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A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

The Messenger

Dear Friends,

It has been wonderful to see so much activity inside the building and about the church grounds! For many months the hallways have been empty of people and all the sounds that tell us there is life happening. In recent weeks, we have rejoiced in the return to worship, small gatherings, in-person meetings, and even vacation Bible school. In that activity and return to something that reminds us of what life was like before the pandemic we have regained some spring in our steps and joy in our hearts.

And then, just as we were beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel, we are once again faced with reminder, in the form of another county mask mandate, that the pandemic is far from over. When I heard the announcement, I think I felt my soul begin to deflate. My head hug low, my shoulders sagged, and a tear formed at the corner of my eye.

And then I prayed to God to help me understand. I prayed asking for strength to continue through this part of the journey. I prayed for my family, my community, my church, the country, and for the world, that we would all have strength to continue on through each bump in the road.

As I sat praying, I was reminded that though we have been under stress and life as we know it has been in a consistent state of recurring deformation*, we are resilient**! I was suddenly aware of how quickly we all sprang back into action once we were allowed to return to in-person activities. We were able to return to that activity because we stayed active and planned ahead even though we were never sure what was going to happen next. We are resilient because the God who created us gives us strength to carry on each and every day. We are reminded with our VBS Bible verse:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.” Ephesians 6:10-14 NRSV

Peace, blessings, and prayers for your continued resilience,
Pastor MP

*Definition of deformation: alteration of form or shape.

**Definition of resilience: the capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress.

Session Snippets

No Meeting in July 2021

Have you yet sent your \$32.00 (per person) contribution for 2021 to St. Mark? If not, send your check payable to St. Mark with *per capita* written in the memo.

Every year our national organization, Presbyterian Church (USA), assesses its individual churches an amount based on the number of members in each local church. For 2021 that amount is calculated for St. Mark to be \$18,492. Any funds not given directly from us members for the per capita assessment will become an expense of the operating budget of St. Mark and sent to our national organization?

The monies sent to PC(USA) will be divided among the operations of Presbytery (66%), the Synod (8%) and General Assembly (26%).

June 2021 Financial Update

	June	Year to date
Revenue	\$54,630	\$490,730
Expenses	\$71,940	\$432,805

Revenue vs. Expenses

Surplus (Deficit) **\$(17,310)** **\$57,925**

Questions or comments? Contact any Finance committee members: Carl Tenpas, Cay Noble, Brian Sprague, Bob Snyder, Hugh Smith, Scott Collier, Glenn Knopf, Joyce Blackwell

September Messenger Newsletter

Will be published on August 27
(Always the last Friday of every month)

Deadline for articles

Thursday, August 19

Newsletter@discoverstmark.org

Giving to St. Mark

This month we would like to provide information regarding the St. Mark **Endowment Fund**. This Fund was created to receive and manage property of monies from bequests, trust, memorials, and other special gifts to be used for any of the missions of St. Mark. You can make donations to the Fund as you do other gifts to St. Mark; just designate them for the Endowment Fund.

These gifts are invested in a moderate allocation of stocks and bonds, with the goal to allow for long-term growth as well as provide annual giving. A set percentage (currently 4%) of the prior year's balance is used each year to fund non-operating budget items.

Examples of past expenditures include replacement of church choir robes, new folding tables, Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's), partially pay for the Pre-School HVAC Replacement Project, and pay for five members who attended the "Dismantling Race and Privilege" Presbytery trip to Montgomery, Alabama.

Decisions regarding the use of the monies are made by the Endowment Committee which consists of four elected Church member and one Session-appointed elder plus two ex-officio members, the Church Pastor and the Church Treasurer. Everyone is encouraged to submit requests as needs arise, and decisions of the Committee are approved by the Session.

Questions? Contact the Endowment Committee: Mark Weber, chair; Bob Snyder, Beth Zott, and Joyce Dressel. *For our next giving topic, stay tuned for September.*

An Updated Church Sign is Coming!

A group started this work in the fall of 2020 to refresh and update the church sign near the parking lot entrance. The 30-year-old current sign is faded and doesn't give those passing by a very good impression of the church's vibrancy. The committee worked with Pastor Dave and Abby to determine what information we wanted to convey with the signage. We researched whether we could obtain an electronic sign, but the city of Ballwin doesn't allow a dynamic display sign within 250 feet of a residential unit. After reaching out to three companies and receiving designs and bids, the St. Mark session selected a new style allowing for changeable text while keeping the brick base. The lighting will also be retrofitted for LED lights. With new landscaping, this should be a fresh attractive look for the entrance to our church property. Look for installation sometime in September.

Pastor Dave's 4th Anniversary at St. Mark

Celebrating with Pie!

Join your church family in celebrating Pastor Dave's 4th Anniversary at St. Mark on Saturday evening, August 28th! Mark Reynosa's Trio will give a Parking Lot Concert after the Saturday worship service. Pack yourself a picnic supper and join us for homemade pie during the intermission! Check your email for more details as the date gets closer!

Coffee in the Kitchen

The church has received the very generous donation of a Keurig coffee maker! The Keurig will be set up in the kitchen for your use at any time, ***but remember to bring your favorite K-Cups from home*** to brew your own coffee! Coffee condiments to add to your cup of joe are available in the kitchen. Questions? Contact Nina Collier.

Knights of the North Castle VBS Was a Big Success!



Thank you to so many who made this years' 2021 VBS "Knights of the North Castle" possible! We had a jam-packed day guided by our own Armorer MP and Sparky the dragon learning all

about the Armor of God. Three prize sessions featured the bible stories of Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego, David and Goliath, and Jesus walking on the water! Our Knights of the Round Table stayed busy working on crafts, special experiments and recreation. There were races, lunch with some very special celebrities, a foam party, and YES....Goliath did fall down! Thanks for helping Sparky collect all of the cans and items for Isaiah 58 and Circle of Concern - you are awesome! St. Mark Children's Ministries

Mission Partner Requests for Back to School



We are continuing to collect back to school supplies for Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services through August 15. (Backpacks and anything that goes in them!) Please place your donations in the school bus located in the foyer outside the church office. If you prefer to donate cash to be used by the Mission Committee to shop for supplies, please send your check to the St. Mark office with "Back to School" in the memo line.

Serving at Isaiah 58 A St. Mark Mission Partner



Isaiah 58 Ministries held their annual back to school event on Saturday, July 24th. Thank you to all the St Mark family for your prayers, supplies, and funds, along with all those that gave their time to fill backpacks, organize socks, underwear, clothes, and supplies as well as cook hotdogs, popcorn and serve lunch AND clean up! We are so grateful for your joyful support and service!



Spiritual Morning Stroll

in the church parking lot has been suspended until further notice.

Chair Exercise Class Resumes

Chair exercise will resume on August 5. Class will meet in room 17 on Thursdays at 10 am. Please join us for this one hour stretching class whenever you can. Strength training is important but stretching exercises are essential for good health.



Red Cross Blood Drive Sunday, August 15

8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Gleason Hall

www.RedCrossBlood.org/Donate/Blood

Enter the Sponsor Code "Saintmarkpres"

The Red Cross is experiencing severe blood shortage. Every second matters for surgeries and treatments for leukemia, cancer and sickle cell disease should not be delayed.

BE THE ONE WHO BRINGS HOPE AND HEALING TO THOSE PATIENTS IN NEED.

Donors giving between August 1-15 will be entered for a chance to win an exclusive VIP journey for two to the 2021 Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival. Also, youth donors ages 18-24 only will be entered to win an exclusive Apple tech package during the month of August.

Please HELP!



Everyone is welcome to join us for St. Mark's next Parking Lot Concert on Saturday, August 28 at 7:00 PM. We will enjoy an evening of jazz music at our campus. Bring a friend, a lawn chair, and a favorite beverage as we enjoy the horns. There is no cost for the concert, but we will accept donations. Please contact the church office with any questions.



Usher: Assist people to their seats, pass out bulletins, take attendance, and more.
Contact Pastor MP or Jean Steward

Greeter: Greet worshippers as they arrive for worship, direct them to childcare, etc....
Contact Vicky Chabot

Communion Server: Serve your fellow worshippers the bread and the cup on communion Sundays.
Contact Valerie Steiner or Judy Richardson

Liturgist: Assist in worship by leading the congregation in the Call to Worship and the Offering.
Contact Pastor MP

mpanco@discoverstmark.org OR sign up at [St. Mark Presbyterian Church: Liturgist 2021 Sign-up \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

Worship Support Team: Change banners, decorate for Christmas, Easter, and more!
Contact Nickki Douglas

LEARN MORE:
Contact Karl D'Arcy and Bill Tucker, worship support deacons, or Pastor MP
mpanco@discoverstmark.org.

MUSIC NOTES



Chancel Choir will joyfully but carefully start short rehearsals on Wed. Sept 1 in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. As we proceed with caution, the following guidelines will be followed and adjusted as new information is received. Adults and teens are welcome.

- ALL SINGERS MUST BE VACCINATED!
- Rehearsals: We will sit in the loft, with one seat between each of us, minimum.
- Doors to the sanctuary will be left open to ventilate the room.
- Masks are required in accordance with current St. Louis County mandates.
- If you have any symptoms, even just cold symptoms, please stay home until symptoms are clear.
- If you have been exposed to someone with covid, stay home, take care of yourself!
- We will keep folders in the loft.
- Please do not gather in the choir room downstairs.

Chancel Bells will resume weekly rehearsals on Wed. Sept 8 (tentatively) at 6 pm.

- ALL RINGERS MUST BE VACCINATED!
- Mask are required in accordance with current St. Louis County mandates.
- If you have any symptoms, even just cold symptoms, please stay home until symptoms are clear.
- If you have been exposed to someone with covid, stay home and take care of yourself!

This is a great time for new players or those who have not participated in a while to join us. We will start easy and build our skills! Some music reading skills are required. Questions? Interested? Email Marsha at mmedley@discoverstmark.org

Flowers for the Sanctuary

The Flower Chart is up again! If you are interested in providing flowers for our worship service, the 2021 calendar sign-up board is up. Please complete paper forms and place in flower mailbox with payment in church office.



Blessing of the Backpacks

St. Mark Presbyterian Church would like to send students back to school with a bag tag and a blessing! For those who are not sending a student off to school, we welcome your donation of a NEW backpack to be blessed and distributed by our Missions Committee.

All children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to church on Sunday, August 22, 2021, so both they and their backpacks can be blessed at our 10:00 a.m. worship service.

These backpacks are our children and youths' constant companions as they go about their school days, so our Pastors of St. Mark would like to bless them. After the blessing, they will give each student a tag to put on their backpack to remind them that God is with them in their daily life and that their church family will be praying for them throughout the year.

Don't have any students at home? All are invited to be a blessing to other less fortunate students by purchasing a NEW backpack and bringing it to church that Sunday. The new backpacks will be blessed, tagged, and distributed by our Missions Committee.

Claymont Preschool at St. Mark Fall 2021 Registration



Registration continues for classes beginning in August. Please enroll preschoolers in your family and help spread the word to your friends and neighbors about our fabulous preschool. Half day classes are available for children who will be 2 years old before October 1, 2021, through pre-kindergarten. Classes meet 9:00 to 12:00 with extended day until 1:30 for older children most days. Claymont Preschool enjoys a wonderful reputation for excellent caring teachers and superb kindergarten readiness. For more information and to schedule a tour, please email Lynne Dauve.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN SEEKING VOLUNTEER CASE WORKERS

Circle of Concern is a food pantry and social services agency located in Valley Park which St. Mark helped found 50 years ago. Circle is looking for professional, welcoming, compassionate individuals who are "computer comfortable" to meet monthly with pantry clients. This is a weekly position, working (one) 3–4-hour shift, training is provided. Case workers help to change lives! If interested, please contact Stephanie at Circle, Director of Volunteers, (636) 861 – 2623.

Music and Movement Specialist Position



Claymont Preschool at St. Mark Presbyterian Church in Ballwin, MO is in search of a Music and Movement Specialist Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. Love of music and children is essential. The candidate must possess strong vocal skills and play an instrument. This position, teaching small groups of children 2 to 5 years old, is Monday through Friday mornings for one hour. It is lots of fun and you teach with fabulous people. Contact Lynne Dauve at ldauve@discoverstmark.org if interested.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER!

Who: Youth 7th-12th grade (who are not yet confirmed)

Dates: September 19th, 2021-May 2022

Time: Sunday at 9am (prior to worship)

Location: St. Mark Youth Room (downstairs)

Note: We will have accommodations for those who are not ready to attend in person.

Contact Pastor MP

mpanco@discoverstmark.org to ask questions and to get signed up.

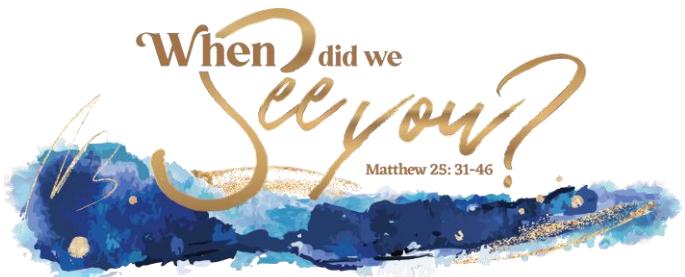
We can barely wait for you to join us at the 2021 Presbyterian Women's Fall Brunch

Saturday, September 11, 2021



The PW Board invites St. Mark women and friends to be our guests for an in-person picnic with delicious food, entertainment and reflection. This is a time to catch up with friends and make new ones. As always, we guarantee smiles and a few laughs along the way.

PW Board members will make telephone calls to St. Mark women the last week in August. Be ready to make your reservation when you get the call. You may also sign up at the PW Table in the Narthex or call the church office at (636-394-2257).



PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIAL 2022
July 24-27 • Indianapolis, IN