



ST. MARK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PC(USA) • BALLWIN, MO

**Worship Bulletin
January 25, 2026**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CENTERING PRAYER

Once, dear God, we could hear you walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze. Now, you call across the distance, "Where are you?" We echo back the same question, "Where are you?" You wait and watch for us; we wait and watch for you. Help us to see beyond the temporary to the eternal. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, help us to trust that our frailty is received into your hospitable house in the heavens. Renew us day by day until we come again into your presence, where the weight of your glory lifts us in grace and light. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

PRELUD

Justice and Mercy

Steven Scott

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Psalm 130)

With God, there is: Forgiveness,
steadfast love,
Great power to redeem.
We wait for the Lord, who is our hope.
Through the long night,
we watch for God more passionately
than for the sun's first light.

† HYMN

"O for a World"

Hymnal #372

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we try to hide from your presence, knowing we trade your abundant life for a wasteland of sin. We do not follow your will but heed other voices and pursue our own selfish desires. We are misguided, unable to discern good from evil. Making the wrong choice continually, we cause pain to you, our neighbors, and ourselves. Please forgive us so we may live in peace with you, others, and ourselves. You alone can restore us.

(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 will meet in Fellowship Hall)

† HYMN

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Hymnal #435

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 3:1-13

SERMON

"Escaping Justice"

Rev. Dr. Dave Burgess

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 4

Q9. But doesn't God do us an injustice by requiring in his law what we are unable to do?

A. No,¹ God created human beings with the ability to keep the law. They, however, provoked by the devil,² in willful disobedience, robbed themselves and all their descendants of these gifts.

Q10. Does God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?

A. Certainly not.¹ God is terribly angry with the sin we are born with as well as the sins we personally commit. As a just judge, God will punish them both now and in eternity, having declared: "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law."²

Q11. But isn't God also merciful?

A. God is certainly merciful,¹ but also just.² God's justice demands that sin, committed against his supreme majesty, be punished with the supreme penalty—eternal punishment of body and soul.

OFFERTORY

Answer to the Call
Chancel Choir

Mary McDonald

† 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

"Live into Hope"

Hymnal 772

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†BENEDICTION

"There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

Hymnal #408

RESPONSE

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

POSTLUDE

Triumphal March

arr. Lance Everson

†In body or spirit, please rise.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 25** Adult Sunday School, 8:50 am
- 27** Men's Bible Study, 7:30 am
- 28** PW Book Club, 9:30 am
- 28** PW Mid-Winter Gathering, 1 & 6:30 pm
- 28** Children & Youth Activities, 5:30 & 6 pm
- 28** Chancel Choir & Bells practice, 6 & 7 pm
- 29** Chair Exercise, 10 am

February

- 1** Scout Sunday
- 1** Chili Cookoff, following worship
- 8** Souper Bowl of Caring
- 8** Annual Congregational Meeting, following worship
- 15** Discover Mission Sunday
- 28** Trivia Night, 5 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.

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

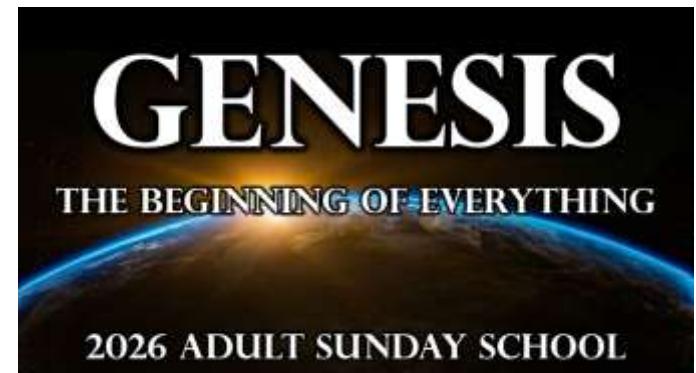
Presbyterian Church and send to St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 601 Claymont Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011

Online: To donate, use the **QR**

Code here to be directed to our giving page on discoverstmark.org.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



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

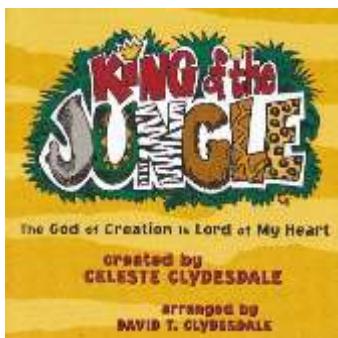
Midweek Praise Club, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

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.



Join us for Kids Praise Club and musical rehearsal weekly on Wednesdays, at 5:30pm!



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH

YOUTH WEDNESDAYS

Join us on
January 7, 14, 21, & 28
6:00 – 7:00 pm



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.



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!

**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 raised over \$950.00! Who will be the winner this year? The competition will be fierce!



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.



Prepared. For Life.™

**CALLING ALL SCOUTS, CUB
SCOUTS, GIRL SCOUTS, ADVENTURE
GUIDES & PRINCESSES AND ADULT
SCOUTERS OF ALL AGES!**

If you participate in scouting, or a similar program, St. Mark will be celebrating SCOUT SUNDAY 2026 on Sunday, Feb 1. Whether your unit is sponsored by St. Mark, or not, plan to show off your unit pride by coming to church in your best dress uniform. Come early, between 9:15 and 9:30, and help as an Usher or Greeter.





Cleveland Rocks! Join us for a night of trivia and entertainment on Saturday, February 28th, 2026. Registration is now open through February 15th, 2026.

The cost is \$200 per table, 8 people per table— that's just \$25 per person! Tables paid in full at time of registration.

Doors open at 5 pm and trivia starts at 6 pm. There will also be a silent auction, games, and prizes.

Participants may bring their own beverage of choice – water and soda will be provided.

Look for the registration forms on the Youth Table in the Narthex and on the St. Mark website,

www.discoverstmark.org.

All proceeds benefit the 2026 St. Mark Youth Group Summer Mission Trip to an economically challenged area that is rebuilding in Cleveland, Ohio.

Donations are also needed! We are currently seeking donations of gift cards, tickets to local sporting events, theater shows, or music venues for silent auction baskets. Donations of bottled water and cans of soda are also needed. Please contact Heather Neal for more information.



**REGISTRATION FOR
CLAYMONT
PRESCHOOL AT ST.
MARK 2026-7 SCHOOL
YEAR IS OPEN!**

LORD'S DAY 4

Q9. But doesn't God do us an injustice by requiring in his law what we are unable to do?

A. No,¹ God created human beings with the ability to keep the law. They, however, provoked by the devil,² in willful disobedience, robbed themselves and all their descendants of these gifts.

1. Eph. 4:[22–23], 24–25 – “to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

2. Luke 10:30[–37] – “Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took



out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Q10. Does God permit such disobedience and rebellion to go unpunished?

A. Certainly not.¹ God is terribly angry with the sin we are born with as well as the sins we personally commit. As a just judge, God will punish them both now and in eternity, having declared: "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law."²

1. Rom. 5:12 – "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—"

Heb. 9:27 – "And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once and after that the judgment,"

2. Deut. 27:26 – "Cursed be anyone who does not uphold the words of this law by observing them.' All the people shall say, 'Amen!'"

Gal. 3:10 – "For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law."

Q11. But isn't God also merciful?

A. God is certainly merciful,¹ but also just.² God's justice demands that sin, committed against his supreme majesty, be punished with the supreme penalty—eternal punishment of body and soul.

1. Exod. 34:6 – "The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,'"

2. Exod. 20:5 – "You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me."

Ps. 5:5 – "The boastful will not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers."

2 Cor. 6:14 – "Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and lawlessness have in common? Or what partnership is there between light and darkness?"

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: Carol Weber