

november 2018 upcoming@St. Mark's

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

THANKSGIVING BASKET SHARING

Thanksgiving Basket Sharing is an important ministry at SMUMC. Once again, we are collecting money to provide a full traditional Thanksgiving meal for 72 families. We need your help in several ways.

First, you may donate to this cause. Fifty dollars will provide one full basket, twenty-five dollars a half basket, and twenty dollars will pay for a turkey. If you donate by cash, please put the money in an envelope and write the word "Baskets" on the envelope. Checks should be written to "St. Mark's" with the word "Baskets" on the memo line. You may place your envelopes in the offering plate, or drop them off at or mail them to the church office.

Second, please consider signing up to deliver baskets to the recipient families on Sunday, November 18th. A sign-up sheet for delivery drivers can be found in Garton Hall. The Boy Scouts have once again agreed to help take the baskets to the cars to be delivered. There will also be a work session, in Garton Hall, on Saturday morning, November 17th, at 10:00 am to load the baskets, and arrange them for delivery on Sunday Morning.

Seventy-two (72) baskets is our largest goal yet, but the need is great. At Fairview, for instance, there are 270 children who are enrolled in the Backpack Buddies program, and many of those families will be on our list this year. Thank you for generously sharing holiday blessings.

ST. MARK'S BUILDING THANKSGIVING HOURS

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the **St. Mark's building will be closed on Thursday, November 22nd and Friday, November 23rd.** There will be no staff members in the building and there will be no events planned at the church. The building will re-open on Saturday, November 24th for regularly-scheduled programs. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call the church office. More information is provided in the answering machine message.





ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

PASTORS	REVEREND JIMMY MOORE REVEREND MARY BETH MORGAN
LAY LEADERS	ANDY CRON & TRINA MESCHER
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES	CONTACT MARY BETH MORGAN OR ALAYNA GRAY
DIRECTOR OF 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 SCHAFFER
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



about upcoming@St. Mark's

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).

We welcome articles for publication. Deadline for submissions for the December issue is **November 21**. For more information, please contact the church office.

THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER IN GARTON HALL: SHALOM COMMUNITY CENTER DONATIONS



Shalom daytime shelter is a crucial support for the local homeless population, especially now that the weather is getting cold. United Methodist Women (UMW), the group to which all St. Mark's women belong, invites all of St. Mark's to donate needed winter wear. Please bring your donations to the Shalom collection box in Garton Hall. Men's items are needed three times as much as women's.

- Rain and snow boots, used or new
- White crew socks (no dress socks); size 8-10 men's, 4-10 women's
- White underwear briefs, men's and women's
- Thermal long underwear
- Winter coats
- Warming packets for pockets or shoes

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT ST MARK'S PEOPLE IN THE ARTS:

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7:30PM, IU AUDITORIUM

JOIN A GROUP FROM ST. MARK'S AT POTPOURRI OF THE ARTS!

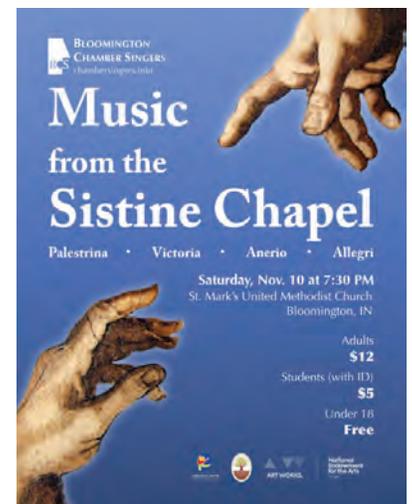
Plan to join a group from St. Mark's, for a great evening, at the 25th annual Potpourri of the Arts. This event bring together three ensembles: the African American Dance Company, the African American Choral Ensemble, and the IU Soul Revue (which includes our Youth Director, Rodney Long)! We have purchased a set of group tickets for \$10 each. Please contact Mary Beth Morgan, or the church office, for tickets. Scholarships are available by contacting Mary Beth.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7:30PM,

ST MARK'S SANCTUARY

BLOOMINGTON CHAMBER SINGERS PERFORM MUSIC FROM THE SISTINE CHAPEL

Bloomington Chamber Singers opens their 49th season with an evening of a cappella music in the pure, ethereal style of the High Renaissance. MUSIC FROM THE SISTINE CHAPEL will present works composed for the late sixteenth-century Papal Court. Gerry Sousa, St. Mark's Director of Music Ministries, conducts the Bloomington Chamber Singers. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit chambersingers.info.



A THANK YOU NOTE FROM FORMER NURSERY SCHOOL STUDENT, ANNEKA NELSON LAIRD

Anneka Nelson Laird has given a great gift to the children who use the playground by designing, planning and building the new climber, with a team she coordinated. This was a project towards Anneka's Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting (akin to the Eagle Scout Award in Boy Scouts).

THANK YOU TO ST MARK'S

At the beginning of last school year, I started working with the St. Mark's community to design and build a climber. The climber was designed with a sturdy raised base platform with a variety of creative ways to play on, around and under it to inspire children to be active, challenged and creative in their play. This design also gives flexibility to add or make changes to over the years, in order to continue to meet the needs of the children and provide new challenges and inspiration in their play. I want to thank everyone who helped make this happen, starting with the support and approval from St. Mark's board of trustees, the church staff and church community. Many people contributed time, skill and equipment to the build days including nursery school parents and teachers and the IU wrestling team. I want to give thanks to Alena Turner, Delver Sotomayor, Rebecca Davis, Michael Davis, Kate Morris, Dan Morris, Courtney Daily, Paul Daily, Matt Halstead, Mike Cole, Kristin Cole and Donna Konstanski. Teachers and staff helped in the design and contributed food for fundraisers and build days. A huge thanks goes to Lowe's for funding about half of the cost of the climbing structure through donations and discounts as well. Finally, I want to thank St. Mark's parent Adrian Starves for agreeing to help guide me throughout this whole process.

*Anneka Nelson Laird
Former St Mark's Nursery School student
and current South High School Senior*

FUNDRAISING EVENTS SUPPORTING ST. MARK'S NURSERY SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN MINISTRY

NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 16

3T AUCTIONS: TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

BENEFITS ST. MARK'S NURSERY SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

The 3T Auction will raise funds for the St. Mark's Nursery School & Kindergarten Scholarship & Playground Funds. Donations of TIME (babysitting, meal preparation), TALENT (music lessons, baked foods), and TREASURES (tickets, vacation homes) will be auctioned to raise money for the school's scholarship and playground fund.

The auction will run November 1st through November 16th as an on-line auction. The 3T Auction website address is <https://www.32auctions.com/StMarks3T2018>. For more information, look for displays in Garton Hall & the Nursery School/Kindergarten hallways.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 9, 5PM TO 7PM, IN GARTON HALL

BIG MOUTH-BIG SPOON: SOUP COOK-OFF

BENEFITS ST. MARK'S NURSERY SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Enjoy award-winning soups! Chefs have prepared their tastiest pots of soup for you to compete for the title of "Top Soup Chef". Eat and vote for your favorite soup! Bread, drinks, and dessert will also be provided. Warm your bellies with yummy soup and help us raise funds for our outdoor education fund.

Advance tickets: \$5 per adult, \$3 per child, or \$20 per household. At the door: \$7 per adult, \$5 per child.

WEDNESDAYS, NOVEMBER 7 & DECEMBER 5, 4:30PM-CLOSING

DINE & DONATE AT BUCCETO'S

BENEFITS ST. MARK'S NURSERY SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

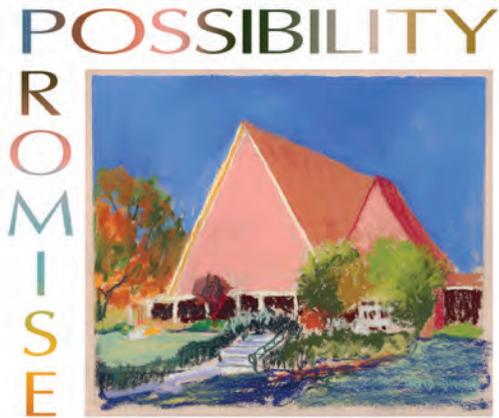
When you dine in or carry out from either Bloomington Bucceto's, between 4:30pm and closing, mention St. Mark's Nursery School and Kindergarten and 20% of the total you spend will be donated to the Nursery School and Kindergarten!

Can't make it this month? No problem. This "Dine and Donate" opportunity occurs the first Wednesday of each month.



AN UPDATE & THANK-YOU FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

As of November 5th, 83 pledge cards had been returned for the 2019 Stewardship Campaign: Promise and Possibility, totaling \$350,864, which supports the operating and ministry costs of the church. Also, as of November 5th, 53 pledge cards had been returned for capital improvements, totaling \$57,725.



We deeply appreciate your commitment and pledges to both campaigns. If you have already returned your pledge cards, or intend to do so soon, thank you! This will help church leadership as they determine an estimated budget for next year.

We recognize that some of you may need more time for discernment regarding pledges, and are grateful for pledges received through the fall and beyond. 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 on-line 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!

For information on the tax advantages of charitable giving, please see the article on page 6 from the Endowment and Stewardship Committees. Provided by Hurlow Wealth Management Group, who manages the church's endowment fund, the article also includes methods for donating appreciated stock and your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

For additional information, plan to attend the Informational Meeting about Planned Giving with Scott Schrode to be held on November 11th; for details, please see page 9.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 10:30AM, COLUMBUS ASBURY UMC A CALL TO PRAYER & CONVERSATION GATHERING WITH BISHOP TRIMBLE

Bishop Julius C. Trimble has invited everyone (lay and clergy) to take part in district conversations, to be held in each district around Indiana, around A Way Forward. This will be an opportunity for Indiana United Methodists to congregate with their neighbors to pray, reflect, share in open and healthy dialogue around the work of the Commission on A Way Forward, the Special Session of the General Conference in 2019, and further conversations needed to help The Church move forward in its strive for inclusivity, as well open-hearted and open-minded conversations, around the topic of human sexuality.

The November 10 conversation is at a location in the Southeast District (St. Mark's district). However, anyone can attend any of the conversations across Indiana.

Follow this link (<http://www.inumc.org/conversations>) for more dates/locations, further information and a video message from Bishop Trimble.

TAX ADVANTAGES OF CHARITABLE GIVING: (A NOTE FROM THE ENDOWMENT AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEES)

Hurlow Wealth Management Group, who manages the church's endowment fund, has provided the following information regarding tax advantages of gifting to charitable organizations. The article also includes methods for donating appreciated stock and your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

CHARITABLE GIFTS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Gifts to a qualified charitable organization may entitle you to a charitable contribution deduction against your income tax if you itemize deductions. You must itemize in order to take a charitable deduction. Make sure that if you itemize, your total deductions are greater than the standard deduction. If they're not, stick with the standard deduction.

CONSIDER GIFTING APPRECIATED STOCK INSTEAD OF CASH

Cash gifts and stock gifts both allow you to take a charitable income tax deduction. However, when you gift long-term appreciated stock to a charitable organization, you receive an additional tax benefit, because you avoid paying tax on the "built-in" capital gains for your stock. If you were to sell an appreciated stock, you would have to pay capital gains tax, typically ranging from 15% - 23.8% (as of this writing), depending on your income. However, if you were to gift the stock directly to St. Mark's, you could avoid the capital gains tax altogether and earn the tax deduction for the donation. Even better, St Mark's is able to sell the stock without having to pay capital gains tax!

CONSIDER GIFTING YOUR REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION

If you are over age 70½ and are required to take money out of your IRA each year, you are eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Instead of taking your yearly Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA – and paying the required tax on it – you could gift it directly from your IRA to the church or other qualified charity. The benefit is that the donation counts as your required minimum distribution but doesn't increase your adjusted gross income, which can be a great benefit if you don't itemize and can't deduct charitable contributions. In addition, keeping some or all of your RMD out of your adjusted gross income could help you avoid the Medicare high-income surcharge or reduce the taxable portion of your Social Security benefits. The money needs to be transferred directly from the IRA to the charity in order to qualify as a tax-free transaction. If you withdraw the money from the IRA first and then give it to the charity, you can deduct the gift as a charitable contribution (if you itemize), but the withdrawal will be included in your adjusted gross income. To make such a transfer, contact the financial institution that handles your IRA and tell them that you want all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to be sent directly to the church or qualified non-profit of your choice.

If you have any questions or need help with either of these methods of gifting, please feel free to reach out to John C. Hurlow by phone at 812-333-4726 or by email at jhurlow@hurlowwealth.com. You can also visit Hurlow Wealth Management Group's website at www.hurlowwealth.com.

november events

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11 THROUGH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25 POINSETTIA ORDERS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Ordering will begin on Sunday, November 11th for poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary and Garton Hall during Advent and Christmas. Provide red or white poinsettia in honor, in memory, or in celebration of loved ones. Look for an insert in the worship bulletin on November 11th. Orders will be taken through Sunday, November 25th. The cost for each poinsettia plant is \$10. Please call the church office with any questions or to place an order.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 11:30AM OPERATION FRIENDSHIP SOUP LUNCH

Enjoy a soup lunch in support of Operation Friendship to be held after Worship on November 11th. Choose from a variety of delicious soups, grilled cheese sandwiches, and baked goods. All eat-in orders include a roll and a drink.

Stay to eat your soup lunch in Garton Hall, with drinks provided by OF. You may also pre-order and take lunch home with you. Order forms are available online on the church website. Operation Friendship (OF) is a travel exchange program for youth with which St. Mark's has participated for generations.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 11:45AM (AFTER WORSHIP), ROOM 8 LUNCH AND PLANNING MEETING FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES WITH MARY BETH MORGAN AND RODNEY LONG

All Youth (7th-12th Grades) and parent(s) and/or family members are invited to get lunch, on us, from the Operation Friendship Soup Lunch. When you get to the register, just tell them that you are with the youth meeting and you won't need to pay. Bring your food to Room 8 where we will talk about plans and ideas for Youth Ministries.

Mary Beth will also take some time to talk about the Confirmation process with youth who are in 7th and 8th grades, and older (who have not yet been confirmed)- along with parent(s), grandparent(s) and/or other important adult(s) in the life of each youth. Contact Mary Beth if you have any questions. We look forward to getting together on November 11th!



november events

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 11:45AM, ROOM 11 INFORMATIONAL MEETING ABOUT PLANNED GIVING WITH SCOTT SHRODE

On Sunday, November 11, St. Mark's own Scott Shrode will be presenting an informational meeting on planned giving. This will be a summary discussion of various planned giving vehicles and how they can be used to make a gift with maximum benefit to the church and at the lowest possible cost for the donor. The discussion will include a gift suggestion which carries no risk to the donor or his or her family. This will be held in Room 11 following worship that day.

Scott received his Juris Doctor degree from Northwestern University. From 1977-1993 he was engaged full time in the practice of law concentrating in tax, trust, and probate law. He was also one of three lawyers from Indiana serving as a regular member of the Estate and Gift Tax Committee of the Tax Section of the American Bar Association. From 1993-2014, Scott was responsible for the fundraising efforts of 4 colleges and universities, including planned gifts. In that capacity, he led teams that raised over \$200 million, and he personally received commitments of planned gifts ranging from \$1500 to \$48 million. He has written articles and lectured on planned gifts for 40 years. Currently, he is admitted to practice as an active member of the Indiana Bar.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 7:00PM, ROOM 8 LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

The St. Mark's Leadership Council will meet on Monday, November 12 in Room 8. All are welcome to attend. While only Leadership Council members can vote on motions that are presented, everyone is encouraged to attend and participate in discussion and planning for the ministries of the church.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13 (8AM-1 PM) & THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29 (9AM-1 PM), ST. MARK'S KITCHEN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN COOKIE SHOPPE LET'S BAKE!

Here's how to be part of this wonderful event scheduled for December 1st and 2nd, when beautiful tables of cookies and candy will be available for purchase at the United Methodist Women's Cookie Shoppe in room 8, off Garton Hall. This only happens because women, men, and teens bake cookies or make candy weeks before and the day before the Cookie Shoppe. Bake at home and freeze or join the merriment Tuesday, November 13th, 8:00am-1:00pm at the church kitchen, and add frosting and decorations to the sugar cookies on Thursday, November 29th, 9:00am-1:00pm. Bakers and candy makers do NOT have to be members of UMW to contribute to this project. Set-up will be Friday, November 30th, 9:00am-1:00 pm, and all cookies and candy MUST be delivered on Friday, December 1st by 10:00am. Funds UMW receives from the annual Cookie Shoppe support women's and children's global and local missions.

november events

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 7:00PM, ROOM 8

CHURCH HISTORY & THEOLOGY SERIES

Ever wonder about how the Christian faith has expressed itself throughout the Church's many contexts and time periods? Join us for our third session on this topic. This session will be led by Benjamin Fullick-Quint on the topic "Early Christian Sects" on Tuesday November 13th.

Benjamin describes this session as follows:

"When many people think about the early Church, they tend to view it as one of unity where all Christians agreed on what Jesus's message meant and how to follow it. However, the early Church had many radically different viewpoints competing against one another to decide what it meant to be a follower of Jesus. In this session, we will talk about these early groups of Christians and how their disagreements with one another shaped Christianity, as well as how the questions they were asking are still some of the fundamental questions the Church is struggling with today."

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP NOVEMBER 15.

CALL-OUT FOR TRIP TO MISSION GUATEMALA INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 9:30AM, ST. MARK'S LIBRARY

Are you interested in participating in a trip to Mission Guatemala during Spring Break of 2019 (approximately, March 9-18)? St. Mark's sponsored a trip two years ago, and now a team from First United Methodist Church in Bloomington is going, and we have been asked if we want to participate with them.

The deadline for committing to go on the trip is November 15. There is an informational meeting on Sunday, November the 11, at 9:30am in the library. For more information, including costs and scholarship opportunities, contact Jimmy Moore at jimmymoore@smumc.church, or call the church office.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16 & DECEMBER 7

FIRST & THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, 9:00AM, ROOM 4 ST. MARK'S DAYTIME PARENTS GROUP

The Daytime Parents Group had their first meeting on Friday, November 2nd. You are encouraged to join other parents and children for conversation to support one another through the intense joys and challenges of raising young humans. Bring the kids! There are toys to entertain them while parents converse. Invite friends, and if it is your first time, contact Abby Brass or Whitney Sullivan for more information. No meeting on Friday before Christmas, December 21.

november events

SUNDAYS, NOVEMBER 18 & 25, 9:30AM, ROOM 15

DISCUSSION SESSION:

CANCER AND CHRONIC ILLNESS SUPPORT GROUP

We all, at some level, know that we will all die, and we have the faith that Jesus taught us about what comes after. But this eventuality can seem much closer and much more scary for people suffering from cancer or other chronic diseases - and can even be scary for patients with a very good long term prognosis. St. Marks United Methodist Church is starting up a spiritual support group for patients who are facing cancer or other chronic diseases, along with family members and caretakers. Our focus will be on spiritual support with a Christian and Methodist approach. (We are specifically trying to avoid duplicating the efforts of the support groups already operated and organized by IU Health Bloomington and other local health providers that focus on the medical and scientific aspects of supporting those with cancer.) This group will be led by Dr. Brandt Ludlow, a cancer survivor, and Craig Stewart, who is not yet declared a cancer survivor (there's a lot to that term) and who was diagnosed with cancer in February of 2017.

We will focus on matters such as "Where did you see grace this week?" "What good things happened?" And conversely, "What was challenging this week?"

To get a sense of what serves our congregation best, Brandt and Craig will hold discussion sessions during the Sunday school time on the last Sundays in November. During these exploring sessions we will ask things like "what needs do people feel that are currently unmet?" "When is the best time to have a support group meeting?" "What is the best frequency?" "Do we want to work through a book or just have discussions and Bible readings?"

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2:00PM AT ST. MARK'S

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT GROUP CHARGE CONFERENCE

The primary purposes of the annual Charge Conference are to review and evaluate the mission and ministry of the church, and to adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church's Leadership Council. The Conference also affords an opportunity to connect with those from other local United Methodist congregations: Garrison Chapel, Cross Roads, Walkers Chapel, Bloomington St. Paul, Korean, Bloomington First, and Nashville.

This year, we at St. Mark's will host the Charge Conference. All are welcome to participate.

november events

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 10:30AM, SANCTUARY WORSHIP CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Children and Youth are welcome to be part of worship leadership any Sunday. They are especially invited, this month, on Sunday, November 18. 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!

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19

DELIVERY/PICK UP OPERATION FRIENDSHIP GREENERY

Christmas Greenery purchased to support St. Mark's Operation Friendship (OF), an international travel exchange program for youth, will be available to pick up at St. Mark's during the week of November 19. Greenery will be available for pick up in room 16 next to the choir room. Contact Jane Dunatchik at janeud@att.net for more information.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 6:30PM-8:30PM, NICK'S ENGLISH HUT PUB THEOLOGY

Pub Theology provides a place to relax with food and beverage and a fun group of thinking disciples to talk a little theology. On Monday, November 19, we will reflect on a blog reading titled "A Progressive Reading of John 14:6" which will give us a springboard for discussing the passage where Jesus says "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me." The blog may be found at <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/carlgregg/2011/05/lectionary-commentary-a-progressive-christian-reading-of-john-146-for-sunday-may-22-2011/> or you may email Jimmy Moore at jimmymoore@smumc.church or the church office at office@smumc.church to request a copy of the article, either emailed or printed. Please also contact the church office to let us know you will be coming. We look forward to seeing you at Pub Theology.



november events

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 5:00PM-7:30PM

ADVENT NIGHT AND HANGING OF THE GREENS

This is a wonderful evening for all ages as we enter the Advent season. We begin by sharing a simple (turkey-free) meal, and then gather in the sanctuary to sing some favorite Christmas songs. Individuals and families can then choose to decorate the church, go to the craft and activity room, or meet with Aaron in the music room. Children and youth can also come to the Youth Room to choose a costume for the Christmas Eve Pageant. Young ones should bring a parent (or other adult) with them. Bring friends or visiting relatives. All are welcome!

BEGINNING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25!

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

SIGN UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT

It is a special ministry of our children and youth to share the story of Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve at 5:30 pm. Children and youth share special music; the congregation sings; the angels bring good news; the sheep baa; the cows moo; the camels say whatever camels say; the shepherds keep watch; the magi bring gifts. We all welcome Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus (and their donkey), light candles and sing "Silent Night" together.

There are both speaking and non-speaking parts, with roles being age appropriate and matching the interest of the child or youth. Sign-up in the Sunday School hallway, in Garton Hall, or contact Mary Beth Morgan or Alayna Gray. Costumes will be available for selection on Sunday, November 25th during Advent Night and on Sundays in Advent. There is one rehearsal on Saturday, December 22nd at 10:00am. (If you cannot be there, let us know.) All interested children and youth (preschool-age through senior high) can participate, including friends and visiting grandchildren, and other relatives. We look forward to sharing in this great night together!



A Scene from our 2012(!) Christmas Pageant

small groups

XYZ EXTRA YEARS OF ZEST

EXTRA YEARS OF ZEST (XYZ) DINNER & PROGRAM WILL NOT MEET IN NOVEMBER

The next scheduled date for XYZ is Wednesday, December 12.
Watch our publications for more information.

UMW

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW) NOVEMBER EVENTS:

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 6:30PM, PARLOR:

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 9:30AM, ROOM 8:

MORNING CIRCLE & COOKIE SHOPPE BAKING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1:30PM, ROOM 8:

SUSANNA WESLEY CIRCLE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 7:00PM, BELL TRACE:

CHARLENE MARTIN CIRCLE

ST. MARK'S QUILTERS AND CRAFTERS

ST. MARK'S QUILTERS AND CRAFTERS

WEDNESDAYS IN NOVEMBER at 1:00pm

(but note: no meeting Wednesday, November 21)

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

WOMEN OF WONDER AND FAITH

THURSDAYS IN NOVEMBER 11:30AM-1:00PM, ROOM 11

(but note: no meeting Thursday, November 22)

A group of faithful, journeying women meet weekly to read and discuss books on various topics of faith. We will be reading **The Meaning of Mary Magdalene: Discovering the Woman at the Heart of Christianity** by Cynthia Bourgeault.

Please join us as we move along our faith journey, collectively and individually, as well as build valuable friendships to support each other through life's many challenges and joys. Contact Maria Schmidt marschmi@indiana.edu, with questions to let her know you are coming.

small groups

CONVERSATIONS ON LIFE MEN'S GROUP

CONVERSATIONS ON LIFE MEN'S GROUP

EVERY FRIDAY, 1:00PM, ROOM 15 AT ST. MARK'S

(but note: will not meet Friday, November. 23)

The men's discussion group, known as Conversations on Life, will be reading and discussing the two middle sections of **Mere Christianity** by C.S. Lewis. The general topics of the 17 short chapters in those sections are: "What Christians Believe" and "Christian Behavior." The group meets at 1:00 pm each Friday in room 15 at St. Mark's. Visitors are always welcomed.

PARENTS OF YOUTH NIGHT

PARENTS OF YOUTH NIGHT

AT TURKAUZ CAFÉ, 301 E 3RD STREET

SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

NOVEMBER 11, 6:00PM

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 or the church office. All parents of youth (and grandparents & other loving adults caring for pre-teens and teenagers) are welcome!

BUDDIES OF ST. FRANCIS

BUDDIES OF ST. FRANCIS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 6:30PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry now meets once a month, on the second Tuesday 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

MEAL SHARE FOOD REPACK

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 5:30PM

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.

opportunities to share & serve

SEE GOD THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD BE A PART OF CHILDREN'S OR YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Are you curious about helping with Sunday School as a teacher (in a lead or assistant role), substitute or with preparation during the week? Teachers are only asked to be in a class once a month. Contact Alayna Gray or Mary Beth Morgan for more information!

WE PARTNER WITH THRIVING CONNECTIONS: DONATE NEW TOILETRY ITEMS & CLEANING SUPPLIES

Thriving Connections meets each Thursday at St. Mark's and "provides support by making the personal and community connections that are important for successful life change." Please leave your donations in the labeled box in Garton Hall. Here is a list of requested items: soap, toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorant, combs, shaving cream, band-aids, antibacterial cream, hair gel, hairspray, laundry soap, fabric softener, dryer sheets, dish soap, trash bags, scrubbers/sponges, foil/plastic wrap/parchment paper.

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 812961-2959 or silent2hear@gmail.com



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 at 9:30am and join the conversation.

NOMADS

The Nomads class is a generally progressive group which meets each Sunday for fellowship and discussion of selected readings on issues related to faith, spirituality, or social justice. Nomads is reading and discussing **The Faiths of the Founding Fathers** by David L. Holmes, a professor of American history. The author identifies religious groups in the colonies and the influence on the founding generation from Deism, an intellectual movement. Although these were religious people, Holmes shows that theirs was a faith quite unlike the Christianity of today's evangelicals.

The Nomads gather in Room 10 for coffee, breakfast, and announcements at 9:15am on Sunday mornings. Book discussions begin by 9:30am. Visitors are always welcomed to join the group for one or all of the sessions with no preparation required.

PILGRIMS

In November, Pilgrims continues the video series **The World's Greatest Churches**, looking at churches all over the world including 20 countries and 5 continents. By examining some of the most beautiful buildings in the world, we will not only have more insight into masterpieces of architecture, painting and sculpture but also a deeper understanding of the diversity of Christianity as expressed in its places of worship and an awareness that a church is in constant dialogue with the community it houses. Pilgrims meets in Room 12 at 9:15AM on Sunday mornings.

We welcome any and all, at any point in the lecture series, for the video presentation and the resulting discussion.

our regular sunday schedule

BREAKFAST and MORE 9:00am- 10:15am Garton Hall
We share breakfast together with Live Music, Activities for Children, Fellowship, and More...

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pilgrims	9:15am	Room 12
Nomads	9:15am	Room 10
Bible Banter	9:30am	Room 11

INFANT & TODDLER CARE 10:15am- 11:30am Room 24
(Contact the church office Room 25
if 9:30am care is needed)

SANCTUARY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30am Sanctuary

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30am- 11:30am (PLEASE NOTE
Room Changes for 1st-2nd and 3rd-4th
Grade Classes)

Preschool-Kindergarten	Room 22
1st and 2nd Grade	Room 4
3rd and 4th Grade	Room 9
5th and 6th Grade	Room 3
7th- 12th Grade	Room 1

looking ahead to early december...

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 (8AM-12PM) &
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 (9AM-12PM)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN COOKIE SHOPPE!

Can't You Just Smell the Cookie Shoppe? Sales of cookies and candy will be 8:00am-12:00pm on December 1ST & 9:00am-12:00pm on December 2ND. For best selection, variety, and quantity, plan to shop on Saturday morning. Cookies and candies are sold by weight at \$12 per pound. Free gift boxes & ribbon are provided. All proceeds go to local and global missions.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, (10AM-12PM), GARTON HALL GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS & OTHER WINTER HOLIDAYS

Join us for a morning of arts and craft activities hosted by St. Mark's Nursery School and Kindergarten. With a focus on re-using and re-purposing materials, the crafts are geared toward preschool and primary-age-children. The crafts include make-and-take holiday decorations and gifts that can be given to parents, grandparents and other special people in children's lives. This free event is open to all, regardless of your faith and home culture, so please invite your friends and family.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 (THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY 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. 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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 9:30AM

ST. MARK'S WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Please join us for the 3rd Annual Women's Christmas Brunch. Enjoy breakfast, the Christmas story, and Christmas carols in Garton Hall. Please RSVP by Tuesday, December 4th to Nina Taylor (823-322-9242) or Linda Crawford (812-336-2277). We don't want anyone to go hungry!





2018 ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARK'S

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25

5:00pm Advent Night & Hanging of the Greens
Decorating the Sanctuary and Building. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 (THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT)

10:30am Sanctuary Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 (THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT)

10:30am Sanctuary Worship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:00pm Blue Christmas Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 (THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT)

10:30am Sanctuary Worship
3:00pm Bloomington Chamber Singers Messiah Sing-Along

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23 (THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT)

10:30am Sanctuary Worship

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 (CHRISTMAS EVE)

3:00pm Early Service with Communion and Candle Lighting
5:30pm Christmas Pageant and Candle Lighting
11:00pm Late Service with Communion and Candle Lighting

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.

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