2:2). Second, the wise men trust God's guidance. They leave their country and travel a great distance without knowing exactly where they are going. After finding the Christ child, the three kings are warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they diligently leave "for their own country by another road." (Matthew 2:12). Third, the magi humbled themselves at the sight of an infant king in a manger: "They saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage." (Matt. 2:11) Despite the odd circumstances – a baby born to an unwed, un-wealthy mother in a barn – the magi presented Jesus with gifts fit for a king born under very different circumstances.

This beautiful, odd story foretells the many ways Jesus' life will reverse worldly expectations. Despite how the Holy Family might appear to the townsfolk of Bethlehem, the magi's visit identifies Jesus as a king. Furthermore, the magi have crossed international borders. They come from a foreign country to mark Jesus as a king for all people. One resource for teaching about the magi is this Building Faith article with ideas for [Celebrating Epiphany at Church!](#)

#### BAPTISM AND THE TRINITY

On the first Sunday after Epiphany, we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord. It is an especially appropriate day for baptism. Many United Methodist worship services that day include a remembrance of baptism. It is also a good opportunity to teach about the Trinity, as it is one of the few places in scripture where all three persons of the Trinity are revealed together: as Jesus is being baptized a spirit descends on him and a voice says, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:11) Jesus is revealed as the Son of God and the third person of the Trinity. These lessons provide a good opportunity to teach about what the Baptism of our Lord reveals about Jesus and what our baptism reveals about us.

#### REVEALING JESUS

Beginning with the visit of the magi and the Baptism of our Lord, the lectionary for the season of Epiphany reveals more and more about Jesus as the weeks go by. The stories of Epiphany depict Jesus as a king, the Son of God, a leader, a healer and a teacher. There is certainly continuity within this season, the theme of revelation ties the season together as we encounter different layers of Jesus' identity, but there is also great flexibility within Epiphany. Teaching topics could vary from how Jesus is revealed in our lives today to a series on the baptismal covenant or the healing power of faith.