

Our Mission Statement To build a family of believers who glorify God and help each other become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ



Racing to the Finish

Have a great Thanksgiving. Enjoy some sports, the outdoors, eat too much and give thanks for the freedom and comfort we enjoy.

We are looking forward to Advent and Christmas. During worship services in December, we will be asking "What Child is This?" The question will be raised from the perspectives of shepherds, Magi, and Mary & Joseph. Each Sunday thoughtful soliloquies will help us experience the awe and wonder of God's Son born to a virgin. The joy, love and miracle of Christmas touch us all.

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. We will have one morning service at 10:00 followed by a party in the atrium. The Candlelight, Communion and Carols services will be at 6 and 7:30 PM.

December is full of opportunity to worship Jesus and invite someone to worship with you.

This year will be over before we know it. Since we are already looking forward to and planning for ministry in 2018, it is very helpful for you to turn in a giving estimate now. If you have not been able to do so, please do so as soon as you can. The information is available at the office and in the atrium. Call us if you would like the material mailed to you.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Pastor Keith

Looking Ahead to Advent at St. Mark's



- Nov. 26 - Hanging of the Greens
- Dec. 3 - Shepherd visits Worship
- Dec. 3 - Keepsake Christmas
- Dec. 9 - Church Caroling
- Dec 10 - Magi visits Worship
- Dec. 10 - Choir Concert in worship
- Dec. 10 - Choir Concert @ Epworth
- Dec. 13 - Student Ministry Party
- Dec. 14 - CDO Christmas Program
- Dec. 17 - Mary & Joseph visit Worship
- Dec. 17 - Choir Christmas Party
- Dec. 17 - Kiespert Christmas Concert
- Dec. 21 - Children's Polar Express
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services
10:00; am 6:00 pm; 7:30 pm

KEEPSAKE CHRISTMAS

A FESTIVE AND FUN EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

DEC. 3, 5:00-7:00, IN BARNETT HALL

DINNER PROVIDED



PARENTS, CHILDREN, GRANDPARENTS, ALL ARE INVITED TO COME AND CREATE YOUR VERY OWN KEEPSAKE NATIVITY SCENE AND WATCH AS

THE NATIVITY COMES TO LIFE ON STAGE. COME CAPTURE MEMORIES FROM THE FIRST CHRISTMAS AND CELEBRATE THE BEST KEEPSAKE OF ALL.... JESUS!

PLEASE INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, AND OTHER FAMILIES YOU KNOW TO COME AND EXPERIENCE THIS MEMORABLE EVENT. ALL ARE WELCOME!

PLEASE REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT ONLINE AT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.STMARKSBETHANY.COM



It's Time to Order Your Poinsettias

There is a sign-up sheet located on the counter outside the church office for ordering to decorate our sanctuary beginning December 3rd. You may contribute poinsettias in memory or honor of a loved one. Cost this year will be \$17.50 per poinsettia. Please order and pay for your poinsettias by November 26th!

STUDENT MINISTRY

Hope this email finds you well and preparing for an incredible day of thanks! I am praying this holiday week is one of great joy and time for pause and to express your gratefulness to God for all the many incredible blessings in your life. I am thankful for you all of you and the wonderful church family we get to call home at St. Marks UMC. Here are the important need to know items for our near future.

This Week- NO youth programming. Enjoy your holiday week!

Turkey Olympics- Wednesday, November 29th. We will meet at 6:30pm for our annual special event. This will be an incredible time of competition and fun and spirit and fun and games and did I mention fun! You will not want to miss this event. We will finish up around 8pm.

Christmas Party- On Wednesday, December 13th we will have our youth Christmas party at the church. We will have food and Christmas games to play as well as a movie going. Plan to be there and plan to bring some friends! A special edition of dirty Santa will be played as well. For our game the gift has to be something you found at home. We will run from 6:30-8pm.

Parent Meeting- The youth ministry is planning a parent meeting for Sunday, December 3rd around 12:15pm. In this meeting we will discuss what has been going on in our ministry as well as Winter Retreat and Our Spring Break Mission Trip. We also plan to give you some never too early camp dates so you can keep your calendars clear. Lunch will be provided. Please let John know if you need childcare or any other special needs that we can try to accommodate.

If you have any questions or concerns or needs, please feel free to reach out. Happy Thanksgiving!

In His Grip,

John Hollon
Youth Pastor



ADVENT STUDY

BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM
YOU HAVE A SAVIOR
IN HEAVEN



St. Markians will have two opportunities to take part in an advent Bible study this advent season. This study by Max Lucado will be a great way to focus on the love God showed us that first Christmas. You can join the Sonshine class at 8:30 am on Sunday mornings in room 17 as they go through the study; or you can be a

part of a group that will meet at 6:30 pm on Wednesday nights starting November 29th. This group will be led by Barbara Gardner and will meet for four Wednesdays. You can sign up to be a part of the group on the office counter or call the church office. We hope you take advantage of this opportunity.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

MISSION: St. Mark's Children's Ministry exists to partner with parents to equip, train, and release children to be passionate disciples filled with the heart of Jesus to minister today!

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." ~Matthew 19:14



SUNDAY MORNING:

Age Nursery - Kindergarten
Time 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Age Kindergarten - 4th grade
Time: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

During Sunday morning Sunday school for elementary aged children in the month of November, we will be working on understanding Bible layout. We've been working each week on being able to look up at least one Scripture in a Bible, but we will dive in a little deeper over the next few weeks to see how the Bible is divided - book, chapter, verse, old testament/new testament, how many books it has, where familiar stories are located, and how to best use this important book. PLEASE SEND A REAL BIBLE WITH YOUR CHILD TO SUNDAY SCHOOL IN NOVEMBER!



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EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY DIRECTOR:
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IT STARTS WITH A GIFT
and leads to restored lives

Get your tag from tree in foyer on
November 26th and
return wrapped gift with tag by
December 10th.

Give Joy to a Prisoner's Kid this Christmas.
Volunteer for Angel Tree®.

IT MATTERS

Make the Difference

November is commitment month. On Sunday, November 19 we will reaffirm our commitments to Jesus Christ, the church, and each other for the purpose of glorifying God and transforming the world. This has been our mission for many years.

What a blessing it is to know and to have known two of St. Mark's previous pastors: Don Greve and Harold Himes. St. Mark's heritage of biblical teaching and preaching is strong. Our compassion for others is heartfelt. Teaching is well reasoned, informed by history and tradition, and encourages soul-enlivening experiences. These characteristics reflect the unique expressions of the United Methodist Church that I appreciate so much.

As others have taught before me, following Jesus is an ongoing commitment to the Holy Spirit's transformation. This month, we look particularly at the transformation of our hearts, lifestyles, and world. The writings of Paul to the Church at Corinth are particularly helpful and will be the basis for the first three messages in November.

Peace and Grace,

Pastor Keith

For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you. Proverbs 2:10-11 (NIV)

Christmas Eve Offering Set

We have an exciting opportunity this year for our St. Mark's Christmas Eve offering. Mark & Kenzi Fogleman, missionaries we support in Kenya, have an opportunity to put in a water well in Magomano, Kenya where they are serving. They work with the school there as well as the community. Information from Mark :

“With a new water well/borehole and tank we have a very real opportunity to **love our neighbors** as ourselves and **help each life thrive** in the name and love of **Jesus**. This water project at Magomano Primary School will not only help provide a **clean source of water** for drinking and cooking, but will allow students to have **more time in school** and parents to **empower themselves** and better care for their families. We are helping the community and school leaders form a Water Committee to make it a **locally owned** project and **sustainable** for many years to come.



Results: Healthier Lives. Brighter Futures.

450+ Students

2000+ Community Members

Clean Water for ALL.

Be Praying now about how God will lead you. More information will be coming!



Facts and Figures

2017 Budget	595,337
Rec'd toward Operating 11/19/2017	5,370
Rec'd toward Operating 11/19/2017	485,878
Expenditures 11/19//2017	502,865
Sunday November 19. 2017	
Sunday School	193
Worship	233

Christie	Agyemang	Ester	Davis	Nate	Meisenburg
Ramsey	Alexander	Karrick	Dillon	Sherry	Mullins
Wayne	Barnes	Genie	Funk	Connie	Reed
Connor	Benton	Aliyah	Gannon	Alicia	Schneider
James	Bowman	Nina	Gerardy	Isaiah	Shafer
Nick	Bremmer	Randal	Hancock	Donna	Shriver
Kellen	Brooks	Julie	Harlow	Kaleb	Siler
Levi	Burpo	Sam	Kapka	Emmanuel	Sinnathamby
Darlene	Calvert	Freya	Lautzenhiser	Carson	Teague
Nora	Cantwell	Declan	Longoria	Jax	Verdalette
Lydia	Cressman	Breanna	Meisenburg	Porter	Wiseman

Prayer Box

Don & Fran Nobles	Tyler Boerner & troops
Kason Knutson & family	Bob Rutherford
Don Wonderly	Vic Gammill
Kieth Ballard	Tiffany Montesano
Will Kohn & family	Mackenzie Marks
Wyatt Pedigo	Beverly Clark
Ann Kessler	Jim Brewer
Genie Funk	BJ Watson
Orgel Ware	John Baumeister
Keith Ballard	Larry Mooney