

St. Johns United Church of Christ

News from Pastor Ken

July & August 2024

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Greetings to all.
 WOW, July already. I remember being much younger and listening to the “Old Timers” talking about the fact that the older you get the faster time goes, and I laughed. Now that I am in fact approaching being an “Old Timer,” I am not ready to call myself one yet, that saying is not as funny as it once was. I am reminded to take and live everyday like it counts.

With that in mind, I hope that you have all been taking time to enjoy this beautiful summer. We have had some hot days, rainy days, and in between days. A little bit of everything for everybody.

I am glad to see that family and friends are gathering and sharing time together. This time of isolation has been difficult for many, so it is good to get reconnected on a personal level.

As I look around, I am delighted to see the gardens have exploded with all kinds of wonderful colors and fragrances. I am excited about all the activity and helping hands taking part in growing and developing the gardens. I am thrilled that summer is here and what seemed like a long winter is behind us. It is a glorious summer.

Personally, July is for me a rich time of reflection and gratitude reflecting on times of major transformation in my life. As we start the back half of the year, I am reminded to embrace each new day with all the opportunities, challenges, and times of profound spiritual enlightenment that every new day can bring. As one journey ends a new and exciting one begins.

I am hoping that for you this summer is a time of reflecting and relaxing. For some of you it will be a time of graduations, weddings, vacations, get-a-ways, and trips to the beach. I offer traveling mercies to you all, wherever this summer's adventures take you.

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Pastor Ken Newsletter Continued

Remember to stop into a local church and say hello and share with them about your home church and how God has touched your life. One of my fond memories as kids was my mother always had us stop by churches wherever and whenever we were visiting places to go in just say a little prayer and look around. She would say that it was important so when the day came to meet God face to face, he would recognize us and remember we had stopped by to say hello. That funny little story still has me smiling and stopping by churches whenever I am on the road whether traveling for pleasure or for business.

For some of us this has been a difficult and challenging summer dealing with issues of health, money, loss, this crazy world of ours, or just life on life's terms. Perhaps even to the point of challenging our faith. Please know that you are not on this journey alone. God is always with us and makes God's presence known by surrounding us with friends, family (and as I like to say, some I am related to) and the occasional encounter with a stranger that God sends along to deliver a message. I genuinely believe that God is with me the most when times are hardest, and I feel it the least. My history is proof. I believe it to be true for you as well.

Others of us are just laying low enjoying those laid-back days of summer. Remember that list of everything we were going to do this summer...relax a little. The list is always bigger than the time and energy to do it. Do what you can but remember to take your time and enjoy.

As we spend the summer relaxing and having fun, we have so much to look forward to with a new season of worship and spiritual growth. May your summer be a restful, revitalizing time, Spirit-filled and surrounded by the grace and love of God. And remember that regardless of where the summer takes you, you are held in God's unconditional love, boundless mercy, and unending grace and there is a place for you here. Have a great summer. See you Sunday!

Take care and be well, Peace.
Ken

Happy Birthdays in July & August

7/1 Karen Jolicoeur
 7/7 Elliot Buckingham
 7/7 Marilee Schultz
 7/7 Katie Phelan
 7/9 Shari Faucher
 7/18 Bea Gubanche
 7/18 Lori LaMontagne
 7/21 Noah Phelan
 7/25 Easton Buckingham

 8/8 Madeline Buckingham
 8/13 Janet Bulgrien

Happy Anniversary July & August

7/8 Dorothy & Kurt Schultz
 7/26 Georgia & Mike Phelan
 7/27 Christina & Bill Galvin
 7/27 Mary & Bill Galvin
 7/30 Denise & Douglas Beattie

 8/6 Kristy & Rob Gardiner
 8/11 Megan & Mark Hincerick

Worship Ministry

Volunteers Needed
Please sign-up

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



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

Prayers For











Prayers for

Abigail, Dave, Anthony, Richard, Mr. Hartway, Mary, Dan, Kathy, Wally, Lois, Tim, Bettyjean, Jeff, Anson, Krista, Laurie, Darlene, John, Bill, Lainey, Marion, Tamara, Gary, Jan, Family of Dave Schwehofer, Tricia, Joe & Berneta, Judy & Jack and Family, Joy, Kim, Melissa, World Peace

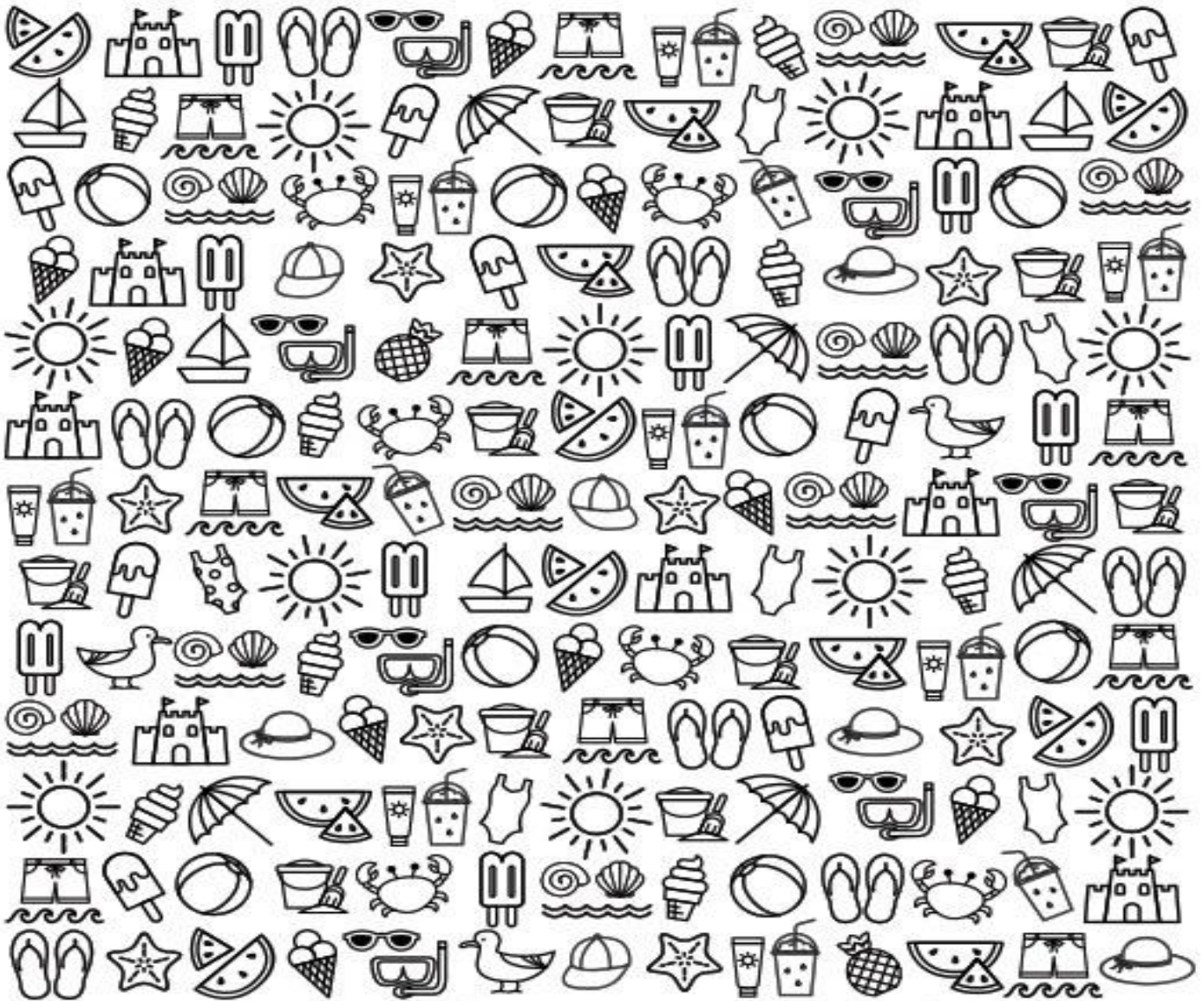
Families of St. John & St. James

Summer Find and Colour

Find the following items and colour them in!

- | | |
|--|---|
|  1 swimsuit with spots on it
 2 pineapples
 3 sea gulls
 4 boats
 5 beach umbrellas |  6 crabs
 7 sun hats
 8 star fish
 9 beach balls
 10 suns |
|--|---|

What else can you find??



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Summer Poem

NATURE'S WAY

by Lenore Hetrick

The little tree by the old road fence
Grew in the summer sun.
"I want to grow tall," said the little tree,
"And growing is so much fun."

The little brook running beneath the bridge
Babbled and sang all day.
"I want to become a river," it said,
"So I'm hastening on my way."

The little bird fluttered from out the nest,
And flew far across the yard.
"I'll be a big bird," said she and twittered,
"If each day I try real hard."

The little boy stood on his tiptoes and stretched.
"I'm just like the rest," said he,
"I want to grow up and see the big world -
And the sooner the better for me!"

Mother Nature smiled at all her fledglings,
But she did not bid them stay.
She knew that to live and grow and age
Is forever Nature's way.



Meeting Minutes / Reports

May 13, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 6:40 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ken

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

Absent: Katie Phelan, Linda Gerard

April 8, 2024 Minutes: Dorothy made the motion to accept the minutes with correction. Second by Shari. Carried.

Calendar updates: June 2 and 16: Communion Service

June 9 and 23: Service

June 9: Scholarship/graduate service

June 30: Healing Service

July 21: Annual Outdoor Service and Potluck

July 25: American Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-6 p.m.

Ministry Reports

Worship Graduate service on June 9. Two scholarships awarded to MCHS graduates and two will be awarded to St. John's members Maddie Buckingham and Lucas Hincherrick. Shari made the motion that, in the future, members of our congregation have first right of refusal before we award non-member scholarships. Miriam seconded, and carried.

Fellowship Our annual outdoor service and potluck will be held on July 21.

Outreach Blood drive: Shari has scheduled for July 25 from 1 to 6 p.m.

Spiritual Growth

Discussion groups will resume in the fall

Earthly Gifts

Treasurer's Report:

A. Motion to accept the April report by Shari. Second by Miriam, carried.

B. Kurt, Dorothy and Miriam will be going to Huntington Bank to change the names on all of our accounts there.

Building and Grounds:

A. Kurt will coordinate a repairs review during a walk around with a few volunteers

Records/History Book: No report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ken has been quite busy with funerals and pastoral calls and care.

New Business: None at this time.

Unfinished Business: None at this time.

Correspondence: None at this time.

Adjournment: Dorothy made the motion to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Second by Shari and carried.

Closing prayer: Pastor Ken

Next meeting is June 10, 2024

President's Letter

Greetings to all,

Happy summer to you all. It's hard for me to believe that we are in the 7th month of 2024. It brings three words to mind, Time marches on!

We have a few things in store for this month with a fundraiser dinner at Murphy's inn as well as our outdoor service with potluck dinner to follow. I always enjoy that service. There is something about worshipping GOD in the beauty of his nature that is so wonderful. That said, this is the second year in a row that I have planned a family vacation on the outdoor service Sunday. I will be there in spirit, and the Lord knows I need this vacation badly.

We are also hosting a Red Cross blood drive in July on the 25th 1-6 pm. This is one of the greatest gifts you could ever give someone, and its cost is minimal. You can register online for this at www.redcrossblood.org. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart. Prayers of love, health, and Happiness to all.

Kurt Schultz
Council President

July Activities

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

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

Tuesday, July 16 – St. John’s Fundraiser Dinner at Murphy Inn – 5:00pm to 8:00pm.

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

Sunday, June 21 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion -11am

Thursday, July 25 – Blood at St. John’s
Register online at Red Cross website

August Activities

Saturday, August 3 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm

Sunday, August 4 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion – 11am

Saturday, August 17 – Euchre at St. James – 6:30pm.

Sunday, August 18 – Sunday Worship with Holy Communion -11am

Mary Martha Guild

The Mary Martha Guild had its annual picnic on June 13. There were eight members and guests present. Thank you to Karen and Jim for hosting the picnic. A great time was had by everyone. We will not be meeting in July and August. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 12 at noon in the Fellowship room.

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 July

Sunday, July 7

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10 and Ps 48 or

Ezek 2: 155 and Ps 123

2 Cor 12: 210

Mark 6: 1-13

Sent With Power

Sunday, July 14

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 6:1-5,, 12b-19 and Ps 24 or

Amos 7: 7-15 and Ps 85: 8-13

Eph 1: 3-14

Mark 6: 14-29

God'-Inspired Joy

Sunday, July 21

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 7:1-14a and Ps 89: 20-37 or

Jer 23: 16 and Ps 23

Eph 2: 11-22

Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56

Wherever You Are

Sunday, July 28

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 11: 1-15and Ps 14 or

2 Kings 4: 42-44 and Ps 145: 10-18

Eph 3: 14-21

John 6: 1-21

God's Abundant Presence

Scripture Readings for August

Sunday, August 4

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 11: 26 -12: 13a and Ps 51: 1-12 or

Ex 16: 2-4, 9-15 and Ps 78: 23-29

Eph 4: 1-16

John 6: 24-35

Bread of Life

Sunday, August 11

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33 and Ps 130 or

1 Kings 19: 4-8 and Ps 34: 1-8

Eph 4: 25 - 5:2John 6: 24-35

John 6: 35, 41-51

Shaping Community

Sunday, August 18

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-14 and Ps 111 or

Prov 9: 1-6 and Ps 34: 9-14

Eph 5: 15-20

John 6: 51-58

Wisdom Quest

Sunday, August 25

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8: (1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Ps 84 or

Josh 24: 1-22, 14-18 and Ps 34: 15-22

Eph 6: 10-20

John 6: 56-69

At Home with God

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 September 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

Sunday School

Sunday School is held the second and fourth Sundays of each month. **Sunday School will be ending on May 1, 2024, until Fall.** 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's next meeting will be Thursday, September 12th at noon at church.

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

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**JULY & AUGUST
NEWSLETTER**