



Worship Bulletin

November 9, 2025

QR Code for Volunteer
Accelerator Survey



ORDER OF WORSHIP

CENTERING PRAYER

Pierre Jurieu (1637-1713)

O God, guide of my youth, light of the blind, teacher of the ignorant: you enlighten the simple, lead wanderers back into the right path and draw praise from the mouth of children. Teach me your ways and draw me away from the paths of the world. Tarry not, so that I may make haste; leave me no longer in the world and in sin. O my Savior and my God, by pouring your grace into my soul, make my heart desire You, and in desiring seek you, and in seeking find you, and in finding love you.

PRELUDE

Rejoice, Give Thanks, and Sing!

Douglas E. Wagner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Psalm 100)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

**Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing**

Know that the Lord is God.

**It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the Lord is good;

**his steadfast love endures for ever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.**

† HYMN

“He Has Made Me Glad”

**I will enter His gates
With thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day
That the Lord has made
I will rejoice for
He has made me glad.**

**He has made me glad
He has made me glad
I will rejoice for
He has made me glad.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of peace, we confess we are a people of fear. We let anxiety rule our days and worry our nights. We are distracted by nerves and focus on tension. We confess we ignore your command not to be afraid. Forgive us, O God. Calm our hearts, settle our spirits, and renew in us the ability to find comfort in you. (Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

† **GLORIA PATRI**

Hymnal #581

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen, amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN (Children's Sunday School is in Fellowship Hall)

† **HYMN**

"Just a Closer Walk with Thee"

Hymnal #835

SCRIPTURE

I Thessalonians 5:12-25

SERMON

Taking the Next Steps: Engage with Gratitude

Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess

† **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**Westminster Confession of Faith,
Shorter Catechism Question One**

Q. What is our chief end?

A. Our chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy God forever.

OFFERTORY

Higher Ground
Chancel Choir

Jeff Wächter

† **THE DOXOLOGY**

Hymnal #609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. **Amen.**

† **HYMN**

"Why Should I Feel Discouraged?"

Hymnal #661

† **CHARGE AND BLESSING**

† **BENEDICTION**

"We Will Walk with God"

Hymnal #742

RESPONSE

Sing Twice

**We will walk with God, my brothers;
we will walk with God.
We will walk with God, my sisters;
we will walk with God.
We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.
We will go rejoicing till the kingdom has come.**

POSTLUDE

Blessed Assurance

Phoebe P. Knapp

† In body or spirit, please rise.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

- | | |
|--|---|
| 9 Adult Bible Study, 8:50 am | 13 Chair Exercise, 10 am |
| 9 Volunteer Accelerator Introduction | 14 Friday Morning Bible Study, 9:30 am |
| 11 Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am | 16 Stewardship Celebration Sunday |
| 11-12 PW Christmas Boutique | 19 Pot Luck & Program, 5 pm |
| 12 Children & Youth Activities, 5 pm & 6 pm | 23 Giving Thanks Meal, 11 am |
| 12 Chancel Bell & Choir Practices, 6 & 7 pm | |

WELCOME TO ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

We are pleased to have you join us this morning. Your presence enriches both us and this experience of worship together. It is our prayer this will be a time of challenge and encouragement. Wherever you may be on your faith journey, there is a place for you to participate in our life together here at St. Mark.

TO OUR GUESTS: We hope you enjoy your visit today. Whether this is your first visit, or you have been coming to St. Mark and are considering joining the church and you would like to know more about St. Mark, we would be happy to talk with you. For more information, please contact the church office, 636-394-2233.

TO ALL: Listening devices are available from a sound technician in the booth at the back of the sanctuary. Large print bulletins and hymnals are also available upon request from an usher.

Devotional Booklets, *These Days* are available in the lobby at the main entrance.

Flowers in the Sanctuary are donated by Mark & Stacey Caplinger in celebration of their 30th wedding anniversary.

Please be aware that, as St. Mark works to increase safety and security, all doors to the building are locked Sunday morning once worship has begun. Those who arrive late should approach the door at the office entrance and will be admitted by a member of the Security Team.

TO MEMBERS: Please wear your NAMETAG at church. Don't have one? Stop by the church office where you will find a form to fill out in the "Name Badge" mailbox.

WAYS TO GIVE: There are several convenient and easy ways to contribute to St. Mark:

In-person: During Sunday Worship Service

Mail: Please make check out to St. Mark Presbyterian Church and send to St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 601 Claymont Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011

Online: To donate, use the **QR Code** here to be directed to our giving page on discoverstmark.org.



2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN





YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CHRISTMAS CANTATA

You are invited to join the choir in preparing for this year's Christmas Cantata. The choir will rehearse Cantata music Wednesdays at 7pm. The Cantata will take place Sunday, December 14.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



SUNDAYS AT 8:50

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Join us for a study of the books called "Angels" by Vinita Hampton Wright.

"What - or who - are angels? Where did they come from, and what is their purpose? What is their relationship to us as human beings? This study will explore numerous Bible passages that reveal the services these heavenly beings perform, the part they play in spirituality, and how they differ from other beings in God's created order."

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Tuesday Bible Study is reading Max Lucado's book, "You Are Never Alone". It uses the Gospel of John as a source of God's active presence in our lives. All men are welcome to join us for Bible study every Tuesday morning at 7:30 am! If you have questions call or email Bruce Cranston.

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 – 2 years, is available Sunday mornings from 8:30 am – 11:00 am, except for the first Sunday of the month when the nursery is open but there is no attendant present.

WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

Midweek Praise Club, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL SIGN IN!

Use this QR code to sign in for Sunday School. Scan the code to access the attendance form and enter the required information. We ask that you have your student



registered before Time With Children so that we can contact you via text in the event that you are needed.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH



Youth 6th– 12th grade. Join us for food, fun, faith, and fellowship! If you have any questions, call the church office.



The Zoo Lights are open from 5 – 8:30 pm. Families are encouraged to meet at the entrance at 6 pm for a group photo. The cost is \$8 per participant. Ticket requests must be received by December 1. You may sign up at the youth table or contact Jen Melter or Liz Oglesby.

MISSION AT ST. MARK NOVEMBER FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Canned Chicken & Rice
- Coffee, Hot Chocolate
- Toothpaste
- Snacks
- Dish Soap



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.



Many people in our region lack enough warm clothing to stay protected throughout winter. New and gently used clean winter coats and clothing are needed for men, women, and kids, all sizes, and styles. Our mission partners will ensure someone in need receives your gift of warmth

Dog and cat coats are appreciated. Most shelters don't allow animals, so let's give the furry family members some love and warmth, too.

Please place your donations in the bins in the office foyer.

EQUAL EXCHANGE -- IN THE NARTHEX ON NOVEMBER 9 & AT THE PW CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Kirsten from Equal Exchange followed up on questions from the chocolate tasting potluck:

1. What happens to the white pulp (mucilage) that surrounds the cacao bean?

The white mucilage is used up in the fermentation process. It surrounds the cacao, and its sugars are fermented by the natural yeasts and bacteria in the air to contribute to a high-quality cacao flavor. The mucilage slowly dries around the beans during the fermentation process and is completely dried in the drying process, so there is not any left over.

2. Who arranges the transportation of the cacao beans from the country where the beans are grown to Switzerland (for manufacturing)?

Equal Exchange and our cacao processing partner in Switzerland arrange for transporting the beans from the country of origin to Switzerland.

3. What are the timeframes for cacao beans to go through the fermentation and drying processes?

The fermentation process takes about 5 days. The drying process depends on the weather but generally takes about 5-7 days.

4. Who purchases EE products?

Churches of many different denominations and synagogues offer Equal Exchange products. Retailers that sell Equal Exchange products include natural food stores, food cooperatives, and family-owned stores.



THE TRADITION CONTINUES

The Angel Tree will once again be making an appearance in the Narthex. Please select an angel or two to help provide a Merry Christmas for one or more children.

This year, Children's Ministries has selected Isaiah 58 as the recipient, and they have provided a wish list for our Angel Tree. Especially needed are gifts for teens. Please return your gift (\$20-25 range) and place it under the tree with the angel attached by Sunday, November 30th.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

St. Mark Presbyterian Women

Christmas Boutique

Christmas Decorations and Ornaments
Handmade Holiday Items Children's Items Jewelry
Embroidered Items Original Artwork and Crafts
Doll Clothes Floral Arrangements
Herbal Products Personalized Items Jams & Jellies
Fresh-Baked Delicacies Many More Unique Gift Ideas

Angel Street Café

Join us for lunch or dinner!
Enjoy St. Mark's Famous Chicken Salad, homemade soups
and heavenly cakes and pies.
It's a great way to launch the holiday season with family
and friends.

Tuesday, November 11, 2025 Wednesday, November 12, 2025
10:30 a.m.- 6:30 p.m. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

St. Mark Presbyterian Church 601 Claymont Drive Ballwin, MO 63011

Midweek Church Potluck
November 19 - 5:00 PM

THANKFULL
Reclaiming Gratitude
Wed., Nov. 19 - 6:00 PM

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



**How you can help with the
Christmas Boutique and the Angel
Street Café, November 11 & 12!**

- *Make chicken salad, bean soup, or broccoli soup.
- *Bake specialty desserts or bake a pie of cake for the dessert table.
- *Create a yummy treat for the bake sale.
- *Help with set up after church on Sunday, Nov. 10.
- *Work a shift on Tuesday and/or Wednesday.
- *Help with take down on Wednesday afternoon.
- *Shop 'til you drop!
- *Bring your friends to lunch!
- *Come back for supper!

**KIDS & YOUTH
CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM**

**Jingle
Mingle**

4:00 PM
DECEMBER 7TH
5:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

St. Mark will continue our tradition of beautifying our sanctuary with poinsettias for our Sunday service on the 21st and Christmas Eve service.

We will begin taking orders on October 19th. Please consider ordering one or more to bring home to your family and friends. The poinsettias may be taken home after the Sunday service or after the Christmas Eve Service. Order forms can be found by the flower chart on the easel. Please make your check payable to *St. Mark Presbyterian Church* and place the order form and check in the "Drop Box" in the Pastor's Hallway. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 16th. The cost is \$7 per plant. Plants are sourced from a locally owned greenhouse. If you have questions, please contact Mickey McKnight.

**Donate Your Leftover
Halloween Candy To
The USO!!**

USO

Donation Box Will Be In The Office
Through November 9th

**LAST DAY FOR THE ANNUAL
USO HALLOWEEN CANDY DRIVE!**



The Holidays are fast approaching and the hustle and bustle of this happy season will soon begin. For some people, however, this time of year is anything but happy. The holidays have a completely different feeling when you have lost a loved one. Going out to parties, being with people is not what you want to do. Join us for Surviving the Holidays. It is a one-time two-hour session, Tuesday December 2, that will try to help you find the tools to get through the holidays. Please join us. For more information contact Debbie Hames.



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 January 13, 6:00 – 8:00 pm. For information, contact Debbie Hames.



GIVING THANKS MEAL
St. Mark's annual GIVING THANKS dinner will be held on Sunday, November 23,
immediately after the worship

service. Please join us as we all gather together to share in fellowship, good conversation and laughter while enjoying a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with one another. We invite you to bring your favorite dessert to share...we'll take care of everything else!!

As we enter into the busy holiday season, we often reflect on all the blessings that have been bestowed upon us, while realizing that many of our neighbors are in need. This year we are seeking items that are the most requested by, yet rarely donated, for holiday meals. The next time that you are at the grocery store, please consider helping Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58 stock their shelves with ingredients that their clients can use to cook and bake favorite recipes for their friends and families throughout the holidays so they can enjoy some of their most treasured treats. These items include **baking mixes (cookies cakes, brownies, quick breads), baking spices (cinnamon, ginger), baking powder, baking soda, chocolate chips, shortening, sugar, vanilla extract.** All donations can be placed on the tables located in the lobby outside the church office. Many, many thanks for your generosity and willingness to make the holiday season a little brighter for those less fortunate!

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess
Dir. of Children's Ministry: Latisha Gilliland
Dir. Of Claymont Preschool: Jessie Bahr
Parish Associate: Donna Schiro



601 Claymont Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011
(636)394-2233

website: discoverstmark.org

Dir. of Music: Ethan Forte
Accompanist & Organist: JeeHye Lee
Special Music: Chancel Choir
Liturgist: Cay Noble