



Issue: June 2023

A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

# *The Messenger*

The month of June seems to bring the human concept of milestones into acute focus. There are ceremonies and parties acknowledging and celebrating graduates moving from one grade level to the next with an extra portion of “good luck’s” and “you’ll do great’s” for those who are embarking on the journey to college, internships and apprenticeships, and the open job market. Summer prompts many of us to take vacations or to explore our home cities a little more closely. There are summer weddings, family and class reunions, backyard BBQs, and outdoor theater or hiking excursions.

Although the weather of course has something to do with our sudden desire to get out and about, I hypothesize that we are also

somewhat conditioned to see the summer in this way. The most obvious reason is that the school year here in the United States typically takes a summer break allowing school age folks a time of rest from their studies. In this empty space, the vacuum we call summer, there is an opportunity to rest and renew. And it is at that precise moment when books are put aside and the days are freed from the constant Pavlov dogs’-like bell ringing movements of the school day, that we begin to fill our days with other “to-do’s”.

A vacuum by itself does not exert force, it is simply empty. However, we often press or force things into the vacuum, in this case the empty summer. I realize that this scenario is not applicable to everyone and

yet I do believe that the general idea here is familiar to most of us. As we enter this particular summer, let us cease a bit from our doing, and rest in God’s Sabbath time. Let us listen to what the Holy Spirit has to tell us in this time of separation; church from pastor. Let us seek to adhere to God’s fourth commandment to observe the Sabbath and keep it holy. As we journey the time together, throughout these three months of Pastor Dave’s sabbatical, I encourage you to pray intensely, listen intently, and act intentionally.

What message of hope, word for the day, or vision for the future is God speaking to you?

Peace and blessings,

Pastor MP

## SESSION SNIPPETS

**Notes from the May 15, 2023 Session Meeting:**  
Session is discussing the future for St. Mark. Who do we want to be in the community, the neighborhood? What is needed? Programs? Facilities? Focusing on our CREDO—Seek, Discover, Share—what initiatives serve those concepts?

St. Mark's 40% portion of the Pentecost Offering will support Isaiah 58's Back-to-School Backpack Program.

Details were finalized for Rev. Carol DeVaughan's service during Pastor Dave's Sabbatical. She will be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays and preaching occasionally. Welcome back, Carol!

Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess was wished well for his Sabbatical, and he affirmed that we could say "hello" when we see him in the grocery store or mowing the lawn. Bon Voyage!

## MAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday	Total Attendance
		In Person	Online	
May 7	--	140	66	206
May 13 & 14	15	137	52	204
May 20 & 21	13	153	101	267
May 27 & 28	10	114	57	181

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES!

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the next class of elders, deacons, endowment and next year's Nominating Committee. We have a lot of talent in our church community and what better way is there to join in, make a difference and expand your circle of friends than participating in the work of the church! The forms are available at the Welcome Desk to suggest candidates, even yourself. Please leave at the Welcome Desk or the Nominating Committee mailbox in the church office. Your energy and talents are needed, please prayerfully consider.

## DEACONS IN ACTION STEPHEN MINISTERS

Stephen Ministers offer one-on-one confidential care to anyone who wishes to receive it. Your Stephen Ministers help meet the needs of hospital patients, nursing home residents, new mothers, divorced or bereaved persons along with persons facing various stressors and transitions of life.

St. Mark provides Grief Share classes and referrals. The majority of this Christian care is to St. Mark members, we also minister to persons throughout the community based on referrals from St. Mark members and other community resources.

If we can be of service please notify the church office or call Bette Nuzum.

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK

### FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY - 9 AM

Let's Talk About  
Sabbath

The last day in this series is June 2. Then Friday Bible Study will take a break and resume in the fall.



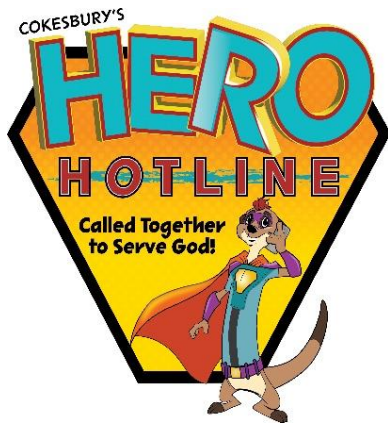
## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### 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.

### NURSERY

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



### 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 or use the QR Code to register your family today!!

### VBS LEADER AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING

The final training will take place in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship on June 25. Use the QR code or go to discoverstmark.org to register as a volunteer!



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES!

We are looking for volunteers for VBS preparation! We kick off with a VBS potluck and training on July 7. Please use this SignUpGenius link to sign up for the potluck and other VBS prep volunteer opportunities. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4DA4AD2FAAF94-vbsprep2>

**We also need volunteers for Summer Sundays! Please sign up to help with Sunday School for one Sunday this summer. The sign-up sheet is on the VBS table in the Mark entry.**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH

# YOUTH



Youth Wednesdays will be taking break for summer. We will meet several times over the summer months for Sunday Youth Hangouts and will be participating in church-wide St. Mark activities such as VBS and the ABC sale. Watch for more information. Also, keep an eye open for rehearsal dates for our brand new youth music ensemble! See you soon Pastor MP.



### YOUTH MISSION TRIP, JUNE 11-17

Please pray for the youth mission team, our on the ground TEAMeffort leaders, and the people and communities in Puerto Rico that we will be stepping alongside. Our team consists of one pastor, 5 other adult leaders, and 8 youth! We plan to give our mission report later this summer. We thank you all for your continued support of this ministry! God is good! they bring Christian service to an area desperately in need of help.

### YOUTH LED WORSHIP



Youth led worship is always a blessed day for the St. Mark congregation. This year was no exception.

Thank you all for your continued support of our youth and their families! Hold on to your rock! If you were there you'll know what this means.

## MISSION AT ST. MARK

### JUNE FOOD PANTRY MOST WANTED

- Boxed potato mixes & rice mixes
- Jelly & peanut butter
- Canned diced tomatoes
- Dry beans
- Kid friendly cereal
- Size 6 diapers



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.



### 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

### EQUAL EXCHANGE / FAIRLY TRADED (YUM!)

In the Narthex on  
June 18th

Who grows your  
coffee?

Small family  
indigenous producers  
in Guatemala



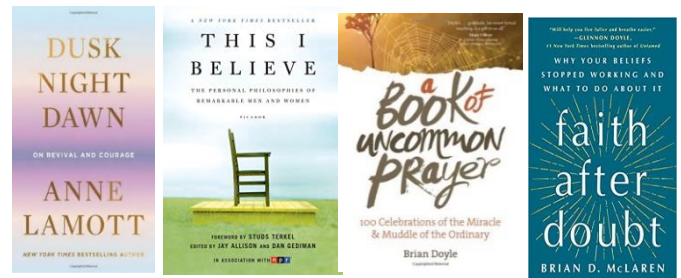
With farms of 2.4 acres in size. These farmers specialize in five disease resistant varieties and use no pesticides. Their environmental stewardship includes shade canopy, water, and soil management.

St. Mark supports this mission to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just, environmentally sustainable, and to foster mutually beneficial relationships between small farmers and consumers -- that's us!

Credit, Debit, (swipe or tap) 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 in Gleason Hall. 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.



### How Do We Uncover our Faith Stories?

*Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy.*

I Peter 3:15 (The Message)

**Seek** examples of other writers and their faith.

**Discover** how you can write about your faith experience.

**Share** writing for yourself / for people you trust/ for people you don't know.

**Sign up** to read one of these four books (above) and be part of a book group reading to understand and write faith stories that answer "why you're living the way you are."

See the display of books and sign-up list in the Narthex after church on Sunday. Otherwise sign-up with Bill Tucker. The groups will start meeting in June, but you can start reading now!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### BOOK CLUB

PW Book Club will meet on June 28 at 9:30 am in room 102 and virtually. The book is Sunflower Sisters by Martha Hall Kelly. Please contact Judy Richardson if you wish to receive a Zoom invitation.

### FLOWERS NEEDED!

Donating flowers is a great way to celebrate or commemorate a person, milestone, event or to simply share some of God's gifts of beauty in the sanctuary. Thank you to those who have signed up to donate. We still have open dates throughout the summer and fall. The flower chart is located in the lobby of the main entrance. If you are interested in providing flowers for our worship service, please sign the flower chart, complete the form provided and place the form along with a check in the "Drop Box" in the Pastor's Hallway. Your flowers can either be taken home or donated to be delivered to a homebound church member.



### GO GETTER LUNCHEON, JUNE 13

The last Go Getter luncheon before a summer break will be held at Candicci's Restaurant, 100 Holloway Rd., Ballwin, MO at 12 pm.

Go Getter luncheons will resume September 12.

Let Jan Graves or Judy Richardson know of your plans to attend.



## Food Truck Friday June 9 - 5:30 PM

Activities for All Ages!



Meet New Friends!

### HONORING THOSE SPECIAL PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES

As we celebrated Mother's Day in May and will celebrate Father's Day in June, St. Mark wants to honor all of the special men and women in our congregation. A donation was made to Presbyterian Children's Homes in May and a donation will be made to Mound Ridge Camp & Retreat Center in June.