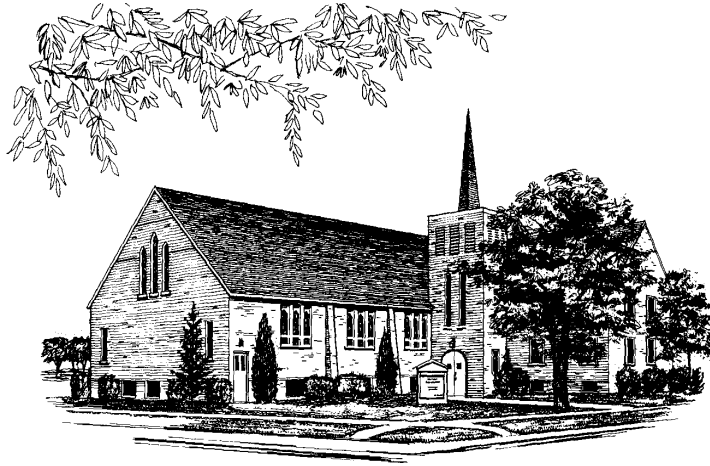


**St. James Newsletter  
February 2023**



**ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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*Church Phone # 354-7198*

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**Church Office Hours vary so please call ahead or make an appointment.**



**February 2023 Newsletter**



Hello to everyone! Welcome to February at St. James UCC! We have so many fun things planned ahead! We look forward to our upcoming activities here at church so we can see more faces at worship service as we hope more of you can join us in person each week! Mark your calendars for these upcoming dates....

**A few dates to keep in mind coming up!**

**FEBRUARY 5**– WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION AT 9:45 A.M. ,COFFEE HOUR 10:45 A.M., SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 A.M., DIACONATE MEETING AT 11:00 A.M., RE BOARD AT 11:30 A.M.

**FEBRUARY 6**– “PEOPLE’S BREAKFAST” AT THE MAINLINE IN DOWNER, MN 8:00 A.M.

**FEBRUARY 8** – 9:00 A.M. RUGS & QUILTS,

**FEBRUARY 12**– VALENTINE’S WORSHIP AT 9:45 A.M., 10:45 A.M. COFFEE HOUR, 11:00 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL, 11:00 A.M. CONGREGATIONAL KITCHEN MEETING

**FEBRUARY 13**–“PEOPLE’S BREAKFAST” AT THE MAINLINE IN DOWNER, MN 8:00 A.M.

**FEBRUARY 15** – 9:00 A.M. RUGS & QUILTS,

**FEBRUARY 19**– WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT 9:45 A.M. COFFEE HOUR AT 10:45 A.M., SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 A.M.

**FEBRUARY 20**– “PEOPLE’S BREAKFAST” AT THE MAINLINE IN DOWNER, MN 8:00 A.M.

**FEBRUARY 22** – RUGS & QUILTS 9:00 A.M., DRIVE UP ASHES BLESSING 11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M., ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 7:00 P.M.

**FEBRUARY 26**– FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT WORSHIP AT 9:45 A.M. COFFEE HOUR 10:45 A.M., SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 A.M.

**FEBRUARY 27**– “PEOPLE’S BREAKFAST” AT THE MAINLINE IN DOWNER, MN 8:00 A.M.

**MARCH 1** – 6:00 P.M. LORD’S PRAYER BIBLE STUDY

**MARCH 5** – 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT WORSHIP SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION AT 9:45 A.M., NOISY COIN COLLECTION, 10:45 A.M. COFFEE HOUR, 11:00 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Prayer Shawl**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a program in our church being implemented under the auspices of the Board of Trustees. The following paragraph is part of what will accompany the shawl: *Praying with a prayer shawl is intended to be a reminder of God’s ever-present love, which is always a part of you. Wear it in times of private prayer whenever you feel the need to feel closer, to be wrapped in God’s loving care. Wrap the shawl around your shoulders, or drape it over your lap, or put it over you when resting-whatever makes you feel comfortable.* If you know of someone that is in need, please contact Beryl Janssen, Irene Schenck, Eleanor Siggerud or the office.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1—LORI KEHRWALD  
1—BLAINE JOHNSON  
2—ASHLEY SLININGER  
2—WYATT ERDMANN  
3—SUSAN DUVAL  
5—LACI DALLMANN  
5—HALEY GROSZ  
6—GAVIN SUCH  
6—GRACIE SUCH  
6—ALICE NEZIREVIC  
8—IONE HAMMER  
8—T.J. HINES  
9—CAROL JANSSEN  
9—DAVID EGGE  
13—JENNY WOYTASSEK  
13—MAVERICK JANSSEN  
16—MELONIE SWENSON  
16—JASON RICK  
16—TRAVIS AFFIELD

17—FRANCINE HOFFMAN  
17—MICHAEL HOLLAND  
18—CODY MOSTUE  
20--KIMBERLY GRANT  
21—MYLES DUVAL  
22—VALERIE KUNZ HAY  
23—JASON LIEN  
23—SHAWN MEYER  
23—TRUMAN VIGEN  
24—CARRIE JOHNSON  
25—KAYLIN BOHMER  
25—LINCOLN WAHL  
25—STEPHANIE JERGER  
26—MARY WHEELRIGHT  
26--ROSE GARDNER  
27—ELAINE OLSON

If there are any birthday dates omitted or wrong, please let the office know.



## February Anniversaries

3—Truman & Deb Vigen  
10—David and Tracy Gratton

## A Message from the Interim Pastor's Office....

Even though I offered my reflections on the Church's constitution last year, I believe it worth repeating as we chart our path forward in 2023. This document, in my estimation, serves as bedrock of those things we value a Church and which binds us together as one in Jesus Christ.

### **According to our constitution, the purpose of our church shall be:**

- a)** To bind together the followers of Jesus Christ for the sharing of worship of God and spreading the Gospel of Christ;
- b)** To make God's will dominant in our lives, individually and collectively, as God's will is exemplified in our lives, individually and collectively, as God's will exemplified in the life of Jesus Christ;
- c)** To render loving service towards humanity, and to strive for righteousness, justice and peace;
- d)** to celebrate the sacraments of the church; Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, as instituted by Jesus Christ himself;
- e)** to observe with appropriate services, the Lord's Day and festivals and seasons of the Christian Church in order to realize the Christian fellowship and unity within our church and Church universal; and
- f)** to observe the rites of confirmation, marriage and burial.

Those words not only articulate the "core values" of past generations of this church, it continues to give direction to us today as do God's work in Barnesville and beyond. It also continue to give substance to the vision of being an inclusive church open to all.

**May this Lenten season be a time of renewal and growth for you, and for our church. God bless!**

**--Interim Pastor Jim--**  
† † † † † † †



If you, or anyone you know, would like to have holy communion at home or a home visit, please contact the church office and Pastor Jim will make arrangements to stop over.

**SALE**

**Remember that the Guild has a bake sale EVERY MONTH ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH in Fellowship Hall. All proceeds raised will go to the Kitchen Fund.**



**SPECIAL PRAYER IS NEEDED**



Judy Siggerud  
Kaiser Schonert  
Ashley Seykora  
Janelle Roggenbuck  
Leigha Ness  
Gerry Palmer  
Kyle Anderson  
Sharon Hovland  
Matt Huntington  
Christopher Cox  
Heidi Ackerson  
Kristin Grommesh  
Kristine Crabtree

Abby Hough  
Shirley Aberle  
Jerad Egge  
Matt Holland  
Angie Harrison Marquardt  
Stephen (Doc) Dockter  
Harold Schenck  
Gwen Tumberg  
Dave Egge  
Mary Iverson (Rosie's niece)  
Corey Bang  
Pat (Nosal) Kvidt  
Linda Fleith's grandson

And all who are affected or have been affected with COVID-19 virus or other struggles in life.  
***(If you know of someone you would like on the prayer list, would you please get permission from them or their family, as some people are very private.)***

**SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY**

Barrera, Murphy---USAF  
Barfield, Beau---USN

Garza, Mario---US



**We are selling long sleeve red t-shirts with the faith cross and St. James UCC on them.** The cost for adult sizes are \$22/shirt and youth \$20/shirt. The shirts are available in the office and can be purchased at any time. We will be encouraging all to wear their shirts the first Sunday of the month to worship service if you wish! See Pastor or Tammy for any other questions. All sizes available or we can get what you need.



It's that time of year again where **we are collecting Guild Dues of \$10 for the year of 2023!** Dues can be marked and put in the offering plate, put in the envelopes in the pews designated for them, or mailed in to the church.

## **Board of Trustees Minutes Sunday, January 8, 2022**

The St. James UCC Board of Trustees met two Sundays in a row in January to cover their agenda, Both Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m.

**Call to Order:** The meetings were called to order by Moderator, Chuck Anderson.

**Members Present:** Chuck Anderson, Kristal Rick, Bob Holland, Wanda Odness, Greg Odness, Sawyer Ernst, Paul Randall and Ione Hammer. **Members Absent:** Jim Martodam and Robert Hovland

**Adoption of Agenda:** Motion by Kristal to approve the agenda on January 8th, second by Paul. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion by Greg to approve the Secretary's report, second by Paul. Motion carried.

**Office Manager's Finance Report:** Tammy had sent financial reports for the General Fund and Building fund. Inflows for the month of December were \$10,185 and Expenses for the month were \$10,140.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor gave a full report. At the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting Pastor Jim reminded the board of the need to purchase a laptop for the office manager, for more flexibility and to upgrade. Motion by Ione to use the \$1683 in the UCC Dream Fund for this purpose, seconded by Greg. Motion carried. At the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting Pastor Jim brought a proposal to the board seeking authorization to purchase a laptop for the Pastor, as he has been using Greg Odness' personal laptop and needs to return it. This laptop will move the new Pastor when one is hired. Total cost for the laptop, software and insurance is estimated at \$1700. An updated tablet would be helpful as well. He stressed the need of both for posting the online services and transferring the Sunday Service to the City's public channel, as well as Confirmation Class, outreach to members, Sermons, services and much more. Motion by Greg, to pull \$2200 from non-designated Memorial for these devices, seconded by Wanda. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **A. Committees**

##### **1. Reports**

- i. Staff Parish** – Kristal reported they had met and recommended a 5% pay increase for employees. She mentioned the proposed reduction of the board size, and they discussed which members would stay on and the necessary meetings each year.
- ii. Diaconate** – report was included.
- iii. RE Board**- report was included.
- iv. Buildings & Grounds** –Still working on getting the sidewalk on the west side of the church removed.
- v. Finance Committee** – brought a 2023 Proposed Budget. They will meet to review and prepare the financial report for the Annual Report.

- vi. **Search Committee/Group** – Paul had received the resume and contact information from the Conference for an interested Applicant. They had helped him set up a Zoom call for Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> along with a pre-call to discuss questions and a plan for the interview. He was doing a good job keeping the Board of Trustees updated and encouraged those not already on the Search Committee to participate if interested and Chuck was inviting some younger members also.
- vii. **Worship Committee** – have not met
- viii. **Kitchen Committee** – Chuck brought a bid from RM Thune LLC for the board to review. They agreed to put a proposal together for the Annual meeting and send it out for members

**Board of Trustee Minutes Continued....**

to review prior to the meeting. Discussed having a commercial kitchen and having Certified People. Some members are already certified.

- B. **AV System** – Need a job description written up for the AV Director and discussed an AV Committee.
- C. **Keypad/Locking of Church Doors Update** – still looking for someone to install it on the south door. Discussed having a backup handle so if we try to install it again and have the same issues, we have a backup so are able to lock it.
- D. **2023 Budget** – Kristal brought a proposed 2023 budget updated with the proposed 5% salary increase for staff and actual totals for Pastor insurance, utilities, etc. Motion to approve the 2023 Budget of \$143,930, by Paul, second by Greg. Motion carried.
- E. **Nominating Committee** – Chuck reviewed the boards and committees and those who are going off and any who have expressed interest so far. The ballot will likely not be filled by the annual meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **Snow Removal** - Chuck and Philip Rogers would like to move the snow pile from the parking lot. Chuck asked Kristal to talk to Jason as a City of Barnesville contact, about hauling our snow pile to the lot behind Assumption Church where they are dumping their snow.  
**Constitution** – After discussion at the last meeting about finding members to serve on boards and committees, Pastor had brought a proposal for changes to the Constitution pertaining to board and committee member requirement and how it should reflect the size and makeup of our church membership. He also mentioned the Board of Trustees should serve on the other boards as adhoc members to report back to the Trustees. Motion to bring the proposed changes to the Congregation at the annual meeting by Paul, seconded by Kristal. Motion carried. The proposed changes will be summarized and sent out ahead of time to members to review prior to the Annual meeting, as any change to the constitution requires a Congregational vote.
- B. **Other** – The board agreed to move the meeting from Sunday, January 22 to the alternate date of Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> as they had a few items on the agenda and they wanted to get information sent out ahead of time for Members to review and as Tammy had a family funeral and was out the week prior to the 22nd, so final preparation of the annual report would be difficult. It will be held in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 am on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**C. Special thank you to those Trustee members who are finishing a term and going off the board: Jim Martodam and Robert Hovland**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm on January 8<sup>th</sup> and at 1: 05 pm on January 15<sup>th</sup>, followed by the Lord's Prayer

**Next Meeting Date:** Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:15.  
Respectively submitted by Kristal Rick



***We are in ministry together- Per capita Annual Dues are Due to St. James***

The Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ is our partner in bringing ministry to people across the state with programs and services that helps our congregation be a faithful witness to the Still Speaking God. Through our support of the Per Capita Annual Dues, Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), and other Special Offerings, we make a difference – together!

***Per Capita Annual Dues***

Each year, our congregation along with all other UCC congregations in the state, are asked to pay \$10 per person in our church to support the covenantal ministries of the Minnesota Conference. 100% of these funds are used for:

- Congregational support during times of leadership transition
- Assistance with interim ministry
- Help in the pastoral search and call process
- Supporting pastors as they navigate their ministry in your church

**We would ask, if you are able, to pay \$10.00 for each person in your family, to help with the work of the United Church of Christ in Minnesota- inclusive of our congregation. If you are able to- whether by check, or in a marked envelop or through on-line giving- that you are choosing to give to "Per Capita Annual Dues." Thank you.**



***"All Are Welcome Here At St. James UCC"***





Attention all members of 2023 boards and committees! We will be having an installation for all members of 2023 boards and committees on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, during worship service. We encourage all of you to attend!



We will be having a Drive-Thru Blessing of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the south entrance. We will also be having an Ash Wednesday Worship Service that evening at 7:00 p.m. for all! Join us as we begin our journey in faith together!



We will be participating again in the SLED HOCKEY fundraiser for HOPE Inc! We are getting together a team for Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>/Palm Sunday, in the afternoon. All ages are welcome to participate! It is a wonderful opportunity for us to have FUN while fundraising for a wonderful cause! If you are interested in participating, or know someone who might be, please sign up in the church office. More information to come!

**RE Board Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**11:30 a.m.**

**Present:** Jenna Crabtree, Rita Nosal, Denise Frederick, Dianne Cihak, Deb Levenson

**Absent:** Cathy Olson

**Treasure Balance:** \$7,957.41

**Old Business:**

**Christmas Program:** The kids and the leaders did a wonderful job bringing us the Christmas message. The RE board served pizza and Santa was there.

**New Business:**

**Sunday January 22, Annual Meeting:** Sunday School will not have Music but they will be doing a Valentine project to take to the residents at the Golden Manor Assisted Living.

**Family Movie Day:** Sunday February 5 at 1:30 at the Marcus Theatre behind West Acres. The movie is SMALLFOOT - sign up in the church office if you plan to go. All are welcome!

**Noisy Coin Collection:** The First Sunday in February and the first Sunday in March will go to Hope Inc.

**Sled Hockey:** Fundraiser for Hope Inc. - we will participate on Sunday April 2nd/Palm Sunday. All those interested please sign up in the church office. All are welcome !

**Next Meeting: Sunday February 5, 2023 at 11:30 AM**  
**Submitted by Secretary Deb Levenson**



## **Diaconate Board Meeting** **January 8, 2023 at 10:45 a.m.**

Present: Kya Anderson, Mary Lien, Ardys Randall, Don Cornell, Rylee Anderson, Taylor Karger, Phillip Rogers

Absent: Brad Hammer & Scott Erdmann

### **STANDARD ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

1. Cards –
2. Baptisms – 0
3. Weddings - 0
4. Funerals – 0
5. Communion- .2
6. Greeters-
7. Home Communion – Pastor Jim making calls/contacts.
8. Ushering-
9. Worship-
10. Alter Roses –
11. Coffee Hour-

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Review board terms for board members and make suggestions if you have any for replacements

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Review the sheet of Diaconate Duties and make corrections/additions to be changed for the annual report. Sent corrections to church office to be updated
- Work on getting calendar posted by library with alter cloth schedule for Year
- Bob Hovland Elevator Training – possible to combine with walkthrough on February 5<sup>th</sup> (Rylee will reach out)
- Discuss orientation of new board members
- Don, Jennifer, and Phillips positions to be filled
- Thank you to Don for his long and helpful commitment to the board
- Possible quick meeting following annual meeting if every is in attendance

- Plan for Feb 5th to be the large walk through, introduction and discussion of the roles and responsibilities
- 4 people all the time doing offering (rediscuss for summer months)
- Pews need to be checked and refreshed by deacons before service
- Offering envelopes for year round (pastor looking into -4 envelopes per pew)
- Start showing monthly budget and have a tracking method so we can stay up to date with our spending
- Note for decorating next year: To assemble Christmas tree we need to find outlet adapters first then connect the letters. Look into typing up instructions for box so everyone knows
- Need to make more loaves for communion or discuss what we plan to do when frozen ones run out (have a few left still)

**Next meeting to be held on February, 5th at 10:45 a.m.**

Submitted by: Kya Anderson



A reminder that the 2023 Guild Booklets are available to be picked up in Fellowship Hall or in the office. Please sign the sheet when you pick yours up or for whomever you are taking books for so we can keep track. Thank you!



Thank you to all who attended our 2022 Annual Meeting held on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A special thanks to those who helped in the kitchen and those who stayed for the potluck! Thank you to all members who served on boards in the past year for your time and service. We welcome those who are beginning a new year on a board or committee as well! Thanks to the staff, the board of trustees, and to each and every one of you for all you do, have done, or continue to do for your church



If you were unable to attend the Annual meeting and would like a report, there are copies in the office that can be picked up or mailed out. We can also email it to you. Any other questions, feel free to contact the office.



If anyone wishes to have a yearly contribution report printed out, please let the office know and we will be happy to do that for you.



**We will be having a Bible Study on Wednesday evenings during the Lenten season. The Bible Study will be focused on “The Lord’s Prayer”. This will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. every Wednesday night beginning Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.** You do not need to be present every week, there will be materials available for you if you are unable. **We ask that you please sign up in the office if you plan to attend so we**

**have enough people to hold this and also that we have materials for everyone!** We are excited to have you join us!

## **Women's Guild Meeting Minutes**

**January 11, 2023, 1:00 PM**

**St. James UCC**

The meeting was called to order by President Brenda Cypher. Officers present were Brenda Cypher, Linda Rice, Irene Schenck, and Ardys Randall. Total of 5 in attendance.

A motion to approve **the agenda** was made by Ardys Randall and a second by Linda Rice.

**Secretary's report** was read by Ardys Randall. Motion to approve by Irene Schenck and a second by Linda Rice.

**Correspondence** received was a thank you from Pastor Jim and Jayanthi Wilson for the Christmas gift given by the Guild to them.

**Treasurer's report** was read by Irene Schenck. Our balance is \$12,413.41 which includes an amount set aside to go toward kitchen fund. Motion to approve by Ardys Randall and a second by Linda Rice.

### **Committee Report:**

- **Rugs and Quilts:** Six quilts are to be given to Valley Lakes Boy's Home now and another 6 will be given in the fall. Six quilts will be given this spring to Someplace Safe. A total of 36 quilts are near ready, as 31 are finished, to be given to the Valley Care Center in Barnesville. Replacements will be as needed for the residents.
- **Kitchen Committee:** Work is scheduled to begin in February on remodeling the kitchen. The architect has been paid by the church. We had drawings to view to see the layout of the project.

**Old Business:** There was no old business.

### **New Business:**

- Discussion concerning moving the money the Guild has raised for the kitchen project to the church's kitchen account was held. More interest would be made on the money. A motion to write a check for \$1401.00 was made by Ardys Randall and a second by Linda Rice.
- We now have an address for sending the previously proposed donation of \$500.00 to the Ukraine and a check will be sent.
- The report for the Guild has been sent in to be included with the Annual Report.
- Information for the 2023 Guild Booklets has been updated. We should have the new books by end of February.
- Conversation with Duane Morey to discuss options for food preparation and serving at the church for funerals was done. The Guild will serve family catered lunches, otherwise provide a light lunch and serve for a suggested donation. No one will be refused due to costs.
- City wide garage sales will be May 6 and September 16. Bazaars will be at that time.

**Next meeting** will be Feb. 15 or Feb. 22. The Plan is to arrange to carpool to Pelican Rapids to have a prepared lunch with Elaine Olson and Eleanor Siggerud.

**Naomi Circle serves next upcoming function.**  
**Martha Circle serves Fellowship in February**

**Motion to adjourn** made by Irene Schenck. A second by Linda Rice.  
Respectively submitted,  
Ardys Randall, Secretary



We are searching for volunteers to read a short reading and light the Lenten Candles on Sundays during Lenten worship service. Let the office or Pastor know if you would be willing. **Please consider helping out.**

***Family Movie Day provided FUN for all ages! Thank you to the RE Board for purchasing the tickets for the families to enjoy the movie "SMALLFOOT" on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at Marcus Theatres!***



## **\$ Automated Giving \$**

St. James has implemented the options for online and mobile giving with a credit or debit card! **Give it a try!** Here is how:

**Online:** Visit the St. James website at <https://www.stjamesuccmn.org> and click on the “give” button in the upper right-hand corner.

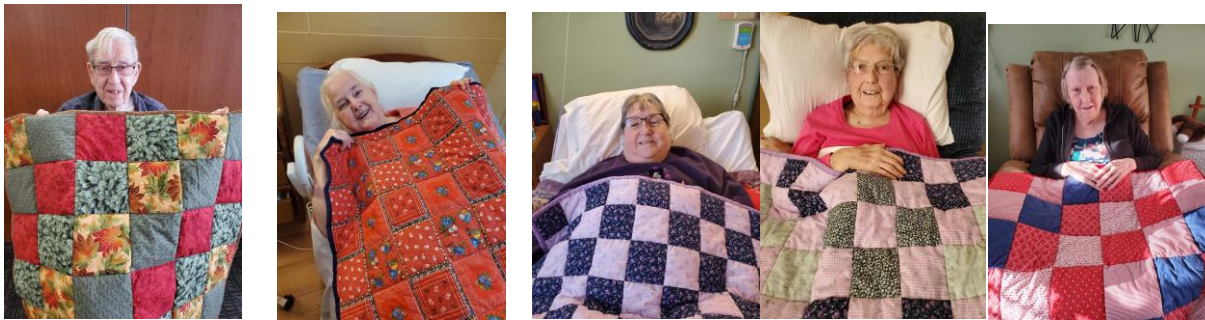
**Mobile:** Visit the app store and search for **SecureGive Vision**, and download it. The first time signing up, the church must be chosen. Search for St. James United Church of Christ, as there are several St. James churches around the country. Once the church is selected, the donation information will appear. **Give it a try!**

**Services can be viewed at:** Link to the church’s YouTube channel to view. Use this link to see all the past videos: <http://rcl.in/LPT> or link to the live stream: <http://rcl.in/5an> **Visit Us on Facebook, St James UCC**, for updates and photos on what we have been up to and also for upcoming dates and events!

### ***Rugs & Quilts have been at it again!***

***They are working together, having fun, enjoying talents and laughs, while doing good things for others. Once again we are St. James PROUD!***

**They recently donated 34 quilts to Valley Care Center here in Barnesville so that each resident will feel their own warmth from St. James UCC. This will be an on-going mission for them as residents come and go, new quilts will be given to new residents as well. The photos below are just a few of some of the happy faces of those who were given quilts!**



**In addition to their wonderful works and ongoing efforts, they are also pursuing many other great works. They will be donating six quilts in the spring and six quilts in the fall as needed to the Valley Lake Boys Home in Breckenridge, MN. This is a residence for boys of various ages. They are also working with Someplace Safe in Fergus Falls, MN, an area crisis center for adults and children. They will be donating six quilts to them to give to those who are going through crisis and could use some extra comfort or warmth. This will also be done on an ongoing basis in the future. The Rugs & Quilts meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Join them in the FUN!**