



ST. MARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PC(USA) • BALLWIN, MO

**Worship Bulletin
January 4, 2026**

QR Code for Volunteer
Accelerator Survey



ORDER OF WORSHIP

CENTERING PRAYER

Giving God, you adopted us as your children, siblings of your beloved, Jesus Christ. Empower us to be holy and blameless witnesses to your glorious reign of peace and love now come into this world. Amen.

PRELUDE

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

John Carter

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Grace to you and peace in this new year.

**We will bless God who has blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing.**

In Christ we have obtained an inheritance.

We have been redeemed as God's own people.

Praise be to God!

† HYMN

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Hymnal #151

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of love and compassion, you came into the world and yet we do not recognize you.
Forgive our lack of insight and open our eyes to see you here and now, that we may receive
your grace upon grace through Jesus Christ.** (Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

† GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

Hymnal #581

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

† HYMN

“Here I Am to Worship”

See Bulletin

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-18

SERMON

“The First Question”

Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism

Q1. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Q2. What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

OFFERTORY

Adoration of the Wise Men
Chancel Choir

arr. Crawford R. Thoburn

† 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!

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Bread & Cup

Prayer After Communion

† HYMN

“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

Hymnal #12

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†BENEDICTION

“Peace on Earth”

Sussex Carol

RESPONSE

**Peace on the earth, Good will to all,
the angels sang from Heav'n above.**

**Peace on the earth, Good will to all,
we go to share God's peace and love.**

POSTLUDE

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

arr. Geoffrey Edwards

†In body or spirit, please rise.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 5** Prayer Circle, 9:30 am
- 7** Children & Youth Activities, 5 & 6 pm
- 7** Chancel Choir & Bells practice, 6 & 7 pm
- 13** Go Getter Luncheon, 12 pm
- 13** Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am

- 14** Potluck and Program, 5 pm
- 25** Congregational Meeting, following worship
- 28** PW Book Club, 9:30 am
- 28** PW Mid-Winter Gathering, 1 & 6:30 pm

February

- 1** Chili Cookoff, following worship

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.

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.



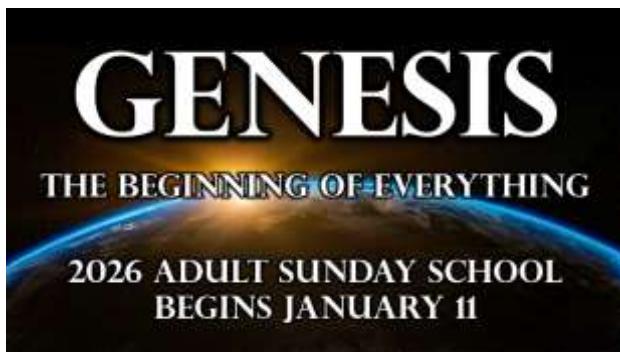
ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

The Heidelberg Catechism was published in 1563 and was soon accepted by Reformed churches throughout Europe. It is designed to provide instruction for young people, give a pastoral guide for preaching, and shape a faith that is lived, not just learned.

The questions and answers are divided into 52 Lord's Day sections, and we will be using them as our Affirmation of Faith throughout 2026. Over the course of this year, we will cover the essentials of the Christian faith and look at practical applications for our lives.

The catechism begins with a familiar question, "What is your only comfort in life and in death?" It then moves to discussions on Guilt, Grace, and Gratitude. This yearlong journey will begin today, January 4. You can access a Heidelberg Catechism Q&A page with footnotes for each week on the Worship page at discoverstmark.org and are encouraged to ponder the questions ahead of each service.



FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us Fridays at 9:30 am.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study will begin a new study exploring the Holy Spirit. We will be using The Promise of The Holy Spirit by Paul Balias. We meet in rm 102 every Tuesday at 7:30. All are welcome!

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.

MISSION AT ST. MARK JANUARY FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Beef stew & canned greens
- Coffee & hot chocolate
- Toilet paper
- Laundry Detergent (50 oz or smaller)



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.

EQUAL EXCHANGE

In the Narthex on January 11

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. Cash, Credit, Debit, Digital wallet payments accepted.



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, **adult sizes for men and women in particular**. Our mission partners will ensure someone in need receives your gift of warmth. Dog and cat coats are appreciated too!

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BOOK CLUB

Book club will meet Wednesday, January 28, at 9:30 am. We are reading *Patriot* by Alexei Navalny. There is an option to participate virtually as well as in person. Please contact Judy Richardson for a Zoom invite to participate virtually.

ST. MARK PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MID-WINTER GATHERING

Wednesday, January 28, 2026
1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

ACCORDING TO TRADITION... WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE APOSTLES



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

No road trip would be complete
without lots of travel snacks.

A reminder: Not for women only!
Sign up for the Gathering
at the PW Table in the Narthex!



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.



**CALLING ALL
CHEFS AND
TASTERS!!** The
Annual St. Mark
Chili Cookoff will
take place after the
worship service on



Sunday, February 1. For those who seek to win the treasured traveling trophy, a contestant sign-up sheet will be at the coffee center over the next few weeks. Of course, we need tasters to determine which chili will be the winner by voting with your dollars. All proceeds raised will go to Claymont Elementary to help with student lunch accounts and other needed supplies for the children throughout the year. Thanks to your generosity, last year we raided over \$950.00! Who will be the winner this year? The competition will be fierce!

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess
Dir. of Children's Ministry: Latisha Gilliland
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: JoAnna Carter