

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Special Thank You to Kristin Rodenberg and everyone who donated and volunteered to make our rummage sale such a great success! We raised over \$2,000 to help our youth with National Youth Gathering expenses.

NEW Food Pantry Driver Needed – contact Linda, steward@stjamesjohnston.org for complete job description.

August has 5 Sundays and every month with a fifth Sunday, the Global Missions Team collects offerings for the Ivuga Parish and its 8 sub-parishes. You can donate at: www.stjamesjohnston.org or drop offerings off at the church. If you use Simply Giving, email Linda with a one-time withdrawal request. Thank you for your support!

Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, September 2, 6:00pm: Fall Kick-Off Picnic. Grilled hot dogs & brats, live music, bounce house, lawn games and more. Don't miss the fun! Sign up here if you plan to attend: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-64948502-fall#/> You are welcome to bring a side or dessert.
- September 21, 2026, 5:30 pm: International Day of Peace at The Peace Garden at Cowles Commons (313 Walnut St. Des Moines). "Invest in Peace for Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday". The keynote speaker will be Rev. John Tyson, Pastor at Plymouth UCC. Music will be provided by Des Moines Singing Resistance. The service will express a vision of peace and a position against war shared by all faith traditions. We will renew our commitment to be instruments of God's peace. This year it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies, and that the urgent work of peace-making is essential to the survival and well-being of humanity. Rain location will be Capital Hill Lutheran Church (511 Des Moines St.)

Wednesday Nights in August... Our Christian Neighbors

Pizza@6pm, Conversation@6:30pm

- August 26 Pastor Debbie Griffin of Downtown Disciples, DOC
(FYI: Pastor Debbie is married to Pastor Bill)

Connections Wednesdays, beginning in September. All are welcome!

- **Let's Play Hearts** (The Card Game) — Beginners and Old Pros Welcome, Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-64920625-connections#/>
- **Book/Movie Club** — I've Read that Book/I've Seen that Movie/Let's talk about it! Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA4AF22A7F58-64920875-connections#/>

Prayer of the Day

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. ² Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³ For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ. Paul writes...

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Prayers of Intercession

With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation...

God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

What's Happening

August 19-21

- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
 6:00pm Community meal (freewill donations)
 6:30pm *Conversations with Our Christian Neighbors:*
 Susan Simms, Communications Director Iowa &
 Western Illinois Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day
 Saints
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee
 5:30pm Embroiderer's Guild
- Friday Church Offices Closed

August 22-28

- Saturday 5:00pm Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
- Sunday 9:30am Worship In-Person & Facebook Live
 10:30am Fellowship
- Monday 9:00am Bible Study in person
 10:30am Chair Yoga
- Tuesday 7:00am Men's Breakfast Group at HyVee
 9:00am Online Bible Study ([Connect Here](#))
 8:00pm AA meeting, all are welcome
- Wednesday 10:30am Chair Yoga
 6:00pm Community meal (freewill donations)
 6:30pm *Conversations with Our Christian Neighbors:*
 Debbie Griffin, Pastor of Downtown Disciples
 (FYI, Debbie is wife of Pastor Bill)
- Thursday 9:00am Women's Coffee
- Friday Church Offices Closed

Celebrations August 22-28:

Birthdays: Deneen Dygert, John Swift, Eugene Roberts, Steve Wonder, Abby Mulligan

Anniversaries: None

Connect with Us!

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(515) 276-0134 – Steward@StJamesJohnston.org

www.StJamesJohnston.org Here you can connect to:

- Our online service and our online giving portal
- Our calendar
- Our Online Bible Study
- Our staff and much more!

Text Pastor Bill at 515.669.7631 or Email Pastor Bill at Pastor@StJamesJohnston.org

First time visitor? Email Pastor for a Welcome gift.

