



The Messenger

“When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth” (Genesis 9:16-17, NRSV.)

Best Laid Plans

When I was in high school, many of my classmates read a book by John Steinbeck titled “Of Mice and Men.” I never read the novel but have seen film adaptations of the story. Often unknowingly, people have quoted, at least in part, a very famous line from that novel. It goes like this, “best laid plans of mice and men.” The meaning of “best laid plans” is immediately clear to most of us and communicates that despite all our best efforts everything we have including our plans is ultimately subject to destruction.

This quote from “Of Mice and Men” has its origin in an eight-stanza poem by famous poet Robert Burns titled, “To A Mouse.” Burns also wrote another poem we are sure to know which is titled, “Auld Lang Syne.”

In the poem “To A Mouse”, Burns writes about a mouse who has toiled to build a home in a field only

to have it destroyed by uncontrollable forces especially those forces of human-kind. The poet apologizes to the mouse and tells the mouse that it has nothing to fear from him. The poem ends with some wisdom. As the poet reflects on his own situation he tells the mouse that it is blessed compared to him, because he sees in his own past and future darkness and fear.

Stanza Eight of “To A Mouse” by Robert Burns

*“Still, thou art blest, compar’d wi’ me!
The present only toucheth thee:
But Och! I backward cast my e’e,
On prospects drear!
An’ forward tho’ I canna see,
I guess an’ fear!”*

This season of stewardship we are journeying with Noah and his family as God destroys all that was made and saves only Noah and his family. All the

peoples’ plans and stored up treasures are gone due to uncontrollable forces. All may seem lost in this destruction.

But then God gave us a promise. A beautiful arch in the sky. A promise that we can hold up against darkness and fear. A promise that God loves us and will be with us through the hauntings of the past as well as the fears we hold about the future.

I think about God’s promise and how, like the poet said of the mouse, “thou art blest”; we are blessed by God’s ever faithful promises. God is with us in the storm. God is with us in the pause. And God is with us in the step forward. Let’s remember that we are blessed as we step together in God’s promise this stewardship season.

Peace and blessings.

Pastor MP

SESSION SNIPPETS

October 18, 2021

Christmas Eve worship times, will be:

5:00 p.m. Family/Children's service

7:00 p.m. Service with candlelight, communion, and music.

Gathering of large groups (Giving Thanks Dinner, the Christmas Boutique, etc.) will not occur in the immediate future, but individual small groups can decide independently how they wish to proceed.

Session encourages everyone to connect with their church family, in the most appropriate way for each person. It is our personal relationships with each other that fulfill our feelings of being a part of something larger, of comfort, and of belonging. Make a phone call, participate in a social gathering, AND come to church—in-person or virtually.

The **December Messenger** will be published **Friday, December 3** due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Please submit items for the December Messenger by **Wednesday, November 17!**

SIGN REPLACEMENT UPDATE

There has been a delay in the sign replacement project due to the shortage of aluminum. Dale Signs is working to obtain the materials to fabricate the sign and we hope to have an installation date soon. The funds to replace the current sign which is over 30 years old were donated by Earl Hudson in memory of his wife, Mae. Our thanks go to the Hudson family for this generous gift.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Our congregation's Stephen Ministers give one on one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Stephen Ministers:

- * Listen, care, pray, support, and encourage as a caring, christian friend.
- * Meet weekly confidentially, for about an hour, for as long as needed.
- * Provide or refer to a Grief Share class.
- * Offer Cancer Support group when needed.
- * Give prayer shawls to our congregation or family members to support them after a loss, during a serious illness or recovery.
- * Provide a series of four "Journeying through Grief" booklets after a loss.
- * Walk through difficult times with those in our congregation or community.

To be connected with a Stephen Minister or learn more contact the church office.

ST. MARK PRAYER LIST

Copies of the St. Mark Prayer List are available at the Welcome Center in the narthex on Sunday mornings before and after the 10:00 am service. The rest of the week they are available in the Prayer Circle mailbox in the office.

Everyone is welcome to join the Prayer Circle on Monday afternoons at 1:30 pm at the home of Boots Berry. If you'd like more information, please contact Pat Marshall.



CHRISTMAS POINTSETTIAS

St Mark will continue our tradition of beautifying our sanctuary with poinsettias for Advent. Please consider ordering

one or more to bring home after Christmas Service or to be delivered to a homebound member. Order forms can be found by the flower chart on the easel. Place your order form with your check in the "Flowers" mailbox in the church office by Sunday, November 28. The cost is \$7 per plant and is sourced from a locally owned greenhouse. Orders can be placed until November 28. Any questions, please contact Mary Schibler.

UPCOMING GO GETTER EVENTS!

November Outing Our next Go Getter outing will be to Circle 7 Restaurant at 11769 Manchester Road on Tuesday, November 9. The reservation is for 12:00 pm and the bus will leave promptly at 11:30 am. You can review the menu at circle7ranch.com. Please contact Judy Richardson or Jan Graves to make your reservation.

Christmas Luncheon The Go Getter Christmas Luncheon will be held at the church on December 14, 2021 at noon. We will have a \$10.00 round robin gift exchange and lunch will be provided. Please make your plans now to attend as we will be catering the lunch and will need to know the number of attendees on or before December 10. Please let Judy Richardson or Jan Graves know of your plans to participate.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 9:45 – 11:00 am.

CHILDREN'S WEDNESDAYS

Joins us for PreK – 5th grade activities and curriculum-based programs every Wednesday from 5:00 – 6:00 pm!

Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to teach Sunday School & work in the Nursery. Please contact Latisha Gilliland at lgilliland@discoverstmark.org if interested!



Greetings All!

I have arrived and I am looking for a home. My special talents are giving and getting hugs, making smiles and cuddling. We can sit together and meditate, have tea, and count our blessings. I can be active with little ones who like to play. I'm about 13 inches tall and stand up and sit down. Every inch of me is to love! We'll have a beary good time together.

xoxoxo – TB

If you would like to have a teddy bear, Presbyterian Women will be placing these little cuties in loving homes. For just \$10.00, this little teddy bear will come to live with you or be your gift to someone else who would love bear hugs.

This PW project benefits the mission work of St. Mark PW. Won't you be an angel and give a bear a home?

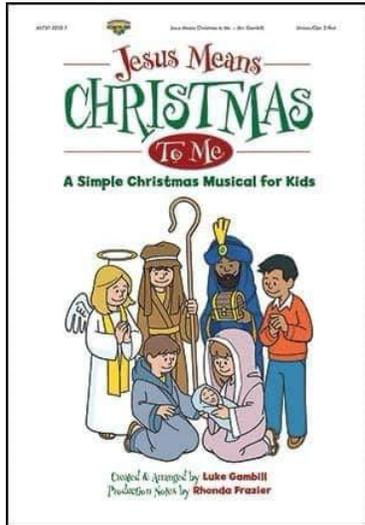
Bears will be available for ordering and pick-up at the PW Table in the Narthex. Order your bears today.



We are hosting an **ADVENT CONNECT Celebration on November 28th** in Gleason Hall immediately after the 10 am service. There will be refreshments and activities for all ages AND you can pick up your **ADVENT CONNECT** gift to take home to begin the Advent season. This is a special way St. Mark would love to connect with your whole family! Invite friends, neighbors, or anyone else you can think of who might like to come and connect! Click on this link to find out more about this special event to kick off the Advent season.

<https://vimeo.com/592880393/c424cb9e8d>. Each family attending is asked to bring cookies to share. Please look for the Cookie Sign Up sheet at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PRESENTS



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 4PM

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LOOKING AHEAD...

VBS - SAVE THE DATE!
July 18-22, 2022

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOUTH

YOUTH WEDNESDAYS

Youth meet weekly in person to have fun, fellowship, and faith experiences. Did I forget to say **SNACKS?!?!?! Snacks too!** Join us Wednesdays from 6-7pm in the youth room!



Wear your favorite ugly sweater or dress up in your Christmas best! Join us for food, fun, and fellowship!

YOUTH HANGOUT



Tilles Park, November 21, 7:30 pm

Youth and their families are invited to meet at Tilles Park, November 21, to walk through the Christmas Winter Wonderland. Tickets are \$5 each and are scheduled for 7:30 pm admission. Contact Pastor MP at youth@discoverstmark.org ASAP, as tickets are limited.

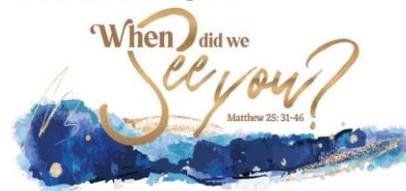
YOUTH LOOKING AHEAD...

MISSION TRIP



STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!

TRIENNIUM



Triennium only happens every three years and it is impossible to overstate how

awesome it is. Next summer is already underway and we don't want you to miss out!

What: PCUSA Youth Triennium

When: July 24-27, 2022

Cost: TBD (in 2019 cost per student was \$212)

For more information: Contact Pastor MP

mpanco@discoverstmark.org

MISSION AT ST. MARK

LOCAL FOOD PANTRY INVENTORIES DROPPING

Please help them restock!

The food pantries we support have recently seen an increase in visitors and their inventories are dropping quickly. Please bring your donations to St. Mark during office hours or worship. You may also write a check with "Mission: Food Pantry" on the memo line to be distributed to our food pantry mission partners to purchase their most critical needs.

Circle of Concern and Isaiah 58 Ministries



- dinner "helpers"
- canned pasta
- canned fruit
- coffee
- laundry detergent



COAT DRIVE EXTENDED THROUGH THANKGIVING

Due to the heavy demand by our mission partners -- new and "like new" coats will continue to be collected for



distribution by Third Pres and Isaiah 58 Ministries. Please consider donating any extra coats in your closet or a new coat on sale at your favorite store! You may also write a check with "Mission: Coat Drive" on the memo line for St. Mark volunteers to purchase coats at discount stores. Clean and good condition coats only please. Please bring your donations to St. Mark during office hours or worship to be placed in the "Coat Drive" boxes no later than Thanksgiving.



The Angel Tree will once again be making an appearance in the Narthex. Please select an angel or two to help provide a Merry Christmas for one or more children. This year Children's Ministry has selected Isaiah 58 as the recipient and they have provided a wish list for our Angel Tree. Please return your gift (\$20-25 range) in a gift bag and place it under the tree with the angel attached to the bag by December 5th.



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and ServicesSM

PCHAS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

This year's annual luncheon in support of Presbyterian Children's Home and Services will be held on Thursday, November 11th at Algonquin Country Club. If you'd like to attend with other St. Mark members, please contact Sharon Cardwell.



SUPPER CLUB HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Parents of preschool and elementary age kids (and anyone else who wants to join) are invited! Join us Saturday, December 18 at 6:30 pm at the Burgess' house for a Holiday Potluck and an Ugly Sweater Contest. Bring your favorite side dish! Childcare will be provided at St. Mark from 6-10 pm. RSVP by December 11 to Shelley Lester.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES AT ST. MARK

St. Mark will be closed the following days to observe the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays: Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26
Monday and Tuesday, December 27 and 28
Monday, January 3

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

St. Mark welcomed these new members during worship service on October 17:

Judy David has been a resident of the St. Louis area for a long time but did not discover St. Mark until she was invited by Pat Marshall to attend a Christmas Tea. She is the mother of two adult children, Mark David and Kathleen David Kroenung. As a retired Rockwood math teacher, she enjoys walking, reading and word puzzles. It is her goal to keep enjoying life.

Elizabeth Kokesh, who prefers to be called Liz, is a native St. Louisan. She attended St. Joseph Grade School and John F. Kennedy High School. She shares her home with her cat. Liz heard about St. Mark from Amelia Burgess and began attending with her sister-in-law, Lark Kokesh, who is also a new member.

Lark Kokesh is originally from California but graduated from University City High School in St. Louis. She is retired and enjoys swimming, hiking, and horses. Amelia Burgess told her about St. Mark when they met at the swimming pool. Lark started attending with her sister-in-law, Liz. On the top of her bucket list is the opportunity to enjoy life.

Bill Mielcuszny was born in Butler, Pennsylvania. He attended college at Miami of Ohio, in Oxford, Ohio and is now a retired system analyst. His hobbies are biking and scuba diving. He has two pets. Nala is his cat, and the household just recently added a dog named Abby. Bill will be spending his time training these two pets to get along.

Nikki Gibbons, soon to be Nikki Mielcuszny, grew up in Manchester. She attended Parkway South, John F. Kennedy High School and Sanford Brown School of Nursing. She is a registered nurse and the mother of three, Shannon, Brendan and Alex. Nikki has two pets, but also has served as a foster parent for kittens. On her bucket list is to go to New York to see shows on Broadway, but until she gets that opportunity, she enjoys swimming and scuba diving.

2022 CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Photography sign-ups have started for our 2022 Pictorial Directory. Appointment times are filling up so hurry and schedule your time if you haven't already. Just for participating you will receive a complimentary 8" x 10" portrait and pictorial directory. You will view your images right away and have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits. If you schedule your session by December 4th, you will receive your portraits in time for Christmas. Members who will be out of town on these dates can have their photography done at a nearby church by calling Universal at (888) 742-5823.

Scheduling A Photography Session

You may schedule your photography session beginning the weekend of October 10th either online, by phone or in person.

Online (Monday-Friday): www.ucdir.com
Church Code: mo131 **Password:** photos

Phone (Monday-Friday): (888) 742-5823

In Person: Before and After Sunday's 10:00 service in the Narthex and before and after Saturday evening's service outside of Fellowship Hall.

Photography Session Dates & Times

Friday, Nov. 5, 2:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Saturday, Nov. 6, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Wednesday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 26, 2:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Saturday, Nov. 27, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

For questions, please contact Doris Martin (636) 537-0742 or dmintdesign@aol.com. Our 2022 church directory will not be complete without you. Thank you so much for participating!