

SAINT MARK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, April 30, 2023
Nine O'clock

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Morning Worship

*You are invited to stand as you are able in body and spirit.

The Gathering

Words of Welcome and Grace

We welcome each of you to this service! No matter who you are or where you are from, you are a child of God, and you are welcome here!

*Hymn of Praise

UMH No. 529 v. 1, 2, & 5 | How Firm a Foundation

*The Passing of the Peace

Minister: The Peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you.

People: And also, with you.

We offer each other signs of peace.

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father (God), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Scripture Lesson

2 Corinthians 12: 6-10

Minister: The Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Conversations of the Heart: Experiencing Failure

Response to God's Word

Holy Communion

Sending Forth

*Hymn of Dedication

UMH No. 400 v. 1 & 3 | Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Benediction

Postlude

We Invite You

Want to stay updated on the Saint Mark Community?

Visit www.stmarkumc.org and subscribe to the newsletter on the homepage. We send our Remarks newsletter every Wednesday, a message from our Senior Pastor every Friday, and a Sunday Morning at Saint Mark email.

We Welcome You

Welcome! We are so glad you are worshipping with us today!



Attendance

Please sign the attendance pad located at the end of your row or scan this QR code to register your attendance and share prayer requests using our online Connection Card.

Tithes & Offerings

Please place your offering in the plate during this morning's service, or use the Secure Giving App, or Saint Mark's assigned number for text donations is 844-703-1444 and the keyword is 'operating'. To give via text, text the word 'operating', a space, and the amount you would like to give. For example, to give \$25, text 844-703-1444 operating 25. Your generosity allows us to love, accept and serve the people of our community.

Worship Team

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski, Elder in Full Connection, Florida Annual Conference and Emory University | Candler School of Theology | Assistant Dean of Methodist Studies; Assistant Professor in the Practice of Spiritual Formation and Church Leadership

Liturgists: Rev. Carolyn Stephens, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jess Cusick, Pastor of Youth and Young Adults
Kenny Smallhorn, Candler School of Theology Intern
Sheila Stephens, Minister of Education and Spiritual Formation
Meagan Williams, Assistant Director of Young Adult Ministry

Music: Jon Easter, Director of Fine Arts and Organist
Madeline Pascavage, Cantor | Hymn Leader

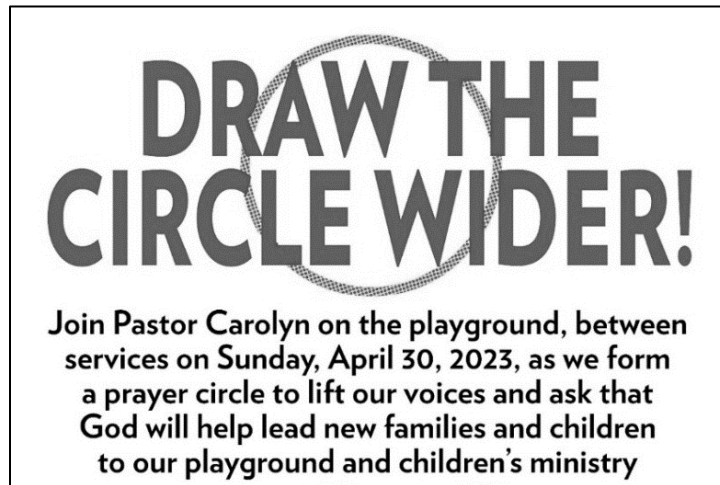
Communion Steward: J.W. Mozley

Usher Team: Greg Brown (Head Usher), Terry Davis, Bruce Erwin, Scott Lee, Robert Giacomini, Deana Hilton & Sybil Smith

Greeter: Sybil Smith

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Today after this Service from 9:45 am – 10 am.



Announcements & Special Events

- May 21:** Rev. Jess and Lauren are getting married. Help us celebrate Rev. Jess and Lauren at a Cupcake Social after second service. Your presence at the social is gift enough, but should you wish to give a gift as well, we will have a basket to accept cash gifts to put towards their wedding & baby funds.
- May 21:** Let it Sing | A Concert by Doronte Evans | RMN Fundraiser | 4 PM
- May 28:** Pentecost Sunday | Memorial Day Weekend | One Service 10 AM
- June 4:** Cookout after the second service, details soon.
- June 25:** Larry Lucas is visiting Atlanta and is having a party. Join us after the second service for food, fun, and fellowship.
- July 9:** Cookout after the second service, details soon.

If you know your way around a grill and would be willing to volunteer to help us grill on June 4 or July 9, please contact Robert Gilleo in the church office.

Midtown MethEnds Meetings Return Home

Meetings have always been a critical part of 12-step programs. Midtown MethEnds will be returning home to Saint Mark beginning Tuesday, May 2. Our hope is that those who need this program will find their way home to Saint Mark. Meetings will be held Tuesdays & Thursdays | 5:45 PM – 6:45 PM & Saturdays | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM in rooms 200 & 201.



Welcome Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski

Emory University | Candler School of Theology
| Assistant Dean of Methodist Studies; Assistant
Professor in the Practice of Spiritual Formation
and Church Leadership

The Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski is an ordained United Methodist Elder from the Florida Annual Conference. He has served in local churches for over twenty years, as well as chaired the Board of Ordained Ministry for the Florida Annual Conference. He is a Candler graduate (98T) and has a Ph.D. in New Testament and Early Christianity from Iliff School of Theology |

University of Denver. He has been a long time social-justice and civil rights advocate working in issues related to anti-racism, LGBTQ+ rights, poverty, and criminal justice reform and is committed to helping local churches (and the General Church) engage the world in a way that makes the Kingdom of God visible.

He is a lifelong Methodist who grew up in Lakeland, Florida, Rev. Opalinski has held a variety of leadership roles in the Florida Annual Conference, including director of the Florida campus of Licensing School (a partnership with Candler), a member of the conference's Anti-Racism Task Force, an elected delegate to the 2020 General Conference of the UMC, and chair of the conference's Board of Ordained Ministry. He has also taught four terms in Candler's Course of Study program.

Describing himself as "a student of the Christian monastic tradition," Rev. Opalinski is the founder of Manaigh Nua ("the new monks" in Irish), an online community of people drawn to an intentional Christian life of prayer, study and justice within the context of their daily lives. He is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Society of Biblical Literature and the North American Patristics Society.

His research interests include Methodist history/theology, Monasticism, Celtic Christianity, Contemplative Spirituality, and New Monastic expressions of church community.

He is married to Dr. Andra Opalinski, a member of Saint Mark, and together they have two beautiful daughters, Anna Brook and Emily.