



Issue: July 2025



A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

# *The Messenger*

## Have You Ever Wondered?

I listened to a podcast recently where the host opined it's easier than ever to acquire information, but it's more difficult to interpret it. This comment rattled around in my brain over the last several days, and I think there is a lot of truth to it. There was a time, not *that* long ago, when if you had a question, you would need to ask a teacher, a parent, or a trusted expert to provide the facts. It was a process, and it required dialogue to ascertain the answer. Nowadays, it's a speedy search on the phone, a quick question to a smart speaker, or a short query to an artificial intelligence site. It's easy to get an answer, but it's hard to acquire the truth. It's hard to navigate a world of wishy-washy wisdom, half-baked truths, and full-on lies.

I once had a youth group student in California who attended a different church one Tuesday night. I was worried about this because they were the biggest congregation in the area and had a habit of pinching kids from other faith communities. I was relieved when she returned to our group the next week. I asked her how she liked the other group, and she responded, "It was fine, but the youth pastor didn't allow anyone to ask any questions." She loved our smaller group because we participated in discussion every week. This desire for dialogue doesn't end in our childhood, but it is oftentimes absent in our adult years.

St. Mark is offering a month-long course in August on getting **Back to the Basics**. Whether you are new to the faith or a "Cradle Presbyterian", this class is designed for you. There are many questions we are afraid to ask because we feel like we should have learned everything years ago. In the back of our heads, we think we missed the Sunday school class that would have provided all the answers. This class will cover the history of the Bible, the essentials of the Christian faith, the distinctives of the Reformed Tradition, and so much more. It's an opportunity to ask questions and participate in a meaningful dialogue. It will meet for an hour before worship **each Sunday in August**, and it is open to all. As always, the church will provide childcare for anyone who needs it.

I am excited about this opportunity, and I hope you will join us. You can also email me questions ahead of time, and I am happy to address them in the class.

In Hope and Confidence,

Pastor Dave

## SESSION SNIPPETS

### At the June 16 meeting, Session:

Reviewed the status of the Capital Campaign pledges, which are now over \$1.2 million, or about 74% of the goal. The earliest work will need to be done on the roof, and on sanctuary lighting.

Approved a motion from Fellowship to schedule an outdoor Concert on August 8, featuring Mark Reynoso's jazz quartet.

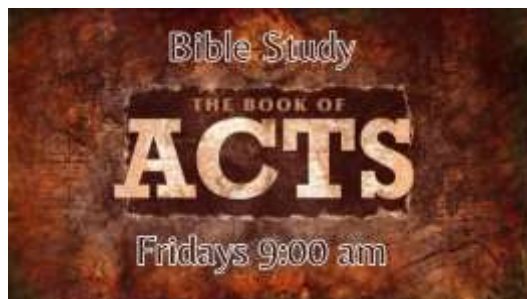
Approved a proposal from Finance to discontinue the Thanksgiving offering. This offering was created to fund a Pastors' Discretionary Fund, but the need for this fund no longer exists.

As we work to determine what staffing St. Mark should have in the long run, Donna Schiro has agreed to serve in a part time role as Transitional Parish Associate.

## JUNE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Sunday In Person	Sunday Online	Total Attendance
June 1	152	70	292
June 8	190	91	281
June 15	170	86	256
June 22	136	74	210
June 29	124	112	236

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



### THE BOOK OF ACTS

Join us as we read through and discuss the book of Acts on Fridays at 9 am



Everyone is invited to join us for this All-Church education opportunity. You might be new to the faith, or you might have attended for years and still have questions. Pastor Dave will lead a five-week study of the essentials of the Christian faith, the Reformed Tradition, and the Presbyterian Church. This is an excellent opportunity to build and strengthen faith. Everyone is welcome and childcare will be provided. Please contact Pastor Dave with any questions.

## A NOTE FROM OUR NEW TRANSITIONAL PARISH ASSOCIATE – DONNA SCHIRO

Thank you for the opportunity to work at St. Mark...again! It's been some years ago that I left St. Mark employment as Christian Education Coordinator, and although Jim and I have maintained our membership, I've secretly been praying for the opportunity to work at this church again. So needless to say, I am delighted to accept the Session's call to serve as Transitional Parish Associate, beginning July 1. What is a TPA, you ask? I'm not sure if I can answer this at this time, all I know is that my mission will be to assist Pastor Dave in whatever roles he may need, pastorally or otherwise, as we chart our way along God's path as a result of Pastor MP's departure. Many of you know that as a Ruling Elder I chose to be trained by our Presbytery equipping me to be commissioned to a Presbyterian Church as a Pastor. I answered a call and served a rural church as a solo pastor in Cuba, MO for three years. Currently I serve on Pulpit Supply and the New Worshipping Community Commission for Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery. Jim and I have been married forever and we enjoy spending time with my mom, our daughters, son-in-law and three grandchildren. I couldn't be more excited to start on this journey with all of you! –Donna Schiro

## DEACONS IN ACTION

It's July!!

It's hard to believe that July is here already and the ABC Sale is only a few weeks away!!

As a reminder, the sale begins on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember there is early bird entry from 7AM to 8AM (for a \$10 fee); free general admission from 8AM to 1PM. Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be free general admission from 8AM to Noon. Most importantly, 100% of the proceeds will be distributed to our key mission partners.

Again, 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 us prepare for the sale (7/27 – 7/31), work during the sale days, or help us 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, please contact either Joyce Blackwell or Pam Ladley.

Don't forget to share information about the Sale with your friends and neighbors, as well as on social media. If your neighborhood allows it, we can provide a yard sign for you. Let Joyce or Pam know if you need one.

We will continue to provide information via our St Mark Congregational Facebook Bulletin Board. We are very grateful for your "treasures" as well as your support.

## 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



### VBS AT ST. MARK, JULY 14-18

**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. 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 appreciate 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:

- 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 – Bring a dish to share & stay to help decorate!
- July 12 - All day
- July 13 - 12pm - 4pm

Contact Latisha at [lgilliland@discoverstmark.org](mailto:lgilliland@discoverstmark.org) for scheduling and more information.

## MISSION AT ST. MARK

### JULY FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Mac-n-Cheese
- Canned Chicken and Sardines
- Peanut butter
- Laundry Detergent\*

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 cannot be purchased with food stamps.



### EQUAL EXCHANGE

**In the Narthex on July 13  
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.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



### DIRECTORY ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

We are in the process of updating our annual directory. This book is provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please the church office by July 7.

### LET 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.





# ABC Sale August 1 & 2

Workdays: July 27-31

100% of Net Proceeds to Local Mission Partners!

## YES, PLEASE!

- items typically sold at a thrift store
- donation receipts will be available during drop-off hours
- snacks, cookies, and quick breads to "fuel" our volunteers
- **Drop off donations July 27-July 30**
- Want to volunteer?— Contact ABC Sale Co-Chairs: Joyce Blackwell, Pam Ladley

## SORRY, NO THANK YOU ...

- large furniture, large appliances, TVs (Doesn't fit in a compact SUV...it's a NO!)
- encyclopedias or magazines
- car seats, highchairs, or cribs
- Christmas trees
- hazardous waste (even if unopened): such as paint, chemicals, oil, household cleaners

**Workdays: July 27 thru July 31**

**Sale Days: August 1 & 2**

Start saving your treasures! As always, the sale is a great opportunity for fellowship and outreach to the community. This is the primary fundraiser to support our local mission partners. Interested in volunteering? Contact Joyce Blackwell or Pam Ladley, Co-Chairs.

## **ANOTHER WAY TO HELP WITH THE ABC SALE!**

The "ABC Café" would love to share your home baked cookies, brownies and quick breads with our amazing volunteers! We are also hoping to use up all of the odds and ends paper products in our kitchen and from your home! If you have paper plates, cups or napkins from a party that are leftover, we would love to use them up for you!! Please deliver baked goods and paper products to the kitchen clearly marked "ABC SALE" on Sunday, July 27.

Circle of Concern  
FOOD PANTRYST. MARK  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## CIRCLE OF CONCERN'S

### 19TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

at Aberdeen Golf Club in Eureka, MO

## \$39,000 RAISED - THANK YOU!

Circle of Concern would like to thank  
**St. Mark Presbyterian Church** for making our  
annual golf tournament a huge success!

Thanks to your time and support, this event raised \$39,000,  
which surpasses our most recent years, and will directly  
benefit our food pantry and other client programs.  
We are truly grateful for this continued partnership!

[VIEW A RECAP OF THE EVENT AT CIRCLEOFCONCERN.ORG](http://CIRCLEOFCONCERN.ORG)