



Issue: August 2024

A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

Coming Attractions

The “Dog Days of Summer” are officially upon us, and St. Mark’s calendar is starting to heat up. We just completed a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School where 80 children learned about trusting in God to go with us, to lead the way, to share wisdom, to give us peace, and to spark joy. These are important messages for young and old alike, and it never hurts to be reminded of God’s presence in all things. I am so thankful for all the volunteers who helped make this such a memorable week.

As a child, I remember watching matinee movies in the cool comfort of air-conditioned theaters. I loved sitting in the darkened room waiting for the show to begin. Before the main attraction started, they treated us to a long list of coming attractions. Looking ahead in the summer, there are a few previews I want to share with you.

- The **ABC Sale** is **August 2 and 3**, but there are opportunities to help leading up to the rummage sale. It’s one of the best opportunities we have for service, fellowship, and mission. We hope you will consider joining us throughout the week.
- We’ll have the **Blessing of the Backpacks** during the **August 18** worship service. This annual event includes a prayer for God’s provision, protection, and providential love for all pupils, teachers, and families.
- **Discover Sunday** returns on **September 8**. This is our “homecoming” for all those who have been away for the summer. This event begins the church’s program year and provides opportunities to learn more about St. Mark’s many missions and ministries. In addition to longstanding committees and activities, we will have a table providing information about an upcoming **capital campaign** in early **2025**.

We want to hear from the congregation about needs, wants, and dreams for our campus. This is a very exciting time of growth at St. Mark, and we are exploring various ways to live out our **CREDO: SEEK. DISCOVER. SHARE.**

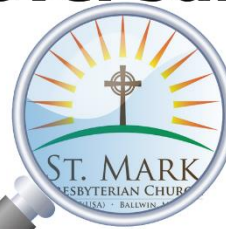
There are many wonderful things happening at church, and we are so thankful for all the members and guests who join together on Sunday mornings and throughout the week to experience and share God’s love. Please consider inviting friends, relatives, and neighbors to discover St. Mark and the many things we have to offer.

In Hope and Confidence,
Pastor Dave

SESSION SNIPPETS

Session did not meet in July.

Discover Sunday



September 8th



BELLS & CHOIR PRACTICE WILL RESUME IN AUGUST!

Practice will resume on Wednesday, August 4. The tentative practice schedule is 6 pm for Chancel Bells and 7 pm for Chancel Choir.

JULY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

| | Sunday In Person | Sunday Online | Total Attendance |
|---------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| July 7 | 140 | 83 | 223 |
| July 14 | 167 | 70 | 237 |
| July 21 | 111 | 83 | 194 |
| July 28 | 115 | 71 | 186 |

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK

Friday Morning Bible Study



Friday morning Bible study will resume regular gatherings in September. Keep your eyes and ears open for summer opportunities to gather for fellowship! Questions should be directed to Pastor MP mpanco@discoverstmark.org.

Mission Trip SUNDAY

August 18th, 2024

I Am the Good Shepherd

Our youth and adult mission trips were both wonderful successes! Learn more about what the teams did in Moss Point, MS and Spirit Lake, ND on August 18th in worship. Pastor MP will also be preaching on John 10:11-18 "I Am the Good Shepherd".

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

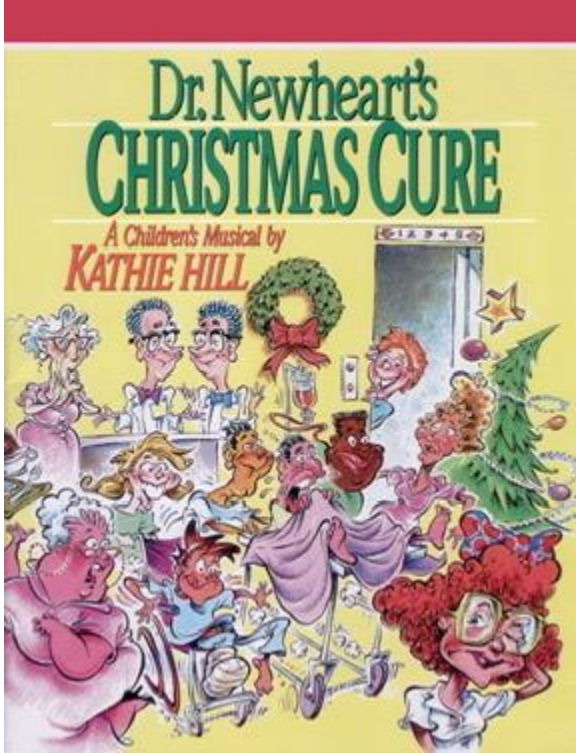
Sunday school for children PreK – 5th grade takes place during Sunday worship, immediately following the Children's Message.

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.



CHILDREN'S MUSICAL KICKOFF PARTY – SEPTEMBER 11, 5pm

The children's musical kickoff party will be on September 11th, 5pm- 6pm for ages 3 – 5th grade. Join us each Wednesday! For more info contact lgilliland@discoverstmark.org. Musical performance will be on December 8!

First released in 1991, Dr. Newheart's Christmas Cure is a Broadway-styled musical with a timeless message. When the kids come to the clinic suffering from the overkill of Christmas, Dr. Newheart diagnoses their malady as the "Christmas Day Dumps." Through the help of the clinic staff, Drs. Fric and Frac, the "Dis" orderlies and Pink Ladies, Mildred, Maude and Ethel, the kids realize they have a heart problem that only be cured by accepting Christ. In the end, even cranky Nurse Philpott receives a new heart for Christmas and all the mayhem and humor is capped with a touching musical invitation for Christ to "Come in My Heart."



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS & BIBLE SUNDAY!

All children entering 3rd grade will receive a bible on August 18. In addition, 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

Upcoming Rehearsals 11:15-12:15

August 4th & 18th

September 1st

Play in worship September 8th

Contact Pastor MP
mpanco@discoverstmark.org



**YOUTH MISSION FUNDRAISER
AUGUST 18TH, 12-5:00**

Sunday Aug. 18th, we need youth to participate in Ballwin Days 12-5pm. Please RSVP a two-hour time-slot that you can be there. You will act as "salespersons" at the water and sport drink stand. All tips will go to the St. Mark youth group mission fund. If you want to buy or do anything you need to bring your own cash. Extra volunteer service hours can be earned on Fri-Sat (see Liz O.) RSVP to Pastor MP ASAP!



Youth 6th grade -12th. Youth Wednesdays will resume in September. BUT keep your eyes open for youth hangout opportunities in July, and August! If you have any questions, contact pastor MP mpanco@discoverstmark.org or call the church office.

MISSION AT ST. MARK

AUGUST FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Pasta Sauce
- Baking Mixes
- Meal "Helpers"
- Shaving Cream*
- Razors*



All year long, we collect food and hygiene items for Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58 Ministries. Please place your donations on the mission table outside the church office. *Non-food products such as shaving cream and razors cannot be purchased with food stamps.

MISSION PARTNER AT AUGUST 11 WORSHIP SERVICE

Rev. Brenda Booth, Executive Director, Isaiah 58 Ministries, will participate in our worship service on Sunday, August 11th.

EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIRLY TRADED In the Narthex on August 11th



- Equal Exchange products have full traceability back to farmer cooperative partners.
- Guaranteed minimum price to the cooperatives
- The advance credit partners receive helps them weather market changes, improve farming practices, and plan for their families' futures.
- Chocolate shouldn't be cheap. It should be fairly produced, and delicious!

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, Digital Wallet Payments Accepted.

ST. MARK BLOOD DRIVE



Sunday Aug. 18, 8:30 am-1:30 pm
Any month is a good month to celebrate all kinds of affection: for friends, for family & for community. American Red Cross blood donors have the biggest

hearts. Blood donation is a selfless way to communicate love to friends, family & community who may not survive without it. Will you sign up to help the national blood need today? Just one blood donation can help save up to three lives! Make an appointment for Aug. 18th at

<http://www.redcrossblood.org/Donate/Blood> and enter: Saintmarkpres.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

What's behind the green door?



Find out as we

Open Doors with PW

at the

**Presbyterian Women's
2024 Fall Brunch**

**Saturday, September 7
10:00 a.m.**

The PW Board invites you to be our guests for a get together with fellowship, delicious food, entertainment and reflection.

This is a time to catch up with friends and make new ones.

As always, we guarantee smiles and a few laughs along the way.

Watch for more information in the August Messenger!



ATTENTION HANDYMEN AND DO-IT- YOURSELFERS!

The St. Mark Property Committee is actively seeking volunteers to fill various limited roles on an “occasional & as needed” basis throughout the year. If you are “semi-retired or an early retiree” (or someone who is just interested in helping out occasionally) and have some DIY skills, please contact a member of the Property Committee and/or plan on visiting our Discover Sunday table to learn more about what this involves and how you might share some of your time and talent with St. Mark.

BOOK CLUB

Book club will meet Wednesday, August 28 at 9:30 am. The book for this month's discussion is **The Bookbinder** Pip Williams. There is an option to participate virtually as well as in person. Contact Judy Richardson for a Zoom invite to participate virtually

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS

We welcome our two newest staff members: Patty Gingrich, Office & Facilities Manager, and Jessie Bahr, Preschool Director. Patty began work at St. Mark in July and Jessie will start on August 5. Both Patty and Jessie have shared a little bit about themselves in the letters below. Be sure to stop by and welcome them both to St. Mark!

I am thrilled to join the team at St. Mark Presbyterian Church and look forward to getting to know the greater church family here. I grew up in St. Louis and am happy to return after a 45-year journey that began with attending college in Columbia, MO followed by many years of employment there and a fabulous courtship/marriage too! Following the untimely passing of my husband, I sought more lucrative employment and ended up finding that in Wichita, KS where I remained until this June. Over the last few years I began to miss my family and hometown and that yearning led me to explore employment options in St. Louis. Through much prayer and deliberation my focus turned toward seeking an Office Manager position at a church, as I had found great fulfillment serving in a similar role for last six years in Wichita. My prayers were answered and I am transitioning to becoming a St. Louisan once again! That is the story of my journey. We'll get to know each other as the seasons unfold but I would describe myself as a creative person who loves gardening, music, art/design and animals (domestic and wild). I also confess to being a thrift store 'fashionista' and a health food enthusiast. I feel blessed to start this next chapter of the journey with all of you here.

Peace,
Patty Gingrich

I am Jessie Bahr, and I am honored and excited to introduce myself as the new director of Claymont Preschool. As I step into this role, I do so with great respect for the journey this community has been through and with a heartfelt commitment to continuing the legacy of care established by Susan.

My professional journey began in architecture, but it was through raising my children that I discovered my passion for early childhood education. I have taught English online to children in China and joined HopeMark Preschool, where I served as director for the past three years. Though I had planned to take some time off to focus on my family, the opportunity to serve Claymont Preschool and its community was one I could not pass up. I knew that Claymont needed me, and I needed them.

My vision for Claymont Preschool is to immerse myself in understanding the unique qualities of our program and community. I aim to bring my experience and dedication to help our school continue to thrive and provide an enriching environment for our children.

Though I currently reside in South County, I have roots in this area. I graduated from Marquette High School, and my parents still live here. Additionally, I have known Kristen Melter since she was my mom's swim coach at the Y, which adds a special personal connection to this community.

From what I have learned, Susan, our previous director, was an incredible leader and friend to all. Her efforts to update and improve our space have left a lasting impact, and I am committed to building on her work with the same spirit of friendship and dedication.

On a personal note, my husband of 14 years and I have two wonderful daughters. Our 11-year-old is an avid competitive swimmer starting middle school, and our 8-year-old loves to dance and will be entering 2nd grade. Our home is also shared with a senior dog, three affectionate cats, and some fish. I enjoy painting, reading, and exercising when I am not busy with my family or our pets.

I look forward to getting to know this community and working together to continue to create a nurturing and inspiring environment for our children. Thank you for welcoming me into the St. Mark community.

Warm regards,

Jessie Bahr