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Issue: March 2023

A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

It's the Little Things

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much” (Luke 16:10a, NRSV.)

I don't know if it's the time of year, my age, or recently connecting with some old friends, but I've got a serious case of nostalgia-itis. I find myself re-reading well-loved poems, re-watching favorite movies, and looking at family photos over and over again. I suppose the biggest culprit for my condition is the upcoming graduation of my oldest daughter and her impending move to her new college home in the fall. I know many of you have gone through this before, and the mark of successful parenting is releasing our children into the world to learn, to grow, and to discover for themselves.

There is a pervasive worry that, as parents, we failed to cover every single answer to the infinite number of questions our kids will face in the world. Of course, this is impossible, and we trust our children to make decisions that honor God, our family, and themselves. We've

never been a family that makes grand gestures with our gifts. There haven't been special trips abroad, new cars on birthdays, or expensive clothes from the trendiest stores. We show our love in countless little ways like dinner together at the dining room table, attending every sporting event, and helping with homework along the way. Truth be told, we aren't much good with this after several decades outside of the classroom. The point is we try to help whenever we can. I trust our children will remember this during those times when the skies darken and the road ahead is unclear.

I know it is also easy to get nostalgic in the church. We gravitate toward familiar faces, long to sing well-worn hymns, and talk about the “good ole days” when everything seemed a little bit easier. I admit I am guilty of this from time to time. While we certainly have reason to celebrate our past, the future is very bright at St. Mark Presbyterian Church. The same God who was with us since our

founding is leading us right now into a hopeful tomorrow. The church is never about any one individual but is a collection of folks with different God-given gifts to share with others. Most of us are not able to make grand gestures with our giving, but we show our love in little ways as we journey together. Some do this by purchasing blankets through the Presbyterian Women for people with unknown needs. Others help by attending the Trivia Night and supporting our youth mission trip to Puerto Rico. Many will help by taking the Lenten Challenge and assisting in the digging of countless clean water wells in Africa. All of these little things add up to a lot of love, and I am so thankful to serve alongside you all. I truly believe God remembers these things and shines blessings down on all of us.

May we all be faithful with both the little and the big things as we move forward into March.

In Hope and Confidence,

Pastor Dave

SESSION SNIPPETS

Notes from the February 27, 2023 Session Meeting:

- Lots of things are going on at St. Mark. Children's Ministry reported on Jerusalem Festival plans and activity moving ahead to prepare for Vacation Bible School. Youth are in full swing for Trivia Night March 11. The Deacons reported on the upcoming May 22 Circle of Concern Golf Tournament and lunch at Lafayette Industries in March.
- Mission Sunday on February 26, with our mission partners present, was full of energy and lots of interest.
- The Deacons will be "hosts" at the March 15 Potluck and Pastor Dave will be talking about "Finding the Gospel in Unexpected Places" focusing on music this time. Come join the fun!
- Over the next few months Session will be discussing 2022 Goals and evaluating progress as well as 2023 Goals and future objectives, including plans for St. Mark during Pastor Dave's Sabbatical.

FEBURARY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Saturday	Sunday In Person	Sunday Online	Total Attendance
February 4 & 5	27	104	126	257
February 11 & 12	22	117	181	320
February 18 & 19	8	105	208	321
February 25 & 26	20	118	110	248

February 22, Ash Wednesday – 52 in person, 37 online – 89 total.

CHARITABLE GIVING TO ST. MARK Wills and Trust Bequests and Beneficiary Designations for Charitable Giving

Early each year is a good time to review and update your wills, trusts and any of your beneficiary designations. Think back to what has changed in your life over the past year and if these documents are still consistent with your desires. Has your family expanded or have family members passed away; have you divorced, remarried, have a significant other, or now single; and how is your family structure now different.

Although these types of future gifts may not provide immediate benefit to St. Mark and cannot be used to meet your pledge, they can provide a significant gift to St. Mark. These gifts are made by including a designation in your will or trust documents assigning St. Mark to receive a specific portion of your estate at your passing. You can also include St. Mark as a beneficiary on your IRAs and other retirement plans. St. Mark receives these gifts at your death, at which time your estate or other beneficiaries may benefit from reductions of income and estate taxes.

Always consult your financial planner, estate planning attorney, or tax professional to review the benefits to you and your family for this type of future giving to St. Mark.

The St. Mark Finance Committee will be happy to answer your questions: Joyce Blackwell, chair; Mark Caplinger, Scott Collier, Glenn Knoff, Cay Noble, Hugh Smith, Brian Sprague, and Carl Tenpas.

Quarterly in future months we will continue to provide you additional insights into giving to St. Mark.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN 17th ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

St. Mark Deacons will once again serve as the sponsor for the Circle of Concern Golf Tournament to be held May 22, 2023 at the Aberdeen Golf Club, Eureka, Missouri. Enjoy 18 holes of golf on a beautiful links style course with a picturesque backdrop of the Meramec River bluffs. Complete with a light breakfast, assorted beverages, hot dogs, and a catered meal following golf with awards and auction. Last year's tournament raised \$29,000 with all proceeds directly benefitting the Circle. Orthopedic Specialists is again the Presenting Sponsor. Additionally, Saint Mark families throughout the 17 years have been leading financial sponsors.

Circle of Concern located in Valley Park, Missouri assists 650 low-income families on a monthly basis within the footprint of the Parkway, Rockwood and Valley Park school districts and parts of Fenton. Primarily a food pantry, Circle shares wholesome foods, personal care items, and other necessities, as well as short-term emergency financial assistance to eligible households. Circle also invests in the future of its clients through coaching, counseling, career mentorship programs, college and trade school scholarships, and children's programs. Hopefully, you may be asking, "What can I do to help?" Please consider the following options:

- Register to play golf as an individual or organize a group
- Become or help identify sponsors (hole sponsors start at \$150)
- Donate items for the silent auction
- Make a direct monetary contribution
- Day of Tournament assistance (no golf skills needed); volunteers are needed for morning and/or afternoon shifts

Tournament information pamphlets are available in the Narthex and Church Office.

Bob Stewart, Tournament Coordinator

ON YOUR MARK

The journey through the Gospel of Mark continues in March. This is a fantastic opportunity to read through the earliest gospel with others and to explore Jesus' teachings, miracles, and mission. We encourage everyone to take time for personal reading and devotion. The program will conclude on Easter Sunday as we hear from Mark 16. We are excited to have everyone "On Your Mark" in 2023.

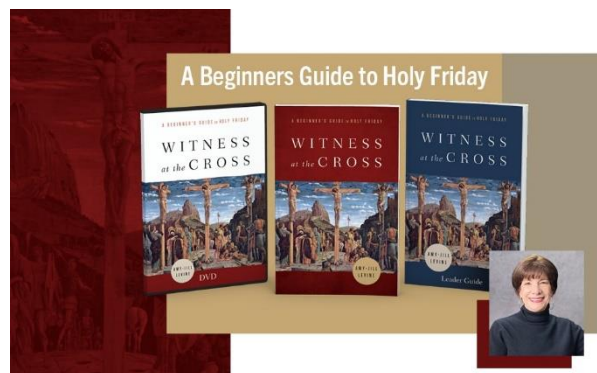
FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY - 9 AM

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

Lent Study

Witness at the Cross – Amy-Jill Levine

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7



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

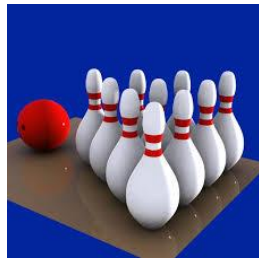
Nursery Care, for ages 0 - 2yrs, is available Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 11:00 am.

CHILDREN'S WEDNESDAYS

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

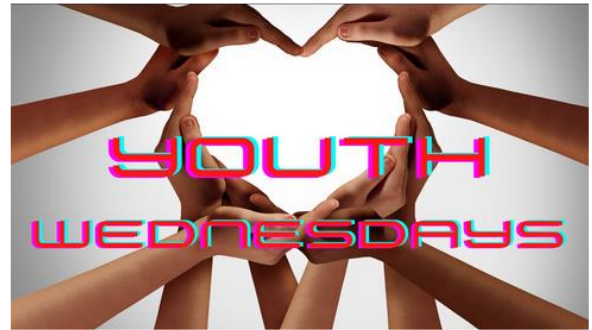
SAINTS & SIBILINGS BOWLING

We invite elementary student families to come for some time with family and church friends on Sunday, March 5. \$10 per child for lunch at church, followed by bowling at West County Lanes.



Go to [St. Mark: St. Mark Saints and Siblings @ West County Lanes \(signupgenius.com\)](http://St. Mark Saints and Siblings @ West County Lanes (signupgenius.com)) to sign up or contact Latisha Gilliland.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH



YOUTH WEDNESDAYS 6 - 7 pm

Join us for food, fun, and fellowship. See you soon!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP, JUNE 11-17

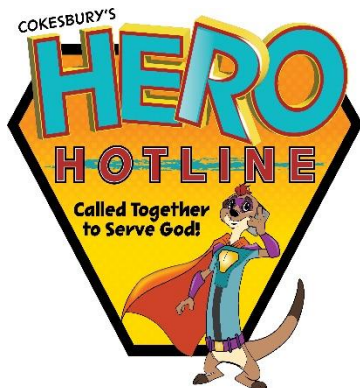


Jerusalem Festival
Palm Sunday
April 2
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

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!



The Children's' Choirs are practicing on Wednesdays for the musical "Under God's Sea in 3D." The performance is April 23 at 4 pm.



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 to register your family today!!

MISSION AT ST. MARK

FOOD PANTRY MOST WANTED

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



- Chili
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Spinach
- Sardines – guest favorite -high in protein
- Dish Soap*
- Diapers Sizes 5 & 6*
- Diaper Wipes*



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.



LENTEN WATER CHALLENGE

- More children are killed by unsafe water than by bullets
- Globally, at least 2 billion people use contaminated water
- 50% of hospital admissions in Sub-Saharan Africa are because of water-borne disease
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, women spend 16 million hours EVERY DAY carrying water

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.

EQUAL EXCHANGE / FAIRLY TRADED

Equal Exchange / Fairly Traded (YUM!) in the Narthex on March 19th

WHO GROWS YOUR FOOD?

MEET Joisy Tuanama Lumba

- cacao grower and member of the Huingoyacu community in Peru
- practices reforestation to capture CO2 by intercropping cocoa with native timber trees.



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.*



DISCOVER MISSION SUNDAY WAS FEBRUARY 26*

Want to learn more or get involved?

Contact a mission committee member for more details!

*** You may also replay worship service with mission partner speakers on the Discover St. Mark YouTube channel**

(If viewing The Messenger electronically, the mission partner names are "hot links" to their websites.)

[Circle of Concern](#) - Food Pantry

[Isaiah 58 Ministries](#) – Food Pantry

[Lafayette Industries](#) – Sheltered Workshop

[Marion Medical Mission](#) - Clean Water

[Mound Ridge](#) - Retreat and Mission Center

[Newborns In Need](#) – Immediate Supplies for Newborn Babies

[Peace Meal Project](#) - Weekly Community Meal

[Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services](#) - Children & Families in Crisis



ST. MARK TRIVIA NIGHT!

Grab 7 of your closest trivia-loving friends and head to St. Mark on Saturday, March 11! The cost is \$160 per table – that's just \$20 per person!

Doors open at 6 pm and trivia starts at 7 pm. There will also be a silent auction, games, and prizes. Participants may bring their own beverage of choice – water and soda will be provided. Look for the registration forms on the Youth Table in the Narthex and on the St. Mark website. All proceeds benefit the 2023 St. Mark Youth Group Summer Mission Trip to Puerto Rico.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW Candy Sales are Back!

Salted Caramel and Chocolate Bark



Delicious handmade candy is crafted to order (with or without almonds) and comes beautifully packaged in white boxes with ribbon bows. Each 8 oz. box costs \$10.

Please plan to bring cash or check when ordering candy on sale dates:
March 4 & 5, March 11 & 12, March 18 & 19
and March 25 & 26.

Chocolates will be available for pick up on
April 1 and 2
(Palm Sunday / Jerusalem Fest weekend)

All proceeds go to PW Missions!



St. Mark will continue our tradition of using lilies to beautify our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. The lily is mentioned

frequently throughout the bible and serves today as a beautiful reminder of the significance of the Easter season. Easter lilies grace homes and churches each spring as a symbol of purity, joy, hope and life. We encourage you to order one or more lilies to brighten your home. Consider ordering a plant to be delivered to a homebound member as a tangible reminder of their spiritual connection to St Mark. The cost is \$8.75 per plant. Order forms can be found by the flower chart on the easel in the Narthex. A portion of this year's Easter lily cost will go to our mission partners. If you have any questions, contact Carolyn McBee.

SPRING CLEANING

The Fellowship Committee will be giving the kitchen a deep clean on Saturday morning, March 11th. If you have forgotten any dishes or plastic containers in the kitchen or kitchen annex please pick them up before March 11th. Thank you!!

SAVE THE DATE!

Presented By
 Orthopedic Specialists

Circle of Concern Golf Tournament

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

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

17th
Annual!

Register at
circleofconcern.org

Sponsorships are
available now!
Contact Nancy at
636.861.2623 x113

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.

SIMPLECHURCH TRAINING

Sunday, March 18

Are you interested in learning how to open a SimpleChurch account, how to update your family information, how to use the online directory, or how to pledge and give online? A SimpleChurch Training will be held in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship service to cover these topics and more. Contact Stacey Caplinger for more information.

THANK YOU!

St. Mark Presbyterian Church's 2023 Collection

raised:

\$287 and 358 lbs. of food

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed, and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



**TACKLE
HUNGER**

February 13, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Reese".

Alison Reese
Executive Director
Tackle Hunger: Home of the
Souper Bowl of Caring