St. Mark's United Methodist Church

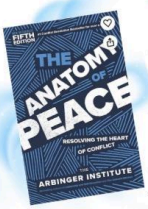
October
Monthly Newsletter

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

NEW

Anatomy of Peace Study
Thursdays in October
6:30pm - 8:00pm in Room 104

Join Pastor Alberta Thursday nights all October to go deeper in the lessons of The Anatomy of Peace.



Please feel free to join this study even if you do not have the book, didn't go to the first, &/or are just wanting to see what this study is all about. You will walk away from each session with a valuable lesson.

This study is not just for St. Mark's members - Everyone is welcome!
No sign up necessary.
Please see the bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.

Please join us after worship for:
Going Deeper with God's Leaders
11am - 12:00pm in Room 104

Join Pastor Alberta following worship each Sunday in October for a conversation style study going deeper into the daily sermon focusing on God's leaders in the Bible.

- Everyone is welcome!
- No sign up necessary.
- No materials needed.

We hope you will join us!

Study outlines are available in the Narthex &/or Fellowship Hall.

Available to the community, not just St. Mark's members

Loomatics



Looming & Weaving Team

Every Monday
10:00am-12:00pm
& 4:00pm-6:00pm
in room 103

- No sign up necessary
- New members welcome
- No experience necessary
- No commitment.

Join a fun group of people who meet twice every Monday to recycle plastic bags into loomed sleeping mats for the unhoused.

Donations of clean plastic bags are appreciated to help this mission. Please place donations in the marked bin located in Fellowship Hall. Thank you!



You do not have to be a member of St. Mark's to join; Everyone is welcome!

October 4th at 2:30pm

Build a Ministry
The Summit 2.0

Rooms: 108-109

You've heard Focus Forward talking about it & they are excited to announce & invite you to the fall ministry summit Sunday!



Whether you currently have a ministry of your own, are part of an active ministry, or are wanting to start a new ministry in St. Mark's, we would love to have you join us in learning how to build a ministry. Everyone will benefit from attending.

Please consider attending, even if you missed the first one.

See a member of Focus Forward with any questions: David Bywater, Diane Berwald, Lowell Fenner, Donna Higgins, Cindy McDowell, & Rob Rindels.

Total event time: 2:30pm - 4:30pm

Grayye Matters Book Club

Please join us October 6th at 9:30 am in Room 104

There is no book for October.
Join us to plan out the next 6 months of books



Grayye Matters is a monthly book club that meets at St. Mark's Iowa City on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.
Everyone is invited to attend.

This group is open to new members, no sign up necessary.
Open to the community; everyone is welcome.
Not closed to just church members.

Chancel Choir / Handbell Choir



St. Mark's Choir Rehersals
Wednesday Evenings

Handbell Rehearsal
6:30pm in the Music Room

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:15pm in the Sanctuary

Please contact Jay, our wonderful music director, with any questions: musicdirector@stmarks-umc.net

Christmas Stocking Ministry

Please join the Christmas Stocking Ministry:
Every Wednesday
1:00pm - 5:00pm
& the 2nd & 4th Saturdays
from 1:00pm - 4:00pm
in Room 103

YIPPEE



"We are completely done with the sewing phase of this project! Yay! Yippee!"

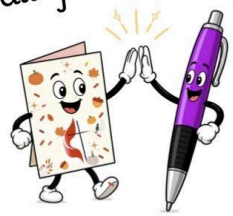
CALL for VOLUNTEERS

"But.. now we need to get all the decorating done. In two sessions, we were able to decorate almost 70 stockings! We need people who can cut out little hats, shirts, pants, etc for decorating the teddy bears & snowman. But we also could use people willing to glue these items! We will work with whatever level of creativity you would like to explore! Plus it's lots of fun and lots of fellowship!" -Brenda Mayer

Please see the "Looking for ways to give" section for the donations this ministry is currently collecting.

This ministry is welcoming of everyone - you do not have to be a St. Mark's member & there is no sign up. No need to have to have any special skills/experience, or commit to any number of meetings to join - just show up & have fun!

Faithful Connections



Faithful Connections is
a card writing ministry
No sign up necessary
New members welcome

We could really use some extra hands to reach out to our own members, our circuit, our District, & our Conference. It only takes a moment to remind them we are all COGPOW:

Children of God, People of Worth

Please join us this month:
October 8th
10:00am to 12:00pm
Meet in the Wesley Room

See Brenda Mayer &/or Donna Higgins for any questions.



Charge Conference Forms are Due to the office Friday October 9th

United Methodist Men: Breakfast & Guest Speaker

Saturday October 10th at 8:00am in Fellowship Hall

St. Mark's United Methodist Men's group meet in Fellowship Hall on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 8:00am for breakfast & a guest speaker. Everyone is welcome to attend!

This breakfast is hosted by the UMM but not only for men. This group is open to new members, there is no need to sign up & you do not have to be a St. Mark's member to attend. Please contact Bob Kesselring &/or the office if you have any questions.



The guest speaker this month is:

Dina Bishara, who is the Director of Community Engagement for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County, where she has been part of the team since 2018. Dina was born & raised in Iowa City. After going away for college, & some adventures in other states, she returned to Iowa City with her family, which includes her husband, 2 children, & her golden retriever, Juo.

We hope you will join us to meet & get to know more about Dina & enjoy fellowship, & breakfast.

The UMM make a hot & fresh pancake breakfast for everyone to enjoy on every 5th Sunday. Everyone is welcome to enjoy fellowship & breakfast after worship on these dates. It is always a lot of fun & delicious!

The next pancake breakfast is scheduled for: November 29th

November date may change due to the holiday.





Free ASL Classes & Deaf Notes Choir





Deaf Notes Performance Date:
Sunday October 11th
"Morning has broken"

Free ASL classes are held in the Wesley Room each week on: Mondays 6:00pm - 7:00pm & Wednesdays 5:30pm - 7:15pm

Join Lou & her class in learning ASL:

There is no need to sign up or pre-register & no cost to join St. Mark's ASL group. This group is open to everyone, not just St. Mark's members! No matter if you are learning your first sign or wanting a refresher course, Lou would love to have you join. All you have to do is show up with a willingness to learn.





Missions



10/19 to 10/22

Missions Trip Opportunity

Please join us!

Destinations:

Volunteer Location: Midwest Mission
219 N Chestnut St., Jefferson, IA 50129

Stay: First United Methodist Church
307 S. Wilson Ave, Jefferson, IA 50129

Evenings: Explore Jefferson, IA!
There are many unique & interesting places to explore!



Rooms are reserved for 22 at First UMC
Cost:queen bed $40/night & twin $15/night



First UMC provides access to a full kitchen to prepare meals individually or as a group. Dining out is also an option.

Volunteering Hours: 9am – 3:00pm
Cost: Material fee is $16/day

Typical volunteering is a full day, however, you are more than a morning or afternoon shift if that works better for you.

Want to help but unable to make the trip?

As little as $8 can cover half a day of materials!

SPONSOR A VOLUNTEER

What will volunteers be doing & why?

There are several ways volunteers can make a huge impact on the lives of many. By our volunteer efforts we are helping show people in need that they are indeed COGPOW: Children of God People of Worth, while spreading love & care like Jesus taught us, & enjoying fellowship along the way!

SIGN UP NOW

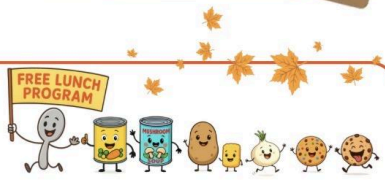
Various Tasks:
Assembling kits, sewing, cleaning, sorting, repairs, weaving sleep mats, etc.

Sign up sheet located in Fellowship Hall

See the posting in Fellowship Hall, the event on Facebook, Barb Fisher-Krueger (319) 621-7089 or the office (319) 337-7201 for more details!

Iowa City Free Lunch Program

St. Mark's day for FLP is: **Monday October 19th**
Address: 1105 S. Gilbert Court, Iowa City



3 ways you can help:



1. Pans are available for pick up in Fellowship Hall on Sunday October 11th. Everyone is welcome to take a pan home & use the included recipe & ingredients to make tater tot casserole *(some additional ingredients will need to be provided)*. Bring the casserole with you to church on the following Sunday. *Truda asks that volunteers only take 1 pan per family.*

2. Please bring prepared casseroles to church with you on Sunday October 18th & place them in the fridge before worship.

Also needed are desserts: cookies & bars. Please bring these with you on the 18th & place in the kitchen labeled "FLP" *Desserts do not have to be individually wrapped.*





3. Volunteers are needed at the Free Lunch Program as early as 10:30am on Monday, October 19th at 1105 S. Gilbert Court, Iowa City. Tasks include preparing silverware packets & salad, dining room set up, serving food, & clean up after.

*Volunteers are essential in keeping our day at the Free Lunch Program active.
If you are able to volunteer, it's just one day a month, & would be greatly appreciated!

Any questions please contact St. Mark's faithful FLP Coordinator: Truda Kruger (319) 354-5595

Thank you for your help in this wonderful mission.
Over 120 meals are served each day!



United Women in Faith

October 19th at 2:00 pm
Executive Board Meeting
Fellowship Hall

and

October 28th at 1:00 pm
General Meeting
Fellowship Hall

New members welcome!
No need to sign up prior to attending a general meeting.
Community members are always welcome to come in & see what UWIF is all about.

See Mary Brown for questions.





Wednesday October 21st at 11:30am

The Knit & Crochet group meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 11:30am - 1:00pm in Room 104

May meet in the Skylight seating area

Everyone is welcome to bring their own knit/crochet project to work on & enjoy fellowship while crafting.

New members welcome.
No sign up necessary.
This group is open to the community & is not just for church members.







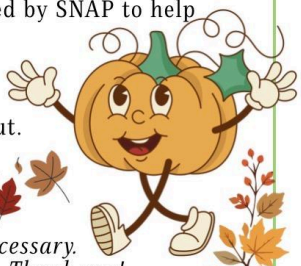


Next NSI Meeting:
November 2nd
at 9:45am
in Room 101
No meeting in October

What is the mission of St. Mark's NSI group? NSI is a group of people who are concerned about the limitations & cuts to SNAP benefits. Because of the recent cuts to SNAP there are many items people need that are no longer available with the existing benefits.

We put together a monthly collection & delivery of non-SNAP items to the local food pantries. Each month we will collect different items not covered by SNAP to help fill this need.

Please consider joining if this is something you are passionate about.



"Our Non Snap Items Ministry is doing great. Thank you so much for the personal hygiene items you all brought this past month. Many will be blessed!" -Julie Troyer



Please see the "Looking for ways to give" section for the full details on donations NSI is collecting in October (pet supplies).

This ministry meets once a month & is open to new members. No sign up necessary. Please see Brenda Mayer, Julie Troyer, &/or Sherry Kesselring for any questions. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 1ST: ALL SAINTS DAY

Fall Clean Up: November 7th
9am - 12:00pm in the church yard

2026 Charge Conference is set for November 8th
from 4:00pm - 6:00pm at
North Liberty United Methodist Church

Nov. 18 Kiwanis chili supper

Consecration Sunday: Nov/TBD

Thanksgiving - Church is closed Thu/Fri
November 26th -27th

November 22 - Hanging of the Greens

NOVEMBER

Advent begins November 29th
Theme: Ebenezer Scrooge / A Christmas Carol.



Volunteer opportunities & ways to be more involved with St. Mark's. We need YOU!

Looking FOR TALENT

Looking for volunteers to co-chair a Christian Education Team

We are currently looking for two people to take lead of a Christian education program & create a team to host a Sunday School service during worship.

This position is volunteer basis.



Looking for Church Historian

We are looking for a group of 2-3 people who could work together as church historians.

This position is volunteer basis.

Nominations Team

Looking for a group of 2-3 people to be part of a nominations team.

This position is volunteer basis.

Please see Pastor Alberta if intrested or for any questions. Thank you!

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 wtithout YOU!

Thank you for going above & beyond.

Thank you to the wonderful ladies who are helping with the reception desk! There are many office duties that they have kindly taken on & it is so appreciated - I feel so blessed to have you all: Donna Higgins, Sherry Kesselring, Nancy Krutzfield, Kay Seagren, & Shirley Green. -*Mandy*

Thank you to Bart Troyer!
Bart has been working behind the scenes of St. Marks on finance & his hard work is very valued & appreciated!
Thank you so much Bart!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE THE PORK CHOP BBQ SUCH A BIG SUCCESS! SOLD OUT 40 MINUTES BEFORE THE EVENT ENDED SHOWS HOW SUCCESSFUL, APPRECIATED, & ENGAGING THIS EVENT IS. IT WAS WONDERFUL TO SEE & HEAR EVERYONE BUZZING AROUND LAUGHING & WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS ALL COME TOGETHER.

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

October Special Offering calendar

Please place special offering donations of cash or check in the yellow envelopes located in the offering tray or ask your usher for assistance. Thank you for your kind donations.

TITHE.LY Innovative church giving

To make a donation to the speical offering via the Tithe.ly app: Scan the QR code (or open the app) & select the drop down menu under "Fund", then select the special offering & complete your transaction.



4th: World Communion Sunday

On the first Sunday in October, United Methodist congregations join many Christian churches across the globe in celebrating World Communion Sunday. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, which included all of the predecessor denominations of The United Methodist Church, adopted World-Wide Communion Sunday. Followers of Jesus Christ in large churches & small, on farms and in cities, in ornate buildings & under tents, gather to receive the bread & cup of Holy Communion. In The United Methodist Church, World Communion Sunday continues to be a special giving Sunday. The monies raised today help provide scholarships for racial & ethnic minority students in the US, & students worldwide. Your gifts will assist those whom God has gifted to learn & to serve in the name of Jesus Christ.



11th Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday is held each year to raise funds to buy blankets for the needy around the world. When you support the CWS Blankets program, you offer more than just warmth—you provide hope and love to those facing challenging times. 27,275 CWS Blankets were shared with people in need in 2024, thanks to generous donors like you. Together, we can continue to make a difference. Join CWS in sharing compassion and blankets today!

25th: IOWA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Ingathering

46th Annual Mission Ingathering will be held on Saturday November 7, 2026. The Purpose of Mission Ingathering is to show the love of Christ to the world's people by ministering to their needs. Our times have changed. The methods & means may change. The work of being in mission continues. The five sites are Cedar Falls, Cherokee, Fort Dodge, Mount Pleasant & Greenfield.



18th: St. Mark's Christmas Stockings

The St Mark's Christmas Stockings program is led by Brenda Mayer. Each year hundreds of Christmas Stockings are made and loaded with gifts. Then they are distributed to various agencies throughout the community to be given to children. Your generous offering is needed to help with the cost of materials and gifts for this important program.



Please ask your usher if you have any questions regarding the special offering on Sundays. Thank you for your thoughtful & generous gifts.



Looking for ways to give... October



NSI



Non-SNAP-Items

Donations accepted this month:

Pet items.

Dog food or dog treats. Dog toys & dog beds.
Leashes & collars. Cat food & litter.
Anything that will be of use.

"Just because the powers that be cut benefits to our most vulnerable doesn't mean they should have to suffer. Pets provide comfort & companionship & need care. Help our most at risk take care of their furry friends!

Please when you're at the store remember our little guys & pick them up something!"

Please place all donated items in the marked collection bins located in Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for your kind donations!





See Brenda Mayer, Julie Troyer &/or Sherry Kesselring for any questions regarding the NSI ministry.





To fill the stockings, we are looking for:



Sr High Boys: Solid deodorant (no spray allowed); deck of cards; warm socks. YA books.
Sr High Girls: Fluffy socks, nail polish; YA books.
Middle School Boys: Solid deodorant (no spray allowed); deck of cards; warm socks.
Middle School Girls: Fluffy socks; nail polish.
Grades 3-5: Grippy socks; card games.
Ages 4-8 Boys: Grippy socks, small cars- like Matchbox cars.
Ages 4-8 Girls: Grippy socks.
Ages 18m – 3yr: Grippy socks; small soft dolls; Board books.
Ages 6m-18m: Socks, bibs, board books.
Adults: Large-print puzzle books, other puzzle books, fluffy/grippy socks, individual pkg toothbrushes.
For All Ages: Winter hats, gloves, mittens, candy canes (we need 600!).
Other: LOTS OF CANDY to fill all the stockings - please no candy marked for Halloween.



Please place all donations in the marked bin located in Fellowship Hall.
Thank you for your generous donations!
Please see Brenda Mayer with any questions regarding this ministry.



WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

Accepting Donations of NEW or GENTLY USED warm clothing items of all sizes until Sunday, October 11th at 12:00pm/Noon!



Coats, Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Mittens, Socks, Jeans, Sweaters, Snow Boots, Snow Pants, Vests Long Underwear, Sweatshirts, & Sweatpants.



Notice:. Last year, they ran out of larger sizes (2x & 3x). ALL SIZES, ALL AGES are needed! Also, if you are interested, they are still in need of people for set-up, shopping & clean up! Thank you for your prayerfully considered gifts!

Place donations in boxes at the table set up in Fellowship Hall

See flyers in Fellowship Hall & QR code below to sign up & help at the Warm Clothing Distribution event.



Sign up!

Link will open on Friday, October 9 at 5pm

bit.ly/coatdriveic

IOWA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Ingathering

Ingathering is Saturday November 7, 2026 at Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Ingathering began in 1981 as the Bishop's Ingathering & included kits for UMCOR & the Iowa-Nigeria Partnership. Over the years, it has become a Lay-lead activity, now supporting Church World Service (Blanket Sunday), Heifer International, Self-Help International, Midwest Mission, Mobility Worldwide, & Ingathering Hunger Grants. The primary focus is alleviating hunger through education, increased mobility for the handicapped, assisting new farming methods with higher protein grain, & support in times of disaster. (Info on all these organizations is available on the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church website.)

We are working diligently on kits for the Midwest Mission organizations, particularly Student Kits, Layette Kits & Personal Dignity Kits. We are in particular need of items for the Personal Dignity kits.

Each kit contains:
1 – hand towel (no kitchen towels)
1 – Washcloth (no dishcloths)
1 – Adult toothbrush, individual pkg
1 – Bar soap, 3-4 oz
1 – Shampoo, 12-19oz btle
1 – Deodorant, 2-3oz, stick, roll on, or pump
1 – Lotion, 8-10 oz
$2 doe, toothpaste & carrying bag

We would really like to make 25 kits this year. We currently have 2 complete kits & some washcloths & hand towels. Please prayerfully consider what you can contribute to this Conference-wide mission. Thank you!

Questions?
Talk to Barb Fisher-Krueger
or Brenda Mayer.



October



Happy Birthday to

10/06: Peg Horn
10/07: Isabelle Berwald
10/09: Brittany Anderson
10/10: Shirley Gentzler
10/11: Diane Berwald
10/11: Lucas Goodrich
10/17: Deb Jansen
10/20: Carolyn Brock
10/21: Trevor Buxton
10/26: Karen Froschauer
10/26: Michael Jansen

October

St. Mark's Worship Volunteer Schedule







Communion Service Location	Communion Server
Station 1: Near Fireside Room	Lee McKnight & Brenda Mayer
Station 2: Middle Section	Carol Preslicka & Pastor Alberta
Station 3: Near Piano	Diane Berwald & Dennis Preslicka



Scripture Reader Schedule	
10/4	Cheryl Davis
10/11	Mary Brown
10/18	Angie Bywater
10/25	Bob Kesselring
11/1	Averie McCormick



Acolyte	
10/4	Melanie
10/11	Izzy & Nevaeh
10/18	Melanie
10/25	Izzy & Nevaeh



Usher Schedule	
10/4 Communion Sunday	1. Cam Davis 2. David Bywater 3. Lee McKnight
10/11	1. Boyd Crosby 2. Donna Higgins
10/18	1. Linda Prybil 2. Deb Jansen
10/25	1. Kay Seagren 2. Sherry Kesselring



If you are willing & would like to become a worship volunteer, please let the office know – we would love to have you!

Worship Volunteers: Please be sure to get all days you are unable to volunteer submitted to the office as soon as possible so you are not scheduled on days you are unavailable.

Appropriate forms of communicating with the office: email, phone call, stop in the office and talk to reception, or drop a note in the office. *Please do not* use Worship announcements, discussions in passing, or have someone else relay for you, as a form of communication. Thank you!

Once the schedule is made, if you are unable to volunteer on your scheduled day (& did not relay that info to the office ahead of time), please contact fellow volunteers to request coverage/switching shifts & let the office know of changes.

Thank you for your cooperation & willingness to volunteer during worship services!



September 2026 Church Council Meeting
The Church Council met Tuesday, September 15, 2026. The following is a summary of the meeting.

Loving: We opened our meeting with a prayer, and sharing of joys, concerns, and Glory Sightings.

Learning:
• Circuit Report
o The Clergy Circuit is doing a book study on "An Aura of Hope"
o The Joint Circuity (Clergy and Laity) will meet on 9/20 in Coralville
o St. Mark's needs a representative to the Laity Circuit
• Council completed the Mission and Ministry form required for the upcoming Charge Conference, which will be held on November 8th, 4:00 pm at the North Liberty United Methodist Church.
Leading: The various council teams reported the following discussions to the Council:

Trustees:
• Fall yard cleanup day will be held November 7th. More details to follow
• Signed a contract with Martinez Construction to replace the roof.
• Roof cost will be paid by taking a loan from the Endowment Fund
• Trustees are making a "priority" list of church improvement projects, and may work with the Council on a Capital Campaign

Finance:
• The team discussed the new church finance tracking program and the advantages that it will provide.
• Reviewed budget items and expenses to decipher where they belong in the reports
• Discussed upcoming budget for 2027 and noted that they will meet with each team to discuss finances.

Worship:
• Advent begins November 29 – team is starting to prepare
• November 1 - All Saints Day
• November 22 – Hanging of the Greens
• Sermon/Service theme will shift towards Leadership
Church and Society: No report
Outreach: No report

Missions:
• Dennis noted that the new financial reports, when finalized, will be very helpful in tracking money for the team
• Planning another Mission trip to Midwest Mission in Jefferson in October. More details to follow.
• Looking into providing support for Meals From the Heartland

Pastor's Report:
• Pastor Alberta reminded Council that all groups using the church need to contact Mandy with meeting dates and room locations, to avoid any double-booking and confusion.
• Encouraged input from Council teams for her "State of the Church" report that will be presented at Charge Conference

SPRT: No report or action items.

Discipleship:
• Focus Forward team members mentioned the upcoming "Ministry Build" on October 4th from 2:30 to 4:30. This fun event is focused on how to build a Ministry Action Plan (MAP)
• Noted that the Focus Forward Team is willing to help ministries work through their MAP

Our meeting was closed with a benediction by Lee McKnight.
For more detailed notes from the committees, please reach out to Rob Rindels at robrindels@gmail.com and he will email you committee meeting minutes. We are not able to share the SPPRC minutes due to possible confidential staff information.

TITHE.LY TALK

Sponsored By: The St Mark's Finance Team

SCAN HERE

WHAT IS TITHE.LY?

o 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?

o Tithe.ly will help us consolidate information, improve communication, save staff time, and increase security options. •

WHY DID WE CHOOSE TITHELY?

o The company has a partnership with the United Methodist Church and offers their product at a reduced cost to member churches.

o We met with other UM churches who currently use the product and shared positive reviews.

HOW IS THE FINANCE TEAM USING TITHE.LY?

o As a modern, mobile-friendly option for giving to St Mark's.

o Complete team tasks that include budgeting, expense tracking, and financial reports for the congregation.

o Financial Secretary has their own secure role to support giving.

WHAT ELSE CAN TITHE.LY DO FOR US?

o 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.

o More info will be shared as we highlight different uses in the future.

WHAT WILL COMMUNICATION FROM TITHE.LY LOOK LIKE TO THE CONGREGATION?

o Emails can be sent to the congregation using this application by staff.

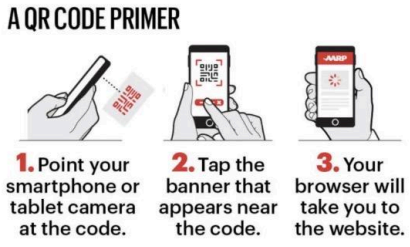
o These emails will come from the St. Mark's Office email account.

o Look for a "test" email in your Inbox in the beginning of May.

ANY QUESTIONS FOR US?

o Please reach out to a member of the Finance Team if you have any questions. We are happy to answer them.

o Christina Leopold, Markus Van Tol, Lee McKnight, Ann Fenner, or Dennis Stevens



You may pay by credit/debit card using Tithe.ly. Simply download the app on your smartphone or by scan the QR Code with your mobile device. The QR codes will be found in your bulletin at the "Offertory & Prayer" section as well as on the screen of the slides during worship.

Thank you so much for your generous gifts!



Website & Social Media

As many of you know, we have started a new Facebook page: "St. Mark's UMC – Iowa City". We finally hit 100 followers, meaning we can now add our livestreams to this account on Sunday mornings! YAY!

FOLLOW US

If you have not done so already, please be sure to go to the home page & push the "Follow" button, this will help keep you up to date on news, events, & updates from the church.
If you feel called to do so, we would appreciate you sharing it with others as well!

Thank you so very much!

NEW QR Code for the NEW Facebook Page

Do you prefer to use Instagram as a form of social media? We now have an IG account: St.Marks_UMC_IowaCity

FOLLOW US

Please give us a follow to keep up to date with all the news, events, & updates from St. Mark's.

Thank you very much!

NEW QR Code for the NEW Instagram page

Don't forget about our new website that Ann Parker has generously been working on!!

www.SMUMCIC.com

Check the website for more information about what is going on within the church, the calendar of events, & if you lead a mission or ministry & would like it to be added to the website, please let us know! Thank you so much!

NEW QR Code for the NEW Website!

Like Share Follow

Please help us get more views on social media to gain the ability to reach more of our community members. The simple acts of liking, commenting &/or sharing a post helps us to be seen by more people & show up in your newsfeed.

THANK YOU

Tithel.ly is a wonderful app that allows anyone wishing to make a donation or payment to the church to do so using their credit/debit card straight from your phone!
***Please note:** Be sure the "Fund" correctly reflects where you want your payment to go; there is a drop down menu to choose from. See the office or a member of Finance with any questions. *Thank you for your kind & generous gifts!*

QR Code to give through Tithe.ly

TITHE.LY Innovative church giving



Thank you for joining us in worship!

LIVE STREAMING

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@stmarksumc.net

The weekly bulletins & monthly newsletters can be accessed on the website: www.smumcic.com

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

Join us for worship Sunday mornings at 9:30 am - 10:30am

2675 E. Washington Street, Iowa City, IA 52245

Phone: 319-337-7201

Office Emal: Office@stmarks-umc.net

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm

We are closed on all major holidays

Rev. Alberta Ervin: alberta.ervin@iaumc.net

Pastors Phone: 712-269-6968

Communion is the 1st Sunday of the month. *Everyone* is welcomed to take part in our open table communion service!

We serve fresh delicious gluten free bread!

Article Deadlines:

Weekly Bulletin: Tuesday by 10:00am

Newsletter: 4 business days to the end of the month. November deadline is 10/27/26

A common phrase we share here at St. Mark's is: COGPOW

Everyone is a **C**hild **O**f **G**od & a **P**erson **O**f **W**orth - including you!

COGPOW

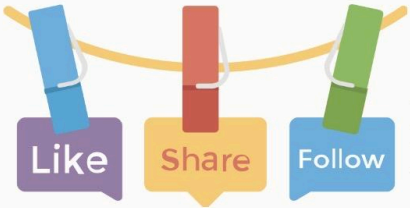
Child Of God Person Of Worth



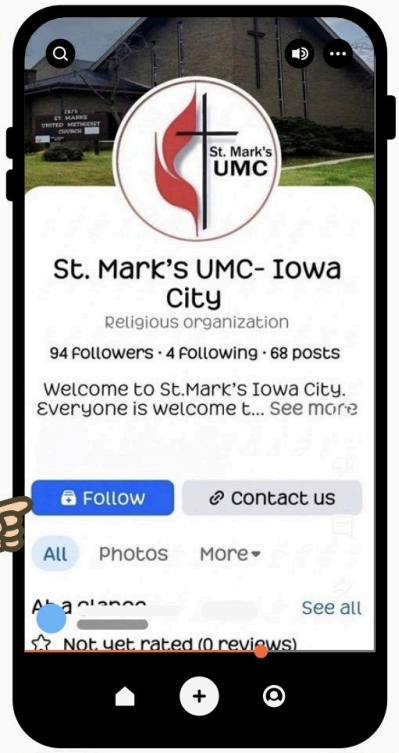
We have a favor to ask of you...

Follow our new page!

Please be sure you are following us on our NEW Facebook page: "St. Mark's UMC - Iowa City" to stay up to date on everything happening in the church, be a part of our ministries, missions & events as well as allow us to live stream our worship services on Facebook. We appreciate your support!











Only 2 simple steps:

1. **Go to the Facebook page:**
   St.Marks UMC - Iowa City
2. **Tap the "Follow" button**

Stay engaged by liking, commenting, & sharing our posts.

Thank you so much for your support of St. Mark's



October 19th to October 22nd

St. Mark's UMC Missions Trip

Please join us!

Leave: 10/19/26
Meet at St. Mark's UMC at 7:00am
Park in the back of the parking lot.
Carpool to Jefferson, Iowa
Return: 10/22/26
Will arrive at St. Mark's UMC by evening.





Everyone is welcome to sign up for single day & arrive/return independently.

Destinations:

Volunteer Location: Midwest Mission
219 N Chestnut St, Jefferson, IA 50129



Stay: First United Methodist Church
307 S. Wilson Ave, Jefferson, IA 50129



Evenings: Explore Jefferson, IA
There are many unique & interesting places to explore!



Rooms are reserved for 22 people at First Methodist Church
Cost: Queen Bed $40/night or Twin Bed $15/night



Meals: First UMC has a full kitchen we can utilize to make meals independently &/or as a group. Dining out is another option.

Cost: Volunteering cost/material fee is $8/shift = $16/day
Typical volunteering is a full day, however, you are more than welcome to do a morning or afternoon shift, if that works better for you.
Shifts: Morning: 9am - 12:00pm & Afternoon: 12:30pm - 3:00pm
**The cost for volunteering goes towards materials you will be using to help fund missions.*



Want to help but unable to make the trip?
See Barb Fisher-Krueger or the office for details.
Thank you!

SPONSOR A VOLUNTEER
Only $8 a shift or the entire day for $16

What will volunteers be doing & why?

There are many ways volunteers can make a huge impact, a few are listed below. Please see the packet in Fellowship Hall for more details &/or visit Midwest Missions website for all the mission opportunities.

By our volunteer efforts we are helping show people in need they are indeed COGPOW: Children Of God People Of Worth, spreading love & care like Jesus taught us, & enjoying fellowship along the way.

We hope you will join us in this important & fun mission - Please see the sign up in Fellowship Hall & contact Barb Fisher-Krueger for questions or more details (319)621-7089. Thank you.

Making Kits
Personal Dignity, Feminine Hygiene, Student, Bedding Birthing, Layette, Home Care, etc.

Repair
Bicycles, Sewing Machines, Medical Equipment, & Bleacher wood into Desk projects

Misc.
Sorting Items Cleaning, Food Prep, Weaving Sleep Mats Sewing Projects, Etc.



SIGN UP NOW

Sign up sheet located in Fellowship Hall

St. Mark's UMC Missions Trip

Please join us!

Kits that can be assembled & materials the volunteer fee help to cover the cost of

2026
10/19 to 10/22



MIDWEST MISSION KITS

REQUIREMENTS
- All Kit items must be NEW.
- Kits should contain ONLY the requested items.
- No camouflage on fabrics.

PERSONAL DIGNITY KIT
- 1 Hand towel - no kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth - no dishcloths
- 1 Adult toothbrush – individually packaged
- 1 Bar soap - 3-4 oz
- 1 Shampoo - 12-19 oz - lid taped
- 1 Deodorant - 2-3 oz - stick, roll on, or pump
- 1 Lotion - 8-10 oz - lid taped
- 1 One-gallon resealable plastic bag

Place all items in the resealable plastic bag.
$2 donation for toothpaste and carrying bag.

STUDENT KIT
- 3 Notebooks - 1 subject spiral 8"x 10 1/2"
- 1 Ruler - 12" long with metric
- 6 Pencils - unsharpened
- 1 Pencil sharpener
- 1 Eraser - 2" or larger
- 1 Box 12 colored pencils
- 1 Box 24 crayons
- 1 Pair student scissors
- 1 One-handled cloth bag*

Place all items in the cloth bag or a grocery sack.

HOME CARE KIT
- Liquid household cleaner - 56-80 oz total - no pump or spray bottles
- Dish soap - 42-64 oz total
- Liquid laundry detergent - 100-150 oz total
- 1 Scrub brush - with or without handle
- 1 Five-gallon round bucket with resealable lid

Place all items in the bucket.

* Can be handmade – midwestmission.org/patterns

BIRTHING KIT
- 1 Hand towel - no kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth - no dishcloths
- 1 Bar soap - 3-4 oz
- 2 Contractor bags or heavy duty trash bags (2 mil+ thickness)
- 2 Receiving blankets* - 28"x 28" to 32"x 32" - no fleece or thermal blankets
- 1 One-gallon resealable plastic bag

Place all items in the resealable plastic bag.
$3 donation for umbilical cord clamps, sterile surgical gloves, and scalpel.

FEMININE HYGIENE KIT
- 1 Hand towel - no kitchen towels
- 1 Washcloth - no dishcloths
- 1 Bar soap - 3-4 oz
- 3 Pairs underwear - sizes: girls 10-14, women 5-8
- 6 Day pads*
- 3 Night pads*
- 1 Drawstring carrying bag *
- 1 Waterproof bag *
- 1 One-handled cloth bag *

Place all items in the cloth bag.

LAYETTE KIT
All Items must be size 0-6 months
- 6 Cloth diapers*
- 2 Gowns* or sleepers
- 2 Onesies or undershirts
- 2 Infant washcloths - no adult washcloths
- 6 Diaper pins - must have protective plastic closures
- 1 Sweater* or jacket* with front opening - no ties
- 2 Receiving blankets* - 28"x 28" to 32"x 32" - no fleece or thermal blankets.

Bundle items inside one of the blankets and secure with diaper pins.
$2 donation for diaper cream.

TORNADO KIT
- 2 Pairs work gloves
- 24 One-gallon resealable plastic bags
- 2 Permanent markers
- 1 Roll colored duct tape - 15-20 yd
- 2 Dust masks - no surgical masks
- 24 Heavy-duty trash bags - 33-45 gal

$20 donation for two 18-gallon totes.
Kit will be assembled at Midwest Mission.

BED PACK
- 1 Twin-size fitted sheet
- 1 Twin-size flat sheet
- 1 Pillow case
- 1 Bed pillow

Place all items in an unscented trash bag.

PROJECTS

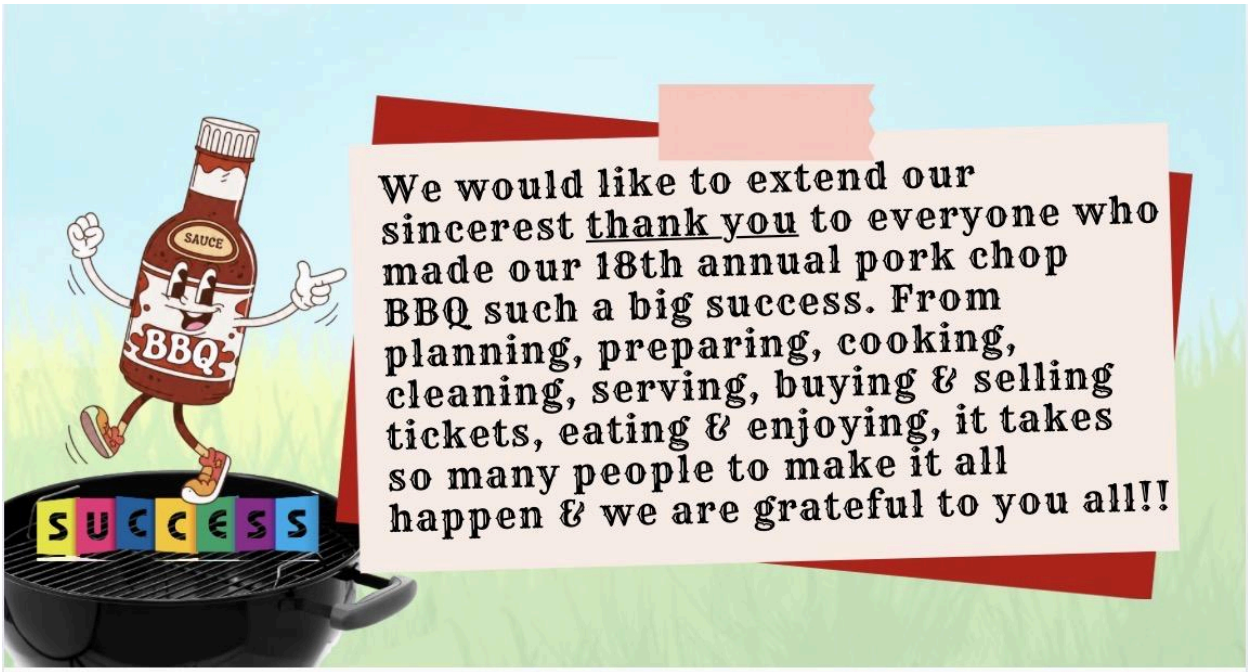
HANDMADE ITEMS
For a list of items that can be handmade, and patterns, visit midwestmission.org/patterns.

BICYCLES
As part of our Micro Business program, we accept medium and wide-tire bikes of any size with minimal rust. (No 10-speed, road racing, or other thin-tire bikes.)

SEWING MACHINES
As part of our Micro Business program, we accept electric sewing machines in working order. All treadle machines accepted.

BLEACHER WOOD
Desks are made from reclaimed bleacher wood. Notify us of possible bleacher donations.





We would like to extend our sincerest thank you to everyone who made our 18th annual pork chop BBQ such a big success. From planning, preparing, cooking, cleaning, serving, buying & selling tickets, eating & enjoying, it takes so many people to make it all happen & we are grateful to you all!!

Thank You

St. Mark's UMC



We apologize for running out of pork chops & appreciate the grace & understanding from each person this impacted. Please note: We are making plans & taking steps to prevent this from happening next year.

We are blessed to have such a wonderful community & look forward to serving you even better in the years to come.

Thank you!