



Issue: May 2025



A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

# *The Messenger*

Dear St. Mark Church Family,

As I sit to write this letter, I do so with a heart that is full, full of gratitude, of memories, and of deep love for each and every one of you. On life's journey sometimes the walk with one another is short. Sometimes, it is long. The beauty of the walk isn't measured by how long we walk together, but by the love, faithfulness, and presence we share along the way. And truly, what a beautiful journey this has been.

With that same spirit of gratitude and trust in God's unfolding path, I want to share with you that, after many months of prayerful discernment, I have accepted a new call to serve a congregation in Northeast Ohio. My final Sunday with you will be June 15th.

This decision comes out of a sense of deep calling as I am being drawn back home to be closer to my family, whom I have missed dearly, and to step into a new chapter of ministry where I will serve as the head of a new congregation. It is a bittersweet moment; one filled with both the sorrow of parting and the joy of following God's call.

Together, we have shared the sacred work of ministry. We've stood beside one another in worship, in mission, and in celebration. We've weathered storms, we've laughed together, and we've cried together. We've watched the Spirit move in powerful and quiet ways.

You have given me space to grow, not only as your pastor but as a whole person. You welcomed me with open arms, and supported me through seasons of joy and grief.

You have allowed me to be fully myself. And for all of that and so much more, I am profoundly thankful.

I'll always remember the joy of hearing your voices raised in song, the way you show up for each other in times of need, and the beauty of your commitment to caring for the community beyond the church walls. You are a congregation that loves deeply, serves faithfully, and lives generously. It has been an honor to walk with you, to lead you, and learn from you.

As I prepare to leave, I take comfort in remembering that God is not bound by geography. We are still part of the same body, held by the same Spirit, guided by the same grace. And while our time walking side by side is coming to a close, the impact you've had on my life will continue to unfold. You will always have a special place in my heart.

So, as June 15th approaches, I am looking forward to celebrating together the good work we have done, the good memories we've made, and the good future that God continues to prepare for us both.

Keep being the kind of church that welcomes all, serves boldly, and loves well. Keep trusting in God's plan. Keep lifting one another up. And know that I will be doing the same.

With love, peace, and blessings,

Pastor MP

## SESSION SNIPPETS

### April 28 Meeting

Rev. MP started the Session meeting with a reading from the 40-Day Devotional, and from the Luke Chapter 22 description of the first Maundy Thursday. We discussed what role the pulpit and communion table play in our life and ministry at St. Mark.

For the upcoming Pentecost offering, we voted to distribute the 40% of the offering retained by St. Mark equally to Presbyterian Children's Home and Services, and to Isaiah 58 for their back-to-school backpack program. The General Assembly uses the rest of the offering on programs that support youth.

The Session voted to approve a proposal from the Property Committee to use funds from the Endowment to complete much needed repairs on two of the flat sections of the St. Mark roof, over the office and over the technology area in the sanctuary. These areas of roofing are well past their service life, and replacement will prevent recurrence of leaks and water damage.

The Deacons held a very successful Blood Drive on 27 April, with 32 donors providing 37 units of blood. Collections of food and personal hygiene products for Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58 continue at the table in the foyer, and future projects include St. Mark Support for the Circle of Concern Golf Tournament on May 19, and the Rise Against Hunger project on June 21.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES!

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the next class of Elders, Deacons, Endowment and next year's Nominating Committee. We have a lot of talent in our church community and what better way is there to join in, make a difference and expand your circle of friends than participating in the work of the church! The forms are available at the Welcome Desk to suggest candidates with whom you have confirmed their agreement. Or submit your own name!

Forms are available at the Welcome Desk to leave in the Nominating Committee mailbox in the church office. Your energy and talents are needed, so please prayerfully consider.

## APRIL WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Sunday In Person	Sunday Online	Total Attendance
<b>April 6</b>	134	94	228
<b>April 13</b>	179	89	268
<b>April 17 Maundy Thurs.</b>	171	195	366
<b>April 18 Good Friday</b>	50	36	86
<b>April 20 Easter</b>	348	137	485
<b>April 27</b>	130	96	226

## UPWARD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN LUNCH & LEARN



The Upward Capital Campaign will kick-off on Sunday, April 27. We are excited about all the possible facility improvements

throughout the campus. You are invited to discover more about the projects at a series of "Lunch and Learn" events. We will discuss the form and function of each of these improvements and answer any questions you might have. The programs will take place after Sunday worship on **May 4** and **May 18**. There will also be one midweek hybrid presentation on Wednesday, **May 14**. Please sign up for one of the programs at the Capital Campaign table in the narthex or fill out the form online by using the QR code.

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK

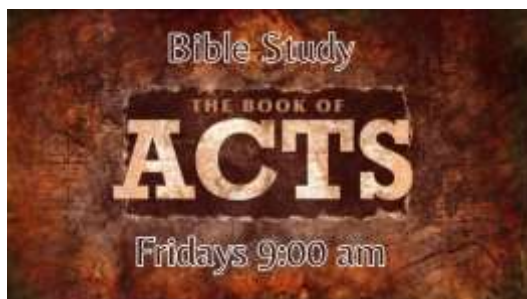
### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

St. Mark Men's Bible Study meets in Room 102 every Tuesday at 7:30 am. We are using the book, "12 Ordinary Men", by Joe MacArther. All men are welcome and can contact Bruce Cranston for more information.



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday mornings at 8:50 am



## 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](mailto:mpanco@discoverstmark.org).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH



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

Wednesdays will resume in September. If you have any questions, contact pastor MP

[mpanco@discoverstmark.org](mailto:mpanco@discoverstmark.org) or call the church office.

## 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.



## 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](http://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 VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON MEETING MAY 18, 11 AM -12 PM

Calling all VBS volunteers to a luncheon/meeting from 11 - 12 pm immediately after the worship service. We are meeting to help answer your questions about your part in this great July Event. If you haven't already registered to volunteer online at the [discoverstmark.org](http://discoverstmark.org) website or via the QR code in this bulletin, it is not too late. If you would like to register by form, you can pick up a form in the front office or at the Children's and Youth table in the Narthex.



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 AND/OR how to

"say YES TO VBS!" and join our team the week of July 14-18 from 9 am – 12 pm.





## GARDEN PLANTING PARTY

You are invited to join us on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 - 6:30 pm for a Children's Garden Planting Party. Bring your own plant, bring a picnic or drive-thru. We will plant, play on the playground and pray for a great harvest! Susan Talley's memorial stone will be placed in front of the Children's Garden.

## MISSION AT ST. MARK

### MAY FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Mac -n- Cheese
- Canned Pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal or Oatmeal
- Dish Soap\*

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.



## EQUAL EXCHANGE

In the Narthex on May 11  
Medjool Dates

- exceptionally large and luscious
- soft and chewy with strong caramel notes
- enjoy as a sweet, healthy snack
- add to recipes while cooking or baking



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.

## 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.

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Rise**  
AGAINST HUNGER



June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

St. Mark Meal Packing Event

Register and donate using the QR code



St. Mark's inaugural Man Cave Movie Night premieres on Tuesday, May 20 in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Dave is smoking pork, and we will have all the western fixins for the meal at 5:30 pm. The movie will begin at 6:00 pm. Bring a friend and an appetite for this special event.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

### BOOK CLUB

Book club will meet Wednesday, May 28, 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.



**Friday, May 9, 5:30 – 7:00 pm**

Please join us for a joyful community gathering to remember our dear friend, Susan. This is a family friendly get together to visit and play in one of Susan's happy places – the preschool playground. Children are welcome to bring bikes and scooters to decorate. All are welcome.

