



april 2018

# upcoming @ st. mark's

The monthly newsletter for St. Mark's Unitarian Universalist Church



## “WHERE THE HEART IS...” AN UPDATE & THANK-YOU FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

As of March 30, 2018, 126 pledge cards had been returned for the 2018 Stewardship Campaign: **Where the Heart Is**, totaling \$472,040. Also, 102 new and additional pledge cards had been returned for the capital campaign Project St. Mark's: The Sequel (which included the recent repaving of the parking lot). This total is now \$207,160.

We deeply appreciate your on-going commitment and pledges to both campaigns. Pledge cards are available at the church office or can be completed online via the link on the church website ([www.smumc.church/pledge](http://www.smumc.church/pledge)). Thank you for your generosity in supporting the ministries and missions of St. Mark's!





**SUNDAY,  
APRIL 15**

**9:30AM**

## **COLLEGE STUDENT AND YOUNG ADULT BREAKFAST**

We have quite a few delightful college students and young adults working in the world in our congregation right now. On Sunday, April 15th, all of them are invited to get together with John and Helen McFarland in Room 13 to brainstorm about ministry the congregation of St. Mark's can do for and with them this summer and next fall. If you are a college student or young adult, you are invited. If you know someone who is, please extend an invitation.

**SUNDAYS,  
APRIL 15 &  
APRIL 21**

**BIBLE 101 CLASSES**

**SUNDAY,  
APRIL 29**

**PRESENTATION  
OF BIBLES  
10:30AM  
WORSHIP**

## **UPPER ELEMENTARY CHILDREN AND YOUTH RECEIVE BIBLES**

All 4th & 5th graders, and those in 6th grade and up who haven't yet received a Bible, are invited to so on Sunday, April 29th, in Worship. Mary Beth Morgan will also be offering Bible 101 classes for Bible recipients and their parent(s) or other important adult(s) in their lives on Sundays, April 15th and 21st at 9:30am in Room 8. Please contact Mary Beth if your child/youth would like to receive a Bible, if you have questions or schedule challenges.

**SUNDAY,  
APRIL 15**

**10:30AM  
SANCTUARY  
WORSHIP**

## **CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

Children and Youth are welcome to be part of worship leadership any Sunday. They are especially invited, this month, on Sunday, April 15th. Children and youth are invited to serve by greeting/handing out bulletins, lighting candles (acolyte), drawing a picture for the bulletin cover, reading scripture, leading a prayer, sharing a musical or artistic talent, helping the ushers, etc. Please contact Mary Beth Morgan if your child(ren)/youth would like to participate in worship leadership and which role(s) are of interest. Thank you!

SUNDAY,  
APRIL 15

10:00AM

GARTON  
HALL

## RECEPTION FOR REV. SARAH GETTIE MCNEILL

As you may know, Sarah Gettie McNeill is leaving her position as St. Mark's Director of Children's and Family Ministries on April 21st. Sarah Gettie is an ordained Unitarian minister, and accepted an offer to serve the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church as their Director of Children's and Community Programming starting in late April. While this is a great opportunity, she is also sad to be leaving St. Mark's. Sarah Gettie will be greatly missed here. On Sunday, April 15th, please plan to come to Garton Hall at 10:00am when we will all gather to thank her for her ministry and to wish her well! (While this will officially be Sarah Gettie's last Sunday here, we are very grateful that she has graciously offered to be back for a week in June to lead Vacation Bible School!) Please contact Mary Beth Morgan with any questions.

SUNDAY,  
APRIL 15

AFTER  
WORSHIP

## SENIOR HIGH LUNCH @ BUCCE TO'S

Calling all senior high students! Let's hang out! Lunch is on us! Join Rodney Long, Director of Youth Ministries, for lunch at Bucceto's Pizza (next door to St. Mark's) on Sunday, April 15th. We will meet in Garton Hall after worship to walk over, or meet us there. This will be a low-key lunch to simply hang out and chill. Friends are welcome.

SUNDAY,  
APRIL 15

3:00PM

IN OUR  
SANCTUARY

## BLOOMINGTON CHAMBER SINGERS PRESENT: "FEAST ON BACH III"

"Feast on Bach" is a special series of concerts that draws from the great festival cantatas Bach composed for liturgical feast days. Feast III: Cantatas for Pentecost, Saints, and Reformation will conclude the series on April 15th, 2018. A special 2:00pm preconcert lecture on Bach will be presented by Dr. Daniel R. Melamed, Professor at the IU Jacobs School of Music. Tickets are available at <http://www.chambersingers.info/>

# april events

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WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 18

7:00PM

## APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT (ASP) MEETING

A meeting for everyone participating or interested in ASP this summer will be held on Wednesday, April 18th, at 7:00pm at St Mark's UMC in Room 8. We will be discussing plans for this year's trip (July 22 - 28, 2018) and providing required information for participants. If you have questions, please contact James Thomas at 812-361-8193.

SATURDAY,  
APRIL 21

6:00PM

## ALL-FAMILIES GAME NIGHT

On Saturday, April 21st, we will hold an All-Church, All-Families (of all configurations) Game Night, 6:00pm-8:00pm. This will be a great opportunity to connect with some of the other folks in the church. It will be potluck style, so plan to bring your favorite dish or two. We'll fellowship together over a meal and then play a variety of games (bring your family's favorite to share!). There are plans in the works to have video games, too, for those who prefer a more digital gaming experience. This is for ages 0-120, so mark your calendars now! Sign up on the link below, or call the church office, to note if you can bring a dish (or two) to share: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C48A9A92AA3F58-allchurch>

SUNDAY,  
APRIL 22

10:30AM  
SANCTUARY  
WORSHIP

## CREATION CARE SUNDAY: EARTH DAY

Sunday, April 22, is Earth Day. In accord with guidance from the United Methodist Church, and in resonance with other Christian communities and many of our friends of other faith traditions, we will examine our commitment to what United Methodist Bishops call "environmental holiness". The sermon for the Sunday service is titled "Creation Glories and Creation Groans: A Sermon for Creation Care Sunday". On that day, we'll reflect on what Matthew Sleeth calls the "creative and compelling call for Christians to embrace sustainable living out of love for God, neighbor, and all of creation". We hope to see you that day.

SUNDAY,  
APRIL 22

FOLLOWING  
10:30AM  
WORSHIP

## OPERATION FRIENDSHIP SOUP LUNCH!

Support Operation Friendship and enjoy a bowl of soup after Worship or place a pre-order and take lunch home with you. Choose from a variety of delicious soups, grilled cheese sandwiches, and baked goods. All eat-in orders include a roll and drink. After April 12th, you can place your pre-order online at [www.smumc.church](http://www.smumc.church) or get an order form from the Garton Hall Welcome Desk. Please give your completed order form to the Operation Friendship Bake Sale table. Then, pick up your order at the kitchen on Sunday, April 22nd after worship.

Operation Friendship (OF) is a travel exchange program for youth with which St Mark's has participated for generations.

MONDAY,  
APRIL 23

7:00PM

## MASTER'S VOCAL RECITAL BY JACOB ENGEL

Jacob Engel, Master's Degree student at IU Jacobs School of Music, and a bass vocalist in our Chancel Choir, will give a vocal recital in our Sanctuary. Admission is free.

All are welcome to attend.

TUESDAY,  
APRIL 24

5:00PM–  
9:00PM

CHIPOTLE

## CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR ST. MARK'S NURSERY SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support St. Mark's Nursery School and Kindergarten. Come in to the Chipotle at the Mall (2894 East 3rd Street in Bloomington) on Tuesday, April 24th between 5:00pm and 9:00pm. Good for dine-in or carry-out!

Just tell the cashier you're supporting the cause before you pay to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to St. Mark's Nursery School.

# april events

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TUESDAY,  
APRIL 24

6:30PM

NICK'S  
ENGLISH HUT

## PUB THEOLOGY

Need a place to relax with food and beverage, and talk a little theology? Try Pub Theology, a welcoming small group experience hosted by St. Mark's. This month, we will meet in the Hump Room at Nick's downtown (423 E. Kirkwood Ave.), have a beverage and snacks, and reflect on an interesting theological piece written by William Sloane Coffin. This sermon is actually a eulogy written for his son, Alex, delivered ten days after his death in an automobile accident.

Plan to come at 6:30pm to order your food and drink, and we'll start discussion at 7:00pm. To indicate your intention to attend, and receive the reading, contact Jimmy at [jimmymoore@smumc.church](mailto:jimmymoore@smumc.church), or contact the church office. The link to the sermon may be found here: [http://www.pbs.org/now/printable/transcript\\_eulogy\\_print.html](http://www.pbs.org/now/printable/transcript_eulogy_print.html)

WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 25

5:30PM

## EXTRA YEARS OF ZEST (XYZ) DINNER & PROGRAM

REV. SARAH GETTIE MCNEILL:

“MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES”

All are cordially invited to the April XYZ dinner and program. If you would like to have supper at XYZ, please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Supper will begin at 5:30pm and the program will begin at 6:20pm.

The presenter will be Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill, St. Mark's Director of Children's Ministries. She will speak about her spiritual journey and ministry to children. Sarah Gettie will also share plans for this summer's Vacation Bible School, entitled “Dig It! Caring for God's Creation,” the vision for which we thank Myriam Wood.

# united methodist women

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## ST. MARK'S UMW APRIL MEETINGS: ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED!

All the women of St. Mark's, whether members, regular attenders, or visitors, are invited to join one of the three St. Mark's UMW circles which meet each month. The UMW of United Methodist Church is a group of women who totally support 109 missions for women and children around the world.

Whether you are working outside or inside your home (or both), we have a circle that meets at a convenient time for you to attend.

The meetings in March are as follows:

Morning Circle  
Susanna Wesley Circle  
Charlene Martin Circle

Tuesday, April 17th, 9:30am  
Tuesday, April 17th, 1:30pm  
Wednesday, April 18th, 7:00pm

Room 8  
Room 8  
Bell Trace

## ADDITIONAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S GROUPS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO JOIN:

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Tuesday, April 10th, 6:30pm

Garton Hall Parlor

**Food for Thought Book Discussion Groups:**

(Currently discussing  
[Rad American Women A-Z](#)  
by Kate Schatz)

Friday, April 20th, 1:00pm  
Tuesday, April 24th, 7:00pm

St. Mark's Library  
Bell Trace

SATURDAY,  
APRIL 21

EVANSVILLE

## UMW SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SPRING GATHERING, "REJOICE ALWAYS"

The UMW spring gathering will be at Methodist Temple in Evansville with Mitch Gieselman, Southwest District Superintendent, speaking. Further information and signup on the UMW bulletin board in Garton Hall. Questions? Email UMW President Linda Crawford at [carlelinda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carlelinda@sbcglobal.net), or call the church office.

# small groups

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## PARENTS OF YOUTH NIGHT

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 6:00PM @ B-TOWN DINER, 211 N WALNUT ST

Enjoy some food & conversation with other folks raising teens. If you have questions, or would like to be on a contact list for future gatherings, contact Dawn Walters at [dquillen@indiana.edu](mailto:dquillen@indiana.edu) or the church office. All parents of youth (and grandparents/other loving adults caring for pre-teens and teenagers) are welcome!

## ST. MARK'S QUILTERS & CRAFTERS

WEDNESDAYS IN APRIL, 1:00PM— 3:00PM

Bring your quilting or crafts to Room 10 and spend time with others who enjoy these activities. All skill levels are welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact Patti Wright, or the church office, with questions.

## WOMEN OF WONDER AND FAITH

THURSDAYS IN APRIL, 11:30AM-1:00PM

A group of faithful, journeying women meeting weekly to read and discuss books on various topics of faith. In April and May, Women of Wonder and Faith is reading **Called by Community: The Life Jesus Wants for His People** edited by Charles Moore. Please join these women as they move along the faith journey, collectively and individually, as well as build valuable friendships to support each other through life's many challenges and joys. Contact the facilitator, Maria Schmidt ([marschmi@indiana.edu](mailto:marschmi@indiana.edu)) with questions, and to let her know you are coming.

## CONVERSATIONS ON LIFE MEN'S GROUP

FRIDAYS IN APRIL, 12:30PM AT BELL TRACE

Conversations on Life men's group meets on Fridays to share in conversation about topics of interest often based on literature selected by the group. The group meets in the private dining room, at the basement level on the west side of the main building of Bell Trace. Visitors are always welcome.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 6:30PM-8:30PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry now meets once a month, on second Tuesdays at 6:30pm. We invite those who knit or crochet to help provide prayer shawls for those experiencing grief, change, and life joys. We also make baptism blankets and special projects.

# small groups

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## MEAL SHARE FOOD REPACK

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 5:30PM—7:00PM

Each month, St. Mark's volunteers go to Hoosier Hills Food Bank to repack donated food for agencies that provide food for families.

For more information, contact Glenda Murray at [glmurray@indiana.edu](mailto:glmurray@indiana.edu).

## DAYTIME PARENTS GROUP

FRIDAYS, APRIL 13 & 27, 1:30PM—3:00PM, ROOM 24

The Daytime Parents of Young Children Group meets on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month in Room 24 to support one another through the intense joys and challenges of raising young humans. There is minimal homework, and it's never required. Currently, we are reading the very brief chapters in **The Parent's Tao Te Ching: A New Interpretation** by William Martin, and reflecting on the spiritual wisdom of both this text and Christian scriptures as it relates to parenting.

Bring the kids! There are toys to entertain them while parents discuss.

Invite friends, and if it is your first time, contact Sarah Gettie McNeill at [sarahgettiemcneill@smumc.church](mailto:sarahgettiemcneill@smumc.church) to learn the chapter for the coming meeting.

## BUDDIES OF ST. FRANCIS:

### TOUR OF PETS ALIVE

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 12:00PM

St. Mark's pet lovers are invited to join our small group, Buddies of St. Francis, for an informational tour of Bloomington's low cost spay/neuter clinic. Please leave pets at home for this humans-only tour. Plan to meet at Pets Alive (2444 S Walnut St) for this tour.

## BUDDIES OF ST FRANCIS:

### HIKE AT MCCORMICK'S CREEK STATE PARK

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2:00PM

St. Mark's pet lovers are invited to join our small group, Buddies of St. Francis, for a fun two-hour woods walk with our dogs in McCormick's Creek state park.

Bring leashed pets on this hike, and meet the group at the Wolf Cave parking lot in McCormick's Creek State Park.

# looking ahead to may

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WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 2

4:00PM-  
CLOSING

## DINE AND DONATE AT BUCCE TO'S: A BENEFIT FOR ST. MARK'S NURSERY SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

When you dine in or carry out from either Bloomington Bucceto's between 4pm and closing, mention St. Mark's Nursery School and Kindergarten. 20% of the total you spend will be donated to the Nursery School and Kindergarten! Can't make it this month? No problem. This "Dine and Donate" opportunity occurs the first Wednesday of each month.

SUNDAY,  
MAY 6

(FIRST  
SUNDAY  
OF EACH  
MONTH)

## BACKPACK BUDDIES FOOD COLLECTION

On the first Sunday of every month at the 10:30am worship service, you are invited to bring food items for the Community Kitchen Backpack Buddies program. Through this program, each Friday, approximately 400 children in need from local elementary schools are sent home with a backpack of food. Children are also provided food during Summer Break. These backpacks help meet basic weekend food needs of their families. A list of items requested is below. Please place the Backpack Buddies offering on the altar in worship on the first Sunday of every month, or you may leave your items during the week in the collection box in Garton Hall.

### Backpack Buddies Food List

- Individual fruit cups (applesauce, tropical fruit, pears, etc.)
- Instant Oatmeal (individual portions)
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Small boxes of cereal
- Easy-to-prepare food items  
(instant mashed potatoes, dried soups, beans, meal helpers, rice or pasta meals, etc.)
- Granola/fruit/cereal bars
- Dried fruit (raisins, cranberries, cherries, tropical fruit, etc.)
- Canned or pouch chicken or tuna
- Small bread mixes (cornbread, muffin, biscuit, etc.)

# looking ahead to may & june

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MONDAY  
MAY 7

10:30AM  
GARTON  
HALL

## SHOEBOX PROJECT

Each month, the Shoebox Project of St. Mark's meets and assembles shoeboxes filled with hygiene products and toys for kids. The shoeboxes are donated to local agencies such as Middle Way House and Monroe County United Ministries. Everyone is welcome to come and to join the fellowship and fun. We are always in need of washcloths, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, small toys, coloring books, hotel soaps/ shampoos, pencils, crayons, etc. You can place your donations any time in the basket in Garton Hall located beneath the United Methodist Women bulletin board.

JUNE  
4-7

9:30AM-  
NOON

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018: "DIG IT! CARING FOR CREATION"

Come ready to get messy! We are going to dig up stories of God's love and the beauty of Creation while exploring themes of environmental stewardship. We will be planting native flowers in Prairie Pockets on the grounds at St. Mark's – good for the earth, the bees and Monarch butterflies, as well as the spirits of all who share our space!



Each day, children will explore these themes through story, song, art, and play. 4th -6th graders will have their own special activities. All activities will be age-appropriate and fun! The week will culminate in a special VBS worship service Sunday morning, June 10th, at 10:30am.

Youth are welcome to volunteer as leaders. Adult volunteers are needed to provide this program free of charge for all children. Participant registration and volunteer forms are available outside Sarah Gettie McNeill's office in Garton Hall. For more information, contact Sarah Gettie McNeill at [sarahgettiemcneill@smumc.church](mailto:sarahgettiemcneill@smumc.church) or call her at 812-332-5788.

# opportunities to serve

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## **SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP**

Our breakfast event each Sunday continues to grow in popularity. It has become a great way to start the morning, to meet new people, and to provide a deep welcome to all who come our way. It is also a great way for those groups who help provide breakfast to receive free-will conations for their own mission effort or a cause they value. Sign up today in Garton Hall to provide breakfast on a future Sunday. Contact the church office or our breakfast coordinator, Christine Conrad, at 812-961-2959 or [silent2hear@gmail.com](mailto:silent2hear@gmail.com)

## **TEACH! WITH THE 2ND–3RD OR 4TH–5TH GRADE FAITH DEVELOPMENT CLASSES!**

Spend one Sunday a month with a group of inquisitive children encountering Bible stories through science experiments, art, mission activities, games, or by making yummy treats! Engage the world through the eyes of a pre-teen learning to navigate relationships and deepening faith as they experience the Bible stories in a more mature way. (They also make crafts and love to cook and play games!). With either group, you'll join an excellent team of teachers and get to know some of our church's awesome children and families. A curriculum is provided, along with a brief orientation to volunteering in Faith Development at St. Mark's. For more information, please contact Sarah Gettie McNeill, Director of Children and Family Ministries.



# adult sunday school: april

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## **BIBLE BANTER**

The Bible Banter class uses the Scripture text for the morning's sermon as a discussion-starter. Looking at the passage in its larger context, and sometimes exploring a bit of Bible-writing history, we offer thoughts on what the morning's sermon might look like, based on the Scripture the pastor has selected. We leave time to discuss implications of the Scripture on our own lives, and often find ourselves delving into topics that wind up far afield from the morning's original topic. You are invited to bring some coffee/breakfast from Garton Hall into Room 11 and join the conversation.

## **NOMADS**

The Nomads class is a generally progressive group which meets each Sunday at 9:15am in Room 10 for fellowship and discussion of selected readings on issues related to faith, spirituality, or social justice. Nomads will select literature to read and discuss for April. All are welcome with no preparation required.

## **PILGRIMS**

On Sunday, April 8th, Pilgrims is concluding the video lecture series Comparative Religion by Doctor Charles Kimball, Professor and Director of the Religious Studies Program at the University of Oklahoma with a topic of "Religious Diversity in the 21st Century".

On April 15th, Pilgrims will start a new video lecture series titled Jesus and His Jewish Influences by Doctor Jodi Magness, Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Against the backdrop of the turmoil of the late Second Temple period, 2nd Century BC – 1st Century AD, the different Jewish sects and movements emerged, including the Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes and Jesus's movement. All these groups were Jewish and observed biblical law but disagreed on the interpretations with the Gospel accounts indicating that Jesus's beliefs and practices differed in important ways from those of other groups. Pilgrims now meet in Room 12 at 9:15am on Sunday mornings and welcome any and all, at any point in the lecture series, for the presentation and the resulting discussion.

# sundays at st. mark's

## our regular sunday schedule:

BREAKFAST	9:00am- 10:15am	Garton Hall
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL		
Pilgrims	9:15am	Room 12
Nomads	9:15am	Room 10
Bible Banter	9:30am	Room 11
*INFANT & TODDLER CARE	9:30am- 11:30am	
Infants & Toddlers		Room 24 Room 25
<b>CELEBRATION!!</b> For Children, Family & Friends of All Ages	9:30am- 10:15am	Garton Hall
SANCTUARY WORSHIP SERVICE	10:30am	Sanctuary
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL	10:30am- 11:30am	
Preschool		Room 27
Kindergarten- 1st Grade		Room 28
2nd-3rd Grades		Room 4
4th-5th Grades		Room 9
Youth: 6th- 12th		Room 3

Please note that April 29th is Sanctuary Sunday.  
That morning there will be no regular Children's or Youth Sunday School.  
More information may be found in the article on the next page.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29  
IS SANCTUARY SUNDAY!  
NO REGULAR CHILDREN'S OR YOUTH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

April 29th falls on the 5th Sunday of the month when we invite all children and youth to experience the full worship service. Children and Youth Sunday School classes will not meet on April 29th. Children's activity packets and picture books are available in the back of the sanctuary near the comfortable rocking chairs. Infant and toddler care continues from 9:30am – 11:30am in rooms 24 and 25. For families who wish the option, childcare will be available in Room 27 for children in preschool through 3rd grade following the Children's Moment in the sanctuary worship service.



# ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## PASTORS

REVEREND JIMMY MOORE  
REVEREND MARY BETH MORGAN

## LAY LEADERS

ANDY CRON & TRINA MESCHER

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

REVEREND SARAH GETTIE MCNEILL

YOUTH MINISTRIES

RODNEY LONG

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

GERRY SOUSA

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MUSIC

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**St. Mark's United Methodist Church of Bloomington, Indiana**

**IS AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY BRINGING CHRIST-LIKE LOVE, HEALING AND HOPE TO ALL.**

**WE EMBRACE THE UNITED METHODIST IDEAL OF OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS AND OPEN DOORS**

**BY WELCOMING THOSE OF ALL RACES, CULTURES, FAITH TRADITIONS,**

**SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS, AND GENDER IDENTITIES.**

# ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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upcoming @ st. mark's is published each month as an information resource and guide to the activities and events within and around the St. Mark's church community. Copies are distributed at the beginning of each month along with the Sunday worship bulletin. Additional copies are available at the Welcome Center Desk, at the main entrances to the building, or by contacting the Church Office. An online copy of upcoming @ st. mark's can be downloaded from our church website ([www.smumc.church](http://www.smumc.church)). To submit articles for publication, please contact the church office.