

**ST. JAMES WEST**  
**United Methodist Church**

3101 HILLCREST TERRACE  
EVANSVILLE, INDIANA 47712

PHONE (812) 425-7405  
FAX (812) 425-4455

www.stjameswest.com

**Staff**

**Gene Backes**

*Pastor*

Gene@stjameswest.com

**Rick Poelhuis**

*Music Director*

Music@stjameswest.com

**Ashley Lancaster**

*Children's Ministry Director*

Kids@stjameswest.com

**Bart Blalock**

*Youth Ministry Director*

Youth@stjameswest.com

**Jennifer O'Neil**

*Preschool/Mother's Morning Out  
Director*

Preschool@stjameswest.com

**Beth Nelson**

*Office Manager*

Beth@stjameswest.com

**Debbie Tucker**

*Office Assistant*

Debbie@stjameswest.com

**Jeremy Hoesli**

*Tech Team Coordinator*

TechTeam@stjameswest.com

**Kathy & Gary Cummings**

*Custodians*



*Real People.*

*Real Life.*

*Real God.*

# THE WEST WIND

A publication of St. James West United Methodist Church



VOLUME 24, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2020

## Difficult Decisions

On Thursday, November 19th I made a difficult decision. For the second time this year our worship services have gone virtual only. The reasoning of this second closing of our sanctuary is threefold:

- 1) Our Bishop for the United Methodist Church of Indiana strongly recommended this action;
- 2) The statistics for Evansville for the COVID-19 virus are much worse than in March when we closed the first time;
- 3) We have the option of virtual worship.

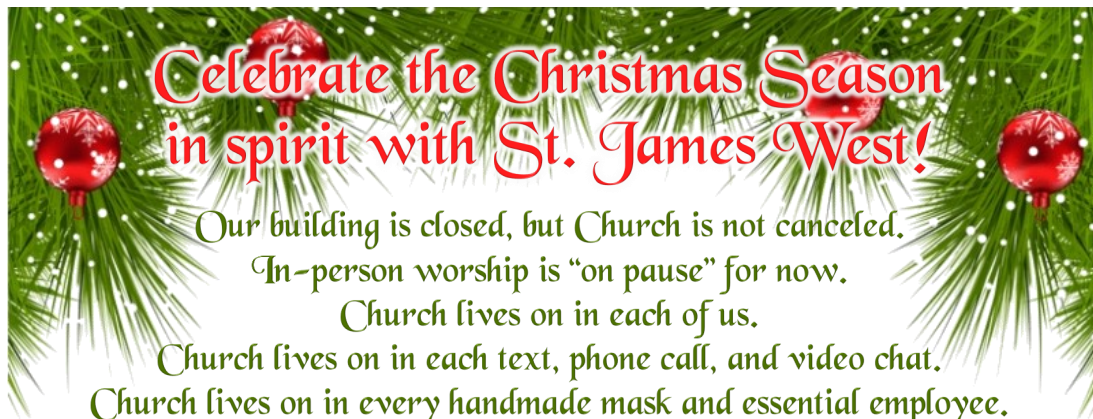
Usually I have no problem in making decisions. With the leading of the Holy Spirit I consider all the options, weighing the advantages/disadvantages of each, and then decide. It really is pretty simple. At least most of the time, in this particular case the proper decision was not obvious. A lot of factors, a lot of varying opinions among our Administrative Council, differing viewpoints among Pastors whose Godly opinion I value, very well thought out viewpoints on both sides. And above all my desire to faithfully shepherd each of you. I must, must, must always be true to the Word of God, love God, and love you!

I know that I will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and give an accounting for each one of you. My decision to temporarily close our Sanctuary is probably the most difficult decision I have faced as your Pastor. Please know that we are working diligently to creatively lead during this time. Please know that God is still on the throne.

I am asking that during this period of time each of us think of others in our church family and pray for each other. Share the love of Christ! **-Blessings, Gene**



**Gene Backes, Pastor**



## December

### Birthdays

1	Riley Kremer
2	Ashley Lancaster
6	Jean Bailey
9	Randy Toelle
10	Elsie Seifert
11	Delayna Backes
13	Helen Seifert
14	Abbie Bennett, Susan Pressley
16	Bonnie Toone
17	Fawna Martin, Emily Williams
19	Gene Backes, Casey McDonald, Tony Ricketts
20	John Deem, Harper Lamble, Anna Logsdon
21	Kim Gibson
23	Adam Roehr
24	Carol Bittrolff
25	Jesus, Katherine Wilson
28	Mark Mitchell, II
29	Andrew Craig, Isaiah Egan, Janice Peckenpough, Don Utley, Angie Wilson
31	Debi Doninger

## Change of Plans

Due to the current impact of COVID in our community, St. James West is suspending the following activities until further notice:

- All Sunday in-person worship services and children's classes.
- All Mondays With God meals, worship services, and children's classes.
- The Christmas Eve in-person service is *tentatively* canceled.
- The Crusaders' Class has decided to cancel meetings for the time being.

The following activities will remain open:

- Preschool/Mother's Morning Out/Little Learners classes.
- CFC reservations/rentals currently on the calendar. No new reservations will be taken at this time.

The online worship service will be available each Sunday morning on the St. James West Facebook page and YouTube channel. Sign up for Remind text messaging to receive notifications when the most recent service is available for viewing.

Updates on any changes to our regular in-person worship and activities will be posted via Remind, Facebook, and on our website [www.stjameswest.com](http://www.stjameswest.com).

### It's easy to receive notifications about St. James West online worship services and church activities with Remind!

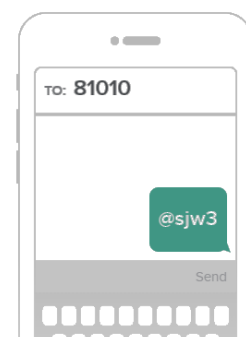
#### If you have a smartphone, get push notifications:

On your iPhone or Android phone, open your web browser and go to the following link: [rmd.at/sjw3](http://rmd.at/sjw3) and follow the instructions to sign up for Remind. You'll be prompted to download the mobile app.

#### If you don't have a smartphone, get text notifications\*:

Text the message @sjw3 to the number 81010. If you're having trouble with 81010, text @sjw3 to (618) 576-6137. *\*Standard text message rates apply.*

Don't have a mobile phone? Go to [rmd.at/sjw3](http://rmd.at/sjw3) on a desktop computer to sign up for email notifications.



## In Memoriam

**Adam Spaetti** passed away on November 14, 2020. Adam is the son of Pat Nance.

**Wanda Bull** passed away on November 22, 2020. Wanda is a member of St. James West.

**Bill Ditterline** passed away November 23, 2020. Bill is a member of St. James West.

## St. James West By the Numbers

### Apportionment

(January–October 2020)

Conference ..... \$19,430.00

District..... \$2,331.00

### General Fund

(Year-to-date weekly average)

2019..... \$4,591.00

2020 ..... \$4,516.00

% Change ..... -1.6%

Weekly Average	October 2019	October 2020	% Change
General Fund	\$4,807.00	\$4,085.00	-15%

ST. JAMES WEST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**DECEMBER 2020\***

*\*All in-person worship services and children's church activities are suspended until further notice.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Key:</b> ADR-Alpha Domus Room CFC-Christian Family Center FH-Fellowship Hall MMO-Mother's Morning Out PS-Preschool WC-Welcome Center		<b>1</b> 5:30-6:30a Men's Group 8:45-11:30a PS/MMO 5-8p CFC Reserved	<b>2</b> 8:45-11:30a PS/MMO 6-8p Student Ministry (CFC 2nd Floor) 6-8p Pickleball (CFC)	<b>3</b> 8:45-11:30a PS/MMO 5-8p CFC Reserved	<b>4</b> 8a-12p Pickleball (CFC)	<b>5</b>
<b>6 Communion</b> 1-3p CFC Reserved 4-5:30p CFC Reserved 6-9p CFC Reserved	<b>7 Communion</b> 8a-12p Pickleball (CFC) 7-9p AA Meeting (CFC)	<b>8</b> 5:30-6:30a Men's Group 8:45-11:30a PS/MMO 5-8p CFC Reserved	<b>9</b> 8:45-11:30a PS/MMO 6-8p Student Ministry (CFC 2nd Floor) 6-8p Pickleball (CFC)	<b>10</b> 8:45-11:30a PS/MMO 5-8p CFC Reserved	<b>11</b> 8a-12p Pickleball (CFC)	<b>12</b> 3-9p CFC Reserved
<b>13</b> 1-3p CFC Reserved 4-5:30p CFC Reserved 6-9p CFC Reserved	<b>14</b> 8a-12p Pickleball (CFC) 7-9p AA Meeting (CFC)	<b>15</b> 5:30-6:30a Men's Group 8:45-11:30a PS/MMO 5-8p CFC Reserved	<b>16</b> 8:45-11:30a PS/MMO 6-8p Student Ministry (CFC 2nd Floor) 6-8p Pickleball (CFC)	<b>17</b> 8:45-11:30a PS/MMO 5-8p CFC Reserved	<b>18</b> 8a-12p Pickleball (CFC)	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 1-3p CFC Reserved 4-5:30p CFC Reserved 6-9p CFC Reserved	<b>21</b> 8a-12p Pickleball (CFC) 7-9p AA Meeting (CFC)	<b>22</b> 5:30-6:30a Men's Group	<b>23</b> 6-8p Student Ministry (CFC 2nd Floor) 6-8p Pickleball (CFC)	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> 12-7p CFC Reserved  Office closed	<b>25 Christmas</b> 12-6p CFC Reserved  Office closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8a-12p Pickleball (CFC) 7-9p AA Meeting (CFC)	<b>29</b> 5:30-6:30a Men's Group 5-8p CFC Reserved	<b>30</b> 6-8p Student Ministry (CFC 2nd Floor) 6-8p Pickleball (CFC)	<b>31 New Years Eve</b>		



3101 Hillcrest Terrace  
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**December 2020**

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