

ST. JAMES WEEKLY E-NEWS

November 18, 2020



A Message From Pastor Ben...

Some of my favorite Christmas memories are from my grandparent's old farmhouse. The pile of presents around the tree was always bountiful. I can still smell the amazing food. But my favorite memories are when my grandmother would sit down at her piano and we would sing a few Christmas Carols. We would always start by singing her favorite, "Away in a Manger."

Our Advent Worship Series this year will be "Caroling through Christmas." Caroling through Christmas this year won't be the same, as we won't be in worship and singing these songs together in the same way. But these familiar songs that tell of the Savior's birth will always bring us comfort, whether we are listening to them as we bake cookies or singing with our family around the tree.

You can help be part of this 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

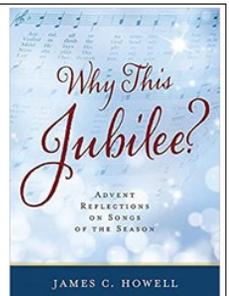
Advent Bible Study

As part of our Advent journey, Pastor Ben is also planning a bible study using the book, "Why This Jubilee? Advent Reflections on Songs of the Season" by James C. Howell. You may purchase the book on Amazon for \$12.99.

In addition to this being a bible study, it is also an advent devotional which will begin on the first Sunday in Advent, November 29th.

This study will be done via zoom on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm beginning December 1st for St. James, and Wednesday evenings beginning December 2, at 7pm with Emmanuel. Please let Pastor Ben, or the church office know of your interest.

Zoom links for the classes will be available as we get closer to the dates.



Worship Announcements

Sunday worship this week will be found on our [Facebook](#) page, and posted to the website at umcsi.org on Sunday, and will remain on the website until Thursday morning each week. For your convenience bulletins are now 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...

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.

Greetings! My name is Tom Schemm and I'm chair of Stewardship.



In this strange world, in which we have lived in the past 10 months, we had to re-think how we do almost every aspect of church life, and stewardship is no exception. First of all, I just want to say that your St. James family missed you. These times when we are not together, we want you to know you're in our thoughts and that we care. We pray special blessings for everyone to stay healthy; for all you do and say; and to ask God to watch over you, each moment of every day.

That said you should have received a pledge card for your renewed commitment to St. James for 2021. I am aware that this stewardship season comes at a difficult time in the life of our country and world. So, our stewardship theme for this year is "Hope & Healing." More than ever it's important that our call to stewardship be framed as such. Just imagine what our church, community and world might look like if together, in our hearts, we find the extraordinary in the ordinary by making a deeper commitment to Jesus Christ. So let's cast a vision of "Hope & Healing" that brings us all closer together, especially during this time when COVID-19 is pulling us apart.

Let's Pray-

Be with us God. Teach us to always believe in our power to return to our normal life, to hope, to heal, and to You. Give us the strength to resurrect our weary spirit in effort to discern the impact our commitment has on the ministries St. James offers each of us, and our community. Revive us God, so we can embrace life once more in joy, in person, and in peace. Amen.

Thank you for your generosity, and most of all, for being a part of our church family.

Other Announcements

Note: Thank you to those who have been returning their stewardship cards and pledges. Consecration Sunday will be on November 22.

Because Duane Maves loved mowing and caring for the St. James grounds, we have set up a "Grounds Beautification" memorial fund in his honor. Mark 'beautification' in the memo line, if you wish to contribute.

Reminder: You only have a few weeks left to place your soup order. See page 4 for details.

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

Notice: Charge Conference this year will be done virtually in conjunction with Emmanuel UMC on Tuesday, December 8th at 6pm.

Dad Was No Grinch

This is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year... and the hap-happiest season of all. So in effort to help get myself invigorated, YES!... I've been watching Hallmark Christmas movies 24/7. However, as the holidays fast approach this year I can't help but keep thinking about my dad. I lost dad about a year ago now.

Dad may not be here in all the ways I wanted, but he's here in every other way possible because he taught me about faith, and love, and family, and giving, and accepting help where it is needed. And I'm going to do my best to carry that forward with me... everything he shared with me.

Therefore, as this holiday season, as well as our stewardship season of "Hope & Healing" are here, I will always remember Dad's ideals and legacy of responsible stewardship.

Happy Holidays Dad!
Tom Schemm



A New Mission Opportunity for St. James

COTS is looking for volunteers to help provide, prepare, and drop off meals for 20-40 men. These meals are especially needed for the months of November & December. You may choose to schedule a meal prep, which you can do in your own home, for a Monday, Wednesday or Friday.

Contact Pastor Ben if you have questions.

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 it in worship.



Birthdays

11/19 Rick Davis
11/22 Tanner Lang
11/23 Beth Thomas
11/23 Ben High

For the kids

- For all the prayers shared with God on your personal journey each day.
- Prayers for the DeGrand family. Diane's uncle Whitlow is recovering from COVID-19, and Wayne's Aunt Alice passed away from COVID-19.
- Prayers for Charlie Christenson's sister, Anne, who is once again in the hospital. While being treated for UTI, she also tested positive for COVID-19.
- Continued prayers for the essential workers and all who work in the medical and social services field.
- Prayers for all our shut-ins.
- Continued prayer for Martina Olson's husband, Bob. 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.
- Continued prayers for all those who are going through various health issues.
- Prayers for national unity, for things that are both seen and unseen. May there be positive change and true awareness.
- 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.



Start a fun tradition by playing this game on Thanksgiving.

What you need:

- M&M's or other colored candies
- A bowl
- The list below (adapt the colors, as needed)

Red: a need God has provided for

Orange: a gift you've received

Yellow: something you've recently learned

Green: something in nature

Blue: a special memory

Brown: someone you love

What you do:

1. One at a time, people pick a candy and share what they're thankful for (according to the color).
2. Pass the bowl around and continue reflecting on God's goodness until all the candy is gone!

5 ways to give to St. James:

1. **When you attend worship.**
2. **Mail in your gift or pledge to:**
St. James UMC
100 W. Capitol Dr.
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, does the online giving.



Our 4th Quarter Mission Offering

(October to December)
goes to **Salvation Army**

Congratulations! We have reached that first \$100 matching funds goal. Keep up the great work for valuable community resource.



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

Romans 12:12

2020's ('UN'-FAIR) HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

As the Covid 19 numbers are increasing, like most events for 2020, the St James Holiday Fair & Craft Sale is not to be, so we have come up with an 'un'-Fair (as in, not a fair). No cookies, venders or crafts. (O my!) Instead we have put our head's together to come up with an '**un'-Fair Holiday Fundraiser**. This will involve three parts. An attempt will be made to explain below...

Part One... Soups!

We thought, what is always popular in winter? Soup of course!

So we have gathered some of the best soup makers at St James and we will be selling 3 different soups in 2 different quantities. You may pre-order your soup request beginning October 1st. Feel free to share this with your friends too, perhaps they would also like some delicious soup on a cold day. Soups are to be picked up on Saturday, December 5th between the hours of 9 and noon. The other information you need is listed on the order form below. Feel free to duplicate as needed.

(Contact the church office if you need more forms.)

Soup Pre-Order Slips by Quart or Pint

Quarts are \$10, Pints are \$5 (deadline to pre-order is Mon., Nov. 30th)

(You may pay when you order, or upon pick-up between 9am & noon on Sat., Dec. 5th.)

Your Name _____

Circle type of soup: **Chili (with noodles / without noodles)**

Number of jars ___ quart(s) OR ___ pint(s)

Cheesy potato w/ham and veggies

Number of jars ___ quart(s) OR ___ pint(s)

Chicken Booyah

Number of jars ___ quart(s) OR ___ pint(s)



Part Two... Salvation Army.

Each year the mission committee chooses Salvation Army to raise funds for, as the 4th quarter local mission. Also, a few years back we began implementing Salvation Army ringers to greet our Holiday Fair shoppers. We will combine these efforts this year. Once again Ken's Sports will do a donation match up to \$100 for the Salvation Army. So the first \$100 for the Salvation Army will be doubled, thanks to Ken's Sports. Although the bells won't be ringing this year, the spirit of bells will be present. 🎅 🦌 🧝 🎁



Part Three... 'un'-Fair Fundraising.

This one is a tricky one to explain. Remember when there used to be church salad luncheon fundraisers? After a while some churches thought members might be willing to just give a donation instead of using their funds to buy ingredients, labor over making all those salads and breads, and then turning around and buying that which they made. That is the idea here. Since we will not be making and donating all those wonderful cookies, buns, and crafts, we thought you may want to donate the \$ you would have spent making, buying, and time selling them to the 'un'-Fair Fundraiser.

To help with the Salvation Army and 'fair' donations, there will be an envelope addressed to St. James that will be mailed to you along with your quarterly giving statement. You may use this envelope to make your donations to the 'un'-Fair fundraiser and/or the Salvation Army. Just mark in your memo line how much you want to go for each.

Although you are invited to ask friends to purchase jars of soup, there will be no outside advertising for this fundraising event. Contact Wendy Lind @ 920-810-3449 with questions.