

St. Johns United Church of Christ

News from Pastor Ken

April 2024

Contents	
News from Pastor Ken	1
Pastor Ken News Cont.	2
Birthdays	3
Anniversaries	3
Military Prayer List	3
Prayer List	3
Worship	3
Kid's Page	4
Spring Poem	5
Reports	6
President's Letter	7
April Activities	8
Christmas Tote Bags	9
Scripture Readings	9
Additional Reports	10



It just seems that everyone I talk to lately is just really ready for spring to happen. Most are not complaining about how mild this winter has been, me included, but the multiple bouts of spring like weather have us all hypersensitive to the possibility of the change of seasons.

Many of you have commented or inquired about Easter being early this year. Not really. It just came rather late last year. We have had both earlier and later Easters. Well, here is how it was decided. We can thank our Pagan friends in part for this. In 325CE the Council of Nicaea established that **Easter** would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. From that point forward, the **Easter** date depended on the ecclesiastical approximation of March 21 for the vernal equinox.

Here is what I know for sure. Spring and Easter are here even though it may not feel like spring at this moment. I heard a couple church folks discussing which birds have already shown up and what plants are budding and sending pictures of crocuses. I noticed little green sprouts popping up as I walked through thinking about my gardens. It must be spring!!

As we finish this Lenten season and enter into Easter, remember it is just like the transition from winter into spring. During what seems to be the endless cold dark days of winter, we start to experience the new life that rises up from what we once were sure was dead. That is what the Easter season offers us as well, to seek and experience new life, new life in our congregation and new life for ourselves.

This Lenten season was a powerful season for me as I hope it was for you, filled with reflection, preparation, and discernment. We spent time this Lenten season considering our own personal journey through the wilderness into Jerusalem.

St. John's
 United Church of Christ
 527 N. William Street
 P.O. Box 313
 Marine City, MI 48039

Email:
 kgadd@stjohnsmarine
 city.org

[www.facebook.com/
 Stjohnsuccmarinecity](http://www.facebook.com/Stjohnsuccmarinecity)

<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnsuccmarinecity/>

Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

We prayed about what we bring to the cross and more importantly, what resurrection and transformation we have come to expect in our own lives this Easter. Over the past weeks, we have been talking about discovering the Christ within us, to be the resurrected, living Jesus we know God has called us to be.

As we come into spring, expect the miracle of new life. Expect to be transformed. Again, that is what Easter is all about. Some miracles are large, and some are small, some require that we look for them. A number of them even require that we work to reveal them. However, if we do look, if we keep expecting them and are willing to do what God asks us to do; those miracles will just keep coming.

I am excited about what this Easter season has in store for us all, personally and as a community in Christ. I encourage you to keep your heart, mind, and spirit open. Let us plan together, pray together, and work together. Let us prepare to be transformed.

Invite those you have missed to join us and share in this time of personal transformation and renewal.

Take care and be well, Peace.
Pastor Ken

Happy Birthdays in April

4/11 Megan Hincerick
4/13 Nelson Prange
4/16 Tom Kaufman
4/16 James Wood
4/23 Lucas Hincerick

Happy Anniversaries in April

4/16 Tamara & Tom Gorence
4/29 Lynn & Steve Andrews



Military Prayer List

I will be including a list in the newsletter of our men and women in the military, to acknowledge those who serve and to pray for their safety. Please submit your love one's, family member or friend's name, rank, and branch of service to be placed on the list.

Joshua Bieske	Sgt. First Class	US Air Force
Lacey Tite	Security	US Navy

Worship Ministry Volunteers Needed Please sign-up

Please consider signing up for the ministries of Usher/ Greeter, Liturgists, Communion Servers, and Altar Care.

Prayers For

Prayers for Margaret, Joy, Sis, Bill, Tamera, Tricia, Krista, Marion, Zoe, Jim, Steve, Melissa, Darren. Barb, Sandy, LeAnn, David, Bea, Kurt, Jack & Family, Shaw Family, Osterland & Carveth Families, Mike

Families of St. John & St. James

Kid's Page



Spring Poem

AND NOW IT'S SPRING BY LHTHEAKER

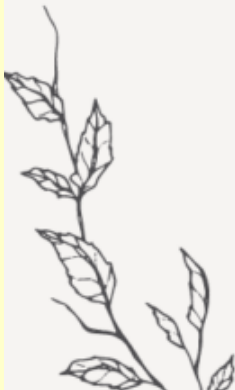
The grass is green across the hill,
But yellow blooms the daffodil.
It's sunshine on a little stalk,
A friendly flower, I bet they talk...

Of little kids, too long inside
They burst outdoors to play and hide.
Tracking mud and bringing bugs.
Look, there's footprints on the rug!

Tiny whirlwinds, these little tykes,
They skin their knees while riding bikes.
They rip and roar, they're running wild!
What fun it is to be a child.

It grows warmer every day.
Shoo the children out to play!
Pick the flowers, play in mud.
Too much rain, here comes a flood!

My snowy, winter days are gone.
I mourn them, but I hear a song
Of birds in trees; wind chimes ring.
I guess it might as well be spring!



Meeting Minutes / Reports

St. John's United Church of Christ
February 12, 2024, Council Meeting

Call to Order: 6:40 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ken

Council Members Present: Pastor Ken, Kurt Schultz, Dorothy Schultz, Miriam Guyor, Shari Faucher, Linda Gerard

Absent: Katie Phelan

January 8 Minutes: Shari made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Second by Dorothy. Carried.

Calendar updates: March 6 & 13: Lenten Discussion Group on Zoom 7 p.m.

March 3 & 17: Communion services

March 10 & 24: Service with Sunday School

March 29: Good Friday services followed by Stations of the Cross. Noon at St. James and 7:00 at St. John's

March 30: Great Easter Vigil at St. James, 7:00

March 31: Easter Sunday Service

April 24: Seder celebration, 7 p.m. at St. John's

Election of Officers: Nominations from the floor: Shari nominated Kurt Schultz for President, second by Dorothy.

Miriam nominated Shari Faucher for Vice President, second by Dorothy

Shari nominated Miriam Guyor for Secretary, second by Kurt.

Shari nominated Dorothy Schultz for Treasurer, second by Miriam.

All nominations accepted and all elected by unanimous consent.

Ministry Reports

Worship Reviewed upcoming Easter services.

Fellowship Murphy Inn fundraising dinner is February 27, flyers and handouts are available.

Outreach Scholarship invites have been sent to MCHS (2 @ \$300 each)

Spiritual Growth

A. Sunday School: Annual Humane Society donation campaign will be held in March

B. Lenten Discussion Group: How to Live a More Christian Life begins Feb. 21, dates in calendar update above.

C. Pastor Ken is prepping for Passover Seder celebration, April 24, St. John's, 7:00 p.m.

D. Discussed the possibility of a Confirmation class

Earthly Gifts

A. Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept the report with corrections by Miriam. Second by Shari, carried

Building and Grounds: We haven't received a new contract from Maple Landscaping for snow removal, but they're

doing it. We're waiting for the first billing.

Records/History Book: No report

Pastor's Report: Prayer list procedures discussed.

New Business: Rummage Sale dates are May 17 & 18, 2024. Volunteers will be needed.

Unfinished Business: A thank you note will be sent to Krista for making our new Baptismal font.

Miriam will handle memorial flower donations for church members.

Correspondence: None

Adjournment: Dorothy made the motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m. Second by Shari and carried.

Closing prayer: Pastor Ken

Next meeting is April 8, 2024

President's Letter

Greetings to you all, I hope this finds you all well.

We have finally made it to springtime and to the season of new life. GOD will soon be getting his palette and paintbrushes out and decorating our world like only he can.

As the weather improves and more people want to get out, ask a friend, co-worker, or relative to join you at church. I believe they might love our church family as much as I do and have a stronger relationship with the Lord.

It doesn't seem possible that we have already had holy week and celebrated Easter. It always is a week of worship that I enjoy.

We have a few things planned for the upcoming month of May. We will be doing a spring clean-up to keep the church tidy and get the nooks and crannies that can sometimes get missed. We also will be assessing projects and repairs that need to be done. I would like to say as a reminder, many hands make light work. My Great Grandma used to say that, and it was all so true.

In closing, please take a moment or two each and every day to look around and see the new life come. It truly is a wonder. Gods' blessings to you all.

Respectfully submitted: Kurt Schultz

April Activities

Saturday, April 6 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm.

Sunday, April 7 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am

Monday, April 8 – Council Meeting – 6:30pm

Thursday, April 9 – God’s Grace Through Prayer - 11 a.m. in the Community Room.

Thursday, April 9 – Mary Martha Guild - 12pm in the Fellowship Room for lunch and a business meeting. Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverages will be provided. Lynn Reh is the hostess for March.

Saturday, April 20 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm

Sunday, April 21 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am

Wednesday, April 24 – Abbreviated Seder Ceremony – 7pm at St. John’s

Giving Lasts All Year!

St. John's & St. James' Christmas Charity Tote Bags: Some needed items:

We are starting over again for the next year. The tote bags are for both boys and girls between the ages of 2 and 14. The items accepted anytime: hygiene items such as: toothbrush holders, toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, dental floss, comb/brushes, hair accessories such as head bands, ponytails, clips, bows, and barrettes and school supplies such as: notebooks, crayons, colored pencils, colored markers, pencil sharpeners, scissors (for youngsters and older children), rulers, large erasers. Pens, pencils and socks, hats, scarves and gloves/mittens and toys.

Please donate travel size items, we only have so much space to store the items in for the year and we need to get all items to fit in the bags. Please try to **stick to the list** so we receive enough of the items we need and not a little of items that are considered extra items.

Thank you!!!

Donations accepted all year to accumulate 100 of each item.
distribution is via local organizations. Donation box & COMPLETE LIST on table.

Scripture Readings for April

Sunday, April 7
Third Sunday in Lent
Acts 4: 32-35
Ps 133
1 John 1; 1-2;2
John 20: 19-31
Marks of Faith

Sunday, April 21
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Acts 4: 5-12
Ps 23
1 John 3: 16-24
John 10: 11-18
Enfolded by Love

Sunday, April 14
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Acts 3: 12-19
Ps 4
1 John 3; 1--7
Luke 24: 36b-48
Christ Among Us

Sunday, April 28
Palm Sunday
Acts 8: 26-40
Ps 22: 25-31
1 John 4: 7-21
John 1: 1-8
Abiding in Love

Additional Activities

Sunday Services

Sunday Service is held at 11:00 a.m. each week. This service is also available live via online streaming at 11:00 a.m. St. James' service is streamed at 9:00 a.m. Both are available to view as a video any time after the live streams. www.facebook.com/Stjohnsuccmarinecity or www.facebook.com/St.James-United-Church-of-Christ-10150090210425008

Council Meetings

The Church Council's next meeting is March 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

Sunday School

Sunday School is held the second and fourth Sundays of each month. Students are encouraged to attend services on the first and third Sundays as well. Lynn Andrews and Miriam Guyor are teachers this year.

Mary Martha Guild

Mary Martha Guild will meet Thursday, April 11 at noon in the Fellowship Room for lunch and a business meeting. Bring a sandwich, dessert and beverages will be provided. Bea Gubanche is the hostess for March.

Coffee Donations

There is a container on the counter by the coffee pots for freewill donations to help pay for the cost of Coffee Hour. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

Prayer Group

God's Grace Through Prayer meets the second Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Community Room. We will be praying for our family and friends. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please let us know if you have any prayer needs.

Coffee Hour

Although we gather for coffee, visiting and goodies each Sunday after service, we have a special Coffee Hour the first Sunday of each month when special food is prepared and shared. This is provided by members. To take a turn to host, please sign up in the Community Room.

Hundreds of older and disabled neighbors in our community need help getting to doctor appointments, the grocery store or other essential errands. Being able to get food and medical care can make it possible for them to remain in their homes as long as possible. The **Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers** program is in need of drivers who are available during daytime hours. If you have just a couple hours a month that you can give to someone in need, you can make a huge difference in the life of a struggling neighbor. You tell us what days, times and areas are convenient for you and we call you with specific appointments that meet your criteria. If you are free, say yes. If you're not, simply decline and we will call you another time. Even one more ride a year makes a big difference to the person who needs it! Please call our office today at (586) 757-5551. Learn more at www.ivcinfo.org

St. Johns

United Church of Christ
527 N. William Street
P.O. Box 313
Marine City, MI 48039

Phone: (810) 765-5371

E-mail:

kgadd@stjohnsmarinecity.org

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnsuccmarinecity)

stjohnsuccmarinecity



**APRIL
NEWSLETTER**