



www.discoverstmark.org



Issue: April 2023

A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

# The Messenger

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, I preached on the verse “and the crowd listened with delight” from the Mark 12:37. I talked about how there were story tellers all around me as a kid and how I was always excited to hear the stories they had to share. I repeated the statement “and I listened with delight” several times. And then I presented us all with a challenge. A challenge to slow ourselves down and listen with delight to what messages God has for us especially in the things that have become so familiar that we might be tuning them out. The excerpt from the poem below speaks this challenge to me. I pray that it will speak to you as well as you move through the last days of Lent toward Easter morning when we will all celebrate together and say, “He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Peace and blessings,  
Pastor MP

## Be Still My Soul

By Jennifer Healy  
[www.Healingbrave.com](http://www.Healingbrave.com)

Don't speak just yet.  
Sink into this place.  
Sit in your heart.  
Close your eyes if you must,  
Breathe in,  
Breathe out,  
Feel the beating of your heart.

When the mind is quiet,  
You will understand  
That sweet, deep awareness  
Opens the gates  
To another kind of land.  
There's no way to  
Hold peace  
In the palm of your hand;

It's a mind-body-spirit state  
Where everything  
Holds  
Abundance and magic—  
Even a tiny grain of sand.

Be still my soul.  
Hear the winds speak, and  
Watch how the leaves on  
the branches  
Blow to and fro.

There can be  
Thunder and rain,  
Pleasure or pain,  
But here you are still,  
And that is enough.  
Stop, look and listen:  
See how wonderful it is.  
But don't think just yet.  
For thoughts can be

Beautiful pathways,  
But they can make you  
Forget  
The truth of your Self—  
How you were born  
Of your own star stuff.

Be still.  
Look, and  
Listen.  
Even a mind must rest  
To create its best.  
So, do not worry,  
Dear heart, head, and hands—  
You will have your season  
To work and to play,  
And there is  
Time enough for all,  
Every single day.  
There is time to make no plans.

## SESSION SNIPPETS

### Notes from the March 27, 2023 Session

#### Meeting:

Session revisited St. Mark's Credo—SEEK, DISCOVER, SHARE, and discussed the objectives and goals that were identified in 2021 and 2022. How are we doing? That covers everything from Bible study (Friday and Sunday mornings, plus PW Circles, Small Groups, etc.), to Food Truck Fridays and Fall Festival and lots of Mission initiatives. In the coming months there will be conversation about what 2023 will "look like" during Pastor Dave's Sabbatical, summer programs and mission trips, and the Food Packing event plus looking ahead for five years. It's an exciting time for St. Mark.

- Maundy Thursday Communion begins a return to coming forward to be served, following appropriate processes to address safety concerns.
- The Library is changing! Note the relocation to the previous Parish Associate's Office, books on display in the Narthex to take home for personal use and other changes. It's a work in progress. More to come...
- New "Owl" cameras will be installed in Rm 102 to provide better technology for "hybrid" meetings.

### PER CAPITA 2023

In 2023 each congregation's Per Capita fee, based on the membership reported as of December 31, 2021, is \$35.00. St. Mark's total commitment is \$17,360. Members are encouraged to assist with that via an extra donation and the balance comes from the General Fund. A designated envelope is in the April packet.

## MARCH WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday	Total Attendance
		In Person	Online	
March 4 & 5	20	158	159	337
March 11 & 12	15	108	162	285
March 18 & 19	15	106	128	249
March 25 & 26	10	138	87	235

### Holy Week at St. Mark

Sunday, April 2	Palm Sunday & Jerusalem Festival
Thursday, April 6	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday, April 7	Journey To The Cross & Good Friday Service
Saturday, April 8	Bunny Breakfast & Holy Saturday Service
Sunday, April 9	Easter Sunday Service

Go to [Discoverstmark.org](http://Discoverstmark.org) and click on Events for more details



Join us on Good Friday April 7th between the hours of 11 am and 7 pm for a spiritual self-guided journey through an ecumenical version of the stations of the cross.

Upon arrival you will be greeted by someone who will provide you with a map and instructions. This journey is a time for each one of us to connect with God in a special way as we contemplate the last hours of Jesus earthly life. We can then examine how those contemplations speak to our own spiritual life in Christ Jesus.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Pastor MP.



Join us on Good Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary for Good Friday worship. Pastor MP will be leading a 30 minutes devotional styled service. You are invited to also participate in the Journey to the Cross activity either before or after the service. See attendants at the table outside the office doors between 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

## NURSERY

Nursery Care, for ages 0 - 2yrs, is available Sunday mornings from 8:30 – 11:00 am.

## CHILDREN'S WEDNESDAYS

Join us for PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade activities and curriculum-based programs every Wednesday. PreK choir meets from 5 – 5:30 pm and Elementary choir meets from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

## NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGN IN/OUT

After our Children's message each Sunday morning, your child will give you a Sunday School card with a QR code to sign-in. Each card will have a number - you simply register that number as you sign-in and return your card as you pick up your child(ren).

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK

### FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY - 9 AM

Let's Talk About Sabbath



As we move closer to this summer when Pastor Dave will go on Sabbatical leave, we as a congregation will also begin the journey to seek to live into God's command to observe the Sabbath. In the weeks to come we will learn more about Dave's sabbatical leave in particular. In this Bible study we will talk about Pastor sabbaticals, take a closer look at weekly sabbath, and discuss what sabbath might mean for us. Join us for any or all of the classes. This is a hybrid class happening in person as well as on Zoom. If you wish to be added to the current email communication list, contact Pastor MP. [mpanco@discoverstmark.org](mailto:mpanco@discoverstmark.org).

**Class dates: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

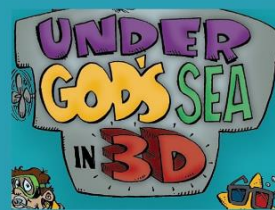
Sunday school for children PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade takes place during Sunday worship, immediately following the Children's Message.



Come and experience a 1st Century Jerusalem Marketplace! Visit a Jewish temple, shop in the local market, visit the petting zoo, and more! Children will process into the sanctuary with Palms during the service, and proceed to Sunday School for Storytime. Sign up sheets for food donations are on the Welcome Center in the Narthex. Please join your St. Mark family as we begin our walk together through Holy Week. Everyone is welcome!

Donations of food are still needed for the festival. The donation sign-up is on the Welcome Center. Please place all food items, labeled as Jerusalem Festival, in the kitchen before 9 am on Saturday, April 1. Please contact Latisha Gilliland with questions.

Children's Musical  
4:00pm



Ice Cream Social  
5:00pm



# APRIL 23RD

**April 8, 10 am – 12 pm Outside Event!**  
**Bunny Breakfast**

Egg Hunts      Activities  
 Donut & Drink      Crafts



**We're glad you hopped in!**

**Egg Hunt Times**

<b>Ages 3 &amp; Under</b>	10:30
<b>Preschool to Kindergarten</b>	10:50
<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders</b>	11:10
<b>All Ages</b>	11:30



**April 8<sup>th</sup>**  
 Outside event  
 10 am- 12 pm



**St. Mark**  
 Presbyterian Church  
 601 Claymont Dr  
 BALLWIN, MO 63011  
 DISCOVERSTMARK.ORG

**WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH**

**YOUTH WEDNESDAYS 6 - 7 pm**  
 Join us for food, fun, and fellowship. See you soon!



**VBS AT ST. MARK**



**JULY 17-21**  
 Join us for a **full week** of VBS fun as we are all called together to serve God at Hero Hotline! Online Registration is now open for VBS! Go to [discoverstmark.org](http://discoverstmark.org) or use the QR Code to register your family today!!



**VBS LEADER AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

Training will take place on the following dates in Room 102 immediately following worship: April 30, May 28, and June 25.



**Fast Food**  
**YOUTH**  
**Frenzy**  
**APRIL 23RD 5PM-7PM**

Meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. for the first stop in this crazy Reverse Fast –Food Frenzy! We will join the congregation in an ice cream social (dessert) and then move on out to other stops for our meal courses in reverse order! Please RSVP to Pastor MP so we can ensure enough drivers are available. Bring \$5.00 and we will get the rest. If you have any questions contact pastor MP at [mpanco@discoverstmark.org](mailto:mpanco@discoverstmark.org).

re:form

2023 - 2024  
CONFIRMATION

PARENT YOUTH INFORMATION  
MEETING  
APRIL 30TH, 2023  
11:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.  
ROOM 102

QUESTIONS? CONTACT PASTOR MP  
MPANCO@DISCOVERSTMARK.ORG



Congratulations  
— 2023 GRADUATES —

Join us for worship Sunday May 28th, 2023 to celebrate and recognize graduating High School and College seniors! All graduates will be issued a Bible as a gift from the St. Mark family as they venture on to the next step of their journeys. Congratulations seniors!

youth  
led  
worship

MAY 7TH,  
2023  
10:00 A.M.



**YOUTH MISSION TRIP, JUNE 11-17**  
June 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Pray for our St. Mark youth mission team and for the communities we will encounter! - Pastor MP

Summer 2023 offers more opportunities than ever for middle and high school youth groups to put their faith into action through challenging and rewarding youth mission trips! Groups will complete projects such as repairing and renovating homes for families in need, building mission and ministry facilities, leading children's outreach programs, working at homeless shelters, responding to natural disasters, and reaching out to individuals and communities through Christian service. The island of Puerto Rico has many opportunities for ministry and service within communities where families struggle with poverty every day. On this overseas mission trip, youth will be able to serve in one of the poorest communities by passing out food and through community outreach ministries in the neighborhood and at the local parks. Groups will also serve through hands-on projects such as home repair and renovation. Your youth will be able to experience a different culture and come to love the children and families of Puerto Rico as they bring Christian service to an area desperately in need of help.

## MISSION AT ST. MARK

### APRIL FOOD PANTRY MOST WANTED

- Pasta Sauce
- Cereal, especially kid-friendly
- Snacks (containing multiple individual serving packs)
- “Dinner” Helpers



All year long, we collect food and hygiene items for Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58 Ministries. Please place your donations on the table in the pastors' hallway.

\*Non-food products cannot be purchased with food stamps.

### Equal Exchange / Fairly Traded (YUM!) At the Jerusalem Festival, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and in the Narthex on April 16<sup>th</sup>



#### WHO GROWS YOUR FOOD?

Your purchase of this organic, cold-pressed, extra virgin olive oil helps small-scale West Bank Palestinian farmers who are challenged with a range of issues such as long-term drought due to climate change and limited markets for selling products.

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*



You are invited to join a Meal Packaging Experience with St. Mark

Presbyterian Church in the movement to end hunger on Saturday, June 24, from 10 am – 12 pm.

Come join us as we partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack 10,000 meals that will be sent to feed people around the world. The event is for all ages and abilities. Go to [discoverstmark.org](http://discoverstmark.org) to register to participate and/or to donate to this event.



Presented By

Orthopedic Specialists

## Circle of Concern Golf Tournament

Save the Date - Monday, May 22 at  
Aberdeen Golf Club in Eureka

17th  
Annual!

Hosted by St. Mark  
Presbyterian Church  
Benefiting the programs  
of Circle of Concern  
Contact Bob Stewart

Register at  
[circleofconcern.org](http://circleofconcern.org)

Sponsorships are  
available now!  
Contact Nancy at  
636.861.2623 x113



### LENT WATER CHALLENGE – CLEAN WATER IS VITAL TO HEALTH

- \$450 builds a well in a rural Sub-Saharan Africa village
  - each well provides a safe, sustainable source of clean drinking water for about 125 men, women, and children
  - every \$1 invested in basic drinking water, an average of nearly \$7 is returned in saved medical costs and increased
- 50% of hospital admissions in Sub-Saharan Africa are because of water-borne disease
  - Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest under-age 5 mortality rate in the world, 15 times higher than in high income countries

Pastor Dave has encouraged his congregations for the past 15 years to drink only clean tap water for the 40 days of Lent and donate the money not spent on other beverages to support the building of clean water wells in Africa. Giving up the morning trip to our favorite coffee spot, or the beverage with our drive through meal, or the evening adult beverage, will help us comprehend how much money we spend on beverages.

We are blessed to have clean water in our community, and this challenge helps us to understand the needs of those who have less, and support groups who are working to provide living water for all God's children.



The 2023 Puerto Rico Youth Mission Team and Trivia Night Team send you a great big thank you for your support and participation in this years' youth mission Trivia Night fundraiser! Proceeds from this event will be used to fund the youth mission trip to Puerto Rico June 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The youth and adult leaders will be ministering to those who have been affected by multiple hurricanes as well as earthquakes in recent years. We invite you to pray for our St. Mark team members and for the communities in which they will serve. Keep your eyes peeled for a mission report sometime over the summer!

**MOUND RIDGE CHILDREN IN NATURE FUNDRAISER**  
**APR 22, 12-4 PM**

A poster for "Day at the Races" featuring five jockeys on horses. Below the image, it says "Join us for a wonderful afternoon of great food, fun, raffles, games and bidding on: April 22, 2023 12:00 - 4:00 PM". At the bottom, it lists "\$60 per person" for the "Mound Ridge Charity Auction" by Andres West, with the address "211 S Old Highway 141, Fenton, MO" and contact information: "To register visit: moundridge.org Or call us at: 573-263-3098". A small box at the bottom left says "You can make a DIFFERENCE in a child's life".

The Charity Lunch Auction proceeds will ensure disadvantaged children ages 5-15 can experience being outdoors immersed in nature, attending a week of overnight camp or day camp!

**ABC BLOCK YOUR CALENDARS – 2023 ABC SALE!**

**Workdays are July 29 – August 3 & Sale days are August 4 and 5**  
 Start saving your treasures! As always, the sale is a great opportunity for fellowship and outreach to the community. This is our largest fundraiser of the year to support our local mission partners. Co-Chairs: Glenn Knopf, Joyce Blackwell, Pam Ladley.



Be a good earth steward and recycle all those “electronic treasures” that are not accepted by the ABC Sale.... See [mrcrecycling.net](http://mrcrecycling.net) for more information.

Date: Saturday, April 29th, 2023  
 Time: 8:00AM-11:00:00PM  
 Address: 109 Lindy Blvd, Ballwin, MO 63021

Another great resource is Earth 911 -- VERY helpful site for a wide range of items!!! [search.earth911.com](http://search.earth911.com) –or-- use the QR code



**WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**



PW meets April 26 at 9:30 am virtually and in Room 102. Mary Beth Powell will present Horse by Geraldine Brooks. Please contact Judy Richardson if you need a Zoom invitation.



**PW is Collecting Baby Items For Newborns In Need During The Month Of April.**

Newborns In Need is a charity that specializes in the needs of babies facing health or economic crisis In St. Louis. It is a local and national nonprofit organization.

New and gently used baby items (clothing sizes up to 12 months) are appreciated. Donations of sleepers, blankets, baby wash, wipes and diapers are especially needed and may be placed in the Pac n Play in the Narthex.

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Make checks out to Newborns In Need and ask for a tax receipt. Mail to: Newborns In Need c/o Judy Giovanoni, 310 Oxford Ridge Ct, Ellisville, MO 63021.

**TROOP 631**



**Get ready for spring and let Boy Scout Troop 631 tune up your lawnmower!**

When: Saturday, April 1st from 9am — 1pm

Where: Parking Lot of Rick's Ace Hardware—  
Ellisville, (15870 Clayton Road at the Intersection of  
Clayton and Clarkson)

Cost: FREE! (Donations Gladly Accepted)

Services Included: Oil change, spark plug service  
(cleaning, re-gapping; replacement if necessary), air  
filter service (cleaning, replacement if necessary),  
blade sharpening, mower deck cleaning. Walk  
behind mowers only (no riders or zero-turns).

Mower must start at the time of check-in.

All proceeds to offset the cost of summer camp.

**NURSERY WORKER POSITION**

We are looking for long-term energetic person(s) to love and care for our Sunday morning (and possibly Wednesday choir) children. We care for kids 2 months - 3 years of age. You will work with another employee to provide a safe and loving environment during the A complete list of responsibilities is available through the church office.