



Issue: April 2026

A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

The Light Shines

“I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord’” (Psalm 122:1, NRSV.)

It’s a full week here at St. Mark with our Living Last Supper Maundy Thursday service, Journey to the Cross/Good Friday observance, and Saturday Bunny Breakfast. I look forward to joining with you all for the many meaningful Holy Week opportunities, and I cannot wait to celebrate Easter Sunday with you on April 5. The church campus is always busy, and I am thankful for the many places we get to worship, learn, fellowship, and serve together.

I am also grateful for the many ways our congregation has supported the UPWARD Capital Campaign over the past year. Your generosity allowed us to replace all the flat roofs around the campus in the autumn, and our next project will start in the next few weeks. The sanctuary lights have dimmed and failed over the years, and it’s a minor miracle they haven’t stopped working altogether. I am excited to announce the crews will begin the process of updating the

sanctuary and narthex lights on Monday, April 13. The work will be completed by the beginning of Vacation Bible School in July.

We are moving our worship services to Gleason Hall on Sunday, April 19. The church has worshipped in many locations throughout its history. This includes school gyms, the fellowship hall, the narthex, the current sanctuary, and the parking lot during the pandemic. The places may change, but the object of our worship remains the same. This temporary change will allow us to try out some new things and think creatively.

I am looking forward to celebrating the hope of resurrection with you all this Sunday and throughout the Easter Season! The good news of Jesus Christ is, “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it” (John 1:5, NRSV.)

In Hope and Confidence,

Pastor Dave

SESSION SNIPPETS

March 23 Session Meeting:

With the work on replacing the roofs completed, the next phase from the Capital Campaign is set to begin. Plans are in place to begin worship services in Gleason Hall on Sunday, April 19, in order to begin replacing the lighting in the sanctuary and narthex. Following the completion of this project, the next project phase will be the installation of the ADA bathroom and Coffee Bar, which is expected to begin in August.

The Session officially approved holding the worship service and annual Church Picnic at Wildwood Community Park on Sunday, May 17, with worship to begin at our usual time of 10:00 am, and the picnic taking place immediately afterwards.

Additionally, the Session approved the Youth Mission Trip for 2026 in Cleveland, Ohio from May 31 - June 6, focusing on construction, community projects and outreach.

MARCH WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Sunday In Person	Sunday Online	Total Attendance
March 1	131	100	231
March 8	140	70	210
March 15	102	88	190
March 22	93	109	202
March 29	177	112	289



THE LIVING LAST SUPPER, APRIL 2

It's that time of year again! Maundy Thursday is approaching and St. Mark will once again produce a dramatization of Jesus and the 12 Disciples as they reenact the story of the Last Supper using scripture, historical context, and Leonardo DaVinci's portrait as source information.

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Good Friday, April 3, 2026
Journey to the Cross – 11 AM – 7 PM
Good Friday Service – 3:00 PM

Remember to invite your friends and family to this inspirational worship experience during Holy Week.

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (APNC) - MARCH 2026

We have been meeting on a regular basis since September. Earlier in March we met with the head of the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, Chris Keating, and the presbytery's acting leader, Liz Kanerva. They read through our Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) that provides information to potential candidates about our church and what we are looking for in an associate pastor. They advised us on next steps.

Our committee discussed the various traits on the required compatibility survey and decided which are most important to our church. They include Good Communicator and Organizational Manager.

The main areas of ministry we are asking this person to be responsible for are:

- Youth Ministries
- Mission and Outreach
- Pastoral Presence

We will soon be uploading all our completed information onto the required PCUSA website that potential candidates can access. From there, we begin the next part of our process. We will keep you updated as we proceed.

We appreciate your prayers as we continue the process of finding an ideal candidate.

Rob Cardwell, Glenn Knopf, Patty Livesay, Julie Northrip, Susan Snyder and Diane Stewart

DEACONS IN ACTION

Circle of Concern Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Saint Mark Deacons will once again sponsor the 20th Annual Circle of Concern Golf Tournament to be held May 18, at the Aberdeen Golf Club, Eureka, Missouri. Last year's tournament had a full field of 143 golfers and raised \$38,000 with all proceeds directly benefiting Circle.

Orthopedic Specialists with members Mike and Vicky Chabot will again be the Presenting Sponsor. Last year, St. Mark members funded \$11,000 in Sponsorships and Auction Items, 23 members served as volunteers on the day of the event and either played or recruited 39 golfers. In addition, the tournament clearly created much good will for both St. Mark and Circle.

Hopefully, you may be asking, "What can I do to help?" Please consider the following options:

- Become or help identify tournament sponsors (hole sponsors start at \$200).
- Donate items for the silent auction, popular items are:
 - Cardinals' Baseball or City SC tickets
 - Gift Baskets
 - Rounds of golf at area courses/clubs
 - Vacation rental packages
- Make a direct monetary contribution to Circle (please notate from St. Mark)
- Become a Tournament volunteer on May 18 (no golf skills needed):

Tournament information sheets are available in the Narthex. Questions may be directed to any Deacon or Bob Stewart, Tournament Director.

Circle of Concern is a food pantry serving thousands of people every year in west St. Louis County and parts of Jefferson County. St. Mark is a founding member of Circle and has a long and engaged history of support. Circle shares wholesome foods, personal care items, and other necessities to eligible households. The Circle also provides a variety of resources (e.g., emergency financial assistance, counseling, scholarships, children's programs, etc.) to empower individuals and families to become self-sufficient.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES

The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the next class of Elders, Deacons, Endowment, and next year's Nominating Committee. Forms are available at the welcome desk or by using the QR code. Please prayerfully consider and suggest candidates for leadership as St. Mark continues to fulfill its Mission in the future.



Thank You For
Supporting the Larger
Church with Your
Per Capital Offering.

The 2026 Per Capita
is \$40 per member.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK

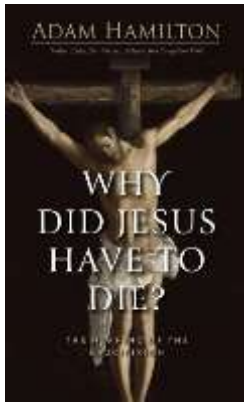


SUNDAYS AT 8:50 AM

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 Baluis. We meet in rm 102 every Tuesday at 7:30. All are welcome!

FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



every Friday at 9:30am in Room 102 or via Zoom
We will meet every Friday in March studying from Adam Hamilton's new book, "Why did Jesus have to Die? The meaning of the Crucifixion." Please join us as we explore several theories on Atonement (At One with God) of why Christ died on the cross.

Please see Donna for the Zoom link, if needed.



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

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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S SUNDAYSCHOOL

Sunday school for children PreK – 5th 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.

WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

Midweek Praise Club, 5:30 – 6:30 pm



Online registration is open!



Here's a great visual of our VBS egg carton igloo! One of the VBS fun activities will be building this egg carton igloo – please donate all of your egg cartons (it doesn't matter what material or color). If you can, please take off any labels. This is a great way to recycle as the Easter egg coloring comes closer. Please leave cartons in the Narthex under the Children and Youth table.



MISSION AT ST. MARK



APRIL FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Condiments
- Dinner Helper
- Cereal/oatmeal
- Snacks (8-12 servings)
- Mouthwash, razors & women's incontinence briefs (L&XL)



We collect food and hygiene items for Circle of Concern & 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 / FAIRLY TRADED

in the Narthex on April 12

Spotlight on Palestinian Medjool Dates:

These dates are grown by a 12-member farmer cooperative in the Jordan Valley, established in early 2000. Water shortages in the area forced farmers to seek out crops that needed less water to grow. Medjool dates not only require less water but can grow using the slightly salty water that sits under reservoirs of fresh water. These farmers work closely with the [Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee \(PARC\)](#), who provide technical assistance, processing facilities, quality testing, and exporting services. PARC is a nonprofit that promotes sustainable economic development of 41 farmer cooperatives, helps to improve water supply & critical infrastructure, & provides social services for women, children, and families in the West Bank. PARC explains what it's been like for farmers at

<https://www.info.equalexchange.coop/articles/parc-update-march-2025>

Cash, Credit, Debit, Mobile Payments Accepted

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BOOK CLUB

The Presbyterian Women's Book Club will meet on April 22 to discuss *The Woman Who Knew Everyone* by Meryl Gordon. There is a virtual option for meeting as well. Please contact Judy Richardson for more information.



MID-WEEK POTLUCK AND PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 15, 5 pm

Bring a dish to share and stay for an informative program!



FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

Donating flowers is a great way to celebrate or commemorate a person, milestone, event or to simply share some of God's gifts of

beauty in the sanctuary. Thank you to those who have signed up to donate. The flower chart is in the Narthex. If you are interested in providing flowers for our worship service, please sign the flower chart, complete the form provided and place the form along with a check in the "Drop Box" in the Pastor's Hallway. Your flowers can be taken home by you after the service.



SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, June 20, 2026
St. Mark Meal Packaging Event



TROOP 631

LAWNMOWER TUNEUP
APRIL 11, 8 – 11AM

Tune up services include blade sharpening, oil change, air filter cleaning, spark plug clean and gap, clean underside & deck.

Tune ups only – no repairs! Appointments are encouraged, not required. You will receive a call/text when your mower is ready. All mowers will be ready for pick up by 1 pm. Donations are appreciated and encouraged. Funds help our scouts attend camp and experience adventures that foster good citizenship, love of the outdoors, and leadership skills.



Taking place at Primrose School, 15031 Manchester Rd. Pre-register, schedule, & donate ahead at this link: https://bit.ly/T631_Mower

Go Getter Luncheon
April 14 at 12 pm
 Join us for Lunch at the Mellow Mushroom in Chesterfield at 12 pm.
 Please let Judy know of your plans to attend and bring a friend!

Volunteers needed!



Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 4, at 8 am to help spread mulch in the landscape beds around the church.
 We hope to see you there!

"Many hands make light work"



Our music director, Ethan Forte is getting married! Please join us in celebrating Ethan and Scott Lunte's upcoming nuptials by attending a reception in their honor on Sunday, April 12 in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. We'll have punch and tasty treats for everyone to enjoy as we extend our congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple. There will be a basket available for cards if you wish to extend a personal note to Ethan and Scott as they begin their married journey.



Mark your calendars! **Sunday, May 17**, our St. Mark community will be worshipping outdoors at Wildwood Community Park, with our annual PICNIC occurring right after the service. We'll provide the hot dogs, brats, burgers and drinks, and we invite you to bring your favorite side dishes and desserts to share with one another. Because there won't be electrical outlets available, please refrain from bringing anything that needs to be heated up. It's been quite some time since we've held a worship service or picnic offsite, and we look forward to this opportunity for faith, fun and fellowship with one another!