



Issue: March 2026



A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

Lions, Lambs, and Life

We've all heard the expression, "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb." This describes the often-volatile weather we experience as winter's icy grasp loosens to give way to a pleasant spring. Having lived in Missouri the majority of my life, I have experienced plenty of days that begin with a roar and conclude with a whimper. It is foolish to think we understand or can predict the weather patterns in the Show-Me State. We would have better success trying to rope the wind.

As I look out at the state of the world, I feel like all I hear are the roars of lions. Unwelcome events, unpleasant news, and unforeseen calamities dominate our news cycle. It's almost too much to bear, and I can feel our collective weariness. There are wars and rumors of wars. There is an unnatural fear of our neighbors. There are times when it seems like the cruelty is the point. I long for a better day, a fresh month, a new season.

As we move into spring together, I want to encourage you with the good news that, while seasons change, God's presence in our lives remains a constant. We continue our Lenten journey throughout the whole month. It's a pathway that leads from the certainty of death to the joyful hope of resurrection. It's a road that reminds us nothing in this world or the next can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ.

How are we supposed to live faithful lives in such an uncertain world? I am encouraged by the words of the Presbyterian pastor, Henry Van Dyke, "I'm not an optimist, there's too much evil in the world and in me. Nor am I a pessimist; there is too much good in the world and in God. So, I am just a meliorist, believing that He wills to make the world better, and trying to do my bit to help." There is work to be done in every season of life; let's go forward boldly following Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2, NRSV.)

In Hope and Confidence,

Pastor Dave

SESSION SNIPPETS

February 23 Session Meeting:

At the February meeting, Session approved a request from Property to use Capital Campaign funds to purchase an engineering study needed to evaluate the ability of the floor in the Sanctuary to support the hydraulic lift equipment that will be needed to replace the lighting.

Session voted to nominate Cay Noble and Carol Weber to represent St. Mark as needed as Presbytery delegates. Kathy Emge will also continue in this role.

The request from the Cub Scouts to use St. Mark facilities to hold a Spring Flower Sale, similar to the Boy Scout Fall Mum Sale, was approved.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Sunday In Person	Sunday Online	Total Attendance
February 1	200	112	312
February 8	134	124	258
February 15	65	124	189
February 18 Ash Wed.	51	101	152
February 22	133	40	173



THE LAST SUPPER

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. In support of the drama, we need "disciples", "crew (committee members)", and set decorations (plants, baskets, urns, vases, etc.). All support and interested persons are welcome! Please reach out to Donna Schiro if you can help in any way. Remember to invite your friends and family to this inspirational worship experience during Holy Week.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Micah 6:8--What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees—serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (Feb. 18–April 5), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

This is one of three annual denomination-wide Special Offerings in the PC(USA). Each gift, no matter the size, combines with others and makes a large impact. Use the envelope in your March packet or simply mark your check to St. Mark for the OGHS.

DEACONS IN ACTION

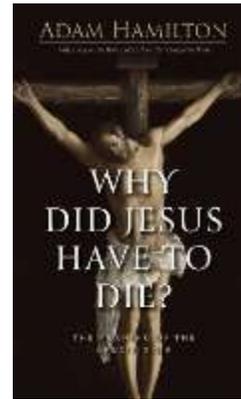
FLOWER COMMITTEE

Our mission as a Deacon is one of compassion and service. Last year we took steps to expand out into our community with the help of our church family. We continue to ask those who order Sanctuary flowers, Easter Lilies, or Poinsettias, to take them home or perhaps share them with a fellow church member or neighbor. The flower committee will continue to order flowers for the sanctuary when people sign up for them. Easter Lilies and Poinsettias will be ordered for the holidays for those who wish to order one to take home. Order forms for weekly flowers and holiday flowers will be available on the flower chart easel in the Narthex. Artificial arrangements will be used when none have been ordered.

Thank you for your continued support.



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.

Holy Week at St. Mark

Sunday, March 29	Palm Sunday Service, 10 am Jerusalem Festival, 11 am
Thursday, April 2	Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm
Friday, April 3	Journey To The Cross, 11 am - 7 pm Good Friday Service, 3 pm
Saturday, April 4	Bunny Breakfast, 10 am
Sunday, April 5	Easter Sunday Service, 10 am

Go to Discoverstmark.org and click on Events for more details



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

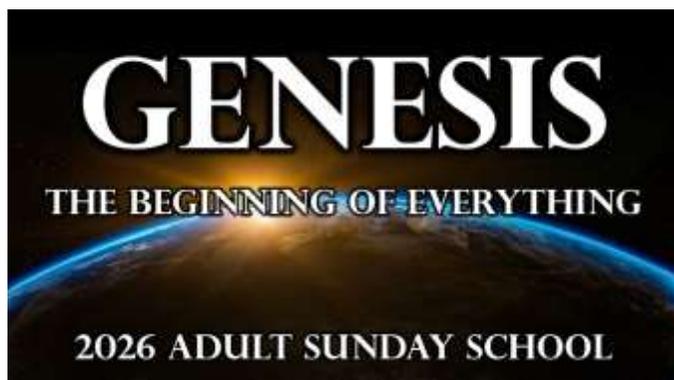
Men's Bible Study will begin a new study exploring the Holy Spirit. We will be using The Promise of The Holy Spirit by Paul Balius. We meet in rm 102 every Tuesday at 7:30. All are welcome!

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.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



SUNDAYS AT 8:50 AM

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



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



Online registration is open!

MISSION AT ST. MARK MARCH FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Sardines
- Chili
- Cooking oil (48 oz or smaller)
- Shampoo
- Razors and shaving cream
- Dish soap



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 / FAIRLY TRADED IN THE NARTHEX ON MARCH 8

Spotlight on Cashews and Mango:

Gebana is a Fair-Trade organization that purchases organic mangoes and cashews from 17 different rural co-ops and associations in the **South of Burkina Faso**.

Women serve as the majority of the workforce, and Fair-Trade social premiums have benefited the entire community through adult literacy classes, new water sources, bicycle purchases, and cereal banks.

Cashews and mangoes are processed in a factory owned by the co-op, which employs hundreds of local workers.

Cash, Credit, Debit, Mobile Payments Accepted.



Over 300 coats along with many bags of cold weather clothing were collected and delivered to Isaiah 58 Ministries through February.

Dog and Cat coats were appreciated as well. St. Mark volunteers and others lovingly sorted and stocked the items in the free clothing room for guests to make selections for their household.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BOOK CLUB

The Presbyterian Women's Book Club will meet March 11 to discuss the book, *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. There is a virtual option for meeting as well. Please contact Judy Richardson for more information.



DISCOVER MISSION SUNDAY HAPPENED ON FEBRUARY 15TH...

Our local mission partners **LOVED** their time at St. Mark! Youth and Adult Mission Trips were highlighted, too. **Thank you for your active participation.** If you are interested in being more involved, how to support more directly, or have any follow-up questions about our mission partners, please contact a member of the mission committee. Clarice Hutchens and Shirley Boeker, Co-Chairs




St. Mark Women's
29th Annual Retreat
March 13-14, 2026

*Be the Light
in the Darkness*

We welcome
**Reverend
Hannah Zyla**
House of Figs
Speaker

Reservation forms are now available
at the PW Table in the Narthex.
Please reserve your place
at the table by March 7.

CANDY SALES

Presbyterian Women is once again offering delicious handmade chocolate candy just in time for Easter!

Orders will be taken on March 8, 15, and 22 with pick up on March 29 (Palm Sunday). The candy is \$10 per 6 oz. box. Cash, check, and credit card accepted. All proceeds go to PW Missions.



PW is collecting for Newborns in Need during the month of March. Newborns In Need is a charity that

specializes in the needs of babies facing health or economic crisis in St. Louis. It is a local and national nonprofit organization.

New and gently used baby items such as bibs, booties, burp cloths, hats, onesies, socks, sweaters, and undershirts, sleepers, blankets, baby wash, wipes and diapers are accepted and may be placed in the Pac n Play by the PW table.

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Make checks out to Newborns In Need and ask for a tax receipt. Mail to: **Newborns In Need** c/o Judy Giovanoni, 310 Oxford Ridge Ct., Ellisville, MO 63021. For more information, call Shirley Boeker or Louis Grothe.



Saturday, March 7, 4-8pm

All you can eat spaghetti, meatballs, bread, salad, and desserts. There are vegan and gluten free options. Dine in and carry out available - \$10 – and children 5 and under are free! You may use the QR code to purchase tickets online or make a donation.



To my Wonderful St. Mark Family, Norm, our girls, and I want to thank you for all the love and support you have given to me over the last few weeks. Your prayers, cards, texts, phone calls, visits, emails, and flowers (from the Care Giving Committee) have played a huge part in my recovery and healing. I am so blessed to have such a loving and caring church family. Your prayers and support have truly helped with my healing and recovery.
With love,
Valery Steiner



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.

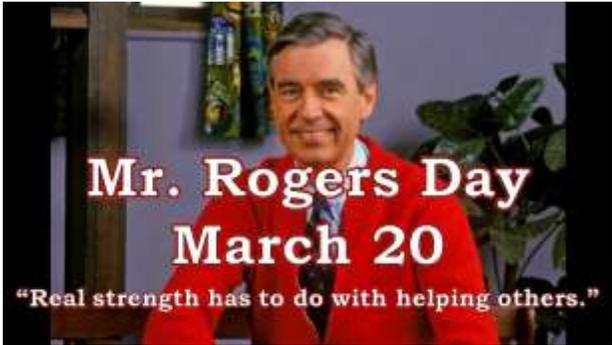


**MID-WEEK
POTLUCK AND
PROGRAM**
Wednesday, March
18, 5 pm

The Deacons are sponsoring the Potluck and Donna Schiro will lead the program "Carry On" following the meal with a presentation and discussion on Christ's Disciples and how they picked up the cross and followed Christ after his death and resurrection. What did it cost them to "Carry On", what does it cost us today?

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

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



Mr. Rogers Day
March 20

“Real strength has to do with helping others.”