



Issue: June 2026



A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

New Lights for a New Season

The summer months are usually the time for much of the church to slow down, recharge, and prepare for the coming school year programming. This is no ordinary season at St. Mark. Work started earlier this week to remove the failing lighting fixtures in the sanctuary and narthex and replace them with new lights. This is a practical improvement, but it also carries deep spiritual meaning.

Throughout the Bible, light is connected to God's presence and renewal. Jesus reminds us, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12, NRSV.) As we update and renew our worship and fellowship spaces, we are reminded of the need to be renewed by Christ's light. It illumines Scripture, reveals sin, and is a lamp unto our feet and a light for our path (Psalm 119:105.)

I spoke about King Josiah this past Sunday in my sermon. He is often overlooked, but his reign is one of the most important in Israel's history. In 2 Kings 22, Josiah orders repairs to the temple after years of neglect. During the rebuilding project, the high priest discovered the Book of the Law which led to

repentance, renewal, and a recommitment to God's covenantal promises. Caring for our house of worship is not merely about bricks, mortar, or lamps; it is about (re)creating a place where God's people can faithfully gather and encounter the Lord together.

Like Josiah, we recognize that maintaining and improving our sanctuary is an act of stewardship. It is not just about updating the lights, it is an investment in a sacred space that will continue to serve generations of worshipers. Every improvement we make in our UPWARD Capital Campaign is part of living out our CREDO to SEEK, DISCOVER, and SHARE the peace, love, and grace of Jesus Christ.

As we move forward together into our capital campaign's second year, I am so thankful for your prayers, generosity, and shared vision. I am looking forward to worshipping with you in Gleason Hall during this time, but I cannot wait until we get to return to the sanctuary and experience this renewed light together.

In Hope and Confidence,

Pastor Dave

SESSION SNIPPETS

May 18 Session Meeting:

Pastor Dave gave the Session homework to look at the St. Mark web presence with “new eyes”, the way a visitor might see it. We are asked to come back with suggestions for improvements that would help make the information more accessible and useful.

The new lighting should be ready to start installation in mid-May, and is projected to be complete well before VBS. The next major Capital Campaign project will be the coffee bar and ADA bathroom, which will be scheduled after VBS and ABC Sale.

Session approved the proposal to hire Emily Ulmer as the new Director of the Pre-School, welcomes her that job full time starting 1 June.

MAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	Sunday In Person	Sunday Online	Total Attendance
May 3	146	112	258
May 10	142	63	205
May 17	Church picnic	100	-
May 24	146	31	177
May 31	120	71	191

UPDATE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory. Have you changed your phone number? Have you moved? Are you preparing to move soon? Are all of your children still at home and are they all included in your membership record? Do you want your record published? If you have not already informed the Church Office about changes to your record, please let us know now so that the information in the Guide Book & Directory is correct. Please email your changes to Patty at the Church Office pgingrich@discoverstmark.org or call the church office.

DEACONS IN ACTION



June is upon us and our ABC Sale is only a couple of months away! It is time to start gathering your donations for this year's sale. We will begin receiving donations on

Sunday, July 26 from 11 am - 2 pm, followed by Monday, July 27 through Wednesday, July 29 from 8 am - noon. Just pull up in your vehicle and volunteers will unload your “treasures”. Donation receipts are available upon request. Donations are not accepted on Thursday, July 30.

We are developing relationships with local organizations like Home Sweet Home in an effort to reduce the number of unsellable items, such as large furniture, and have had great success in keeping things from going to the landfill. We see the function of helping our members downsize and remove items they no longer use as an essential part of the ABC Sale, but please remember that we are most efficient in serving our mission by converting "treasures" to cash for donation.

The sale begins on Friday, July 31. Early bird entry is 7 am - 8 am (for a \$10 fee); free admission is 8 am - 1 pm. On Saturday, August 1 free admission is 8 am - noon. 100% of the proceeds are distributed to our core local mission partners.

Volunteers are the key to our ABC Sale success. We need help in all areas, from greeters at our front door, to support in each of our “departments.” Please consider if you can help prepare for the sale (7/26 – 7/30), work during the sale days, assist with clean up following the sale on August 1, or all of the above. Working the ABC sale not only helps our mission partners but also provides a wonderful fellowship opportunity to spend time with your St. Mark family. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Joyce Blackwell, Eleni Lievin, or John Northrip. An opportunity to register as a volunteer via SignupGenius is coming soon.

Please share information about the ABC Sale with your friends and neighbors and expand awareness even further on social media. We are incredibly grateful for your “treasures” as well as your support.



SUNDAYS AT 8:50 AM

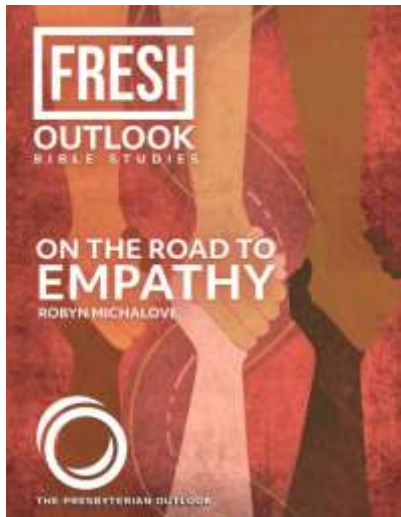


Sign up to help teach Sunday School just one week during the summer! You will be simply helping another lead teacher, no planning required. Look for the sign

up on the Children's Ministry table. Thank you for being a support to this church family!

VLASIS PARK OUTING

Children's Ministry is invited all young families to join us after services on June 7th for a little get together at the Vlasis splash pad. Bring your own lunch and enjoy some time together as we celebrate SUMMER!



FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our current study is "On the Road to Empathy". Why study empathy? Some leaders label empathy as "toxic" or "sinful," claiming it undermines judgment. In contrast, the Bible

emphasizes sharing the feelings of others. [Romans 12:15](#) calls us to empathy: "Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep." The road to empathy invites us to recognize how our socialization shapes our perceptions of one another and the narratives we construct about one another. Empathy can reshape these stories. Please join us on Friday mornings at 9:30 am in Room 102, or via Zoom (contact Donna Schiro – dschiro@discoverstmark.org – for the link).



The registration deadline is July 6!
Go to 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 in Gleason Hall. Thank you! **Egg cartons** are also still needed for the egg carton igloo!

VBS WEDNESDAY WORK DAYS

June 3, 10, 17, 24 from 4 – 6 p.m. Come to room 304 (extended rooms off of Gym) and help prepare props, t-shirts, decorating, and help with teacher prep. This schedule will extend through July 1st and end with the VBS potluck at 5 p.m. on July 8th! Hope to see you there.

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.

MISSION AT ST. MARK

JUNE FOOD PANTRY CRITICAL NEEDS

- Condiments
- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Snacks (8-12 servings)



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 & FAIRLY TRADED, JUNE 14

Cash, Credit, Debit, Mobile Payments Accepted



MEAL PACKING EVENT – JUNE 20 AT 10 AM

Let's fight hunger together. Individuals, families, kids, everyone can do this. Can't stand long or need to sit? There is a place for you! Over the last 3 years we have packaged 15,000 nutritious meals each year. This year our stretch goal is to package 17,000 meals and we can do it with your help. Donate for meals delivered where they are most needed. Each meal cost about 45 cents each, you can donate \$50 and pay for over 100 meals!



Sign up to volunteer or donate using the QR code. Your support is greatly appreciated.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BOOK CLUB

The Presbyterian Women's Book Club will meet June 24 at 9:30 am to discuss the book, **The First Ladies** by Marie Benedict & Victoria Murray. There is a virtual option for meeting as well. Please contact Judy Richardson for more information.

Nothing is black and white in this world!

Blue and white? That's another story!

Come hear this story and explore the vision for the St. Mark Fall Mission trip!

You are invited for just desserts at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 19, in Room 102!

Out of chaos



Adult Mission Trip
October 12-16, 2026

The DAC at Ferncliff
Disaster Assistance Center
Near Little Rock

Before PDA can act on this mission, there must be **preparation!** This is the **mission** of our St. Mark Fall work trip to the Disaster Assistance Center at Ferncliff near Little Rock, Arkansas.

