



march 2018

upcoming @ st. mark's

the monthly newsletter of St. Mark's United Methodist Church

A LENTEN JOURNEY: GROWING IN THE PRACTICES OF FAITH

Jesus said, "If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them." (John 13:17) The worship services during the season of Lent will guide us toward reflection on how we grow deeper and stronger in faith through some basic Christian practices. Following themes suggested in the book, Practicing our Faith, edited by Dorothy C. Bass, we will consider the practices of Singing Our Lives, Nurturing Sacred Connections, Living with Generosity and Conviviality, Keeping Sabbath and Enacting Holy Conversation. Consider using these themes to model your journey through the season of Lent.

The Season of Lent commences with the Ash Wednesday services on February 14th and continues until Easter on April 1st. In the early history of Christianity, it was a time of preparation for those who were to be baptized on Easter Sunday. Many contemporary Christians consider it a time to "give up" some habit to make room for spiritual growth. We are asking you to consider adopting or enhancing some spiritual practice that will enhance growth in faith. We look forward to sharing this season together.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 25TH, 10:30AM
Parade of Palms with Children, Youth
(and the young at heart)
Special Music with Pat Harbison, Nic Narducci &
fellow Jazz Musicians from Bloomington North
Rev. Mary Beth Morgan, preaching

MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 29TH, 7:00PM
Enter into the story of the Last Supper
Communion and Hand Washing
Rev. Mary Beth Morgan, preaching

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 30TH, 7:00PM
A contemplative service of word and reflections
Chancel Choir and music from the Taizé tradition
Led by Rev. Jimmy Moore and others

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 1, 8:30AM & 10:30AM
We celebrate the joy of Easter morning
with Brass, with the Chancel & Bell Choirs,
and with congregational singing,
including "Hallelujah" from *Messiah*.
Rev. Jimmy Moore, preaching

*Please contact the church office for childcare options
during the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services.

announcements

LENTEN BIBLE CLASSES

The Lenten series of adult education classes on stories, lessons and themes from the Bible are continuing through March.

EACH TUESDAY EVENING
THROUGHOUT MARCH:
7:00PM-8:00PM
ROOM 8

Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill will take the second session on Tuesday, March 6th, with discussions on the touch by and the healing of the hemorrhaging woman as told in Matthew 9, Mark 5 & Luke 8.

Rev. Robert Epps will lead the class on March 13th on the "Song of the Vineyard" from Isaiah 5.

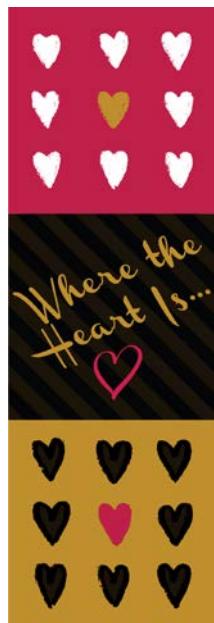
Rev. Randy Brady will teach on March 20th.

Rev. Robert Sharp will finish the series on March 27.

Watch for more details in the weekly church communications.

“WHERE THE HEART IS...”

AN UPDATE & THANK YOU FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM



As of February 20, 2018, 123 pledge cards had been returned for the 2018 Stewardship Campaign: Where the Heart Is, totaling \$467,020. Also, 101 new and additional pledge cards had been returned for the capital campaign Project St. Mark's: The Sequel (which includes the recent repaving of the parking lot). This total is now \$206,220.

We deeply appreciate your commitment and pledges to both campaigns. If you have already returned your pledge cards, or are doing so soon, thank you! Stewardship packets are available in Garton Hall and in the church office. These can be returned anytime in the offering plate, to the church office, or can be filled out online via the link on the church website (www.smumc.church/pledge). Thank you for your generosity in supporting the ministries and missions of St. Mark's!

announcements

ORDER EASTER FLOWERS TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY

THROUGH MARCH 12TH

It is time to place orders for Easter flowers!

With Spring Break occurring soon and Easter on April 1st, order forms are available now.

Please note the ordering deadline of Monday, March 12th. The flowers you order will decorate the Sanctuary for Easter morning, and you can take them home with you after worship. The bulbs can be planted around your home in the fall and provide colorful blossoms next spring. Flowers may be given in honor, memory or celebration of someone dear.

Place orders via the "Order Easter Flowers" link on the church website, or use order forms located at the Welcome Desk in Garton Hall. Please make checks payable to "St. Mark's UMC" and write "Easter flowers" in the memo line. You may mail or bring your order and payment to the church office, or place them in the Sunday morning offering basket.



BLOOMINGTON AREA UMC CHURCHES LENTEN MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFASTS

Men, make your plans to join with men from other local United Methodist churches for Lenten Prayer Breakfasts.

The Breakfast Schedule through the rest of the Lenten season is as follows:

MARCH 10TH	ARLINGTON UMC
MARCH 17TH	CROSS ROADS UMC
MARCH 24TH	GREENE COUNTY CHAPEL

BREAKFAST: 8:30AM
(COFFEE SERVED AT 7:30AM)

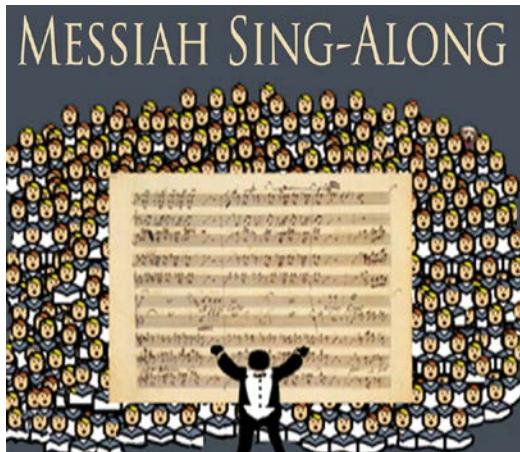
march events

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7TH:
4:00PM-CLOSING

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.

When you dine in or carry out from either Bloomington Bucceto's between 4pm and closing, mention St. Mark's Nursery School and Kindergarten.



MESSIAH SING-ALONG SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH, 3:00PM, IN OUR SANCTUARY

For over 30 years the Bloomington Chamber Singers have hosted a December Sing-along of the Christmas portions of Handel's beloved oratorio, *Messiah*. The annual event draws hundreds of singers and listeners from throughout the region. Last year, the group added to their season a Spring Messiah Sing-along of Parts 2 and 3. As musical and spiritual meditations during the Lenten season, these sections depict the

suffering and resurrection of Christ, and humankind's redemption.

Singers and listeners alike are invited to experience this moving tradition. Admission is free; donations of canned goods will be collected to benefit the Community Kitchen of Monroe County. Singers should bring their own *Messiah* scores; a limited number will be available for purchase or loan at the door. Everyone is encouraged to sing the many wonderful choruses, including "Hallelujah." Soloists chosen from BCS will sing the recitatives and the arias. The reading will be conducted by BCS Music Director (and St. Mark's Minister of Music) Gerry Sousa. A chamber orchestra will accompany the event.

Come experience this meaningful community tradition, Sunday afternoon, March 18th at 3pm in our sanctuary.

march events

CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25TH, 10:30AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

Children and Youth are welcome to be part of worship leadership any Sunday. They are especially invited, this month, on Palm Sunday, March 25th. 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. All are invited to be part of the Parade of Palms early in the worship service. 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!

PUB THEOLOGY

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 6:30PM AT NICK'S ENGLISH HUT (423 E. KIRKWOOD AVE)

During March, we continue a monthly small group experience called Pub Theology. We'll meet at Nick's downtown, upstairs in the Hump Room (above the front entrance area), have a beverage and snacks, and reflect on an interesting theological piece of writing. This month, we'll be reflecting on something by Barbara Brown Taylor titled, "Public Truth, Private Truth: Making the Move from Sermon to Memoir," which poses some interesting thoughts about what we all want in a worship experience, particularly the sermon. 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, or contact the church office.

EXTRA YEARS OF ZEST (XYZ) DINNER & PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28TH, 5:30PM, GARTON HALL

All are invited to bring a dish at 5:30pm to share (please also bring your own table service). After supper, at 6:20pm, Trina and Tony Mescher will share "The Epworth Rectory & Church: Part of the Methodist Heritage," an illustrated talk reflecting on their recent trip to Northern England and their visit to John Wesley's boyhood home in Epworth. The founder of Methodism, John Wesley grew up in the era in which the world's industrial revolution began. He led a religious and social movement that historians today recognize as one that helped England avoid the violent political revolutions of the Continent as it introduced new laws protecting the impoverished and disenfranchised.

united methodist women

ST. MARK'S UMW MARCH 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	Tuesday, March 20th, 9:30am	Room 8
Susanna Wesley Circle	Tuesday, March 20th, 1:30pm	Room 8
Charlene Martin Circle	Tuesday, March 20th, 7:00pm	Bell Trace

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

Shoebox Project	Monday, March 5th, 10:30am	Garton Hall
UMW Executive Board	Tuesday, March 6th, 9:30am	Room 12
Food for Thought Book Discussion Groups: (Currently discussing <i>America's Original Sin</i> by Jim Wallis)	Friday, March 9th, 1:00pm Tuesday, March 13th, 7:00pm	St. Mark's Library Bell Trace
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Tuesday, March 13th, 6:30pm	Garton Hall Parlor

Questions?

Email UMW President Linda Crawford at carlelinda@sbcglobal.net,
or call the church office.

small groups

SHOEBOX PROJECT

MONDAY, MARCH 5TH, 10:30AM, GARTON HALL

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.

DAYTIME PARENTS GROUP

FRIDAYS, MARCH 9TH & 23RD, 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 to learn the chapter for the coming meeting.

NURSERY CARE DURING SPRING BREAK

SUNDAYS, MARCH 11TH & 18TH, 10:30AM- 11:30AM

Please be aware that during Spring Break Nursery Care will be provided only for the 10:30am Worship Service on March 11th & 18th. There will be NO Nursery Care from 9:15am-10:15am. The times for Nursery Care are reduced for these two Sundays due to the difficulty of providing an adequate number of caregivers during Spring Break.

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH, YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL **NOT** MEET

There will be no 10:30am Sunday School for Youth (grades 6-12) on March 11th, due to Spring Break. Youth are encouraged to attend worship instead.

PARENTS OF YOUTH NIGHT

SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH, 6:00PM @ MR. HIBACHI

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

small groups

BUDDIES OF ST. FRANCIS

TUESDAY, MARCH 13TH, 5:30PM

Buddies of St. Francis is a small group experience for those who love animals and believe that our spirituality is enhanced by their presence in the world and in our lives. This humans-only gathering will be a time to share stories, reflect, and consider opportunities for advocacy. Join us in Room 15. Contact Jimmy Moore for more information.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

TUESDAY, MARCH 13TH, 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.

MEAL SHARE FOOD REPACK

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14TH, 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.

ST. MARK'S QUILTERS & CRAFTERS

WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH, 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 MARCH, 11:30AM-1:00PM

A group of faithful, journeying women meeting weekly to read and discuss books on various topics of faith. Women of Wonder and Faith is reading Saving Jesus from the Church, by Robin Meyers. 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) with questions, and to let her know you are coming.

CONVERSATIONS ON LIFE MEN'S GROUP

FRIDAYS IN MARCH, 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.

looking ahead: vacation bible school

VBS 2018: "DIG IT! Caring for Creation" JUNE 4-7, 9:30AM-NOON

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. 4 th -6 th 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 or call her at 812-332-5788.

opportunities to serve

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 donations 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

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..

sundays at st. mark's

our regular sunday schedule:

BREAKFAST	9:00Am- 10:15am	Garton Hall
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL		
Pilgrims	9:15am	Room 13
Nomads	9:15am	Room 10
Bible Banter	9:30am	Room 11
*INFANT & TODDLER CARE Infants & Toddlers	9:30Am- 11:30am * 10:30am- 11:30am only on 3/11 & 3/18	Room 24 Room 25
CELEBRATION! 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	*not meeting on 3/11	Room 3

adult sunday school: march

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

Nomads class will read & discuss *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully* by Joan Chittister. This book consists of a series of very short essays on many different aspects of life that might change as we approach older age. All are welcome to join Nomads in Room 10 (even without reading the book!).

pilgrims

Pilgrims Sunday Morning Class is studying how the five major religions – Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism – address the same core issues. We are embarking on this effort using a video lecture series titled **Comparative Religion** by Professor Charles Kimball, Professor and Director of the Religious Studies Program at the University of Oklahoma. As we explore the nature of faith, the lecture series provides an in-depth look at how the five great faiths address the issues of creation stories, concepts of the divine and ultimate goals.

The March lectures include:

March 4th – Lecture #20 – “The Way of Faith and the Way of Devotion”

Amidst the myriad ways practitioners pursue religious life, four primary paths to the ultimate goals can be discerned: the way of devotion, faith, disciplined action and mediation.

March 11th – Lecture #21 – “The Way of Action and the Way of Meditation”

The way of disciplined action is the most widely practiced path to the ultimate goal. This path is readily observed in the legal traditions of biblical Israel and Islam, the rigid Hindu caste system and elsewhere.

March 18th – Lecture #22 – “The Way of the Mystics”

Prof. Kimbell explores several key commonalities and differences among Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Christians and Muslim mystics.

March 25th – Lecture #23 – “The Evolution of Religious Institutions”

As religious communities take root and grow, they develop and construct institutional structures necessary to perpetuate the religions.

Amidst the myriad ways practitioners pursue religious life, four primary paths to the ultimate goals can be discerned: the way of devotion, faith, disciplined action and mediation. All are welcome at any point in the lecture series. Come join us for the presentation and the resulting discussion at 9:15am in Room 13.

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	AARON COMFORTY
ORGANIST	PAMELA FREEMAN
FINANCE DIRECTOR	NATALIE LEBEAU
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	CLAIRE SCHAFER
CUSTODIANS	DENNIS MORGAN, JEFF WYATT, TERRY HAMM

ST. MARK'S NURSERY SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

DIRECTOR	SIERRA ROUSSOS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	ROBIN COLE
OFFICE MANAGER	AMY WEGER



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.

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). To submit articles for publication, please contact the church office.

ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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