



December 10, 2023
Worship Bulletin

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CENTERING PRAYER

Lord, how I love this season of new beginnings, the opportunity to turn toward you and start again. Empower me to be a messenger of good news, and a leveling influence along the way, as I seek to be one with you in smoothing out the rough places I encounter. Amen.

PRELUDE

Christian, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn

Lyndell Leatherman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

INTROIT

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

arr. by Dan Forrest

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, we confess we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, and greed; we have not been at peace. We repent of these offenses and turn to you in love. Forgive our iniquity and pardon our sins, that we may walk in righteousness to the glory of your name. We continue to pray in the name of Jesus Christ. (Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

† GLORY BE TO THE FATHER

Hymnal #581

TIME WITH CHILDREN

† HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Hymnal #93

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:1-8

SERMON

“Searching for Good News”

Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Westminster Confession of Faith,
Shorter Catechism Question One**

Q. What is our chief end?

A. Our chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy God forever.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PART ONE OF THE CANTATA

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”
“Angels From The Realms of Glory”

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40

PART TWO OF THE CANTATA

“The Huron Carol”
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

†BENEDICTION

CANTATA REPRISE OF “HARK THE HEARALD ANGELS SING”

POSTLUDE

Salvation

David Lusky

† *In body or in spirit, please rise.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

December

- | | |
|---|---|
| 10 Christmas Cantata, 10 am | 14 Blue Christmas Service, 7 pm |
| 11 Prayer Circle, 9:30 am | 15 Friday Morning Bible Study, 9 am |
| 12 Men’s Bible Study, 7:30 am | 15 Supper Club Pot Luck, 6 pm |
| 12 Go Getter Luncheon at St. Mark, 12 pm | 16 Final Saturday Evening Service, 5 pm |
| 12 Yoga, 6:30 pm | 17 Nativity Displays, Before & After Worship |
| 13 PW Book Club, 9:30 am | 24 Advent Sunday Worship, 10 am |
| 14 Chair Exercise, 10 am | 24 Christmas Eve Services, 5 pm & 7 pm |

The Newborn King

Arranged by Dan Forrest

Presented by St. Mark Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir and Musical Guests

Musicians

concertmaster & violin – Theresa Monteleone, cello – Declan Phipps, flute – Madison Morse & William Blackmore, clarinet – Katy Boykin & Devin Melter, trumpet – Drew Davis & Chris Becker, french horn – Keely Abeln, trombone - Greg Hamilton, tuba – Ryan Curtis, percussion – CJ Scrieber, Terry Smith, & Joyce Blackwell, guest pianist – Meredith Kessler

Soloists

Nina Collier, Carolyn McBee, & Christine Polak

Dan Forrest’s work ranges from small choral works to instrumental solo works, wind ensemble works, and extended multi-movement works for chorus and orchestra. His *Requiem for the Living* (2013) and *Jubilate Deo* (2016) have become standard choral/orchestral repertoire for ensembles around the world, with the Requiem receiving over 1000 performances around the world, and *LUX* (2018) and *the breath of life* (2020) also receiving critical acclaim.

Dan holds a doctorate in composition and a master’s degree in piano performance, and served for several years as a professor and department head (music theory and composition) in higher education. He currently serves as Editor at Beckenhorst Press, Chair of the American Choral Director’s Association Composition Initiatives Committee, adjunct Faculty at Furman University, and Artist-In-Residence at Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church (Greenville, SC). Details about Dan and his work can be found at www.danforrest.com.

WELCOME TO ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

We are pleased to have you join us this morning. Your presence enriches both us and this experience of worship together. It is our prayer this will be a time of challenge and encouragement. Wherever you may be on your faith journey, there is a place for you to participate in our life together here at St. Mark.

TO OUR GUESTS: We hope you enjoy your visit today. Whether this is your first visit, or you have been coming to St. Mark and are considering joining the church and you would like to know more about St. Mark, we would be happy to talk with you. For more information, please contact the church office, 636-394-2233.

TO ALL: Listening devices are also available and may be picked up from the sound technician in the booth at the back of the sanctuary.

Devotional Booklets, *These Days* are available in the lobby at the 'Mark' entrance.

Please be aware that, as St. Mark works to increase safety and security, all doors to the building are locked Sunday morning once worship has begun. Those who arrive late should approach the 'Mark' door and will be admitted by a member of the Security Team.

Flowers in the Sanctuary are donated by Ray, Donna, Jen, Mary, and Anne. "In loving memory of Raymond W. Bosenbecker III".

TO MEMBERS: Please wear your NAMETAG at church. Don't have one? Stop by the church office where you will find a form to fill out in the "Name Badge" mailbox.

WAYS TO GIVE: There are several convenient and easy ways to contribute to St. Mark:

In-person: During Sunday Worship Service

Mail: Please make check out to St. Mark Presbyterian Church and send to St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 601 Claymont Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011

Online: To donate, use the **QR Code** here to be directed to our giving page on discoverstmark.org.



What child is this? Jesus Christ, a perfect gift from a gracious God.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us—past, present, and future—who have pointed us to God.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Let's continue St. Mark's tradition of strongly supporting the Christmas Joy Offering. Use the envelope in your packet or simply designate the Joy Offering in the memo line on your check made out to St. Mark.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

JOIN US FOR OUR ADVENT	DECEMBER 3	HOPE
WORSHIP SERVICES	DECEMBER 10	PEACE
	DECEMBER 17	JOY
	DECEMBER 24	LOVE

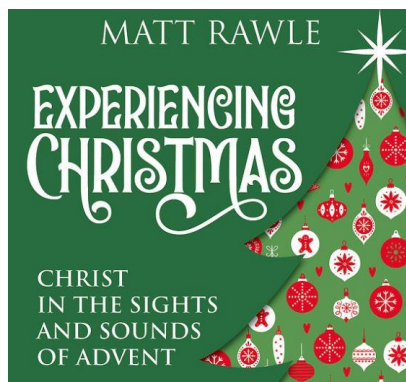
JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 PM		7:00 PM
FAMILY WORSHIP		CANDLELIGHT

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK

ST. MARK MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The men's bible study meets in room 102 every Tuesday at 7:30 am. We are reading, What's So Amazing About Grace by Philip Yancy. All men are welcome! You may contact Glen Corlett or Bruce Cranston for more information.



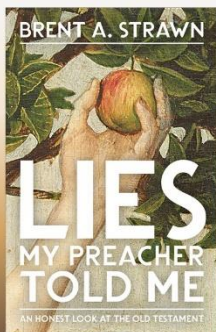
FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us Friday mornings from 9:00 am - 10:00 am on December 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd, either in person or on

Zoom. You can buy the book if you desire but it is not necessary though we will be drawing from parts of it for the discussion. If you have any questions or want the Zoom link, contact Pastor MP

All-Church Book Study
Arriving in January 2024

Pick up your copy today!



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

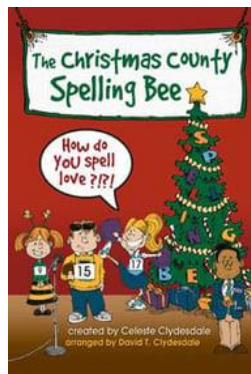
Sunday school for children PreK - 5th grade takes place during Sunday worship, immediately following the Children's Message.

NURSERY

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGN IN!

Please be sure to sign in your student(s) for Sunday School! Parents will receive a card after Time With Children with a QR code for access to the sign in. Please register your student(s) so that we can contact you via text if needed.



THANK YOU!!

Children's Choirs would like to send a big THANK YOU to all those who helped make "The Christmas County Spelling Bee" a great success! We couldn't have done it without you.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH



Youth 6th grade and up meet Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:00 pm (unless noted otherwise) for food, fun, fellowship, and faith! If you have any questions, contact pastor MP mpanco@discoverstmark.org or call the church office.



December classes are December 3, 10, and 17 at 9 am.



Our December Youth Hangout will take place at the ZOO! If you have not reserved your tickets or have any questions contact Pastor MP

mpanco@discoverstmark.org.

Youth Music Ensemble
Rehearsals Dec. 3rd & 10th
11:15am - 12:15pm
Contact Pastor MP
mpanco@discoverstmark.org
 Play in worship December 17th

MISSION AT ST. MARK



New and gently used clean winter coats and clothing are needed for men, women, and kids, all sizes, and styles. Our mission partners will ensure

someone in need receives your gift of warmth! Place your donations in the foyer outside the office.

DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Kid-friendly Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Jelly (we have peanut butter – yay!)
- Adult personal care

products – shampoo, deodorant, bar soap, toothpaste & toothbrushes, lotion*



*Non-food products cannot be purchased with food stamps. Please place donations on the table in the Pastors' hallway.

EQUAL EXCHANGE / FAIRLY TRADED – December 3, 10, & 17 in the Narthex

Great host/hostess gifts and treats for you and your loved ones!



When you choose Equal Exchange, you're supporting a more equitable alternative trade system that empowers local communities and small family farms worldwide. Cash, Credit, Debit, Tap accepted.

HONORING FAMILY AND FRIENDS THROUGH ALTERNATIVE GIVING



Finding the perfect gift for someone who has many wonderful possessions is a difficult task! With this in mind, in 2001 the newly formed Mission Committee at St. Mark created "Christmas Alternatives." Purchasing a gift through Christmas Alternatives honors the recipient and also helps deserving people who have so little but need so much. Items may be purchased in the Narthex on December 3, 10, and 17.

Blue Christmas
 A service of Hope and Healing
 December 14th 7:00 p.m.
 St. Mark Presbyterian Church
 Ballwin


Blue Christmas service provides a quiet and contemplative worship space as an alternative to the more traditional Christmas gatherings. This service is in honor of those who are experiencing grief and struggling with loss and is a holiday tradition in the U.S. dating back to 1990.

Join us here at St. Mark Presbyterian Church for a service of hope and healing where you will have an opportunity to honor your loved one as you are invited to light a candle in their name. As you depart, you will be handed a small keepsake in remembrance of the service.

The service will be led by Pastor MP and is sponsored by the St. Mark Stephen's Ministry Team. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pastor MP mpanco@discoverstmark.org.



GO GETTER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Our Go Getter Christmas luncheon will be held at St. Mark on December 12 at 12 pm.

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

Please bring a gift (\$10) for a gift exchange.

Invite a friend to join us for food, fun, and fellowship!



On Sunday, December 17, we invite you to share your nativity/creche with St. Mark before and after worship service. Tables will be provided in the Narthex to set up your display and we encourage you to share your family traditions with the church. For more information contact Sally Shepherd or Mary Beth Powell.



Parents of preschool and elementary age kids (and anyone else who wants to join) - Join us Friday, December 15, at 6 pm for a holiday potluck and Ugly Sweater Contest. Bring your favorite side dish! Childcare will be provided at St. Mark from 6-10 pm. Got to this link to RSVP by December 11.

<https://www.evite.com/event/02BAQMXERRINLU7QEEPOM7K4AHX4EQ/> or contact Shelley Lester.



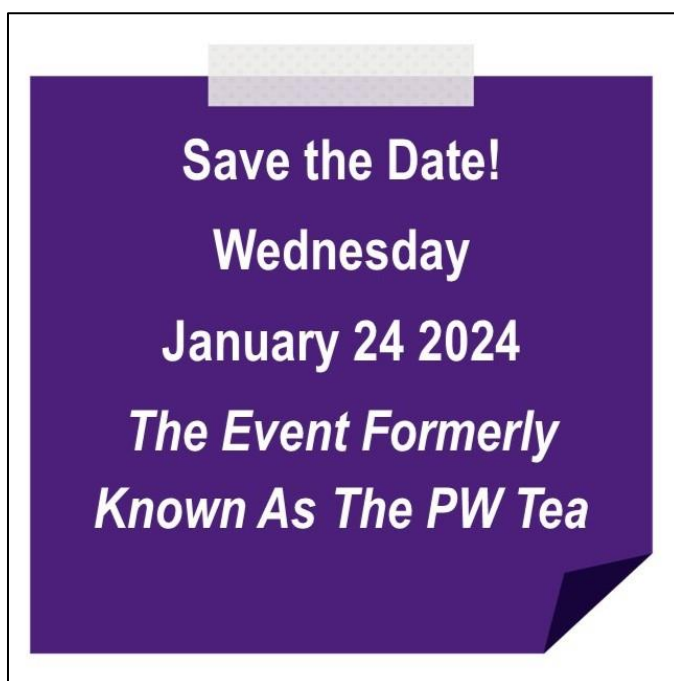
CHRISTMAS EVE OPEN HOUSE

The Burgess Family invites you to join us for an informal open house on Christmas Eve. We will open our doors (419 Claymont Dr.) at 6:00 PM, and everyone is invited to come by for a time of light refreshment after the Family Service or before the Candlelight Service.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PW Book club will meet on Wednesday, December 13, at 9:30 am. The book for this month is *The Maid* by Nita Prose. Judy Richardson will lead the discussion. There is an option to participate virtually. Please contact Judy Richardson for more information.





FAITH STORIES

This past summer, a number of St. Mark members began a journey which included **seeking** examples of other writers and their faith, **discovering** how to write about their faith experience, and **sharing** their writing with others.

Fifteen faith stories written by members of our congregation have been posted on the St. Mark blog throughout this past summer and fall at <https://discoverstmark.blogspot.com/search/label/Faith%20Story>, and more may be added in the future. If you want to submit your own story, send to Bill Tucker. In the meantime, "Share the faith!"

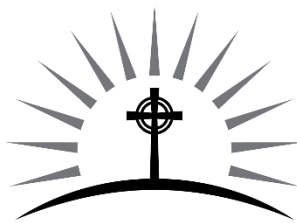


The St. Mark Session recently voted to conclude the Saturday evening service. The church began offering this additional opportunity in the late 1990's for individuals who could not attend on Sundays. The world has changed plenty over the past 25 years as members and guests can now livestream services and watch worship on-demand. We will celebrate the conclusion of this Saturday gathering with a special service on December 16 at 5:00 PM. Everyone is invited to attend as we give thanks for this special season in the life of our congregation. Please contact Pastor Dave with any questions or concerns. season in the life of our congregation. Please contact Pastor Dave with any questions or concerns.



SAVE THE DATE!
FEBRUARY 24, 2024

Pastor: Rev. Dr. J. David Burgess
Associate Pastor: Rev. MP Panco
Dir. of Children's Ministry: Latisha Gilliland
Dir. of Claymont Preschool: Susan Talley
Dir. of Music: Ethan Forte



ST. MARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PC(USA) · BALLWIN, MO

601 Claymont Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011
(636)394-2233
discoverstmark.org

Saturday Musician: Mark Reynoso
Sunday Accompanist & Organist: Jee-Hye Lee
Special Music: Chancel Choir
Advent Liturgists: The Coletto Family

Honoring Family and Friends Through Alternative Giving

Because we are blessed with many material possessions, when Christmas comes around, we encounter a huge challenge selecting gifts for family and friends. Finding the perfect gift for someone who has many wonderful possessions is a difficult task! With this in mind, in 2001 the newly formed Mission Committee at St. Mark created "Christmas Alternatives."

Purchasing a gift through Christmas Alternatives honors the recipient and also helps deserving people who have so little, but need so much.

Thank you for your faithful support during the past 22 years (2001-2022)

Your generosity has transformed lives and had a lasting impact around the world!

Christmas Alternatives 2023 - Our 23rd Year!

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
CITY, STATE, ZIP:	
PHONE:	
Do you want Christmas Cards ?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
St. Mark Member ?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, contributions will be included on your annual giving statement.	
If No, would you like us to mail you a receipt ?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

DEADLINE: December 24th, 2023
Please include payment with form.

Place in Mission Committee Mailbox in Church Office

-- or --

Mail to:
St. Mark Presbyterian Church
ATTN: Christmas Alternatives
601 Claymont Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE SUBMITTED:

PAID?

Shopping List 2023 Christmas Alternatives

	Price	Qty	Total
Marion Medical Mission (Africa)			
Contribute to Build a Well (\$450/well)	\$ 25.00		
Total			

	Price	Qty	Total
Medical Benevolence Foundation			
Nursing school scholarships: Malawi, Haiti, DR Congo, Kenya	\$ 30.00		
Life Saver Clinics: DR Congo, Malawi, Kenya and Haiti	\$ 25.00		
Share for Greatest Needs (e.g., vaccinations, malaria nets)	\$ 15.00		
Total			

	Price	Qty	Total
Education Scholarship Partnership with Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy			
Plan Grande #2, Nicaragua High School (\$200/year/student)	\$ 50.00		
Total			

	Price	Qty	Total
PCUSA International Food and Income Security Missions			
Family of Chickens (\$25/family)	\$ 25.00		
Share of Cow (\$450/dairy cow)	\$ 50.00		
Share of Goat (\$178/pair)	\$ 30.00		
Piglet (\$40/piglet)	\$ 40.00		
Share of Bee Hive (\$240/hive)	\$ 20.00		
Share of Moringa Seeds (food for humans - \$40/bag)	\$ 20.00		
Share of Rainwater Catchment (\$75/system)	\$ 25.00		
Share of Sewing Machine (\$50 each)	\$ 25.00		
Total			

	Price	Qty	Total
PCUSA Mission Co-Workers			
Rev. Jed and Jenny Koball, Peru	\$ 50.00		
Chenoa Stock, Peru	\$ 50.00		
Total			

	Price	Qty	Total
Presbyterian Childrens Homes and Services			
Support Farmington Service Center community, family, and youth therapeutic programs	\$ 50.00		
Total			

	Price	Qty	Total
General Gift to Christmas Alternatives			
St. Mark Mission Committee to Designate Recipients	\$ 50.00		
Total			

	Qty	Total
SHOPPING LIST GRAND TOTAL		
Checks to: St. Mark Presbyterian Church		\$
Memo Line: Christmas Alternatives		