



www.discoverstmark.org

A Monthly Insight into St. Mark Presbyterian Church

The Messenger



Discover Sunday



Dear Friends,

I am so excited for our **Discover Sunday** event coming up on September 12 from 9:00-11:15 AM. Church attendance always ebbs during the summer months as individuals and families go on vacation, visit relatives, or attend sporting events. The Sunday after Labor Day is the perfect time for the tide to return as people flow back through the front doors. After nearly 20 years of ordained ministry, I understand going to church is a habit and not going to church is a habit. **Discover Sunday** is our opportunity to get back in this life-giving routine.

I recently came across this quote from Maya Angelou, and it speaks to a deeper need within us all. "The ache for home lives in all of us. The safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned." St. Mark has always had the reputation as a welcoming congregation, and it is a loving home for so many.

Discover Sunday also offers the opportunity to learn more about many of our ministries and provides the chance to get more involved. There are a lot of wonderful things happening with Children, Youth, Adult Education, Mission, Fellowship, Worship, and many other ministries. Becoming more involved moves us from seeing St. Mark as the place where we attend to the church where we belong.

I know many of our members and guests are not able to attend our services in person due to the dangers of this present pandemic. We are working on some creative ways to share this event with you all. We've learned a lot about new ways to do church together over the past year and a half, and we will continue to work on expanding our virtual outreach.

We hope to see you in-person on September 12 at St. Mark. God has big things in store for our congregation and community, and we'd love for you to be a part of it.

In Hope and Confidence,

Pastor Dave

SESSION SNIPPETS

As plans are being made for the Fall and Winter, Session recognizes the changing landscape of worship, education, stewardship, and multiple aspects of our lives. St. Mark is being proactive in ways to welcome, to inform, to educate, and to move forward in our new environment.

At the August 16, 2021, meeting Session reached consensus to continue adjusting, as needed, the protocols and guidelines for worship and being in the building. Currently the wearing of masks within the building is required. Events will not serve food, and any upcoming meetings need to notify the office of their plans in advance.

The building will be available for use by outside groups, effective September 1, as originally stated. Protocols and guidelines need to be followed and pastoral approval obtained.

Discover Sunday plans are afoot, so come early (9:00) on September 12 to peruse the displays showing the many opportunities to participate and serve at St. Mark. There will be no Sunday School that morning.

The 25% of the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering that St. Mark is allowed to retain and distribute locally will be evenly divided between the Presbyterian Children's Home and St. John's Episcopal Peace Meal Program.

The **October Messenger** will be published Friday, October 1. Please submit items for the October Messenger by **Wednesday, September 22!**

GIVING TO ST. MARK

It is once again time to provide you information on ideas to donate to St. Mark. Your gifts, regardless of cash or other ways, provide the funds desired to support the missions of your church.

Real Estate can provide a unique gift opportunity for property that you own and may not wish to continue to manage it. This can be suitable regardless of whether the value has increased or decreased since you purchased the property. The gift must be readily marketable and ready to sell.

You can make a gift of your home or farm property, for example, but still actively use this property during your lifetime. This can allow you to retain use of the property during your lifetime while claiming a charitable deduction at the time of the gift. At your death the charity could have complete control of the property. Another example is a gift of vacation property, which may have appreciated in value, possibly avoiding capital gains taxes and receiving a charitable tax deduction at the time of the gift.

Gifts of real estate property can be very complicated. You should always consult your financial planner, estate planning attorney, and tax professional to review the benefits to you and your family.

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, and Joyce Blackwell.

Stay tuned in October for our next topic.

Discover Sunday



St. Mark will host its fourth annual Discover Sunday on September 12.

Various groups will have information tables introducing their ministries and mission. It is a fantastic way to learn more about how St. Mark serves our neighbors both near and far. This is a great Sunday to invite a friend to join you at church. The event will run from 9:00 until 11:15 am

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

“A Season of Peace” begins September 5 and completes October 3, World Communion Sunday. The Peace and Global Witness Offering (previously the Peacemaking Offering) will be collected during that time.

What does “A Season of Peace” mean? PCUSA has made a commitment to be active in working to transform cultures of violence into communities of peace. That may mean working to end violence against women, children or others, establishing lines of communication between groups and communities with whom there is little contact, and many other initiatives.

Our participation in the Peace and Global Witness Offering provides funds for those programs and St. Mark retains 25% of the total for local use, which has historically gone to the Presbyterian Children’s Home and Services and St. Martin Peace Meal. Use the special envelope is in your packet or simply mark your check for the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Thank you for your generosity—and looking for the usher after worship in the Narthex with the offering plate!

MILLIE MILLER’S MEMORIAL SERVICE

Millie’s service will be at 9 am on Monday, September 27. All are invited for refreshments in the Narthex immediately following the memorial.



The Prayer Circle invites you to join them this Fall. We meet Monday afternoon at 1:30 at the home of Boots Berry to pray for church members, their families and friends, our community and the world. All are welcome to come!

Current prayer lists are available in the church office in the Prayer Circle mailbox.

If you'd like more information contact Pat Marshall.

2022 PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

It's that time again and St. Mark is in the process of producing a new pictorial directory. We would love to have **everyone** included. There will be no cost to have your photograph taken. For participating, you will receive a complimentary 8" x 10" portrait and pictorial directory. Every five years this directory takes the place of the annual Guidebook that you normally receive. Photography Sessions will be available Wednesday, November 24 – Tuesday, November 30.

Stay tuned for more updated information on how to schedule your appointment.



PW is collecting baby items for Newborns in Need during the month of September.

Newborns in Need is a charity that specializes in the needs of babies facing health or economic crisis in St. Louis. It is a local and national nonprofit organization.

New and gently used baby items such as bibs, booties, burp cloths, hats, onsies, socks, sweaters, and undershirts (clothing sizes up to 6 months) are appreciated. Donations of Sleepers, blankets, baby wash, wipes, and diapers are especially needed and maybe placed in the Pack n Play in the Narthex.

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Make checks out to Newborns In Need and ask for a tax receipt. Mail to: Newborns in Need c/o Judy Giovanoni, 461 Bluff Meadow Dr., Ellisville, MO 63021

For more information, call Shirley Boeker or Louise Grothe.

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 6:00 – 7:00 pm!

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!

YOUTH HANGOUT



September 26th from 4-6pm

[Meet at Aloha Mini Golf and Shave Ice](#)
[13502 Big Bend St. Louis, MO 63122](#)

Cost: \$7.50 for all you can play golf
Shave ice paid for by the youth committee.

RSVP: youth@discoverstmark.org

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER!



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

Dates: September 19th, 2021-May 2022

Time: Sunday at 9 am (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.



Join us on Sunday, October 17 at as our youth lead us in worship. Youth will be working on components of this service during our youth Wednesdays, confirmation classes, and other times as necessary.

Interested youth should contact pastor MP if they wish to add their musical, artistic, or other special talent to the day!

YOUTH LOOKING AHEAD...

TRIENNIUM

When did we
See you?
Matthew 25: 31-46

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

MISSION TRIP



STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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.

ATTENTION ST. MARK WOMEN!

It's time for the **Birthday/Teddy Bear Match Challenge!** Look for the game sheets on the PW table in the Narthex and church website (See Presbyterian Women). Your job is to match each of 31 dates to the bear for that day. For example, my birthday is the 16th so I match to the Koda bear. How many birthdays can you match to your friends in church? This is a great way to start a conversation with someone you may not know too well. Bring your list to the virtual brunch. There will be prizes!

PW BRUNCH

Here is your nametag.
Now the fun begins!
Saturday, September 11
The Virtual Brunch Program will arrive with your e-mail on Friday, September 3. It will give you all the information you will need to enjoy another out-of-the-box gathering of St. Mark Presbyterian Women!
Teddy bears are cordially invited!

Love Bears All Things!
Virtual Brunch
St. Mark Presbyterian Women

Rejoice in Hope

Musical Experience by the Mama Bears

Praying with Teddy



MISSION AT ST. MARK



MISSION PARTNER SUPPORT FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

Over 400 pounds of back to school supplies, socks and underwear were

contributed by St. Mark members during June and July for students supported by Isaiah 58 and Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. Donations were delivered to these mission partners in time for distribution prior to the start of classes.

SEPTEMBER FOOD PANTRY MOST WANTED

The most vulnerable in our region continue to struggle with food insecurity and affording basic needs. Please bring your donations to St. Mark during office hours or worship.

Circle of Concern

- dinner "helpers", canned fruit, condiments
- dish soap, ibuprofen
- diapers and infant care items

Isaiah 58 Ministries



- coffee, canned pasta with meat
- toilet paper, laundry detergent
- men's and women's new/like new tennis shoes, graphic tees, athletic pants

COMING IN OCTOBER ... A COAT DRIVE

New and "like new" coats will be collected for distribution by Third Pres and Isaiah 58 Ministries. As you see sales at your favorite retail establishments and as you transition your closet from summer to cooler weather, please consider donating to the October Coat Drive. Clean and good condition coats only please.



ST. MARK YOUTH WANT YOUR PLASTIC CAPS & LIDS! ABCs ("A BENCH OF CAPS") FOR MOUND RIDGE

St. Mark Youth are continuing to collect plastic lids for an "upcycled" bench for Mound Ridge. The project is designed to be a teaching tool for youth about caring for our earth.

Youth will sort and assess donations which will be delivered to Green Tree Plastics. The plastic is processed and transformed into a beautiful, durable bench. If enough acceptable plastic is donated, additional benches and tables will be manufactured.

Please review the list of acceptable caps and lids and bring your donations to St. Mark during office hours or worship



ABC Promise Partnership

ABC Acceptable Caps List NEVER ACCEPTABLE

No Metal	TRASH.....ANY	
drink bottles	ALL food containers	
prescription bottles	Cardboard Liners	⊘
plastic Ziplock type bags	soap pumps	
trigger sprayers	lotion pumps	
ALL fast food drink lids	grocery bags	
Plastic that is not a cap or lid, plastic pieces and parts	Caps or lids with (1) (3) (6) or (7) recycle number	⊘
Human or Animal Medical Supplies	K-Cups and Straws	
METAL.....ANY	PAPER.....ANY	

ACCEPTABLE CAPS

medicine bottle caps/ (info packet removed)	drink bottle caps (soda, water, juice caps, sports drink)	
milk jug, creamer caps	flip-top caps (ketchup)	
detergent caps	spout caps (mustard)	✓
hair spray caps	spray paint caps	
toothpaste caps	ointment tube caps	
deodorant caps	baby food caps	
apple sauce pouch caps	shampoo/conditioner caps	

ACCEPTABLE LIDS

Cottage cheese	cool whip container lids	✓
yogurt lids	Pringle can lids	
mayonnaise jar lids	coffee can lids	
peanut butter lids	Butter lids	
Ice cream bucket lids "under 8" in diameter"	cream cheese container lids	
	Spice lids	



REACHING OUT WITH PRAYERS

St. Mark received a nice note this week from the kind congregation at St. Charles Presbyterian Church...

