



# The Messenger

## Change

Here we are at the end of the three-month journey. June, July, and August. The summer of Pastor Dave's sabbatical. A time to reflect on the past five years. A summer to assess the now. A summer to seek God's call on our ministry as it might look in the future here at St. Mark.

Early in the year, as Pastor Dave prepared us for the summer ahead and invited us to stretch out of the comfortable and think about, explore, and begin to articulate, even write down our thoughts regarding what we believe. This summer would be something different. This summer would be a summer of change.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> our General Presbyter Rev. Ryan Landino visited us and preached us into the summer. He invited us to embrace change and to live into what God might do if we open our hearts and minds to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Yes. Sometimes change is difficult. Sometimes change is easy. Sometimes we don't even

notice that something has changed. Change can bring about grumbling or complaining and pain and suffering. But change can also bring about wonder and joy and growth and discovery. In any case, change means that we can experience something differently and be changed in some way.

May this summer have been a time when you were prompted by the Holy Spirit to embrace change, to step into the unknown with wonder, and to seek to discover what God has in store next for you and for all of us!

Peace and blessings,  
Pastor MP

## Change by Kathleen Raine

*Change  
Said the sun to the moon,  
You cannot stay.*

*Change  
Says the moon to the waters,  
All is flowing.*

*Change  
Says the fields to the grass,  
Seed-time and harvest,  
Chaff and grain.*

*You must change said,  
Said the worm to the bud,  
Though not to a rose, Petals fade  
That wings may rise  
Borne on the wind.*

*You are changing  
said death to the maiden,  
your wan face  
To memory, to beauty.*

*Are you ready to change?  
Says the thought to the  
heart, to let her pass  
All your life long*

*For the unknown, the  
unborn  
In the alchemy  
Of the world's dream?*

*You will change,  
says the stars to the sun, Says the  
night to the stars.*

## SESSION SNIPPETS

### August 21 Meeting of Session:

Fall Festival, Discover Sunday, Midweek Potlucks, resumption of Friday morning Bible Study, and lots of other events and plans are in motion. We're looking ahead. Pastor Dave returns to the pulpit on September 10, which is also Discover Sunday. Save the date for a big day at St. Mark!

There will be new playground equipment and a new surface installed on the small Preschool playground at the back of the parking lot! Endowment Funds will be used for this purpose. This area is used almost daily by our youngest children. The equipment will be safer since it is lower to the ground (and not rusty or containing splinters) and wood mulch will be replaced by rubber mulch.

Speaking of Midweek Potlucks...September 20 will start us off. Plan for it!

This was Session's last meeting with Rev. Carol DeVaughan present. She was thanked for the months she served St. Mark. Her presence in the pulpit and on staff contributed to a successful "sabbatical summer" for the congregation.

## AUGUST WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday	Total Attendance
		In Person	Online	
August 5 & 6	16	102	74	192
August 12 & 13	23	107	107	237
August 19 & 20	13	142	82	237
August 26 & 27	19	115	67	201

## PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

"A Season of Peace" begins September 2/3 and completes October 1, World Communion Sunday. The Peace and Global Witness Offering (previously the Peacemaking Offering) will be collected during that time.

The words of Isaiah 55 convey a profound message to us during A Season of Peace:

*For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace.*

*Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.* We are in desperate need of joyful and brave people who are willing to ask the hard questions and live the difficult solutions that make peace possible. Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we connect with each other, as the Church, **together**, to confront systems of injustice and promote reconciliation in places around the world and right here at home. As Rev. Brenda Booth reminded us in her sermon on August 20, each of us is part of an answer to the world's problems. We each play a role.

Our participation in the Peace and Global Witness Offering provides funds for those programs. St. Mark retains 25% of the total for local use, which has historically gone to the Presbyterian Children's Home and Services and St. Martin Peace Meal. Use the special envelope in your September packet or simply mark your check for the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Thank you for your generosity.

## SAVE THE DATE

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 24 immediately following worship. A Zoom link will be emailed the week before for those that wish to participate virtually.



## DISCOVER SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10

St. Mark will host its sixth annual Discover Sunday on September 10.

Various groups will have information tables introducing their ministries and mission and several areas of the church will be highlighted. It is a fantastic way to learn more about how St. Mark serves our neighbors both near and far. This is a great Sunday to invite a friend to join you at church. The event will begin at 9:00 am.

## Midweek Potluck

This month's midweek program will feature the 2023 Youth Puerto Rico Mission presentation

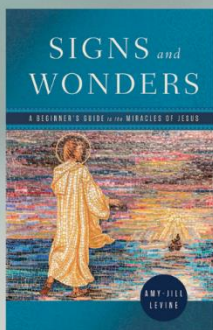


# YOUTH

### September 20th 5:00-7:00pm

The midweek potluck meal resumes on Wednesday, September 20 at 5pm. Bring your favorite potluck dish for food, fellowship, and a program about the youth mission trip to Puerto Rico.

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



## Bible Study Fridays 9:00 am



### Friday Bible Study

Join us Friday mornings starting September 15<sup>th</sup> as we take a closer look at some of Jesus' miracles. We will be using the book and accompanying videos to Amy-Jill Levine's study "Signs and Wonders". You can buy the book if you desire but it is not necessary though we will be drawing from the reading for parts of the discussion. If you have any questions, contact pastor MP [mpanco@discoverstmark.org](mailto:mpanco@discoverstmark.org) or call the church office.

## DEACONS IN ACTION

Your worship support committees have been busy this summer. Glenn Knopf, head of our Usher Teams, reviewed old procedures and met with Pastor MP and the Safety Team. The result is a new list of instructions/procedures the usher teams follow before, during, and after services.

As we have moved into a post Co-vid Communion setting, Judy Richardson, Chairperson of the Communion Committee, and Valerie Steiner worked with Pastor MP and Clerk of Session, Cay Noble, to review and update Communion procedures. In an effort of inclusivity, all Communion elements are now gluten free. A big thank you to Valerie Steiner who sourced and purchased gluten free elements.

Moving into fall and winter, we have sign ups for Sunday service liturgists. As a liturgist, the Pastors provide you with the written components of the worship service for you to read. This will be emailed several days in advance of the service for you to review. If you are interested in signing up or have any questions, please contact Pastor MP.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

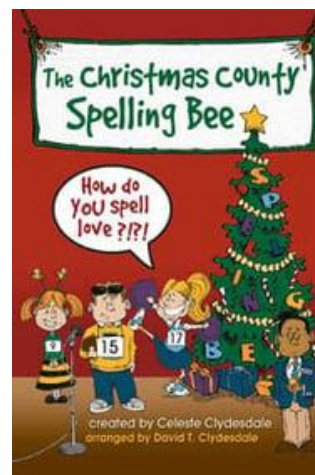
Sunday school for children PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade takes place during Sunday worship, immediately following the Children's Message.

### NURSERY

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

## WEDNESDAY CHILDREN'S CHOIR!

We will kick off on September 20<sup>th</sup> for our Pre-K choir (5:00-5:25 pm) and Elementary choirs (5:30-6:30 pm). Every week is filled with curriculum-based, music, drama, lessons, choreography, games and snack time! Our Musical this year is called "Christmas



County Spelling Bee" and will be presented on Dec. 3 @ 4 p.m. For more information, contact [lgilliland@discoverstmark.org](mailto:lgilliland@discoverstmark.org).



## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH

# YOUTH WEDNESDAYS

Begins September 13th  
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Youth 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up will resume meeting on Wednesdays beginning September 13<sup>th</sup> for food, fun, fellowship, and faith! If you have any questions, contact pastor MP [mpanco@discoverstmark.org](mailto:mpanco@discoverstmark.org) or call the church office.



### St. Mark Youth Music Ensemble

#### Upcoming Schedule



Aug. 30th

Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sep. 6th

Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Sep. 10th

Perform in 10:00am worship Discover Sunday

Sep. 24th

Rehearsal 11:15am - 12:15pm

Oct. 1st

Rehearsal 11:15am - 12:15pm

Oct. 8th

Rehearsal 11:15am - 12:15pm

Oct. 22

Rehearsal 11:15am - 12:15pm



We will make our debut on Discover Sunday!  
Celebrating our church ministries and welcoming Pastor Dave back from Sabbatical



If you have a youth 7<sup>th</sup> grade or older who would like to explore more about what it means to be a Christian, this is the place! Students will meet weekly along with their mentors and talk about their faith and what they believe about Jesus, religion, the church, and more!



### Youth Hangout City Foundry Sunday Sept. 17th

**The City Foundry for Lunch and Exploring**  
We will leave from church and parents will pick up their at St. Mark. Bring money for your lunch and shopping if you want to buy anything. Youth Committee will pay for a dessert. R.S.V.P to Pastor MP.

### MISSION AT ST. MARK SEPTEMBER SPECIAL REQUEST BY ISAIAH 58

- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Canned Hearty Soup
- Canned Spinach
- Canned Sardines
- Cereal
- Underpants – youth and adults
  - Female – hipsters
  - Male – boxers



Please place donations on the table in the Pastors' hallway

## EQUAL EXCHANGE IN THE NARTHEX ON SEPTEMBER 17TH



Check out the products available for purchase in the Narthex on Sunday, September 17th. There is so much care and expertise from farmers that go into Equal Exchange / Fairly Traded 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.*



### PW is Collecting Baby Items For Newborns In Need During The Month Of September.

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** such as bibs, booties, burp cloths, hats, onesies, socks, sweaters, and undershirts (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 Church foyer during office hours.

### 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 **For more information, contact Shirley Boeker or Louis Grothe.**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PW Book Club will meet on September 27 at 9:30 am in room 102. A link to join virtually on Zoom is also available by contacting Judy Richardson. Books will be selected for the coming year.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CLAYMONT PRESCHOOL



### School is back in session!

On August 28<sup>th</sup> we welcomed 63 preschoolers to Claymont Preschool at St. Mark! It was a great first day playing with many new friends and reconnecting with old ones. School will really get into the swing of things before too long, and we are going to have a blast as we learn, explore, and create memories!



An illustration of a sloth hanging from a tree branch. The sloth is holding a pink smartphone. There are two call bubbles next to it. The top bubble says 'PW Calling' and the bottom bubble says 'May I make a reservation for you for the PW Brunch?'. Below the bubbles, it says 'Sign up at the PW Table in the Narthex, call the church office or Mary Beth Powell!'. The entire illustration is enclosed in a dashed pink border.



# Food Truck Friday's

Food, music, activities for all!



**September 8th 5:30-7:30pm**

Join us Friday, September 8, at 5:30 pm for the Claymont Neighborhood Food Truck Friday. Come enjoy great food and live music. We hope to see you there!

**Join us for  
Music at St. Mark**

BELLS: Wednesdays 6PM, Starting Sept. 13th  
CHOIR: Wednesdays 7PM, Starting Sept. 6th

## FAITH STORIES

What is a “**faith story**”? “A story that inspires faith in the reader.” We leave it up to you, the reader, to decide what is a faith story and what is not.

We have published **five faith stories** written this summer. Each week after this we will publish a **new faith story** from a church member.

The stories we share here have this in common:

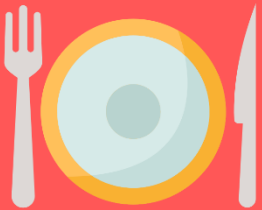
- They tell a story about the writer.
- They show a difference between “faith” and ordinary life.”
- They are each readable in less than five minutes.

We hope you are inspired, not only by the faith we express, but by the challenge to write your own **faith story**.

If you write a faith story you would like to share with the congregation, send it to Bill Tucker for feedback and publication. Only with your permission, we will publish it on the St. Mark Blog.

Follow this link to read our faith stories:

<https://discoverstmark.blogspot.com/search/label/Faith%20Story>



## Go Getters Resumes!

The September 12 Go Getter outing will be held at Satchmo’s Bar and Grill, 13375 Olive Boulevard, at the Northwest corner of Olive and 141 in Woodchase Shopping Center (next to El Maguey). We will meet at the restaurant at 12:00 noon. Please invite a friend and join us and let Judy Richardson or Jan Graves know of your plans to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

**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](mailto:communication@glpby.org) or call 314.772.2395

*Dear St. Mark Community,*

*Thank you all for the wonderful summer I have spent in ministry with you. I am grateful to Pastor Dave for inviting me to be here, and grateful to Pastor MP for being a lovely colleague as we shared in the leadership of the congregation. Actually, MP made my part of the work very easy, as she assumed extra responsibilities and tasks in addition to her normal job expectations. And you are blessed with wonderful and talented leaders within the congregation, ones who are always willing to step up and do what needs doing.*

*It is a joy to see you make good progress in your connections with the outside community, your neighborhood and beyond. Your efforts in mission are commendable. There is a really needy world out there, and you are more than doing your part to respond.*

*And I commend you for the joy with which you live and work together. As your favorite Affirmation reminds, “enjoy” is the fruit of our Christian life, so I hope you will continue to find much joy in your ministry together. Joy in your life together is contagious and may be one reason you are attracting a number of new congregants. Continue to be welcoming and always be grateful to God for expanding your circle.*

*You are in my prayers, and I look forward to hearing good things about your ministry and life together.*

*Blessings in the name of our Lord Jesus, Pastor Carol*