



Issue: August 2023

A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

“August” by Ellwood Roberts

(Selected excerpts only. For full poem visit

[Discovery Poetry](#))

Now sober August comes—the scene,
Beneath the Summer's sun still fair;
The Summer months are nearly past,
Regretted much, they glide away,
A parching drouth consumes the land,
The sultry heat a storm forebodes.
The storm comes on,
Refreshing floods of rain descend;
The drouth is gone, but with it all
The glory of the Summer-time;
The leaves will soon begin to fall,
The season now has passed its prime.
All Nature's voices tell the tale—
Of Autumn speak, and breezes all,
That o'er the fields of stubble blow,
Proclaim the coming of the Fall.
book of the Bible.

What we don't often remember are the remarks that follow this poetic opening. In verses 9-13 the author tells

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.” Ecc. 3:1, or so the author of Ecclesiastes tells us. You know the passage, “...a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.” Ecc. 3:8

You may have heard a popular 1960's pop song by the Byrds titled “Turn! Turn! Turn!”. The song takes its theme from this book of the Bible.

What we don't often remember are the remarks that follow this poetic opening. In verses 9-13 the author tells us that God has indeed given us a time for everything. Pointed out is a time for work and a time for enjoyment. “I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live.” Ecc. 3:12 The author self-proclaims that it is good to stop and enjoy this awesome earth that God has created for us to live in. Work is fine, and toil is natural, but God never intended that we dismiss playtime ignoring the wonder and delight of the days we are given.

August is here. Summer will eventually turn into fall and fall into winter. And so it goes, year upon year, decade upon decade, and century upon century. This we cannot change. And if we could, we might choose not dare to tamper with what God made “good.”

The sunny hot days will fade away, and the fall colors will soon arrive. “Not yet!” you say but “Soon” says Fall. Summer bids us “Enjoy the summer days!” Ecclesiastes bids us “Enjoy the changing times.” God bids us “enjoy the days you have been created for!”

Peace and blessings,

Pastor MP

SESSION SNIPPETS

Session did not meet in July. Snippets for the August meeting will appear in the September Messenger.

JULY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday	Total Attendance
		In Person	Online	
July 2	--	137	93	230
July 8 & 9	18	108	76	202
July 15 & 16	15	125	70	210
July 22 & 23	15	89	96	200
July 29 & 30	7	101	50	158

SAVE THE DATE! DISCOVER SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 10



DEACONS IN ACTION

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

St Mark Presbyterian Church is proud to partner with the American Red Cross and be a part of all they do for our community. Our blood drive is important to patients in need, but the collection and distribution of blood is just a small part of all the Red Cross does. The enormity of what the Red Cross accomplishes every day is astounding and this is one of the reasons we chose them as one of our core community outreach partners.

Every hour of the day, more than 1,200 people in America are assisted by the American Red Cross. More than 17,000 people every day receive lifesaving Red Cross health and safety training. Every day, the Red Cross provides more than 1,100 services to military members, their families and veterans. About 170 times a day, Red Cross workers help families affected by a home fire or other disaster.

From a blood supply standpoint:

The Red Cross – needs to collect more than 13,000 blood donations and more than 2,500 platelet donations each day.

The blood collected by the Red Cross helps millions of patients in over 2,500 hospitals and other facilities across the country.

84 percent of blood donations are given at blood drives - hosted by generous sponsoring organizations like ours.

At **St Mark Presbyterian Church**, we are proud to hold blood drives every quarter in partnership with the Red Cross, giving us all an opportunity to make a difference.

Our next drive is coming up on August 20, 2023 from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm in Gleason Hall at 601 Claymont Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011. We have many open appointment slots to fill. There are many ways you can help, but most importantly we hope you come out to donate and help spread the work by promoting our drive to family, friends and on social media.

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 8:30 – 11:00 am.

THANK YOU TO OUR VBS TEAM!

Here's a SUPER "thank you" to all who participated, planned, set-up, and decorated for this past week's Hero Hotline VBS! We couldn't have done it without you. Also, your donations were over-the-top - you are amazing!



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS & BIBLE SUNDAY!

All children entering 3rd grade will receive a bible on August 20. Please notify the Children's Ministries

Committee if you are new to the community and wish to have your child receive a bible. All students are encouraged to bring their school back packs and we will pray over them and the year ahead!

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH

Youth Music Ensemble

Rehearsals in progress!

Next Rehearsal August 9th 6-7pm

Contact Pastor MP

mpanco@discoverstmark.org

YOUTH HANGOUT



Sunday, August 20, 12 - 5:30 pm

Youth will be working a booth selling water, soda, and Gatorade. With each sale there is an opportunity to earn tips for youth activities such as future mission trips and retreats. Please let Pastor MP know if you can come for all or part of the day!

MISSION AT ST. MARK

AUGUST CIRCLE OF CONCERN SPECIAL COLLECTION REQUEST

- Baby Wipes*
- Pull-ups*
- Size 4 diapers*
- Q tips*
- Razors*
- Shave gel*



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 IN THE NARTHEX ON AUGUST 20TH

Small farmers focused on sustainable agriculture!

- Soil health
- Water retention
- Biodiversity
- Disease control
- Carbon sequestration



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

Credit, Debit, (swipe or tap) accepted.

MEALS PACKAGED DURING OUR JUNE EVENT ARE HEADED TO UKRAINE!



Located in eastern Europe, Ukraine is the second largest country on the continent.

Millions of people have left the country or are internally displaced.

As food production and supplies are disrupted by the conflict, many people do not have reliable access to sufficient nutritious food.



THANK YOU!

There are not enough words to express our gratitude for the many volunteers, those who donated treasures, those who provided treats and goodies, those who shopped, those who prayed for us ... well ... ALL OF YOU!

Results are not yet final. We will share when they are available.

100% of net proceeds for local mission partners
ABC Sale Volunteer Celebration Potluck –
August 27 following worship

With great gratitude and joy!
ABC Sale Co-Chairs: Joyce Blackwell, Glenn Knopf,
Pam Ladley

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PW Book Club will meet on August 23 at 9:30 am in room 102. A link to join virtually on Zoom is also available by contacting Judy Richardson. The book is Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah.

Hang Out with Presbyterian Women!



PW Fall Brunch
September 9th
10 a.m.

Sometimes you just need a different perspective on life.

FOOD TRUCK

AUGUST 11

Friday

5:30 PM



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CLAYMONT PRESCHOOL



This past spring, Claymont Preschool at St. Mark concluded its 60th school year! It was concluded with several

celebrations, including a Mother's Day gathering in our Two Year Old Class, our Pre-K Spring Sing, and our annual end of year whole school picnic. In June, we hosted three weeks of Summer Fun with many of our preschool students where they explored painting using many different techniques. Claymont Preschool at St. Mark will be welcoming students to the 2023-24 school year on August 28th. We are looking forward to seeing our returning families, as well as welcoming many new families to our school! We have a few spots left in select classes. So, if you know anyone who is looking for a Preschool, we hope you send them our way!



CELEBRATING OUR PASTORS!

Please join us in celebrating the ministries of Pastors MP and Carol DeVaughn on Sunday, August 20th immediately following the 10 am service. We are so appreciative of their gifts and service while Pastor Dave is on sabbatical we would like to share a slice of cake, a cup of punch and some well wishes with them! We will have a basket for thank you cards available too if you are not able to stay for the event. We hope to see you while we gather to enjoy these wonderful Pastors!!

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.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE IS RECRUITING!

Are you looking for a way to contribute to keeping St. Mark in great shape? St Mark's Property Committee is actively seeking new members to help us with maintenance of the building, preschool and grounds! Prior experience is not necessary, as we have the experts who can teach you what you need to know, and you can apply what you learn to maintaining your own home. Whether you're interested in gardening, painting, electrical work or minor construction, we can use your time and talents to keep St Mark welcoming to our current and new members. Feel free to reach out to Keith Monteith, David Sutch, Mike Vroman, Jean Steward or any other Property Committee members to understand how you can help.



SAVE THE DATE!

Sept. 30 **PRESBYTERY PICNIC**

Food, Music, Fellowship and Fun

12 pm to 4 pm

Hosted by: Grace Presbyterian Church
105 Bailey Rd, Crystal City, MO 63019

We need your help to make this a success!
Email: communication@glpby.org or call 314.772.2395