St. Mark's United Methodist Church

NOVEMBER
Monthly Newsletter

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







All Saints Day
Sunday November 1st

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!



Everyone is welcome!

Missions

Missions Committee will meet on
Tuesday, November 3rd
1:30pm – 3:30pm
in the Wesley Room

November Collection: Holiday items





Non-SNAP-Items

"Thank you for the donations of pet supplies for October. We had many useful items to share with our neighbors."

2 Meetings: November 2nd & 30th
from 9:45am - 10:30am in Room 101

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.

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



Please see the "Looking for ways to give" section for more details about collection & place all donations in the marked bin located in Fellowship Hall.

All events, studies, & groups are available to the community, not just St. Mark's members

Grayye Matters Book Club

Please join us November 3rd at 9:30 am in Room 100

The book for November:

Mrs. Endicotts Splendid Adventure

by Rhys Bowen

Grayye Matters is a monthly book club that meet at St. Mark's Iowa City on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Everyone is invited to attend.; no sign up necessary.

About the book:

"Blindsided by betrayal in pre-WWII England, a woman charts a daring new course in this captivating tale of resilience, friendship, and new love by the bestselling author of The Rose Arbor and The Venice Sketchbook.

Surrey, England, 1938. After thirty devoted years of marriage, Ellie Endicott is blindsided by her husband's appeal for divorce. It's Ellie's opportunity for change too. The unfaithful cad can have the house. She's taking the Bentley. Ellie, her housekeeper Mavis, and her elderly friend Dora—each needing escape—impulsively head for parts unknown in the South of France.

With the Rhône surging beside them, they have nowhere to be and everywhere to go. Until the Bentley breaks down in the inviting fishing hamlet of Saint Benet. Here, Ellie rents an abandoned villa in the hills, makes wonderful friends among the villagers, and finds herself drawn to Nico, a handsome and enigmatic fisherman. As for unexpected destinations, the simple paradise of Saint Benet is perfect. But fates soon change when the threat of war encroaches.

Ellie's second act in life is just beginning—and becoming an adventure she never expected."

-*Amazon*



IOWA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ingathering

As of October 27th I can say for sure that we have 25 Personal Dignity Kits & 60 Student Kits. The number of Layette kits is still in flux as we work to finish sewing gowns & diapers. A full report will be available for the December Newsletter: Watch this space!!

Packing Kits:

Tuesday, November 3rd

1:00 p.m. Room 103

Please come and help! Many hands make light work! It will be set up for easy work, easy packing. We will also have snacks and fellowship together! Thank you to everyone who has contributed with money, kit supplies, cutting fabric, and sewing for kits and boxing/packing kits. !

Thank you!
Thank you!
Thank you

Questions? Check with Brenda Mayer or Barb Fisher-Krueger.

Christmas Stocking Ministry

We are working hard to decorate the stockings! It's fun to work together: we talk and have a snack time (of course!) and ooo! and aahh! over the differently decorated stockings! We can still use help – cutting, gluing are the primary needs at this time.

Please see the "Looking for ways to give" section for the donations this ministry is currently collecting. Donations go in the marked bin in Fellowship Hall.

Please see Brenda Mayer or Julie Troyer for questions/more information–Thank you!

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

CALL for VOLUNTEERS

We are planning to fill the stockings on December 2nd. 3rd. 9th & 10th for delivery the week of December 14. We are looking for people to deliver to: Iowa City Rehab: Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP). Shelter House. and Catholic Worker House. And then we are looking for people to assist with transportation of stockings to Iowa City Compassion on Tuesday. December 15th & also handing out stockings on Wednesday. December 16th. Tuesday will be morning hours & Wednesday is 12pm–5pm p.m. We have two shifts: 12:00pm – 2:30pm & 2:30pm – 5:00p.m. If you can speak Spanish or French or Arabic. that is a big bonus for us but not necessary. Other interpreters are usually available.

All events, studies, & groups are available to the community, not just St. Mark's members

Free ASL Classes & Deaf Notes Choir



Deaf Notes Performance
for Special Music
Sunday November 8th
"A Place at the Table"

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.



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.
Please feel free to contact Lou with any questions: schooleylou@gmail.com



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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

St. Mark's FALL Clean Up Day

November 7th
9:00am - 12:00pm

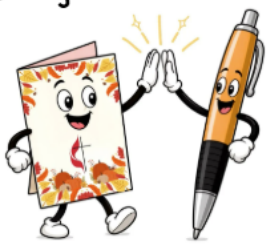
Please join the Trustees as we work together to clean up the church yard, making St. Mark's a clean & beautiful place for us all to enjoy & worship. The more volunteers the lighter the work. No need to sign up. We hope you can join us. Thank you in advance.



Charge Conference

2026 Charge Conference
November 8th 4:00pm - 6:00pm
at North Liberty First: UMC
85 N Jones Blvd, North Liberty, IA 52317

Faithful Connections



Please join us this month:
Thursday, November 12th
at 10:00am in the
Wesley Room

See Brenda Mayer & Donna Higgins with any questions.

Faithful Connections is a card writing ministry
No sign up necessary

"Join us reaching out & reminding others that we are ALL COGPOW – Children of God, People of Worth. With the news, elections, & disasters around the world, wars, - oh, just everything that's happening in our lives, everyone needs a moment of reassurance of God's presence. We can provide that moment!" -Brenda





All events, studies, & groups are available to the community, not just St. Mark's members

UMM



United Methodist Men: Breakfast & Guest Speaker

Saturday November 14th 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.

The guest speaker this month is yet to be announced – stay tuned...

See Bob Kesselring for any questions.



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 5th Sunday is November 29th, however, the pancake breakfast is scheduled for the following week due to the holidays. Please join us December 6th



The Free Lunch Program *is currently on hold.*



Free Lunch is a ministry of the entire church that provides meals once a month to those in need through the FLP of Iowa City; over 120 meals are served every day & St. Mark's is responsible for the 3rd Monday of each month.

Truda has recently resigned as the FLP Coordinator. She will be greatly missed & we truly appreciate all of her hard work & dedication. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To get this program back in operation we need volunteers:

We need a volunteer for our Free Lunch Program Coordinator & team members. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Alberta.



Knitting & Crochet Group

Please join us Wednesday November 18th at 11:30am in the Skylight Seating Area

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

The Knit & Crochet group meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 11:30am to 1:00pm in the skylight seating area; & may meet in Room 104 if needing more room.



United Women in Faith



Join UWIF November 18th 12:00pm in Fellowship Hall for a general meeting & potluck lunch!



Hanging of the GREENS November 22nd

Please join us after worship on the 22nd as we decorate the church for Christmas & enjoy fellowship!

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DUE DATE: NOVEMBER 20TH 9:00 AM

Do you lead a group who meet in St. Mark's?

Please be sure to get your building use/reservation forms into the office by November 20th at 9:00 am to have your reservation forms into 2027 entered.

The reason for the deadline: As of now, the 2027 calendars are empty & entry of forms will start on 11/20 at 9am. It is important that forms reach the office by the deadline as there are multiple calendars & office forms to update in the process of scheduling, which takes a good deal of time.

Please note there are 3 different forms:

1. Single Use: i.e. a one time meeting with no recurrence.
2. Recurring Use: i.e. groups who meet once a month or more.
3. Secondary Group: i.e. leaders who have more than one group & have already completed a recurring use form; the secondary form has less information for ease of completion.

All forms are available in the office, on the bulletin board in the Narthex & by email (sent early October, can be resent upon request)

The forms are shorter & revised from previous years.
*Include your full schedule.
*If you have a key card - please list the number on the form.
*By signing the form you are agreeing to the Building Use Agreement Form, a copy can be found in the office & on the bulletin board in the Narthex - please read through before signing.
*You are welcome to come into my office if you would like to complete the form(s) together, I am happy to help! -*Mandy*

Please contact the office with any questions or concerns:
Phone: (319) 337-7201 Office Hours: M-F 9am-12/Noon
or email: Office@stmarks-umc.net. - *Mandy*

thank you

Happy Thanksgiving

The church & office will be closed:

Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th

Consecration Sunday:

Date to be announced by the Finance Team.



Keep your eyes open for details in upcoming bulletins &/or the calendar.

In Loving Memory



Barbara K. Roark

April 29, 1949 - May 27, 2026

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

2:00PM - 5:00PM | 27 | November, 2026 | 515 Kirkwood Ave, Iowa City, IA 52240 *in the Kirkwood Room*

Please join us as we celebrate & remember Barbara. Come share in the stories, laughter, tears, & love that Barbara leaves with us all. We will have light food, beverages, & some of her favorite sweets, along with pictures & other memorabilia as we visit & remember her life. Being the kind, compassionate person she was, Barbara asked that in lieu of flowers, please smile at a stranger or volunteer to help others who are in need.

"Forever in our hearts, your love and kindness will never be forgotten."

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Advent: Volunteers to light candles

Do you know the meaning behind each candle? If one calls out to you that you, &/or your family/friend would like to light together, please let the office know, we would be happy to schedule you for that candle.



The First Candle is the Prophecy Candle:
Represents **Hope,** recalling the Old Testament prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah.

Second Candle is The Bethlehem Candle:
Represents **peace**, reflecting the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and the preparation of the heart.

The Third Candle is the Shepherd's Candle:
Represents **joy**, lit on Gaudete Sunday (the midpoint of Advent) to celebrate rejoicing and the nearness of Christ's birth.

The Fourth Candle is the Angel's Candle:
Represents **love**, commemorating the message of love and good tidings announced by the angels

Advent Study Starts November 29th after worship & we would love for you to join us!

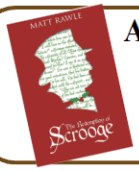
The book for Advent is: The Redemption of Scrooge by Matt Rawle



Please join Sunday after worship November 29th to December 20th in room 104 for a four week Advent study. You do not have to sign up or attend every session. Please let the office know if you would like for us to order you a copy of the book by November 23rd to be sure they will come in on time. Please ask Pastor Alberta &/or the office if you have any questions. We hope to see you there!!

About the book: "Is redemption possible for Ebenezer Scrooge? Pastor and author Matt Rawle believes so as he discovers the teachings of Jesus in the words of the Charles Dickens classic A Christmas Carol. Rawle dives deep into the dark, sad, greedy world of Scrooge and discovers a man in dire need of a second chance. Along with Scrooge, we meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future and in the process learn about living with and for others in a world blessed by Jesus. Rediscover and reinvigorate your Christian faith this Advent and Christmas season and look at this familiar classic through the lens of faith.Chapters include: Bah! Humbug! The Remembrance of Christmas Past The Life of Christmas Present The Hope of Christmas Future" -*Amazon*





Advent Study Starts: November 29th after worship Room 104



Order poinsettia's - December - TBD



Consecration Sunday - TBD by Finance Team



Filling of Christmas Stockings: Starts December 2nd



Fleece Blanket Project: Dec. 6th - Jan 17th



Blue Christmas: December 21st at 6:30pm



Christmas Eve Service: December 24th at 5:30pm

All events, studies, & groups are available to the community, not just St. Mark's members



Please do not bring any drinks in the sanctuary that are not in a spillproof containter.



Thank you for your cooperation!

Time To Update Our Church Directory

Have you had a change in your address, phone number, or email address? We would love to update your information for our directory.



Information to update the office on:

Address, Phone Number, Email Address & Birthday

There will be forms in the office & on the bulletin boards you can complete & turn into the office or feel free to send the information by email: office@stmarks-umc.net

Thank You



LOOKING FOR Volunteers

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



Free Lunch Program Coordinator & Volunteers

Looking for people who are willing to organize & run St. Mark's day for the FLP on the 3rd Monday of each month.

Christian Education Team - Sunday School Classes

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



Church Historian Team

We are looking for a few people who could work together as church historians.



Nominations Team

Looking for a few people to be part of a nominations team.

All positions are volunteer basis.
Please see Pastor Alberta if interested 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 everyone who attended the October studies: "Going Deeper with God's Leaders" & "The Anatomy of Peace." If this is something you enjoyed & would like repeated, please let us know & *Thank you!*.



Thank you to Focus Forward for planning & hosting the Ministry Summit 2.0: Building a Ministry & to all who attended!



Thank you to Cory Berwald for all of your hard work which made our pumpkins possible! There is a lot of behind the scenes work from planting to picking!

+ Special thanks for Pastor Alberta's beautiful bookshelves & wall shelves for her new office, they are beautiful!



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

Activity Bags!



Have you noticed the colorful bags hanging in the Narthex? These bags have books & activity sheets that represent the daily sermon (or past sermons). Please feel free to remind your child to grab a bag before worship & return it after worship (taking their art with them). They all hold the same/similar items – have fun!

November

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.

November 1st : Women At The Well

Women at the Well is a United Methodist congregation which is located within the walls of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, in Mitchellville, Iowa. We worship on Friday afternoons at 3:00 in the Sacred Space. We are a diverse community composed of women incarcerated at ICIW and many volunteers outside the walls who regularly support our ministries and programs. The worship service allows the women to share in the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to experience the life transforming Spirit of God.

November 8th : UMCOR

UMCOR
United Methodist Committee on Relief

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) gifts given play a vital role in enhancing the church's global humanitarian response. 100% of donations given to UMCOR throughout the year are directed toward on-the-ground relief and recovery efforts, allowing UMCOR to effectively respond to crises and provide assistance where it's needed most.

SOON!

November 15th : To be announced
November 22nd : To be announced

November 29th : United Methodist Student Day



United Methodist Student Day is one of six church-wide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. On this day, we come together to invest in the future of our church by supporting students' education and their journey of faith. Education opens doors and creates opportunities for leadership, service, and faith development. By supporting United Methodist Student Day, we celebrate the power of learning and the important role education plays in developing faithful, thoughtful Christian leaders. This special Sunday reminds us that education is not only a personal achievement—it's a ministry we share together.

The Missions Committee will meet November 3rd & additional Special Offerings may be added at that time. Please see the weekly bulletins for more details.

Please ask your usher if you have any questions regarding the speical offering on Sunday. Thank you for your generous gifts.

Looking for ways to give: November

Donations accepted this month: Holiday Items

NSI



Non-SNAP-Items

Thank you for your kind donations!

The month of November we are gathering holiday items. These would include holiday meal ingredients such as corn, pumpkin, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, etc. Also extras to make the holiday special such as decorated paper plates and napkins or decorations. Anything that you think would be useful or fun to celebrate the Holidays, the sky is the limit!



Please place all donated items in the marked collection bins located in Fellowship Hall.
See Brenda Mayer, Julie Troyer &/or Sherry Kesselring with any questions regarding the NSI ministry.

Fleece Blanket Project

The Fleece Blanket Project will start in December & are raising funds/fabric to get started. Each blanket takes two different pieces of fleece 2 yards each. With JoAnn's closed Hobby Lobby is the local source of fleece & have their material 30% off every other week. If this is something you would like to support, please donate money to purchase fleece or bring donated fleece to the church during November & the Team will prepare it for tying.

There are labeled envelopes on top the locked box located in the Narthex for minority donations.

Fleece Blanket Project Team:
Kay Seagren, Bonnie Jenkins, & Joyce Kral





To fill the stockings, we are looking for:

- Grippy sox for all ages!
- Paperback books for Young Adults (senior high student)
- Decks of cards &/or card games for any ages.
- Special Request for Iowa City Rehab: 1 – 12 pack cans of pop in: Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, & Diet Sprite (one of each of these).

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.

St. Mark's Free Medical Supply Shed

Monday – Friday 9:30am – 12:00pm



See our Facebook Group &/or pick up a brochure available in the Narthex for more information

We are looking for donations of the following items:





- Wheelchairs *(we are out)*
- Seated Walkers/Rollators *(low)*
- Shower Chair/Bench *(low)*
- Transfer Board *(low)*



If you have any of these items & no longer need/are looking to get rid of, please consider donating to our Free Medical Shed that anyone in the community is able to access at no cost, no strings attached.

Items we are not accepting: Crutches, boots, braces. Please feel free to contact us for more details.

Church & Society

"Please read & prayerfully consider General Board of Church & Society Action Alert from September 16, 2026, titled *Tell Congress to Support Fair Trade for Working Families*. Besides explaining a resolution of creating a just, equitable, & sustainable economies that benefit all members of society. There is also a chance for you to send a note to our representatives there on the same page, if you so desire. Go to www.umcjustice.org for more information." -Brenda Mayer

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl committee would like to remind you that there are prayer shawls available for ANYONE to take at ANYTIME, whether you are the one receiving it, or you give it to someone else. You do not have to ask to take a prayer shawl, & they do never need to be brought back, they are the recipients to keep. The prayer shawls are kept in the fireside room (room off of the sanctuary), on a shelf right inside the sliding door. Also on this shelf are pocket prayer shawls. If there aren't any when you go in there, please let one of the team members know - Megan Bywater, Kay Seagren, & Barb Fisher-Krueger.





Fleece Blanket Project – Starting in Dec.

Can you tie a knot? If so, we need you!
It is getting colder outside! Time to provide warm fleece blankets for those in need in our community. This is a project dear to my heart and feel so blessed to do it again. The smiles on the faces of the recipients warms my heart. As they wrap the blanket around them, I picture God wrapping his arms around them with love and comfort. **So let's do it again!!!**

We will tie the blankets in Fellowship Hall after worship services Dec. 13th & 20th & Jan. 3rd, 10th, 17th.
Please stop by a table in Fellowship Hall & tie a few knots. Thank you & God bless you all! -Fleece Blanket Project Team: Kay Seagren, Bonnie Jenkins, & Joyce Kral

Pleaser see the "Looking for ways to give" section to see how to donate to this ministry.

The following poem will be attached to each blanket as it leaves St. Mark's:

We put prayers in every knot the angels blessed each one so wrap the fleece around you & let God's presence come. Guardian angels snuggle close as they have a job to do so if you're scared or lonely this blanket can comfort you.

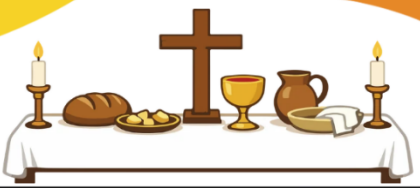
November



Happy Birthday to

11/03 ... Morgan Sammons
11/08 ... Beth Brown
11/08 ... Helen McClean
11/10 ... Elizabeth Yeates
11/14 ... Derek Lewis
11/16 .... Donna Higgins
11/17 ... Parker Max
11/17 ... Ann Parker
11/17 ... Sam Showers
11/22 ... Jacob Sammons
11/24 ... Randy Krutzfield
11/25 ... Karen Miller
11/26 ... Brad Parker
11/27 ... David Clark
11/28 ... Barbara Beard
11/30 ... Mark Krtuzfield

November Worship Volunteer Schedule



St. Mark's Communion Server Schedule	
November 8th Communion Sunday	Station 1 – by sliding glass doors **Nancy Krutzfield & Carol Preslicka**
	Station 2 – middle section **Dennis Preslicka & Pastor Alberta**
	Station 3 – by piano **Kae Tritle & Angie Bywater**

Everyone is welcome to our open table communion.
We serve homemade gluten free bread!



Scripture Reader Schedule	
11/01	Averie McCormick
11/08	Mary Brown
11/15	Kathy Welsh
11/22	Brenda Mayer
11/29	Kae Tritle



Usher Schedule	
11/01	1. Ann Parker 2. Lee McKnight
11/08 *Communion Sunday*	1. Donna Higgins 2. Sherry Kesselring 3. David Bywater
11/15	1. Dennis Preslicka 2. Kay Seagren
11/22	1. Jeremy Showers 2. Deb Jansen
11/29	1. Linda Prybil 2. Ann Parker

Acolyte Schedule	
11/1	Melanie
11/08	Izzy & Nevaeh
11/15	Melanie Justice
11/22	Izzy & Nevaeh
11/29	Melanie Justice





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



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.

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

Appropriate forms of communicating with the office: email: office@stmarks-umc.net, Phone (319) 337-7201, or leave a note in the office for Mandy.
Please do not use Worship announcements, discussions in passing, or have someone else relay information 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 request off ahead of time), please contact fellow volunteers to request coverage/switching shifts & let the office know of changes. If you requested time off & are scheduled in error, please let us know asap & we will find coverage.

Thank you for your willingness to volunteer during worship You are all so appreciated!

October 2026 Church Council Meeting



The Church Council met Tuesday, October 20, 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 – no report, meeting to be held next week
- MAP presentation (Megan Bywater – Prayer Team)
  - Council listed and provided ideas and resources for the Prayer Team
  - Main issues are finding the best avenues for sharing prayer requests, and sharing requests following privacy guidelines
  - Anyone interested in helping this team can contact Megan or Kae Tritle
- MAP presentation (Kay Seagren – Fleece Blanket Project)
  - Noted need for more fleece (harder to find with closing of JoAnn Fabrics) – council was able to recommend some additional options.
  - Planning some times after church service for congregation to help cut and tie the blankets for distribution
  - Mission Team will be looking into possible funds available for purchase of fleece

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
- Roof project is complete, but cost was higher than originally quoted due to some plywood replacement and felt removal.
- Trustees are still looking at a possible capital campaign to raise funds for various church improvements

Finance:

- Presented the 2027 St. Mark's working budget for approval.
- Reviewed details of the working budget, including where some line items were moved to different categories, and explanation of some budget increases.
- Council approved the 2027 Working Budget as presented.
- Noted that giving statements will be distributed to congregation in the near future.

Worship:

- Advent begins November 29
- November 1 – All Saints Day
- November 22 – Hanging of the Greens

Church and Society: No report

Outreach: No report

Missions:

- Dennis thanked Bart Troyer and finance team's effort in providing clear reports for the team's various accounts.
- Next meeting is November 13th.

Pastor's Report:

- November 8th from 4-6 PM is annual Charge Conference – at North Liberty UMC.
- Pastor Alberta presented 2027 Team Nominations, noting a few empty spots:
  - Vice Chair – fills in when Chair is unable to attend meetings
  - Lay Leader – serves as primary representative of the laity, and works with pastor to advance St. Marks' mission, vision, and values.
  - Lay Delegate to Conference – represents St. Mark's at Annual Conference, votes on behalf of the church, and reports back to the church.
- Council approved the 2027 Team Members as presented.

SPRT:

- Brought a motion to council to hire a part-time receptionist (12 hours per week) starting July 1, 2027. Motion passed by council after discussion.
- Brought a motion to council to approve Pastor Support Form I for Charge Conference. After discussion and review of all expenses, allowances, benefits and compensation, the motion was approved.

Discipleship:

- Focus Forward team members reviewed the Ministry Build event, feeling it was successful. 12 people attended.
- Next meeting is November 10.

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

SCAN HERE

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

Tithe.ly



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!

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: Every Tuesday by 9:00am

December Newsletter Deadline is 11/24 at 9am

A common phrase at St. Mark's is COGPOW.
We believe everyone is COGPOW & welcome you to join us!

COGPOW

Child Of God Person Of Worth

Thank you for joining us. We hope to see you again soon!

