

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

July, 2026 Monthly Newsletter



Our Mission: Be a community of Jesus' disciples growing in relationship & serving God.

**The office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd
in observance of Independence Day.**

Free Classes: American Sign Language (ASL) & Deaf Notes Choir.
Performance Date: July 5th: "Thy Word is a Lamp"



Join Lou & her class in learning ASL:

There is no need to pre-register & no cost to join the ASL group at St. Mark's & everyone is welcome! All you have to do is show up! It can't get much easier than that!

Free ASL classes are held in the Wesley Room each week on:
Monday's 6:00pm – 7:00pm & Wednesday's 5:30pm – 7:15pm.

NEW: The Deaf Notes will now be signing prelude once a month you don't want to miss it! It's a fun way to follow along & learn some signs!



St. Mark's Iowa City proudly provides live ASL interpreter during Worship services..

*If you have any questions regarding St. Mark's ASL classes please don't hesitate to contact the office at:
office@stmarks-umc.net or Lou at: schooleylo@gmail.com*

Grayye Matters July 7th at 9:30 am in the Room 100

This book for July is: "Bossy Pants" By: Tina Fey

Grayye Matters is a monthly book club that meet at St. Mark's on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. *Everyone is invited to attend!*



Spirited and whip-smart, these laugh-out-loud autobiographical essays are "a masterpiece" from the Emmy Award-winning actress and comedy writer known for 30 Rock, Mean Girls, and SNL (Sunday Telegraph).

Before Liz Lemon, before "Weekend Update," before "Sarah Palin," Tina Fey was just a young girl with a dream: a recurring stress dream that she was being chased through a local airport by her middle-school gym teacher. She also had a dream that one day she would be a comedian on TV. She has seen both these dreams come true.

At last, Tina Fey's story can be told. From her youthful days as a vicious nerd to her tour of duty on *Saturday Night Live*; from her passionately halfhearted pursuit of physical beauty to her life as a mother eating things off the floor; from her one-sided college romance to her nearly fatal honeymoon, from the beginning of this paragraph to this final sentence. Tina Fey reveals all, and proves what we've always suspected: you're no one until someone calls you bossy.

The Grayye Matters book for next month will be: Pride & Prejudice by Jane Austen (August 4th meeting)

Missions Committee Meeting:



July 7th

The mission committee meeting will be at 1:30pm at 3 Russell Slade Blvd.

See Dennis Preslicka for questions.



Faith Connections: July 9th at 10:00am in the Wesley Room

Please join us as we send out birthday cards, get well cards and encouragement to members of our church, our circuit and our district. It is a wonderful time of fellowship and servanthood. Questions? Contact Brenda Mayer or Donna Higgins.



United Methodist Men Meeting & Breakfast UMM meet at Midtown East on July 11th at 8:00am



Everyone is welcome and invited to join the United Methodist Men for breakfast and fellowship at Midtown East 8:00am to 9:30am on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

There will be no guest speakers June – August & meetings will be held at Midtown East

–Please see Bob Kesselring for any questions.



United Methodist Men Pancake Breakfast Following Worship:

The United Methodist Men make pancakes each 5th Sunday, of months with 5 Sundays.

The next 5th Sunday pancake breakfast will be on: August 30th

Breakfast is following Worship in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend – it is always delicious & fun!



Knit & Crochet Group meet July 15th 11:30am – 1:00pm in the Skylight Seating Area

Everyone is welcome to bring their knitting/crochet project & enjoy fellowship while crafting!

NSI (Non-Snap Items) Meeting July 27th at 10:45a.m. – 11:30am in Room 101



Are you concerned about the SNAP benefits being cut? We are. Because of the recent cuts to SNAP there are many items people need that are no longer available with the existing benefits.

We are proposing a monthly collection & delivery of Non-SNAP items to the local food pantries. Each month we will collect different items not covered by SNAP.

We hope to share our enthusiasm for this ministry with you. Brenda Mayer, Sherry Kesselring and Julie Troyer.

Each month will be different items SNAP does not cover.

See the “Looking for additional ways to give?” section for more info regarding donations.

Missions Trip July 15th



Meet at 7:00 am in the church parking lot.

-This is the rescheduled date from the trip that was scheduled in June-



**Everyone is welcome to join this
1-day mission trip to:
Midwest Missions in Jefferson, IA.**

We will be assembling food kits, personal item kits & school kits in two- 2-hour sessions.

There will be cars & drivers available so you can ride along with others, see sign up in Fellowship Hall. The carpool group will leave from St. Mark's at 7:00am. & head to Midwest Mission in Jefferson Iowa.

Plan to arrive back to town in the late afternoon, same day.

Please see the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall & write your info in if you are planning to attend. Please see a member of the Missions Team, or Paul Schroeder, for any questions.



United Women in Faith July 22nd Field Trip Off Campus

July 18 will be Mission u at FFA Enrichment Center on the DMACC Ankeny campus. The theme is: "Experiencing Emmanuel. How do we experience God in times of joy and in challenging times of anxiety, fear, or sadness?"

August 31 will be the Southeast District Annual Meeting at St. John's UMC, Davenport, IA.

Fireside Fellowship August 2nd

Sponsored by Focus Forward



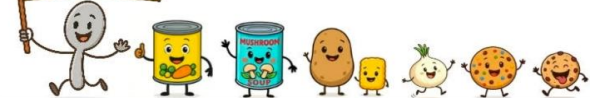
Everyone is invited to a fun evening of music, games, campfire, s'mores, & fellowship! Bring your family, friend(s), or come alone – it will be fun event for everyone of all ages!

Stay tuned for more details!

Iowa City Free Lunch Program.

St. Mark's Day for Free Lunch is: July 20th

Address: 1105 S. Gilbert Court, Iowa City



3 ways to help with the Free Lunch Program:

1. Pans will be available to pick up Sunday, **July 12th** for volunteers to prepare tater tot casserole (*recipe provided*) and bring in the following Sunday, July 19th

***Truda asks that no one takes more than one pan to give everyone an opportunity to be a part of the Free Lunch Program – 1 pan per family.**

2. Also needed: bars & cookies. Please bring these donations to church Sunday morning July 19th
3. The opportunity to volunteer on Monday, July 20th at 1105 Gilbert Court, Iowa City beginning as early as 10:30am.

Volunteers can help by: preparing silverware packets, salad, dining room setup, serving food, & clean up after.

The FLP could also use leftover containers. These are used to pack up meals for homebound individuals as well as potentially sending another meal home for later, when supply allows. These can be dropped off in the kitchen anytime.

Any questions, contact St. Mark's faithful Free Lunch Coordinator: Truda Kruger 319- 354-5595.

The Free Lunch program is an amazing opportunity to help feed those in need of a good meal within our community. 120 meals are served daily!

"Thank you all so much! You all make my bad days better and the food is always so good!" -FLP Guest



Coming This Fall: Ministry Summit 2.0!

Get ready—Ministry Summit 2.0 is coming this fall!

Join us for an exciting time filled with games, great food, & lots of fun as we gather together as a community.

This year, our discipleship pathways will cross again as we grow together—learning, loving, & sharing God in meaningful & impactful ways. Whether you are new or have been part of the journey before, there's something for everyone.



Mark your calendars & come ready to connect, be encouraged, & celebrate what God is doing among us!

-The Focus Forward Team

Special Offering Calendar for the month of July

July 5th

CATHOLIC WORKER



The Catholic Worker House on Sycamore St in Iowa City is a House of Hospitality and is open three days a week for free breakfast (Tuesdays and Thursdays) and free lunch (Sundays). We also offer weekly food runs, monthly rent assistance, protective accompaniment, and deportation defense to immigrant workers and families to help them stay in their own homes.

July 12th Iowa UMC Camping Ministry



The mission of Iowa Methodist Camps is to allow our youth to explore Christ's love in a safe and welcoming environment.

Our annual campaign has become vital to the sustainability of our outdoor Christian faith experience for both our youth and adults. The campaign, and the campaign's success allows both Okoboji and Wesley Woods U.M. Camps to thrive and move into the future.



July 19th CommUnity Food Bank

CommUnity Food Bank at Pepperwood Plaza provides produce, bakery, deli, dairy, health, baby, hygiene and non-perishable items. Residents of Johnson County, IA can receive grocery assistance once per week. Clients may choose their own items with some limits based on family size. Pre-made bags are available for individuals who prefer not to shop. Shopping at the Food Bank is completely free and confidential.

**Please place all donations for the special offerings in one of the yellow envelopes (located at each usher stand, or ask your usher for assistance).*

Thank you for your generous gifts!

July 26th 52 Club



The 52 Club provides an awesome opportunity to make a difference in people's lives for only \$1.00 a week! The money supports local, national & international projects. The money is also used for unexpected emergencies. The Missions Committee urges members to join the 52 Club annually. A good way to do this is to donate \$52 each year on your birthday.

Happy Birthday to...

07/03: Bradly Thayer
07/04: Rae Berwald
07/06: Mike Huffman
07/07: Melanie Justice
07/09: Shirley Green
07/10: Phyllis Lindeman
07/11: Christina Leopold
07/11: Linda Ruefer
07/12: Joanne Woodman

07/15: Lous Hardin
07/15: JoAnn Hilgenberg
07/20: Laura Max
07/23: Lauren Sammons
07/24: Ashlyn Renee Berwald
07/25: Steven Laughlin
07/26: Cam Davis
07/30: Clarence Skog
07/31: LaVonna Gaunt

July Birthdays!



Looking for additional ways to give? – Thank you for your generous gifts!

Please join us in our: Non-SNAP Items Ministry.

Are you concerned about the SNAP benefits being cut? We are. Because of the recent cuts to SNAP there are many item's people need that are no longer available with the existing benefits.



We are proposing a monthly collection & delivery of Non-SNAP items to the local food pantries. Each month we will collect different items not covered by SNAP.

Items we are collecting for July include: Baby Items!

Can you believe they have cut SNAP benefits for baby items? Believe it or not but diapers are not included in benefits. So, this month of July we are collecting baby items. We ask that you bring diapers in all sizes, wipes, diaper cream, bibs, or anything else you would like for the month of July.



Christmas & Other Occasions:

We are so excited, we are ready for DECORATING!

If you like exploring your creative side, please join us! Every Wednesday, 1-5 p.m. & every 2nd & 4th Saturday afternoon! (*See events calendar on website/bulletin boards/weekly bulletins*)

And if you're nervous about your creative juices, come anyway because we will help you! With ready-made cut outs, ideas and all the glue you want!

July we are collecting:

Middle School: Decks of cards

Grades 3-5: Crayons (box 24) & Coloring Books

Pre-K to Grade 2: Coloring books & crayons

Under 3: Bibs

Adults (*DVIP, IC Rehab, etc*): Large print puzzle books & Large print book.

**Please place donations in the bin located in Fellowship Hall.*

We collect things in the marked bin in Fellowship Hall. What you bring we will take to Iowa City Compassion and CommUnity Food Bank.

Thank you!

Medical Supplies: St. Mark's Medical Supply Closet

As you may know, St. Mark's has a medical supply shed (formerly called "Medical Lending Closet") where anyone in the community is free to come & get any supplies/equipment they are in need of at no cost, with no obligation to return as they are sent out to be owned, not "lent" (hence the name change to "Free Medical Supply Closet").

- If you, a friend, or loved one is ever in need of a medical supply, please don't hesitate to contact the office.

- Do you have any medical supplies you are no longer needing/using & would like to donate it, it would be warmly welcomed; items must be in good condition, not in need of any repairs, & clean.

****Most common item we are in need of: Shower Transfer Chairs**

This is a very utilized, much appreciated service we provide to those in need of medical supplies in helping to make their lives a bit less stressful without the burden of cost associated with needed medical equipment while also making daily living more safe, less painful, & more accessible to all.

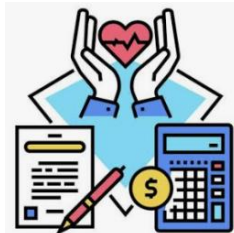
-Please contact the office for more information or if you would like to be a part of the team! Thank you all so much! -Mandy



CHAPS Church Health Assistance Program-

CHAP is a newer ministry which offers health care assistance reimbursement requests of up to \$250 per calendar year for St. Mark's Iowa City church members, *when funds are available*. This is an increase from \$100 previously offered thanks to generous donors!

The CHAP program is currently accepting reimbursement requests.



How to submit a request:

There are reimbursement forms on top the usher station in Fellowship Hall along with a list of items covered.

-Complete a form, attach receipts, and place in the CHAP mailbox located in the office. *If this is done outside of office hours you may put the completed form in the black file box located outside the office door.*

Or

-Take an addressed/stamped envelope home to complete and mail back to the office (*with receipts*).

Example of items covered: Copay, tests, prescription, over-the-counter meds, medical equipment, glasses, etc..

- Please see Paul Schroeder, the information at the usher station in Fellowship Hall, &/or the July Newsletter for more information in this wonderful ministry.

Finance Update



Request for Payment or Reimbursement:



The Finance Team would like to share a new policy for submitting a 'Request for Payment' Form. Please submit these forms to the office **within 60 days** of the purchase date to receive reimbursement for goods or services provided to the church.

Please be sure to fill out the form entirely and include all necessary receipts. Thank you for your cooperation!

Please see a member of the Finance Team for any questions:
Bart Troyer, Ann Fenner, Markus VanTol, Dennis Stevens, Christina Leopold, or Lee McKnight.

Special Thanks

*There is always so much to be thankful for here at St. Mark's!
Here is a quick highlight of things that couldn't be done without YOU!*

Ann Parker: Ann has started our new website & has maintained the Facebook page for St. Mark's. Thank you, Ann for helping us reach those in our community to let them know what St. Mark's is all about as well as social media for our members!

Cory Berwald: Thanks to Cory Pastor Alberta has beautiful new book shelves! They are gorgeous!

Bob Bassett, Linda & Steve Ruefer: Thanks to all of you the bathroom in the education wing & room 104 look great!

Steve Laughlin: Thank you for filling in, while Pastor Albertas was away, for the book study in June! Thank you also for yard clean up!

Mary Hubbard: Thank you for doing a wonderful job filling the pulpit while Pastor Alberta was away in June. It is always a joy to see you.

Cam Davis: Thank you, Cam for putting Pastor Alberta's new desk together! She has been enjoying it thanks to you!

United Women in Faith

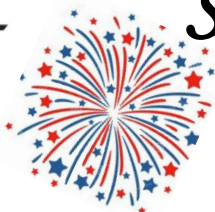
Many thanks to everyone who helped with the funeral receptions for Brenda Eckland & John Rockafellow. This is a needed & much appreciated service to families who have lost a loved one.

Cheryl Davis & Ann Parker: Thank you for the pictures from Chicken BBQ!

Donna Higgins, Kay Seagren, Paul Schroeder, & Tatum Hale: Thank you all for your help in clearing out, cleaning, & organizing the Medical Supply Shed – it has always been something I was proud of but there is a new kind of pride when it looks so great! *Thank you!*

Congregation: THANK YOU to all of our wonderful volunteers who made the Chicken BBQ a huge success!! *It smelled good all week* here & I've heard nothing but positive feedback!

~If I have missed anyone, I am so sorry. Please know you are all very appreciated for all of the hard work you



St. Mark's Wonderful Worship Volunteer Schedule for: July



Importance of Worship Volunteers:

Each & every one of you are so valued & appreciated. You not only help keep church service running smoothly but create a warm, engaging, & welcoming environment for everyone attending Worship each Sunday. Each of you help to show the wonderful community that make up St. Mark's & it would certainly not be the same without you.



Thank you for your willingness to volunteer on Sunday's!



Ushers

7/5 <i>Communion</i>	1. Linda Prybil 2. Lee McKnight 3. Jeremy Showers
7/12	1. Jeanne Bennett 2. Donna Higgins
7/19	1. Boyd Crosby 2. Kay Seagren
7/26	1. Ann Parker 2. Deb Jansen

Communion Service Location	Communion Servers:
Station 1: <i>Near Fireside Room</i>	Bob Kesselring & Kae Tritle
Location 2: <i>Middle Section</i>	Dennis Preslicka & Pastor Alberta
Location 3: <i>Piano</i>	Sherry Kesselring & Carol Preslicka



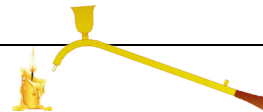
	Scripture Reader	Scripture
7/5	Averie McCormick	Ruth 1:8-15
7/12	Mary Brown	1 Samuel 1:9-18
7/19	Ann Showers	Matthew 2:1-12
7/26	Lowell Fenner	John 4:7-15

Schedule Changes/Errors:

- Please be sure to get days you are unable to volunteer submitted to the office so you are not scheduled on the days you are unavailable.*
- If you notified the office of days unavailable & were mistakenly scheduled, please contact the office & we will take care of the reschedule.*
- Once the schedule is made (mid-month), if you are unable to volunteer on your scheduled day, please contact fellow volunteers to request coverage/switching shifts & let the office know of changes.*

Thank you!

Acolyte



7/5	Izzy Berwald & Neveah Kendall
7/12	Melanie Justice
7/19	Izzy Berwald & Neveah Kendall
7/26	Melanie Justice
8/03	Izzy Berwald & Neveah Kendall

Contacting the office:

Appropriate forms of communication with the office would be:

1. Stop by & talk to reception/drop a note on the reception desk.
2. Email: Office@stmarks-umc.net
3. Calling the office (319) 337-7201

Please **do not** submit questions/concerns:

- Outside office hours
- During/after Worship
- Mentions (by yourself or others) during announcements.

**If you are willing & would like to become a worship volunteer, please let the office know.
We would love to have you join our team!**

Acolyte, Scripture Reader, Usher, & Communion Service.



TITHE.LY TALK

Sponsored By: The St Mark's Finance Team

- **WHAT IS TITHE.LY?**
 - It is a new computer application being used to support the ongoings of our church. This is replacing the current Power Church application.
- **WHY ARE WE MAKING A CHANGE?**
 - Tithe.ly will help us consolidate information, improve communication, save staff time, and increase security options.
- **WHY DID WE CHOOSE TITHELY?**
 - The company has a partnership with the United Methodist Church and offers their product at a reduced cost to member churches.
 - We met with other UM churches who currently use the product and shared positive reviews.
- **HOW IS THE FINANCE TEAM USING TITHE.LY?**
 - As a modern, mobile-friendly option for giving to St Mark's.
 - Complete team tasks that include budgeting, expense tracking, and financial reports for the congregation.
 - Financial Secretary has their own secure role to support giving.
- **WHAT ELSE CAN TITHE.LY DO FOR US?**
 - This list is endless as we continue to learn the functionality – membership info, email communication, calendar support, worship service planning, website support, Team document storage, etc.
 - More info will be shared as we highlight different uses in the future.
- **WHAT WILL COMMUNICATION FROM TITHE.LY LOOK LIKE TO THE CONGREGATION?**
 - Emails can be sent to the congregation using this application by staff.
 - These emails will come from the St. Mark's Office email account.
 - Look for a “test” email in your Inbox in the beginning of May.
- **ANY QUESTIONS FOR US?**
 - Please reach out to a member of the Finance Team if you have any questions. We are happy to answer them.
 - Christina Leopold, Markus Van Tol, Lee McKnight, Ann Fenner, or Dennis Stevens



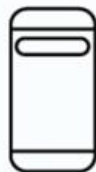
HOW TO SCAN: OPEN, AIM & TAP



Open the camera
on your phone



Aim it at the
Flowcode



Tap the banner
that appears

You may pay using Tithe.ly by downloading the app on your smartphone or by scanning the QR Code with your mobile device. The QR codes are in your bulletin in the “Offertory & Prayer” as well as on the screen/slides.

Thank you so much for your generous gifts!

Thank you for joining us in Worship!

Sunday Service Live Streams & Bulletin: Facebook changed their policy on live streams to where they only stay up for 30 days before being automatically deleted. However, if you need to access a past service we keep all our past ones on our new website: smumcic.com under the Worship Services tab as well as on our YouTube page, St. Mark's UMC Iowa City. For any questions, email Sam at media@stmarks-umc.net The weekly bulletins & monthly newsletters can be accessed on the website: <https://stmarks-umc.net/worship-services-and-announcements/>

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

2675 E. Washing St., Iowa City, IA 52245
Office– office@stmarks-umc.net 319-337-7201
Rev. Alberta Ervin – alberta.ervin@iaumc.net
712-269-6968
NEW Website: smumcic.com
Worship Sunday mornings 9:30am – 10:30am

Communion: 1st Sunday of each month

(no communion in April).

Everyone is welcomed to take part in our open table communion service!

We serve delicious homemade gluten free bread!

www.smumcic.com

We are working on a new website! If you were not in worship when Pastor Alberta announced the exciting news & easy way to remember the address:

smumcic.com = **St. Mark's United Methodist Church Iowa City .com**

We were passing out new pens with the new site printed, on this day as well, please feel free to grab one in the office, Narthex, and/or Fellowship Hall!

This will be a slow process with many updates so feel free to check back periodically for changes/additions. Ann has been setting all of this up and has done a beautiful job! – *Thank You Ann!*

Along with the new website will be an app, new Facebook page, and Instagram!

So much to look forward to so stay tuned!

Instagram:

St. Mark's now has an IG account! Feel free to give it a follow to keep up to date with things going on in the church!



St.Marks_UMC_IowaCity

Get your articles/information to the office by these deadlines to have included in the bulletin & newsletter!

Weekly Bulletin: Tuesday of each week at 10:00 am

Bulletins are printed & mailed to those without emails who watch remotely &/or want to keep in touch with St. Mark's. They are typically finished on this day. Addition of articles after this can take time to reformat the entire bulletin to fit all articles, which is sometimes not as quick as I would like.

If you have an article that needs added last minute (*not on a regular basis*) let me know and I will do my very best to accommodate; please never hesitate to contact the office.

Monthly Newsletter: 4 business days prior to the end of the month by 10:00am

August Newsletter: Tuesday 7/28 at 10:00 am

September Newsletter: Wednesday 8/26 at 10:00am



As always, please contact the office if there are any questions or concerns. Thank you for respecting these deadlines, as I work on a limited amount of hours with various tasks each day/week. I want to get all of your articles in so be sure the office has details asap. I am happy to, & enjoy, adding graphics & such to make your article stand out! Thank you! –

Mandy