

Issue: November 2022

A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

Quarters for Church

I recently went on another college tour of the University of Missouri with my daughter, Amelia. At the end of the day, she asked me if walking around the campus with her made me feel young again. I told her it did quite the opposite; it made me feel very old. The world has changed a lot over my 48 years on this earth. Our kids give us puzzled looks when we reminisce about cassette tapes, big television antennas, or reading the local newspaper. In my mind's eye, this was only a few years ago, but it's as washed out and faded as old Polaroid picture. I think of all the days of the week, Sunday has changed the most.

The most common question in St. Louis is, "Where did you go to high school?" Growing up in Springfield, it was, "Where do you go to church?" We went to church early and often. This meant making the trip on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday nights. I

don't recall this being particularly unique since nearly everyone I knew did the same. Nowadays, most churches are fortunate to get members in for an hour of worship on Sunday. I remember putting on my best clothes, promising my mother that I wouldn't fight with my siblings, and racing off to Sunday school. Before I left, my dad would flip each of us a quarter for the offering. To the best of my recollection, I always gave it away willingly. One of my siblings, who is now a lawyer, *might* have pocketed it on occasion, but I always knew it wasn't for me. I put it in the offering plate happily.

Perhaps it's nostalgia, or the start of the stewardship season, that has me taking this trip down memory lane. Some might suggest it wasn't really my money after all; it belonged to my father. I suppose there's a lot of truth in this statement, but it's not an excuse; it's a truth to embrace. The Apostle Paul writes, "For from

him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory for ever" (Romans 11:36, NRSV.) When we lean into the truth that all we have and all we are is a gift from the Lord, we begin to see the world with the eyes of our heart. We begin to recognize our blessings, rejoice in all things, and respond with gratitude. As we move through stewardship season together, I encourage you to take some quiet time in prayer, think about your many gifts from God, and give to the work of the church with a thankful heart.

The world isn't slowing down, and change is constant in our lives. The good news we gather around every week in worship centers on the truth, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8, NRSV.) How can we keep from giving back?

In Hope and Confidence,
Pastor Dave

SESSION SNIPPETS

October 16, 2022

Session voted to resume Wednesday evening potlucks January-May 2023. It will be monthly, timing will accommodate the various Wednesday events, everyone will bring a dish, and various groups/committees will commit to “hosting” a particular month. Lots of details need to be worked out, so stay tuned...and dig out those favorite recipes to make and share!

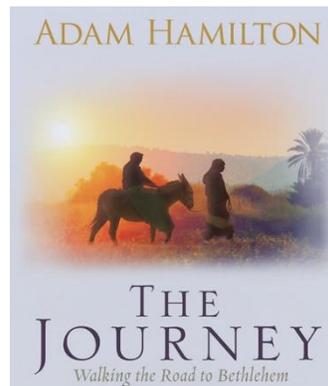
It's a busy time at St. Mark. Fall Festival was a great success with lots of new faces in the crowd. (Many thanks to everyone who helped make it happen.) There are all the Youth activities going on—check the Sunday Bulletin to keep up with them. The Christmas Boutique (November 8-9) will bring lots of activity and people into our building for two days. Stewardship will officially “end” on Giving Thanks Sunday, celebrating with a Thanksgiving meal with our St. Mark community. And then we're into Advent with special music, decorations, and sharing in multiple ways.

So, participate. Also take a deep breath and mark out some time for you—to be still, to be quiet, and to find the joy and peace Christ brings us.

OCTOBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday	Total Attendance
		In Person	Online	
October 1&2	9	114	94	217
October 8&9	9	114	95	218
October 15&16	22	113	54	189
October 22&23	16	105	52	173
October 29&30	20	104	52	176

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

November 4th and 11th,
December 2nd, 9th, and 16th

Join us on Friday mornings from 9:00-10:00 am online or in person room 102 as we journey with Adam Hamilton through the Advent season.

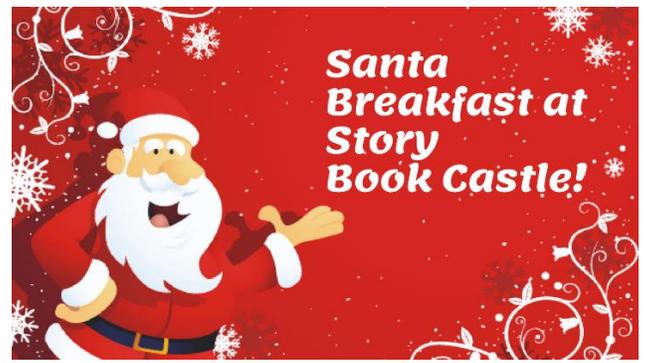
In *The Journey*, Adam Hamilton travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. As he did with Jesus' crucifixion in *24 Hours That Changed the World*, Hamilton once again approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness.

Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.

Contact Pastor MP to be added to the Friday morning Bible Study group email and to receive your Zoom link. mpanco@discoverstmark.org



After weeks of planning, combined with the efforts of many volunteers, the St. Mark Fall Festival was again a success! Many happy children and cheerful adults enjoyed a beautiful day on the campus of St. Mark entertained by rides on a tractor pulled wagon, and by climbing, sliding, and jumping on giant inflatables. As the blue-grass band Good Turn Daily was providing music, the Festival attendees watched the creation of balloon art, participated in craft projects, and enjoyed numerous games. The hot dogs were delicious, and the snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy and root beer floats were a hit. The Children's Ministry would like to thank all who contributed to the success of our Festival. It would have been impossible to achieve without all of you!



You're Invited to: **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!** Saturday, December 10, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Gleason Hall (Gym) at St. Mark Presbyterian Church for a morning of fun! We will serve pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, fruit, juice, milk, and coffee! (Free will offering) Activities include Storybook Castle, crafty projects for children, and a visit with Santa! This year we are featuring original Christmas stories and illustrations from some of our youngest writers. Check out our display at the Children's and Youth table in the Narthex and submit your story by November 15. Also, don't forget to bring hats, gloves and scarves to give to the kiddos at PCHAS (Presbyterian Children's Home and Services). Our Presbyterian Women will be selling some of their boutique items and we will have a Book Fair with proceeds going to Lydia's House and other local missions. Follow Candy Cane Lane to the Storybook Castle for all the activities!

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

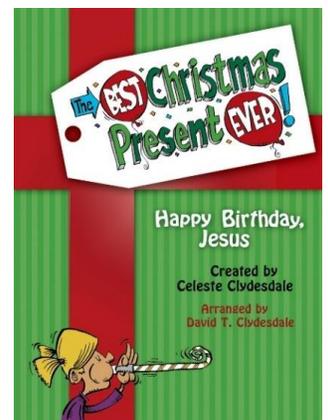
Sunday school for children PreK – 5th grade takes place during Sunday worship, immediately following the Children's Message.

NURSERY

Nursery Care, for ages 0 - 2yrs, is available Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 11:00 am.

CHILDREN'S WEDNESDAYS

Join us for PreK – 5th grade activities and curriculum-based programs every Wednesday from 5:00 – 6:00 pm!



Join **Children's Ministries** and the **Fellowship Committee** on December 4th with our kick-off of

December including our Children's Musical "The Best Christmas Present Ever!" beginning at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. Immediately following the show please join us for the Jingle Mingle in the Narthex from 5 pm to 7pm. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and Fellowship will provide a festive punch to wash down all the yummy treats!

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH



YOUTH WEDNESDAYS

6-7pm

Join us for food, fun, and fellowship.

October 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

See you soon!

Pastor MP



YOUTH HANGOUT AT TILLES PARK

Sunday, November 20 at 7:20 pm

Tilles Park Winter Wonderland tickets (limited) are on sale now! \$5 each! See Pastor MP to get yours today!

MISSION AT ST. MARK

FOOD PANTRY MOST WANTED

We are collecting the following items for Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58:



- *canmed meat*
- *meal helpers*
- *coffee, hot chocolate*
- *jelly*
- *bar soap**
- *razors**



Please place your donations on the table in the pastors' hallway. *Non-food products such as shampoo and laundry detergent cannot be purchased with food stamps.

EQUAL EXCHANGE / FAIRLY TRADED IN THE NARTHEX



NOVEMBER 13 - Through fair trade, small-scale farmers are better able to support their families and stay on their land with better income and support from their co-operatives. St. Mark supports this mission to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and

environmentally sustainable, and to foster mutually beneficial relationships between small farmers and consumers (that's us!). *Credit and Debit cards accepted.*



New and gently used clean winter coats and clothing are needed for men, women, and kids, all sizes, and styles.

Many people in our region lack enough warm clothing to stay protected throughout winter. Our mission partners will ensure someone in need receives your gift of warmth!



GIVING THANKS SUPPER

Giving Thanks Supper for St. Mark friends and family is Sunday, November 20th. Please join us for a

traditional feast that includes turkey, stuffing, potatoes,

gravy and more! There is no cost for the meal, but you can bring a dessert that serves 6-8 people to share with your church family.

We will also be collecting for Isaiah 58 and Circle of Concern the "Super Seven": Salt Free Seasoning, Cooking Oil, Canned Fruit in Natural Juice, Canned Pasta Sauce, Dinner Helpers, Canned Chicken and Sardines, Hygiene products of all kinds.

WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Eleni Lieven is a former member who attended St. Mark as a youth with her parents, Dale and Helen Birkbeck. She is an international security manager for Wells Fargo. Eleni is originally from Columbus, Ohio, but grew up in Ballwin where she attended Parkway West High School. After high school she went to Indiana University. She has one daughter who is a student at Missouri State and one dog, an Anatolian Shepherd, named Georgia. Eleni has many hobbies and interests which include golfing, hiking, music, nutrition, fitness and wine tasting. It is her goal to travel to all the countries that make up her daughter's DNA.

Debra Rahn comes to us by a certificate of transfer. She is married to Phillip and the mother of three adult children. She was born in St. Louis, grew up in Florissant and attended Hazelwood Central High School. She is retired and enjoys gardening and reading. Debbie is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and PEO Chapter NB. A visit to see the Northern Lights is one of the things on her bucket list.

Phillip Rahn, the husband of Debbie, joins us by a certificate of transfer. He is the father of two adult children. He grew up on a farm in Winfield, KS and has a B.S. from Kansas State University and a M.S. from Colorado State University. Phillip is retired and enjoys gardening, conservation activities and watercolor painting. He plants pollinator gardens, collects wildflower seeds and has built a machine to process these seeds. Phillip is looking for the "perfect" ocean beach.

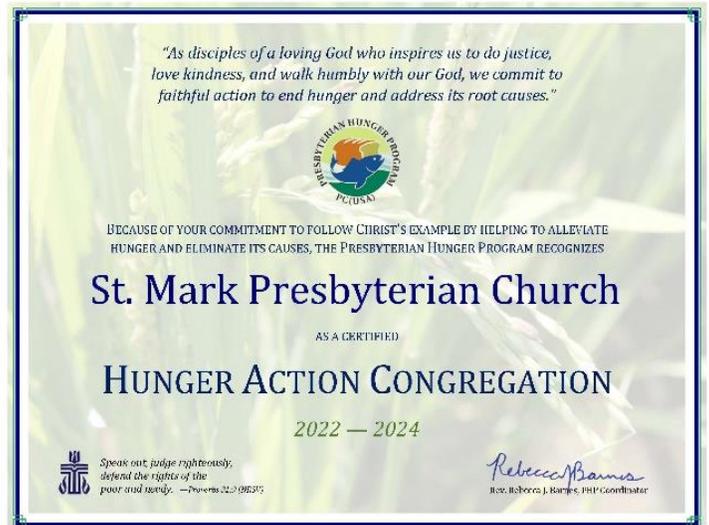
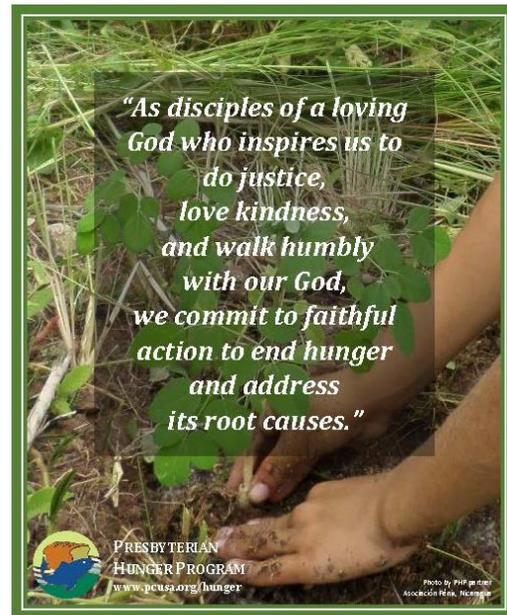
Susan Snyder is the daughter of members, Bob and Ann Snyder, and attended St. Mark as a youth. She grew up in the St. Louis area, graduated from Lafayette High School and then received her college education in Kirksville, MO. Susan works with families who have adopted children. Susan's pet is a cat named Benny. In her free time, she enjoys reading, eating out and movies. A trip to England is one item on her bucket list. She is happy to be returning to St. Mark, and we are pleased to have her back.

ST. MARK CERTIFIED AS A HUNGER ACTION CONGREGATION

In 2019 the St. Mark Mission Committee with the approval of the St. Mark Session applied to PCUSA to be certified as a Hunger Action

Congregation. There are six areas of hunger response where participation is needed to qualify for this certification. This was a three-year certification with renewal in 2022. St. Mark recently completed the process for recertification and continues to retain the covenant as a Hunger Action Congregation.

Our church's covenant as a
Hunger Action Congregation



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

CALLING ALL ANGELS – PW CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE IS BACK!!

The Presbyterian Women's Christmas Boutique is Tuesday, November 8, 10:30 am – 7:30 pm and Wednesday, November 9, 10 am – 2 pm. Volunteers are needed to provide soup, chicken salad, and desserts for the Angel Street café, baked goods for the bake sale, and to help with the café and bake sale during the boutique and clean up after.

Sign-up sheets are on the PW table in the Narthex!

Calling all



It's that time again! The Boutique and Angel Street Café are right around the corner (11/8-9).

Presbyterian Women asks for your help. There are so many ways you can help...make chicken salad, bean soup, broccoli soup....bake specialty desserts...bake a pie, cake or brownies for the table of desserts....create a yummy treat for the bake sale....help set up Monday...work a shift on Tuesday and/or Wednesday...help take down Wednesday afternoon...shop 'til you drop...bring your friends to lunch...come back for supper! Sign up sheets are now on the PW Table in the Narthex. How much we appreciate your willingness to be an angel!

Your patience is about to be rewarded!

Presbyterian Women hope you'll be with us (live and in person) at the traditional

Christmas Boutique

Christmas Decorations and Ornaments Handmade Holiday Items
Children's Items Jewelry Hand-Painted Folk Art Items
Floral Arrangements Personalized Items Jams & Jellies
Fresh-Baked Delicacies Many More Unique Gift Ideas

and at the

Angel Street Café

Join us for lunch or dinner!
It's a great way to launch the holiday season with family and friends.
Enjoy St. Mark's Famous Chicken Salad,
homemade soups and heavenly desserts

Tuesday · November 8 Wednesday, November 9
10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

St Mark will continue our tradition of beautifying our sanctuary with poinsettias for our Christmas Eve services. Please consider ordering one or more to bring home after the Christmas Service or to be delivered to a homebound member. Order forms can be found by the flower chart on the easel. Please place your order form in the "Flowers" mailbox in the church office and your check in the deposit box in the hall outside the office. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 27th. The cost is \$7 per plant. Plants are sourced from a locally owned greenhouse. If you have questions, please contact Kay Merz.



St. Mark
Trivia Night Returns!
Save the Date
Saturday, March 11



The Holidays are fast approaching and the hustle and bustle of this happy season will soon begin. For some people, however, this time of year is anything but happy. The holidays have a

completely different feeling when you have lost a loved one. Going out to parties, being with people is not what you want to do. Join us for Surviving the Holidays. It is a one-time two-hour session that will try to help you find the tools to get through the holidays.



stephen
MINISTRY.



Blue Christmas service provides a quiet and contemplative worship space as an alternative to the more traditional Christmas gatherings. This service is in honor of those who are experiencing grief and struggling with

loss and is a holiday tradition in the U.S. dating back to 1990.

Join us here at St. Mark Presbyterian Church for a service of hope and healing where you will have an opportunity to honor your loved one as you are invited to light a candle in their name. As you depart, you will be handed a small keepsake in remembrance of the service.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor MP mpanco@discoverstmark.org.

The service will be led by Pastor MP and is sponsored by the St. Mark Stephen's Ministry Team