



A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

The Messenger



The in Between Time. From Easter to Pentecost.

Liminal Space

In this waiting place we loiter, hover, on a tentative cusp, a threshold, between the familiar and the unknown, with no possible retreat. The customary comfort zone is gone, and where the entrance ushers is not yet seen. Our new question (let alone its answer) still is ambiguous. (cont.) We are in limbo. We can either hesitate or go forward. The gossamer veil of divine nearness flutters ever so lightly, breathing inseparably close, as we step to embrace the unrevealed with trust, a shimmering opportunity for connection and listening and being led right on through. Lean into this portal; it is the doorstep to fruitful ground.
-by Polly Castor 3/31/2020



Liminal Place

(acrylic from 1984)
by Polly Castor

I have been thinking a lot about this time of the “in between.” This liminal space we often find ourselves in. For example, the space between the way it used to be before COVID and the way I hope it will be after COVID. And the space between the way it was before my parents died and the way it will be now without them. In general terms, the space between the way it was, as my husband calls it, in “the before time” and the way it will be in the future. Or the space of the not-where-I-was and the not- quite-where-it-will-take-me.

No matter how we qualify it, this space can be scary, lonely, quiet, and uncertain. This space can be confusing, disorienting, and filled with anxiety. And it doesn't always help to hear anyone say that everything will be alright. Words matter, yes. And actions matter more when we are in this middle place. What I need, what many of us need, is someone to listen instead of “say.” Someone to be there in person or virtually or on the other end of the line reassuring us that we are not alone simply by their presence with us on the space.

We are in a theological liminal space right now. That space between Easter and Pentecost. The space where Jesus told his disciples to wait until the Holy Spirit comes. Waiting is difficult sometimes. The good news is that God waits with us, listening to us as cry out for relief throughout our journey through the in between space, and gives us hope for the future!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor MP

Session Snippets

April 19, 2021 meeting

Session conducted extensive conversations about resuming in-person worship, and as you already know, voted enthusiastically to take that first step on **May 19 at 10:00 a.m.** (Live streaming for at home participation will be available.) Everyone agreed that it is time! There will be ongoing discussion and evaluation as things progress so building access and activity levels can increase. Stay tuned!

Session approved a one-day Vacation Bible School on July 23. More information will be coming.

Session approved that Deacons may sponsor a Trunk and Sidewalk Sale (sort of an ABC hybrid...) to benefit St. Mark's mission partners on June 19. (More details are in another article in this Newsletter.)

Session approved a policy that all members' phone numbers and email addresses shall not be published in newsletter articles. This will protect the privacy of our congregation and reduce the need to "scrub" information from the newsletter prior to it being posted on our public website. www.discoverstmark.org. Use the church directory or 'Simple Church' program to get contact information.

A lot is going on at St. Mark!

March 2021 Financial Update

	March	Year to date
Revenue	\$130,409	\$292,296
Expenses	\$72,707	\$234,618
Revenue vs. Expenses		
	\$29,630	\$58,867
Surplus (Deficit)		

June Messenger Newsletter

Will be published on Friday, May 28
(last day of month)

Deadline for articles – Thursday, May 20
Newsletter@discoverstmark.org

New Church Directory

Coming Soon!

Membership committee anticipates that new directories will be traditionally mailed to us within a month.

'SimpleChurch' Manual

'SimpleChurch' is a secure data base of member information for collective congregational use as well as for individuals to review their own personal giving. If you would like the PDF file of this manual to learn to use it, contact Victoria Sherman either by phone, email, or St. Mark Congregational Bulletin Board (a private Facebook group).

Please note that new users - those that have not set up or requested account access in SimpleChurch - will need to contact the church office to have their account unlocked and an email will be sent to them with the included attachment. They should send an email to: smpoffice@discoverstmark.org

PENTECOST OFFERING

The symbols of Pentecost – fire, flame – are linked to the color red and associated with youth, joy, discovery, and growth. This year Pentecost Sunday is May 23, and we will celebrate this event in the sanctuary— what an occasion! Your gift to the Pentecost Offering during the month of May helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. St. Mark retains 40% of what is collected to distribute locally. It will go to Presbyterian Children's Home and Services and UKirk, a PCUSA college ministry with a chapter in St. Louis. Make a difference for at risk children-youth and for young adults.



Use Our Website!

www.discoverstmark.org

Our website is updated often. Use it to reference the many varying details of church life. The sermons, Sparks, newsletters, descriptions of groups and events are there. Peruse it! Stay tune. The website will have a new look soon!

APRIL DRIVE-THROUGH DONATION COLLECTION



THANK YOU!

On April 18th, the St. Mark Mission Committee collected \$700+ and 3 boxes of requested supplies.

ST. MARK CLOTHING BOX IN THE PARKING LOT

St. Mark in collaboration with St. Vincent DePaul Society is again collecting clothing donations. The Box is located on the upper west parking lot near the kitchen entrance.

Use this collection box when you or your neighbors are doing your spring cleaning. Please put clean clothes in bags before placing them in our collection box.

LENTEN WATER CHALLENGE

**TOGETHER,
WE RAISED
\$4,205.15!**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Lenten Water Challenge. St. Mark continues its tradition of supporting Marion Medical Mission and the effort to provide clean water wells in Africa. We raised \$4205.15 together this year.

You can still make a financial gift toward the important goal of providing living water for all God's children.

To learn more about our collective work, you can

visit www.mmmwater.org.

MAY DRIVE-THROUGH DONATION COLLECTION, MAY 16, 1-3PM

We will collect food and hygiene products specifically requested by Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58.

Circle of Concern

- Baking items
 - Cereal
 - Jelly
 - Mixed beans
 - Mixed vegetables
- (NO corn and NO green beans please)

Isaiah 58

- Baby wipes
 - Laundry detergent
 - Toilet paper
- (NOTE: SNAP/EBT/WIC/food stamps cannot be used to purchase hygiene items)

Donations may be placed in the bin in the foyer when the office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are attending in-person worship on May 16, look for a collection area near the entrances. Cash donations may also be made via check to St. Mark Presbyterian Church with "Circle of Concern" and/or "Isaiah 58" on the memo line.

CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Circle of Concern is accepting curbside drop-off donations at their Headquarters at 112 St. Louis Avenue, Valley Park, MO 63088. Food donations are accepted on Monday and Tuesday from 9 am to 3 pm, and Thursday from 9 am to noon. Cash contributions may be made through St. Mark by designating Circle of Concern on the memo line.

The most current needs include:

- Cereal
- Canned Pasta
- Dinner "Helpers"
- Dry Pasta/Pasta Sauce
- Peanut Butter/Jelly
- Canned Fruit
- Healthy Snacks
- Condiments
- Razors

The Trunk and Sidewalk Benefit for Missions

Finally--your two-year delayed purge! The cleaning out of corners! The long-awaited haul-away!

The toys, games and puzzles ready for evacuation; sport equipment abandoned by a high school graduate; gardening and work tools replaced by updated versions. These items were tragically disappointed by the cancelled ABC Sale of 2020. They are candidates for **the Trunk and Sidewalk Benefit for Missions Sale on June 19, 2021**

The Session and Deacons have planned for a trunk-ated ABC sale in the church parking lot with a limited election of items sold out of car trunks and tables nearby.

What will we sell?



1. Puzzles, Toys, and Games
2. Tools, gardening equipment and outdoor items
3. Sporting Goods

What is our purpose?

1. Generate funds for Mission Partner donations
 2. Provide opportunities for fellowship
 3. Provide opportunities to empty attics, basements and closet
- Engage the local community

How can you participate in the Trunk and Sidewalk Benefit for Missions Sale?

1. Donate items for the Deacons to sell
2. Sign up to bring a car for donated items to be displayed (masks required; one space between each parked car; masks and sanitizer available)
3. Volunteer to help with the sale

How will we organize the sale?

1. Set-up **Friday June 18** when items will be sorted in cars at the church; participants will take their cars home and return the next day.
2. Set-up early Saturday morning, **June 19** with sale opening at 9 a.m.

If you wish to donate, volunteer, or have questions, please contact Pam Ladley or Sharon Cardwell, Chairs, via St. Mark Congregational Bulletin Board (Facebook), email or phone. Use church directory for specifics.

ST. MARK VBS **SAVE THE DATE!** **JULY 23, 9AM – 4PM**



St. Mark Presbyterian Church invites all children ages 3 years old thru 5th grade to explore how to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God with the "Knights of North Castle".

Come Home to St. Mark

**In-Person Worship Resumes on
Sunday, May 16 at 10:00 AM**



Please visit www.discoverstmark.org
for more information.

Bible Presentation for 3rd Graders and High School & College Graduates

St. Mark has a tradition of gifting Bibles to individuals at momentous times in their lives. In keeping with that tradition, on May 23rd, 2021 at in-person worship, we will be presenting Bibles to 3rd graders, graduating high school seniors and college graduates!

Contact Pastor MP or Latisha Gilliland with any questions and to let us know if your graduate or 3rd grader will be there on the 23rd! If you are unable to attend in person that Sunday, please let us know and we will set up an alternate way to get the Bible to you. Don't worry, we will figure out something!

If you have your name tag, please wear it to the in-person worship.

GIVING TO ST. MARK

This is the **6th in the series** of articles providing additional ideas for giving to St. Mark. We have covered a variety of topics since the December newsletter and plan to continue to provide ideas on other ways to support the mission of St. Mark.

Depending on your current and future financial and philanthropic desires, you may want to consider creating a gift by designating St. Mark as the beneficiary of your

Life Insurance

You should periodically review your current beneficiary designations on any life insurance policies that you have, whether individual policies or group plans. Many have policies that do not have updated beneficiaries, including a deceased beneficiary, former spouse, or other individuals or organizations that may not need the additional income or whom you may not desire to receive the benefits of your policy. You can make a change to name St. Mark as the sole beneficiary or you can name a non-charitable partial beneficiary as well.

Another way to use your cash value life insurance that may no longer be needed is to transfer ownership of the policy. This may allow you to claim a charitable deduction for the approximate cash value of the policy and designate the future benefit for a mission or cause you choose.

Always consult your financial planner, estate planning attorney, or tax professional to review the benefits to you and your family for using life insurance.

For further information or questions, please contact the St. Mark Finance Committee: Glenn Knoff, chair; Brian Sprague, Scott Collier, Carl Tenpas, Mark Caplinger, Hugh Smith, Cay Noble, Bob Snyder, Joyce Blackwell.

Stay tuned in June for our next topic.

Dear St. Mark Friends and Staff,

Thank you for the flowers and all the cards of appreciation! There were so many heartfelt notes, and it was a joy to read each one.

George and Cathy Schindler

Thank you!

Your donations totaling \$380.00 will help

blanket the world with love.

We appreciate your help and support!

Saint Mark Presbyterian Women
and Church World Service

Dear St. Mark Family,

In the fall of 2017 I met with St. Mark Session and requested their support and sponsorship in my participation to the Lay Pastor Training Program at Presbytery. I and eight other people met in Potosí, MO for classes about every six weeks for two years. We also served two six-month internships at various Presbyterian Churches in the region. When I graduated classes I professed that I believed my call to be serving on Pulpit Supply at Presbytery, and I did not plan on seeking a pastoral position.

Well, God had other plans. The day that I resigned my job as a school bus driver, I received a call for Pulpit Supply from Trinity Chapel Presbyterian Church in Cuba MO. Weekly Pulpit Supply turned into Advent Supply and then Month-by-Month supply. Last month, Trinity Chapel extended a call to me as Commissioned Pastor and I accepted. I couldn't have succeeded in these efforts if it wasn't for the prayerful support from my St. Mark family, and the ever-present mentorship from Pastor Dave and Pastor MP.

I wish I could personally hug and invite all of you to attend my Commissioning Service, but the following invite will have to suffice. Jim and I will retain our membership at St. Mark and will visit whenever possible. Your faithful prayers for us as we take on this new ministry are truly appreciated.

God is Good! All the Time!

Love, Donna Schiro

*You are cordially invited to attend a
Worship service commissioning Ruling Elder,*

Donna L. Schiro

To Pastoral Service at

Trinity Chapel Presbyterian Church

Hwy 19 and Hwy C, Cuba, MO 64543

Sunday, May 23 at 2:00 PM

Attend in-person, via Facebook Live or Zoom

Luncheon Reception Immediately Following

(Contact Donna Schiro or St. Mark for the Zoom link)