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Issue: April 2021

A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

# The Messenger

## He is Risen. He is Risen, Indeed.

We will begin our worship services on Easter Sunday with this familiar call and response. This is a season of celebration as we all make our way to the empty tomb, and we wonder what resurrection means in the age of COVID19. I am in awe of Mary Magdalene who travels to the grave in the early morning hours of that day of days. Seeing the stone rolled away, she returns to the disciples to tell them about this incredible new development. Mary was the first missionary of the resurrection, telling others there was something special going on in the graveyard. She did not completely grasp the significance of the moment on her first visit to the tomb, so, she returns again and soon encounters the risen Jesus. He calls her by name, and through tear-soaked eyes, she recognizes her risen

Rabbi. Jesus tells her she cannot remain at the open tomb holding on to him; she must go and tell the others what she has seen.

The scripture seems to tell us we must all make our way back to the tomb in our own lives, but we cannot stay there. Jesus is risen, and we still have work to do. This is the greatest story ever told, and we have to share the good news with others; Jesus is alive! I guarantee there is someone in your life who needs to hear this wonderful truth this week. I appreciate this prayer from the Church of Scotland and hope it is a blessing to you throughout this Easter season.

“Lord Jesus Christ, we greet you. The cross has not defeated you, the grave has not kept you silent. At the first dew of the morning, you met our sister, Mary, and called her by name.

We are your family and friends, and though numbed by your death and aware of our complicity in it, We come hesitantly but gladly, to confirm the rumor that you are alive.

Meet us as you met Mary, with gentleness and resolution. Speak our names quietly in our hearts, that we may proclaim your name boldly on our lips. Amen.”

In Hope and Confidence,  
Pastor Dave

*Common Order (1994), 440-41. Copyright Panel on Worship, Church of Scotland.*

## Session Snippets

March 15, 2021 meeting

Session continues conversation about resuming activities and worship at St. Mark. As vaccinations increase and local restrictions are loosened, ongoing evaluations are being made.

Everyone is anxious to “get back to normal” but still be mindful of consideration for everyone and extenuating circumstances. More details and plans will be announced in the next month or so.

Meanwhile, there are many plans going forward for outdoor worship, activities, concerts, and fellowship.

## DOORS

### Which Church Door is Which?

Here is how to remember – You know the order of the Gospels: Matthew Mark Luke John, correct? Okay, **Matthew** is the door that is closest to Claymont Dr. - near the parking lot on the left as you drive onto the church grounds. Then think counterclockwise. Moving that direction, around the cross and stained-glass window is **Mark**, the next door. Mark is closest to the office entrance and elevator-stairs to lower level. Continue the counterclockwise direction around the perimeter of the church. The next door is **Luke**, which leads to the education wing. Then continuing all the way around (and behind) the church is the door labeled **John**. This is near the hidden back parking lot, by the children’s playground. Remember, the Gospel names and think counterclockwise around perimeter of the church!

### Other Features Found in this Newsletter:

- Little Dresses
- Pentecostal Offerings
- Red Cross Blood Donations
- Mulch the Landscape - Green Ups
- Mission Committee Work/Drive-Throughs
- Various Recycle collections in Foyer
- USA Flag retirement project
- Information on Charitable Giving
- Claymont Summer Preschool
- Spiritual Morning Stroll - Fridays
- Lenten Water Challenge
- Presbyterian Women Retreat
- Mound Ridge Camp Fundraiser

### May Messenger

Published on Friday, April 30  
Deadline for articles - Thursday, April 22  
Send to: [newsletter@discoverstmark.org](mailto:newsletter@discoverstmark.org)

## Little Dresses Update



466 dresses and 16 pairs of shorts are on their way to CONVOY OF HOPE to be distributed in Haiti.

Since we began making dresses in 2014, 2776 dresses and 26 pairs of shorts have been distributed.

There are kits and instructions available in the Narthex. You can help in this ministry by sewing dresses or by donations of KING SIZE pillowcases, double fold bias tape (.25" wide"), L or XL tee shirts or money to purchase those items. (Please mark donation for LITTLE DRESSES and leave in PW box or give to Marybeth Powell or Sherry Naylor.)

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this ministry. Each dress makes a difference in the life of a child. Questions, call Sherry or Sara Levins. Check directory or call church for their phone numbers.

## Pentecost Special Offering April 5-23

The "season" of the Pentecost Special Offering officially begins April 5 and takes us to May 23. The special envelope will be in your April packet. This offering focuses on children at risk, youth and young adults. St. Mark retains 40% of the total collected and distributes that evenly to Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services and UKirk, which serves college students here in St. Louis.

## Red Cross Blood Drive Sunday, April 25

**Help save a Life.**



St Mark's next Blood Drive is on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM -1:30 PM, in Gleason Hall. Go to

<http://www.redcrossblood.org/Donate/Blood>.

Enter Saintmarkpres for an appointment.

All blood types are urged to give to support patients fighting cancer, needing life-saving surgeries and dealing with serious illnesses. Let's band together and take care of our community.

Blood donations are tested for COVID-19 antibodies. Have you received a vaccination? You will need to provide the manufacturer's name in order to donate. **Usually, no deferral time for those who received a COVID-19 vaccine. Donor just has to be symptom free and feeling well at time of donation.**

## Green Ups

All hands are welcome at 8:30 am on Saturday, **April 24** to help spread mulch in the landscape beds at church. Bring your gloves, shovel or rake and come help make the church grounds look beautiful.

## The Work of St. Mark Mission Committee

continues to coordinate and host **drive-through donation drop-offs** for our core mission partners once a month in the St. Mark parking lot. We will continue to practice COVID-19 safety protocols for these contactless events. Behind our masks we are smiling with the joy of being in service to others and our gloved hands are warmed by your generosity!



## Ukirk Students Spring Sustenance

**THANK YOU!**

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, the drive through donation for UKirk students collected \$700+ and 5 boxes of “spring sustenance” items including DoorDash gift cards, microwave popcorn, mac-n-cheese, and other goodies.



Pastor Max, Executive Director of Ukirk St. Louis, will deliver (safely distanced) the items in personalized care bundles to students. The gift cards are especially appreciated since college students’ food preferences are quite diverse, and they really love selecting their food through DoorDash.

**UKirk** Established in 2015 in St. Louis as a ministry of the Presbytery of Giddings - Lovejoy. UKirk is a worshipping community for college students that worships, plays, and performs service work. Bill Tucker is St. Mark’s liaison to [ukirkstl.org](http://ukirkstl.org)

## April’s Drive-Through Drop Off for



**April 18, 1-3pm**

### Collecting:

- For easy shopping on Amazon: [Lafayette Industries Wish List](#)
- Disinfecting wipes
- Latex disposable gloves – size large
- Nitrile or Latex-free disposable gloves – size large
- Gallon-size hand sanitizer pumps
- Lunch Sponsors – \$10 will sponsor an employee for a free healthy lunch (free Lunch is our employees’ favorite day). Please include “Lafayette Industries” on the memo line of your check written to St. Mark.

St. Mark member, Ken McLuen, was the very 1<sup>st</sup> employee at Lafayette Industries and is still going strong into his 45<sup>th</sup> year of employment! His parents, Bob and Ethel McLuen, Bob and Boots Berry and several other members of St. Mark founded Lafayette Work Center in 1976. Their mission is to provide meaningful, productive, and long-lasting careers in the packaging industry to adults with developmental disabilities.

An employee of Lafayette Industries was featured on the Today Show in early March – click here to watch his inspiring story: [Pioneer Bakery and Café employs adults with special needs \(today.com\)](#)

**Lafayette Industries** - Rob Libera,  
Executive Director  
Pam Ladley and Chris Polak –  
St. Mark’s liaisons

## Isaiah 58 Ministries Most Wanted



The most wanted items are: toilet paper, laundry detergent, and shampoo.

**Donations may be placed in the bin in the foyer at St. Mark when the office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cash donations are welcomed via check to St. Mark Presbyterian Church with "Isaiah 58" on the memo line.** Isaiah 58 continues to serve guests outdoor in all weather conditions on their parking pad under pop-up tents and folding tables which are erected, collapsed, and stored each day. This is challenging, but it maximizes the safety of volunteers and guests against the spread of Covid-19 and enables services to continue.

## Recycling

**AND We are still collecting...**

WHAT? How about those pull off tabs on cans? And old keys! Bring your pile to church and add them to the marked baskets in foyer near the office by the Mark door. They will go to Ronald McDonald House to be recycled. **And** the youth still want your hard plastic lids.

## Summer Session Opportunity

### For Claymont Preschoolers

We hope your preschoolers will join us for more fun this Summer. Summer Session will be for three weeks, June 7 – June 25, Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 9:00 to 12:00. It is for children 2 to 5 years who are attending Claymont Preschool. It is a developmentally appropriate program for learning and fun with structure similar to our normal preschool days with art, science, lesson and story times, and lots of outside time on the new playground, weather permitting. For more information, please contact Lynne at [ldauve@DiscoverStMark.org](mailto:ldauve@DiscoverStMark.org).

## American Flag Retirement Ceremony



I, Jack, member of Boy Scout Troop 631 and St. Mark Church, am collecting unserviceable American flags that are ready to be retired. If you are in possession of worn-out flags, there is a collection box in the foyer by the 'Mark' door, accessible when the Church is open Tuesdays and Thursdays.

You are also **invited** to a public Flag Retirement Ceremony on **Sunday, April 11, 2021, at 2 pm** on the upper St Mark parking lot (weather and Covid-permitting). Please bring a folding chair and wear a mask. We will require family units to remain socially distant from others.

## Giving to St. Mark

This is the 5th in a series of articles providing you additional ideas on giving to St. Mark. We began in:

- December with traditional giving
- January we discussed the benefits of using your IRA for giving
- February presented Donor Advised Funds (DAFs)
- March we introduced ways to use your will, trust and beneficiary designations for giving.

Depending on your current and future financial and philanthropic desires, there are other types of trusts that may be appropriate to consider. You may want to consider creating a

### Charitable Trust

You can name the charity (i.e.: St. Mark) as the sole beneficiary, or you can name a non-charitable beneficiary as well, splitting the beneficial interest (this is referred to as making a partial charitable gift). The most common types of trusts used to make partial gifts to charity are

the **Charitable Lead Trust** and the **Charitable Remainder Trust**.

Although both of these trusts have expenses and fees associated with the creation of the trust, they can be excellent estate planning vehicles.

**Charitable Lead Trust** pays income to a charity for a certain period of years, and then the trust principal passes back to you, your family members, or other heirs.

**Charitable Remainder Trust** first has trust income payable to you, your family members, or other heirs for a period of years, then the principal goes to your favorite charity (i.e.: St. Mark).

Always consult your financial planner, estate planning attorney, or tax professional to review the benefits to you and your family for using charitable trusts.

For further information or questions, please contact the St. Mark Finance Committee: Glenn Knopf, chair; Brian Sprague, Scott Collier, Carl Tenpas, Mark Caplinger, Hugh Smith, Cay Noble, Bob Snyder, Joyce Blackwell.

Stay tuned in April for our next topic

## Lenten Water Challenge

Our annual Lenten Water Challenge ends on Easter Sunday. We will dedicate the collected funds during the April 11<sup>th</sup> worship service.

Please address checks to St. Mark with **Lenten Water Challenge** in the memo line.

Giving Clean water is giving life!



## Resuming Spiritual Morning Strolls



“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I among them”. Matthew 18:20

Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the first day of our 2021 Spiritual Morning Stroll. Join other members every Friday for morning fellowship and a self-paced walk around the St. Mark Parking lot. A devotional will begin promptly at 7 am by the Cross in front of the church. At 7:25 am we meet at the cross for a closing prayer. Members may continue their morning walk after the closing prayer. One stroll around our parking lot equals one-third of a mile.

**Walking buddies welcome:** those with two feet and those with four feet on a leash. Please join us on Fridays.

WEATHER PERMITTING

....and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, .... but encouraging one another. Hebrew 10: 24-25

Sponsored by Deacon's Health and Wellness Committee

## MOUND RIDGE ANNUAL SPRING FUNDRAISER DINNER



Saturday April 10, 2021  
from 1pm to 4 pm

at The Venue at Maison Du Lac  
2603 Wild Plum Valley Rd, Catawissa, MO

Join us for Mound Ridge's Annual Spring Auction... well this year it is brunch! This years theme is "Diamonds and Denim".

Enjoy bidding on auction items, playing fun games, and relaxing at this beautiful venue (pictured). The venue is spacious and perfect for ensuring a safe, socially-distanced event. Masks are available upon arrival.

Tickets are \$65 per person which includes brunch. Tables can be up to 6 people (per venue and COVID-19 guidelines).

All proceeds of this fundraiser will go towards Mound Ridge's mission to provide a "discounted or cost free" outdoor summer camp experience to 180 underserved children.

For reservations or other fundraising options, visit [www.moundridge.org](http://www.moundridge.org)



**PIONEERING**  St. Mark Women's Virtual Retreat  
*A Faith Journey with Grit and Grace* February 26-27, 2021



*All from the comfort of home!*



-  **Trailblazing the Unknown: A Pioneer Woman's Faith** Wendi Lou Lee
-  **Grace for the Journey** Christine Polak
-  **Change of Pace...Baltering 101** Julie Northrip
-  **Grit for the Journey** Debbie Hames

