



Issue: July 2026



A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

# *The Messenger*

## **The busyness of life; even in the summertime!**

We live in a world that celebrates being busy. Full calendars, endless notifications, and constant demands have become badges of honor. When someone asks how we're doing, the response is often the same: "Busy." We rush from one responsibility to the next, convinced that if we can just make it through this week, life will finally slow down.

Being in the business of church, I can attest to the fact that we often feel that the summer season is the time we experience our lull. Attendance lowers, committees and board groups take a brief hiatus and pastors squeeze in some well-deserved time off.

But not this summer at St. Mark...Rise Against Hunger, VBS, ABC, setting chairs up, taking chairs down, watching and waiting for promised building renovations, searching for a new Associate Pastor...are just a few of the activities going on this summer at our church. I am so proud of the stamina the staff and volunteers are showing to keep things running smoothly this summer!

But we need to remember that busyness is not always a problem. Work is a gift. Caring for family is a calling. Serving others reflects the heart of God. Jesus Himself lived a life filled with purpose, teaching, healing, and ministering to those in need. But while Jesus was busy, He was never hurried.

Our faith often becomes the first casualty of a crowded schedule. We tell ourselves we'll pray later. We'll read Scripture tomorrow. We'll worship when life settles down. We'll serve once our responsibilities lighten. The trouble is that "later" rarely comes. The urgent consistently pushes aside the important.

Ironically, the very thing that gives us strength to face life's demands is often what we neglect the most.

Faith was never meant to be another task squeezed into an already overflowing calendar. It is the foundation upon which every other responsibility rests. Without that foundation, we may accomplish many things while gradually becoming spiritually exhausted.

When we remember this truth, we begin to hold our schedules differently. Instead of asking, "How much can I fit into my day?" we begin asking, "What is God asking me to do today?" Those questions lead to very different lives.

Life will probably never become less busy on its own. Waiting for a perfect season to prioritize our faith is waiting for a season that may never arrive. The invitation is here and now—to seek God in the midst of the ordinary, to trust God with our schedules, and to remember that while our days may be full, our hearts can remain at rest.

Donna Schiro  
Parish Associate

## SESSION SNIPPETS

### June 15 Session Meeting:

The Session took the opportunity to see the beautiful new Narthex lighting fixtures, installed and operating, as well as the early part of the Sanctuary lighting upgrade. There have been some delays, but the plan is still for the work to be completed before the start of VBS.

The Mound Ridge Trivia Night will be back at St. Mark this year, mark your calendars for September 26.

Session will not meet in July, wishing everyone a joyful summer.

## JUNE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Sunday In Person	Sunday Online	Total Attendance
June 7	115	87	202
June 14	106	83	189
June 21	89	73	162
June 28	109	77	186

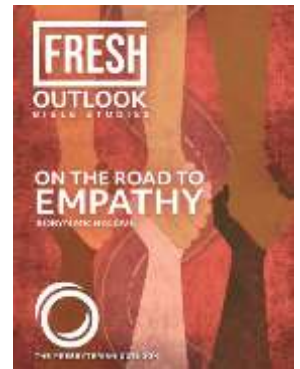
## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT ST. MARK



**SUNDAYS AT 8:50 AM**

## FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY

The current Friday Bible Study is "On the Road to Empathy". Please join us on Friday mornings at 9:30 am in Room 102, or via Zoom (contact Donna Schiro – [dschiro@discoverstmark.org](mailto:dschiro@discoverstmark.org) – for the link).



## DEACONS IN ACTION

### 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Circle of Concern Charity Golf Tournament Results

Rain and thunderstorms on the original date forced us to reschedule on June 15 but it did not dampen enthusiasm or participation. Thanks to 140 paid golfers, 60 volunteers and generous sponsors, this year's tournament raised **\$39,000** with all proceeds benefiting Circle of Concern, one of several local missions supported by St. Mark Deacons.

St. Mark has served as the event sponsor since inception of the tournament and has worked with Circle of Concern staff and volunteers to create awareness and goodwill within the community for both entities as well as raise needed funding.

The following demonstrates the direct impact St. Mark had on this year's tournament:

- Members funded over \$11,000 in Auction Items and Sponsorships including Orthopedic Specialists, the Presenting Sponsor.
- 23 members served as volunteers on the day of the event.
- 3 members participated as golfers.
- Members recruited 28 additional golfers.
- 3 members served on the Golf Committee.

Thank you, St. Mark members, for sharing your time, talent and resources to make this event a success.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAYSCHOOL

Sunday school for children PreK – 5<sup>th</sup> 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.



**The registration deadline is July 6!**  
**Go to [discoverstmark.org](http://discoverstmark.org) to register today!**

### VBS DONATION STATION

Please come by our donation station for "Snowball Mountain Challenge" and grab a snowflake with something (VBS supplies) to bring back for this great Summer outreach! The station will be located at the preschool entry. Thank you! **Egg cartons** are also still needed for the egg carton igloo!

### VBS WEDNESDAY WORK DAYS

VBS work sessions are scheduled the July 6-10 from 9 am – 12 pm. Please come and help our team finish preparing for Snowball Mountain Challenge! There will also be a potluck meal and work session on Wednesday, July 8 at 5 pm. Bring a dish to share and stay to help!

## MISSION AT ST. MARK

### JULY FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Oatmeal
- Canned Fruit
- Seasonings and Spices
- Toilet paper and Dish soap



All year 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 IN THE NARTHEX ON JULY 12

Equal Exchange is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The three founders had a vision and started importing fairly-traded coffee from **Nicaragua** in **1986**, despite a US embargo against the Sandinista government. A new business was born from this bold act of solidarity with Latin American farmers & EE grew from there.

### Their Vision

- Help farmers gain more control over their economic futures.
- Educate consumers about trade issues affecting farmers.
- Provide high-quality foods that would nourish the body and the soul.
- Give organizational control to the people who did the actual work.
- Create a community who believes that honesty, respect, and mutual benefit are integral to any worthwhile endeavor.

*Cash, Credit, Debit, Mobile Payments Accepted.*



## THANK YOU, ST. MARK, FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

During the Lenten Water Challenge, you donated \$7,033, which will fund 14 new wells. Each well costs \$500 and St. Mark donations will help cover pump parts, cement and tools, fuel and transport, and skilled labor.

\$7,170 was collected in Special Offerings. \$5,784 was donated to One Great Hour of Sharing, which provides relief to those affected by natural disasters. \$1,386 was donated to Matthew 25, which efforts to eradicate systemic poverty, dismantle systemic racism, and build congregational vitality.

St. Mark's donation of \$783 to Church World Service Blankets + will provide warmth, hope, and a tangible sign of God's love when people need it most.

The generosity of the St. Mark congregation makes a difference in people's lives throughout the world.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**St. Mark Adult Mission Trip**  
 U.S. Work Team Site  
 Little Rock  
 FERNCLIFF October 12-16

**PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE**  
 OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

**CWS**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

*Mission in Our Midst*

**Reserve your place on the team by Sunday, July 26**

Trip information available at the PW Table in the Narthex or contact Lynne Dauve and Mary Beth Powell

### SEAMSTRESSES NEEDED!

Fabric school bags and school supplies will be collected and donated to the Ferncliff Conference, Camp, and Disaster Center in October. Volunteers are needed to sew fabric school bags. Kits for the school bags are on the PW table.



## LITTLE DRESSES PROJECT

In June, 131 dresses and 7 pair of shorts were delivered to Convoy of Hope. Since 2014, St. Mark has donated 3576 dresses and 64 pair of shorts. For more information, contact Sherry Naylor.

**Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services™**

**2026-2027 BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST**

Supplies collected support the youth in the Elevate Mentoring Program in the St. Louis region.

ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL
Backpack & lunchbox Crayons (24ct) Markers (8- 12ct) Colored pencils Blunt-tip scissors Pencil box Glue bottle & glue stick 2-pocket folders Spiral notebook Dry-erase markers #2 Pencils Pink erasers Index cards	Backpack & lunchbox #2 Pencils Pink eraser Blue & black pens Spiral notebooks Composition notebook 2-pocket folders Highlighters 2in or 3in binder Index Cards Zipper pencil pouch Graph paper Loose-leaf paper	Backpack & lunchbox #2 Pencils Pink eraser Blue & black pens Composition notebook Multi-subject notebook 2-pocket folders Highlighters Index cards Post-it Notes 2in or 3in binder Graph paper Loose-leaf paper Zipper pencil pouch
OPTIONAL & HELPFUL	SHOP TARGET WISHLIST	SHOP AMAZON WISHLIST
Kleenex Gallon Ziplock bags Full size hand sanitizer Clorox/Lysol Wipes Corded Headphones Calculators (TI-preferred)		

**SUPPLIES DUE TO PCHAS OFFICE BY 7/15/2026**

**QUESTIONS**  
 Aleisha Mulnix, Development Officer  
 aleisha.mulnix@pchas.org | 314-499-0395

## PCHAS BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Once again St Mark Presbyterian Church is supporting the Presbyterian Children's Home & Services (PCHAS) Back-to-School Drive. Please see the list of supplies that are needed. You may drop supplies off in a designated container in Gleason Hall OR use one of the QR codes on the list and go through Amazon or Target. Last year St Mark participation helped over 200 students enter the school year "ready to learn." Let's do that again this year!



## ABC Sale July 31 and August 1

Workdays: July 26-30

100% of Net Proceeds to Local Mission Partners!

### YES, PLEASE!

- items typically sold at a thrift store
- donation receipts will be available during drop-off hours
- snacks, cookies, and quick breads to “fuel” our volunteers
- **Drop off donations July 26-July 29**
- Want to volunteer?— Contact ABC Sale Co-Chairs: Joyce Blackwell, Eleni Levien, John Northrip

### SORRY, NO THANK YOU ...

- large furniture, large appliances, TVs (Doesn't fit in a compact SUV...it's a NO)
- encyclopedias or magazines
- car seats, highchairs, or cribs
- Christmas trees
- hazardous waste (even if unopened): such as paint, chemicals, oil, household cleaners

Start saving your treasures! As always, the sale is a great opportunity for fellowship and outreach to the community. This is the primary fundraiser to support our local mission partners.

Interested in volunteering? Contact ABC Sale Co-Chairs: Joyce Blackwell, Eleni Lieven or John Northrip.

**ANOTHER WAY TO HELP WITH THE ABC SALE!** The “ABC Café” would love to share your home baked cookies, brownies and quick breads with our amazing volunteers! We are also hoping to use up all of the odds and ends paper products in our kitchen and from your home. If you have paper plates, cups or napkins from a party that are left over, we would love to use them up for you! Please deliver baked goods and paper products to the kitchen clearly marked “ABC SALE” on Sunday, July 26.