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Issue: March 2024

A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

Lose an Hour, Gain a Day

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24. NRSV.)

As we march into a new month, I have good news and bad news. Let's start with the bad news first: Daylight Savings Time is less than two weeks away, and “springing forward” will cost everyone an extra hour of sleep on Sunday, March 10. Now that we have that out of the way, here's the good news: because 2024 is a leap year, we get an entire extra day on February 29. Exchanging an hour for a day doesn't feel like a bad deal. In fact, it's the best trade in St. Louis since the Cardinals sent Ernie Broglio to the Cubs in exchange for Lou Brock.

In the great hymn, “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”, Isaac Watts proclaims, “A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone; short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.” We don't need to study Albert

Einstein to know time is relative. We learned this in elementary school while each of us stared at the slow-moving classroom clock. Similarly, we know time goes faster when we are with beloved family or long-time friends. The Bible is not as concerned with the keeping of time as it is with what we are willing to do with the seconds, minutes, hours, and days allotted to us. Jesus reminds us again and again to live fully into every day.

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive

first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today’ (Matthew 6:28b-34, NRSV.)

Don't let yesterday's regrets or tomorrow's worries steal the joy from the day God is giving us. We might lose an hour in March, but we gain an extra day in February. We all long for one more day with loved ones who have departed. The good news of Lent is it concludes with the hope of resurrection and reunion. Since God holds tomorrow, what are you going to do with today?

In Hope and Confidence,
Pastor Dave

SESSION SNIPPETS

February 26 Meeting of Session:

Session and the Deacons had planned a “retreat” for February 16-17, but the weather had other ideas. The plan was to discuss St. Mark Needs, Wants, and Dreams for our facilities and programs, keeping at the forefront our credo Seek, Discover, Share. Due to a very busy church calendar, the next best thing to do was to have as many Deacons as possible to join Session during the February meeting to begin that discussion and planning, looking forward to a Capital Campaign the first or second quarter of 2025. What are your thoughts about our Needs, Wants, and Dreams? Stay tuned...

Other items:

- March 16 will be a Landscaping Workday (backup date March 23) before the Boy Scouts spread the mulch.
- May 26, following worship will be our annual Emergency Drill.
- Outside doors are being rekeyed and an evaluation of appropriate distribution of keys will be done.
- Thermostats around the building are being covered and locked. The whole system is now controlled by computer and individual thermostats should not be changed.
- Hallway for the pastors’ offices and leading to Gleason Hall will be repainted.

GIVING TO ST. MARK

For further information or questions on church finances or giving, please contact a member of the St. Mark Finance Committee: Bob Lienemann (Chair), Joyce Blackwell, Barry Boeker, Scott Collier, Glenn Knopf, Cay Noble, Hugh Smith, Brian Sprague, Carl Tenpas

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Sunday	Sunday	Total Attendance
	In Person	Online	
February 4	157	152	309
February 11	163	80	243
February 18	158	112	270
February 25	143	95	238



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING – LENT AND EASTER

One Great Hour of Sharing is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Since 1949 this offering has been the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs.

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%) works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.
- Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%) takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.
- Self-Development of People (32%) invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

Additionally, St. Mark supports the Marian Medical Water Mission, which works to provide clean water to communities in Africa. Let’s “dig” a well—lots of wells!

You can use the special yellow envelope that was in your packet for February, or you can write a check to St. Mark and indicate OGHs or Marian Medical Mission in the memo line.

DEACONS IN ACTION AT ST. MARK

FLOWER COMMITTEE

As Deacons, our mission is one of compassion and service and the flower ministry has been a blessing to the many who have both received and delivered the arrangements. The flower ministry has continually adapted to the needs of the community and in recent years the declining need and desire for delivered flowers has prompted the Deacons to evaluate the existing Flower Honorarium and Delivery Program.

As disciples of Christ, we are led by the movement of the Holy Spirit and are called to follow. With the help of our church family, we would like to invite you to join us in the newest expression of this wonderful ministry. Going forward, we are asking those who order sanctuary flowers, Easter Lilies, or Poinsettias, to take them home, perhaps sharing them with a fellow church member or neighbor who might appreciate them. This gives each of you the opportunity to share in this wonderful ministry.

The flower committee will continue to order weekly sanctuary flowers for those who sign up. Revised order forms for weekly flowers and holiday flowers will be available on the flower chart easel in the Narthex. To ensure that we always have flowers on Sunday mornings, the flower committee is assembling a set of beautiful artificial arrangements that will be used when none have been ordered.

Thank you for your continued support.



GOOD FRIDAY - MARCH 29

Journey to the Cross 11 am – 7 pm, Good Friday
Worship – 3 pm

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. All men are welcome! You may contact Bruce Cranston or Glen Corlett for more information.



FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY

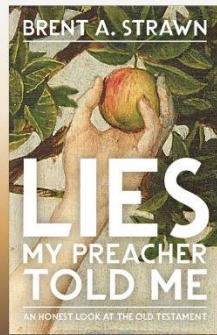
Upcoming Friday morning Lenten study March 1st, 8th, 22nd

Join Bible study author Barb Roose in a meaningful encounter with the Psalms through the season of Lent.

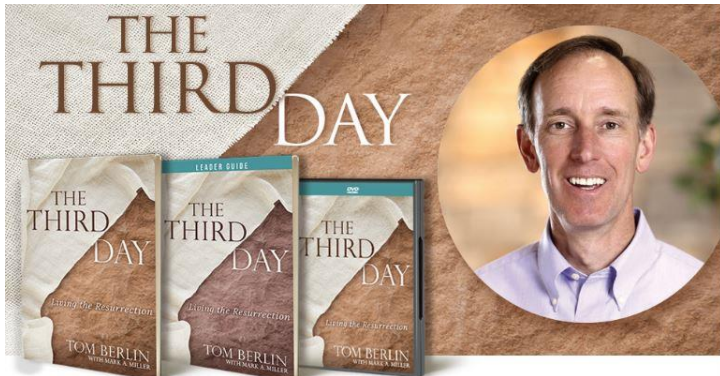


All-Church Book Study
Arriving in January 2024

Pick up your copy today!



Everyone is welcome to join our Adult Sunday School Class in 2024 as we work through the book, "Lies My Preacher Told Me" together. We gather at 8:50 am in Room 102. The class will explore common misconceptions about the Old Testament and ways we can (re)engage the text faithfully. Please let Pastor Dave know if you have any questions.



Upcoming Friday morning Bible study April 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th and May 3rd, and 10th.

The Third Day: Living the Resurrection

On the third day, he rose again. In "The Third Day: Living the Resurrection", Tom Berlin uses his gifts of storytelling and understanding the Scriptures to connect the reader to the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss. Join Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

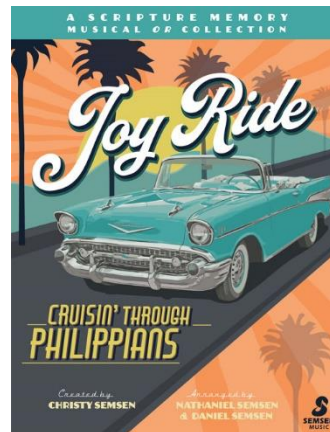
Sunday school for children PreK – 5th grade takes place during Sunday worship, immediately following the Children's Message.

NURSERY

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

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. We ask that you have your student(s) registered so that we can contact you via text in the event that you are needed.



ST. MARK CHILDREN'S MUSICAL - JOY RIDE

The St. Mark Children's choirs meet each week - Pre-K (ages 3-4) from 5 - 5:25 pm and Elementary choir (grades K-5) from 5:30 - 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will

share our journey with you on April 21st at 4:00 pm followed by a beach "hang-out" reception for all. Contact Latisha Gilliland for more information.



Bunny Breakfast



March 30 9-11 a.m.

We hope you can join us for this outside event! The egg hunt times are as follows: Ages 3 & under – 9:30, Preschool to Kindergarten – 9:50, 1st & 2nd Graders – 10:10, all ages – 10:30.



VBS SAVE THE DATE! JULY 15-19
Registration opens March 4!

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH



Youth 6th grade and up meet Wednesdays from 6:00 – 7:00 pm for food, fun, fellowship, and faith! If you have any questions, contact Pastor MP or call the church office.



If you have a youth 7th 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! Never too late to join in!



Join us at the church for an afternoon of food, faith, fun, and fellowship! R.S.V.P. to Pastor MP mpanco@discoverstmark.org



Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, and contributed time to the youth Trivia Night fundraiser! Over \$9,500 was raised for the Youth Mission Trip. We had a successful event because of your support. Mark your calendars for next year's Trivia Night, March 8, 2025!

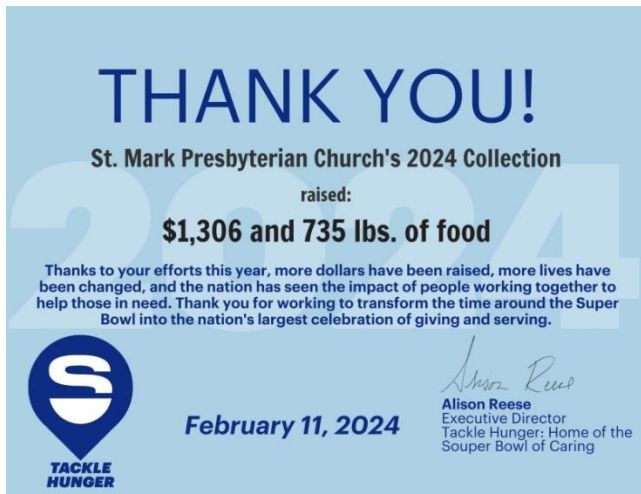
EQUAL EXCHANGE / FAIRLY TRADED



March 10 in the Narthex

Through fair trade, small-scale farmers are better able to support their families and stay on their land with better income and support from their co-operatives. 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!).

Cash, Credit, Debit, Mobile Payments Accepted.



Thank you for your generous contributions for the Souper Bowl of Caring here at St. Mark! \$1,306 and 735 pounds of food were collected and Pastor MP is sporting a very colorful do!



DISCOVER MISSION SUNDAY HAPPENED IN FEBRUARY ...

Our local mission partners LOVED their time at St. Mark! If you are interested in being more involved, how to support more directly, or have any follow-up questions about our mission partners, please contact a member of the mission committee. Joyce Blackwell & Chris Polak, Co-Chairs



Over 300 coats along with many bags of cold weather clothing were collected and delivered to Isaiah 58 Ministries. St. Mark volunteers lovingly sorted and stocked

the items in the free clothing room for guests to make selections for their household.

**MISSION AT ST. MARK
MARCH FOOD PANTRY MOST WANTED**

- Canned Pasta with Meat
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables (no green beans or corn please)
- Shampoo and Toothpaste*



All year long, we collect food and hygiene items for Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58 Ministries. *Non-food products cannot be purchased with food stamps. Please place donations on the table in the Pastors' hallway.



LENTEN WATER CHALLENGE

Pastor Dave has encouraged his congregations for the past 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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BOOK CLUB

Book club will meet Wednesday, March 27 at 9:30 am. The book for this month's discussion is **Mad Love** by Jodi Picoult & Jennifer Finney Boylan. There is an option to participate virtually as well as in person. Please contact Judy Richardson for a Zoom invite to participate virtually.



CELEBRATE EASTER WITH HANDMADE CANDY!

Presbyterian Women are selling delicious handmade salted caramel and chocolate bark (with or without almonds) just in time for Easter.

Candy sales will be before and after worship service on March 3, 10, & 17 for \$10 each and will be available on March 24. All proceeds go to the missions that Presbyterian Women support.



Grief is a journey we are never prepared to take. Have you lost a spouse, family member, or close friend? Are you finding it difficult to talk about your loss? Do you feel nobody understands? GriefShare is a place you can come with caring compassionate people to walk with you on your grief journey. Be with people who are experiencing similar feelings. Let us help you. GriefShare meets weekly for 13 weeks. It is very helpful, but not required to attend all the sessions. Our next session starts Tuesday February 13, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. The book fee is \$20. For information, contact Debbie Hames




ST. MARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PO BOX 100 BALTIMORE, MD

CIRCLE OF CONCERN
18TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE!
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024
ABERDEEN GOLF CLUB



Hosted by St. Mark Presbyterian Church
Benefitting the programs of Circle of Concern
Contact Bob Steward if you'd like to volunteer!

Midweek Church Potluck

March 20 – 5:00 PM



MARCH POTLUCK

You are invited on Wednesday, February 21 at 5pm to bring your favorite potluck dish and join us for food, fellowship, and an informative program.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CLAYMONT PRESCHOOL



February at Claymont Preschool at St. Mark brings our annual tradition of our Date with Dad program! On Saturday, February 3rd, our Three-Year-Old Class was invited to come with their Dad, Grandpa, or other VIP, for an hour of fun! Together our

pairs were able to tie dye a t-shirt, and create a trinket box out of popsicle sticks. It's such a wonderful opportunity for one-on-one time with each other. We were so glad most of our families were able to attend!



March 2nd, 2024 - 4PM to 8PM

All you can eat!

Spaghetti, meatballs, bread salad, and deserts

Vegan & Gluten Free options

**Dine In and Carry Out only \$10
(5 and under are free)**

**Tickets available Sunday Mornings
or at the door**

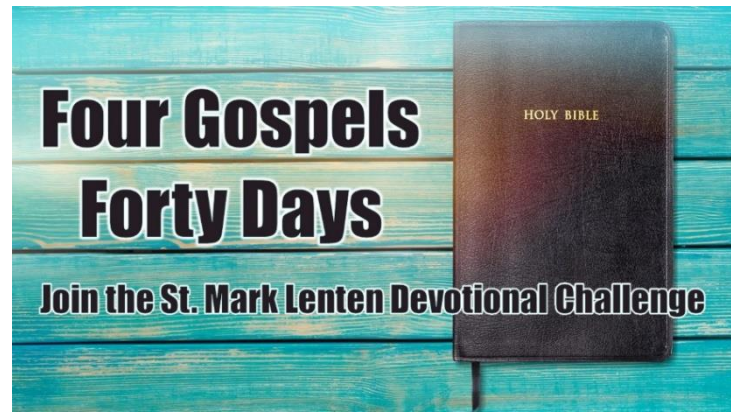


**Go Getters Luncheon
March 12 @ 12 pm**

The luncheon will be held at Edgewild Restaurant & Winery. Please invite a friend and join us for food, fun, and fellowship. Please let Jan Graves or Judy Richardson know of your plans to attend.



Dear St Mark Family,
 I want to thank you for the many cards and wishes of
 condolence, the wonderful food and support you have given
 our family during this time of loss. It is indeed a blessing to
 be a part of such a wonderful community.
 Sincerely yours,
 Sharon Tharp and family



During the season of Lent, Pastor Dave challenges the congregation to read passages from the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each day of the forty days of Lent. See below for your guide to reading four gospels in forty days.

FOUR GOSPELS IN FORTY DAYS READING SCHEDULE

DAY	PASSAGE	DAY	PASSAGE	DAY	PASSAGE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Matthew 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> 15	Mark 6-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 29	Luke 22-24
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Matthew 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 16	Mark 8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 30	John 1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Matthew 5-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 17	Mark 11-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 31	John 3-4
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Matthew 8-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 18	Mark 14-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 32	John 5-6
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Matthew 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 19	Luke 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/> 33	John 7-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Matthew 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 20	Luke 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 34	John 9-10
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	Matthew 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 21	Luke 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 35	John 11-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	Matthew 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 22	Luke 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 36	John 13-14
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	Matthew 19-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 23	Luke 8-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 37	John 15-16
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	Matthew 21-23	<input type="checkbox"/> 24	Luke 10-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 38	John 17
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	Matthew 24-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 25	Luke 12-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 39	John 18-19
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	Matthew 26-28	<input type="checkbox"/> 26	Luke 14-16	<input type="checkbox"/> 40	John 20-21
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	Mark 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 27	Luke 17-19		
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	Mark 4-5	<input type="checkbox"/> 28	Luke 20-21		