

JAMESTOWN TODAY



*Building Bridges To The
Families Of Our Community!*

Jamestown United Methodist Church Corner of CR 3 & CR 22

NOVEMBER 2022

Volume 3 Issue 11

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CHURCH STAFF

- **Ed Fisher**
Pastor
- **Sharon Shinn**
Administrative Assistant
- **Geri Angel**
Custodian

Regarding the Saints of the Church

May the grace and peace of a risen Savior bless you and keep you this day! As we celebrate All Saints Sunday, let's together rejoice, remember and recover all their stories of hope, faith and love.

What makes a saint? The simple answer is a story. Without retelling about their hope, faith and love; how are we to know anything about the lives of the saints of the church. The people who came before us, who made a path for each of us to experience the love of the Jesus Christ in the midst of family. How do we remember them? Should we remember the saints of the church? If our past is important at all, it seems to me that we are obligated to not forget those who made that past possible.

Yet we seem to live in a time in which we are more focused on what we desire and want rather than what God wants and desires for us. Our focus as the Church is divided on the unimportant rather than the important. This is not to imply what you feel is being dismissed but rather reprioritized. What matters to us should never supersede what God has given us. For example, loving God and loving others should never take a back seat to our desire to keep things as we would like them. We are an open and inclusive people. These are the words of our Lord and Savior (not mine). We embrace all regardless of where they come from or what may afflict them. Yet we convince ourselves that our measuring stick takes priority over our Savior.

I have served churches that do not, will not, cannot change their vision of the future because they are constrained by fear. Fear of the unknown, fear of not being in control, fear of not knowing what is possible and fear of being changed themselves. In one case, I served a church that had a bat problem. They ignored it; they created a narrative that prevented them from acting on it. They made excuses to study it. Many years later, the odor was so bad that it could not be ignored any longer. I had been appointed to another church when they had gotten to this point. I later learned that only by the grace of God that they did not get killed by the bat problem. When the bats were finally removed and the attic cleaned, they removed 5 Tons of bat droppings from the attic. Can you image being so entrenched that you would let that much accumulate? As I wrote earlier, it is only by the grace of God that the ceiling did not fall on top of them and crush them to death.

Whether it is 5 tons of bat droppings or our stubbornness, we run the risk of being crushed. I had a conversation once in which a well-respected member of a church I served stated they were leaving because the church was not same as when they were a child. It had changed and in a way they did not like. If our faith is nothing more than what we want and what we like, then is it really faith? This is the trap that privilege breeds within us.

When we have achieved a level of privilege, we stop being humble before the Lord and begin thinking of ourselves as our own god.

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Now that may sound shocking, and you may immediately disagree with that, but do we really wish to follow God or our own desires, wants and urges. Look at this example closer, if the church had not changed over the last 75 years would it be alive? Only living things change, the dead remain the same. Is the church a living, breathing, moving and a changing force in the world or is it a mausoleum which stands as fixed moment of time and a symbol of a past that never really existed?

Currently we are spending time in divisive talk and thinking. Our extremes have taken over and we no longer can speak civilly to one another. This is not limited to our faith but in all our activities. The idiom, "If you are not with us then you are against", seems to dominate our thoughts.

In our own community look to how divisive the following issues have become. The wearing of masks; COVID; Politics; High School Teacher who struck a student; Church polity and Church politics.

There are more than I have listed. In all these events, the church should have taken the lead to make peace between the warring parties rather than becoming a part of the division.

Would our Saints of the church be proud of us? I doubt it. We are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are to do this by not following our own wants and desires but by the love of God and neighbor. If we worried about a type of music, what appears in our bulletin, who we are sitting next to or near, how a person is perceived, or a person's way of living, is this what we really should be focused upon? We are divided by so many more issues because we seem to need an enemy to know who we are or are not.

Why do we need to be certain that we are right and others are wrong? Is it because we are afraid of not being in control? Why can't we trust in God? When something does not go the way we believe it should, then let us discern together what course or action is needed. Why do we resolve to use rumor, gossip, innuendo to convince people we are right? It might sound terrible, but we as a people, have done all these things and worse to get our own way. I can understand the actions of human beings outside the church, but it is an irreconcilable conundrum for a people who call themselves Christian to behave in this manner. Is this what the saints from this church would approve or condone? Let us write our story as a continuation of the tradition of loving God and teaching about God's forgiveness. Let our story be more about making disciples (followers) of Jesus Christ and less about our own divisiveness. Let our story continue the legacy of all the saints of the church.

Peace,
Pastor Ed



It's time to order your Poinsettias! Please include payment at the same time you place your order. **Thank-you!**

The cost is \$8.50 for a 6" pot with a multi-bloom plant or \$17.00 for an 8" pot with three plants per pot. We need your order form by Dec. 3rd. You may put this in the offering plate.

_____ **6" pot** _____ **8" pot**

Your Name _____

Given: In Honor of _____ or In Memory of _____

Their Name _____

Amount attached \$ _____

BIRTHDAYS

4	Heather	Denton
	Gail	Greenlee
6	Jacob	Koets
8	Dean	Huppert
10	Jackson	Cook
	Paul	Slabaugh
13	Jim	Eggleston
16	Erin	Miller
	Beau	Traxler
18	Lana	Berg
21	Frankie	Bender
23	Jane	Rapp
24	Tim	Leatherman
27	Sarah	Miller
29	Brad	Stacy

ANNIVERSARIES

3	Mark & Cindy	Campbell	1973
6	Carl & Jane	Lechlitner	1966
18	Warren & Susi	Allender	1978
19	Jim & Connie	Starkey	1983
21	Mark & Angela	Cook	1998



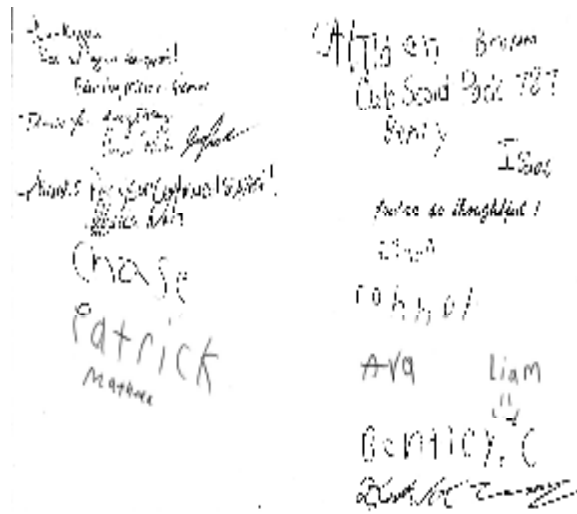
Just a note about a former attendee of the **Riverview Adult Day Health Center**. Norma is still at a nursing home and celebrated her 99th birthday last June! While she lived with me Riverview was a life-saver. I love your program!! (So did she!) My mom is still a "hoot". Sincerely, Martha

Bless you for your hearts for **LoveWay!** Such a wonderful surprise to receive your gift! We are able to provide for the precious children in our community because of friends like you. God's Blessings, Shelly

We have received several Thank You notes. Thank you very much for the donation! It is very much appreciated! Thank you for being so kind to all of my little ones, as everything is for them. Thank you again. **Kathy JUMC Preschool**

Thank you for your gift in support of the boys and girls here at **Bashor Children's Home**. Your generosity sustains our mission and enhances the tradition of providing "help for today and hope for tomorrow" to hundreds of abused, neglected and troubled children and their families each year.

This one is from our **Cub Scout troop** for the loose coin donation.



I am 47 yrs.old. Before coming to **SPA** I was a train wreck headed for destruction. I was hopeless, confused, prideful and a hopeless drunk. After months of prayer by my family and friends I decided I truly needed help. I decided to surrender to God, seek Him for help and SPA program. At SPA I let go and let God be the conductor of my train. I want to thank each of you for your generosity of volunteering, donating or praying. You have helped in mending many of us back together.

Dear Friends in Christ, You are a beacon of hope for men, women and children here in Michiana. Your generous gift has already gone to work providing hungry, homeless people with food and shelter. Once fed, you will continue to bless them with counseling, educations, recovery and spiritual care that can change their lives. **Faith Mission of Michiana**

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Nov	Liturgist	Acolytes	Children's Message	Children's Church	Fellowship Time Helpers
6 th	Steve Squibb	Jim & Geri Angel	Pastor Ed	Marta Clark	
13 th	Jeff Clark	Keith & Tammy Bainter	Marta Clark	Robin Richard	
20 th	Jeff Clark	Dave & LuAnn Pontius	LuAnn Pontius		
27 th	Steve Squibb	Cheryl Cabanaw & Nancy Mahler	Jane Rapp		

Ushers: Jim Angel, Jeff Clark, Tom Cook & Gail Greenlee

DRUNKENNESS

Alcoholic beverages have always created problems for people.
Fill in each blank with the person associated with drunkenness.

1.	_____ planted a vineyard, got drunk, and lay uncovered in his tent.	Genesis 9: 21
2.	_____ saw his father's drunken state and told his brothers.	Genesis 9: 22-26
3.	_____ and Japheth covered their father's drunken nakedness.	Genesis 9: 23
4.	_____ was made drunk by his two daughters so that they could bear his children.	Genesis 19: 31-34
5.	_____ made Uriah drunk in order to cover his sin with Uriah's wife.	2 Samuel 11: 13
6.	_____ and the other disciples were accused of being drunk on the Day of Pentecost.	Acts 2: 14-15
7.	_____, king of Israel, was drunk when he was killed by his servant Zimri in a conspiracy.	1 Kings 16: 9-10
8.	_____ was grieved over her barrenness and Eli accused her of being drunk.	1 Samuel 1: 13-14
9.	_____ was drunk when his wife tried to talk to him; but when she did, he "became as a stone".	1 Samuel 25: 36-37
10.	_____ rebuked the Corinthians for their drunkenness at church suppers.	1 Corinthians 11: 21
11.	_____ warned the Israelites that God will not spare the man who boasts that he can have peace though he added drunkenness to thirst.	Deut. 29: 19

NAME _____

Return Quiz Nov. 20th

Answers for "LAW": 1. Stones, 2. Fiery, 3. Clothes, 4. Scribe, 5. Field, 6. Praying, 7. Priests, 8. Fulfill, 9 jot, 10. Love the Lord, 11. Doers. Those persons challenging themselves: Marcia Clark, Marta Clark, Doug Cook and Jane Lechlitrer.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

November 6th at 7:00 a.m.

COMMUNITY CARRY-IN LUNCHEON

(FORMERLY Senior's Lunch)

Tuesday, Nov. 1st at Noon

Invite your neighbors and friends to join us.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

We will have our first meeting of the Fall on Sunday,
November 27th at 7:45 a.m.

TRUSTEES

We have many ongoing projects: sound system, fellowship hall lighting, parsonage basement leak, electrical issues, guttering, sink hole in front lawn.

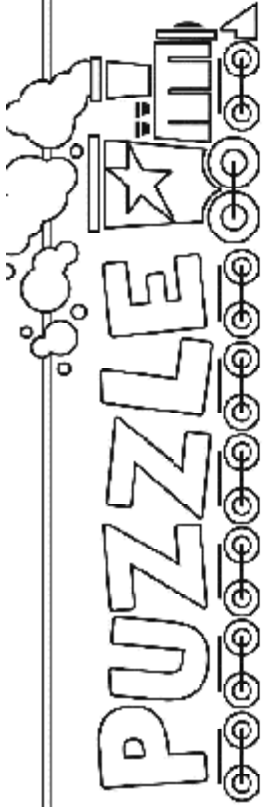
MISSIONS

Loose Coin Offerings: November Loose Coin will go to our **Christmas Baskets for meats**. Every year we sponsor several families in the Baugo area. We give them gifts, food and meat. This offering will help purchase the meat for them. October's Loose Coin of \$45.70 went to CROP Walk of Elkhart County. Thank You for your generosity.

CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES

November giving; Sugar, Spices, Coffee, Hot Chocolate,... The need for donations now is critical. Our Food Pantry served over 4,000 individuals in Elkhart County during the month of July. We leverage every donation. For example, a \$100 donation gives us the leverage to purchase \$600 worth of food for the pantry! If you would like to make a donation, visit our website at churchcommunityservices.org and click on the Donate button today.

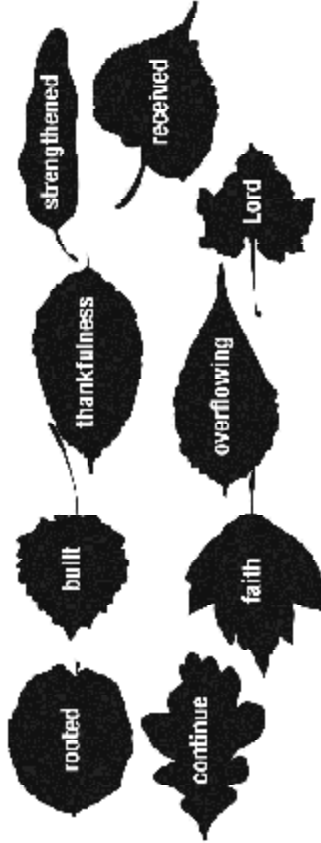
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Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves.
What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.



So then, just as you _____ Christ Jesus as _____
_____ and _____
_____ to live your lives in him _____
_____ up in him, _____ in the _____ as you _____
_____ were taught, and _____ with _____

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV