



Issue: June 2025



A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

UPWARD: From the End to the Complete

“...when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end” (1 Corinthians 13:10, NRSV.)

I remember the first time I saw them in college. They wore denim overalls, had long beards, and brought their own sound equipment. One could easily mistake them for a ZZ Top cover band, but their message was filled with brimstone and fire. Several of them had sandwich board signs hanging around their necks announcing all the things God hated with “selective” Scripture passages. They stood in the middle of Speaker’s Circle every Wednesday morning shouting at coeds making their way to their next class. They said many scary things, but their main message was, “The End is Near.” Most people walked on by ignoring their condemnation, but a few would stop and engage them in arguments. For all their effort, I don’t believe any souls were saved in the center of the Mizzou campus. I’ve seen similar displays in California, Alabama, and throughout Missouri. Perhaps, you’ve encountered them too. Every bullhorn blazing sermon announcing the end is nigh. This message stuck with me for many years. I don’t know if it was the repetition or my internal dread, but my spirit lived in fear of the end (whatever that might be.)

I remember the first time I received the theological antidote to this toxic theology. I was a second semester seminarian sitting in my New Testament class. The professor’s lecture, “What Does Revelation Really Reveal”

walked students through the history, meaning, and misuse of the apocalyptic text. He reminded us the Bible never talks about the “end” of time; it only speaks about its completion. Jesus tells the disciples he did not come to end the law; he came to complete it. His message was not abolition, it was fulfillment. I felt the scales falling from my eyes and the weight lifted from my spirit. I didn’t have to fear the end of things; I could look forward to the completion of God’s work.

I hope you remember this good news as we make our way into a new month together. We are celebrating the completion of several important seasons here at St. Mark. On June 8, we will conclude our 40-day journey for our UPWARD Capital Campaign with our Celebration Sunday. I am excited to announce we already have financial commitments for over one-third of the total cost of the projects. This is an exciting time in the life of our congregation. On Sunday, June 15, we will celebrate the completion of Pastor MP’s service in our community of faith. We are so thankful for the past five-and-a-half years and pray God’s blessing on this next chapter. I hope you will join us for these important celebrations.

In Hope and Confidence,

Pastor Dave

SESSION SNIPPETS

May 19 Meeting

The Capital Campaign Lunch and Learns have been well attended, and pledges have started coming in. Celebration Sunday will be June 8, and celebrations will be renewed on future Pentecost Sundays.

The Presbytery has established a special administrative committee to form a plan for the Mound Ridge property, which has struggled financially. The Presbytery has granted leader Ryan Landino a 12 week medical leave.

Session approved motions to transfer funds from Bus Maintenance, which is no longer needed, to a fund for Transportation/Pastoral Care.

Session approved a request from the Boy Scouts to use St. Mark facilities in the conduct of their fall Mum Sale.

Session decided that in the event of a weather emergency requiring shelter during Sunday Services, that the Sunday School children would shelter in a safety room next to Fellowship Hall, and parents would be able to meet them there and decide whether to remain there or proceed downstairs.

UPWARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



On June 8 we will be celebrating not only Pentecost, but also St. Mark's birthday,

AND the conclusion of our Capital Campaign with a giant potluck luncheon after our worship service. The Fellowship Committee will provide grilled hot dogs and brats, and you're invited to share your favorite side dishes and desserts with one another. Fun, Fellowship, and Delicious Food are guaranteed!



Please join us as we wish a fond farewell to MP with a reception following the worship, featuring Ted Drewes frozen

custard and fresh fruit. We can't say goodbye without making sure we (and St. Louis) won't soon be forgotten, so we will have a basket available for you to place any cards sending best wishes for MP's future ministry with a very lucky church in Ohio.

DEACONS IN ACTION

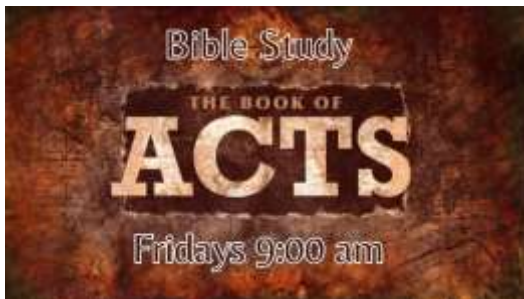
ABC Sale Only Two Months Away!

It is hard to believe it is the beginning of June and our ABC Sale is only a couple of months away! It is time to start gathering your donations for this year's sale. We will begin receiving donations on Sunday, July 27 from 11AM to 2PM, followed by Monday, July 28 through Wednesday, July 30 from 8AM to Noon. There are no donations on Thursday, July 31. Just pull up in your vehicle and volunteers will unload your "treasures" from your vehicle and take them inside. Donation receipts will be available on request.

The sale begins on Friday, August 1. Early bird entry is from 7AM to 8AM (for a \$10 fee); free general admission from 8AM to 1PM. Saturday August 2 there will be free general admission from 8AM to Noon. 100% of the proceeds will be distributed to our core local mission partners. Volunteers are *the key* to our ABC Sale success. We need help in all kinds of areas, from greeters at our front door to support in each of our "departments." Please consider if you can come help prepare for the sale (7/27 – 7/31), work during the sale days, or help clean up following the sale on August 2, or all of the above. Working the ABC sale not only helps our mission partners but also provides a wonderful fellowship opportunity to spend time with your St Mark family. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact either Joyce Blackwell or Pam Ladley. There will also be an opportunity to register to volunteer via Signup Genius (coming soon).

Please share information about the ABC Sale with your friends and neighbors and expand awareness even further on social media. We will continue to provide information via our St Mark Congregational Facebook Bulletin Board. We are incredibly grateful for your "treasures" as well as your support.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



THE BOOK OF ACTS

Starting Friday April 25th 9:00am. Join us as we read through and discuss the book of Acts. If you have any questions contact Pastor MP mpanco@discoverstmark.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH



Wednesdays will resume in September

We will be taking our summer break starting in May. Keep an eye out for youth and family activities throughout the summer. Youth

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.



Look for our Summer Sundays and VBS Volunteer sign up on the Welcome Center. Consider giving of your time one hour/once a month during the summer months

VBS AT ST. MARK



VBS AT ST. MARK, JULY 14-18

You've saved the date - now it's time to write it in your calendar. You have been invited to go on the most fun and extraordinary road trip adventure ever. You won't be alone as our mascot Scout is coming along and we will learn Joshua 1:9 "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go." We need early teams to sign up so - sign up today!



Registration is open! Use this QR code or go to discoverstmark.org to register!



Volunteers are also needed! If you can help for a few days or the entire week, use this QR code or go to the St. Mark website to register!

VBS MISSIONS! During the week of VBS "Road Trip" – our mascot "Scout" thought it would be a great idea to collect some items for our furry friends for our mission partners at Isaiah 58, Circle of Concern & PCHAS. A list of needs will be provided in the Parent VBS Handbook. We will also be collecting school supplies to be distributed by our Missions team. You will find clearly marked bins located at our registration tables in the foyer of our church entrance.



VBS ROAD TRIP DONATIONS!
Our donation station is up and running so as you pass by, please take a card or

two with an item and return that item anytime during the month of June. We so appreciation any way that you can participate in our VBS outreach week. Our kids and others in our community say, "Thank You!" We are in need of paper towel rolls, plastic lunch containers (50), vinegar, baking soda, corn starch, hair spray, painters tape to mention just a few. Monetary donations will go to support our youth volunteer activities and volunteer snack bar. **We also need Hot wheels race track sets and helpers to set them up the week before VBS.** Thank you for donating!

VBS WORK DAYS! Please come and join our team (even for just an hour) as we work on various "behind the scenes" projects that make our preparations for this year's VBS Road Trip a breeze. Your time and talents are so needed during this time. Many hands make light work and our church is the best when it comes to working together for good! Here are the dates and times:

- June 4, 11, 18, 25 (4-6 pm)
- Sunday, July 6 (immediately after the service to help move furniture in Sanctuary and Narthex)
- July 7-10 - Call Latisha to schedule, 10am - 12pm & 4-6pm
- July 11 - VBS potluck 5pm
- July 12 - All day
- July 13 - 12pm - 4pm

Contact Latisha at lgilliland@discoverstmark.org for scheduling and more information.

MISSION AT ST. MARK

JUNE FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Canned Fruit
- Cereal
- Snacks (8-12 servings)
- Sunscreen*



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.



June 21st, 2025
St. Mark Meal Packing Event
Register and donate using the QR code

Visit the table in the Narthex to make a donation. Volunteers of all ages are welcome! Use the QR code to register!

EQUAL EXCHANGE

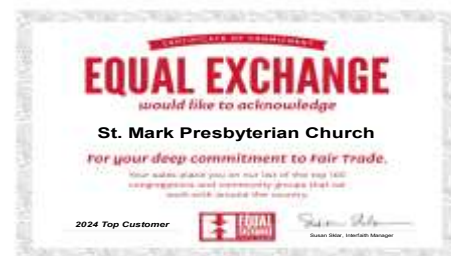
In the Narthex on June 8

St. Mark – Top 100 Organization!!!

Every time we serve Equal Exchange coffee at St Mark or sell Equal Exchange products we are making a

strong statement about our values. We are proclaiming that our congregation believes that it's vital to keep small farmers on the land providing food for their families and having some economic control over their lives; that it's important to work with indigenous producers and women; that sustainable agricultural methods are a vital way to address climate change.

Cash, Credit, Debit, Digital Wallet Payments Accepted





LENT WATER CHALLENGE – 14 WELLS!!!

Worldwide, more children are killed by unsafe drinking water than bullets. In Sub-Saharan

Africa, women spend 16 million hours every day transporting water and 50% of all hospitalizations are due to water borne illnesses. Thanks to your generous gifts of \$6,750 for the 2025 Lent Water Challenge, FOURTEEN rural villages in Africa will work with a Marion Medical Mission Field Officer and other volunteers to site, dig, and build clean water wells.

LET US RESOLVE TO RECYCLE TOGETHER IN 2025 ...

Plastic caps and lids STILL needed!

Plastic in our world is not going away anytime soon, so let's keep it out of the landfill and turn it into a new picnic table for Mound Ridge!



We need:

- caps/lids of all types from food grade containers and household items up to 8" in diameter
- look for the recycle symbol with number 2, 4, or 5

Please drop off your caps and lids in the collection bin near the Youth table in the Narthex.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BOOK CLUB

Book club will meet Wednesday, June 25, at 9:30 am. There is an option to participate virtually as well as in person. Please contact Judy Richardson for a Zoom invite to participate virtually.



PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church—when God poured out the Holy Spirit upon those gathered to witness to God's mighty works. Through our gifts to the Pentecost Offering, we join together to support the well-being and faith of young people all around the world who enrich the Church.

We are there to work to correct the lack of access to education for children-at-risk, nurture the faith and vocation of youth and create space for young adults to explore and grow as leaders in Christ's church. This Offering helps our young people begin life with a strong start that will last a lifetime.

Be involved by your participation in this Special Offering.

MAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Sunday In Person	Sunday Online	Total Attendance
May 4	158	108	266
May 11	157	53	210
May 18	155	71	226
May 25	98	80	170

FINANCIAL UPDATE

	April 2025 Actuals	April 2025 Budget	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget
Revenue	\$136,247	\$94,238	\$531,893	\$376,952
Expenses	\$90,929	\$97,336	\$395,651	\$389,344
Revenue vs. Expenses Surplus (Deficit)	\$45,318	(\$3,098)	\$136,242	(\$12,392)

Giving tends to be higher early in the calendar year, and this year is no exception. Tuition for the preschool spring semester is also front end loaded and accounts for a significant share of the surplus. Overall, giving is ahead of last year and expenses are slightly less than last year thru the end of March.

As was reviewed during the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26th, St. Mark ended 2024 with a deficit. The cause of the deficit was a combination of reduced giving overall and increased expenses due to inflation.

The initial proposed 2025 full year budget yielded a deficit of over \$130,000. Every committee in St. Mark reworked their 2025 budget to reduce the deficit to \$37,360. If every giving household would increase their giving by \$25-50 per month, the deficit would be eliminated. The goal for 2026 is to present a balanced budget to the congregation.

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.