



# SAINT MARK

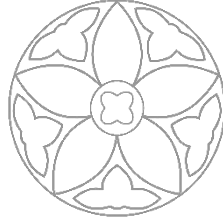
## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

**Sunday, November 12, 2023**  
**Eleven O'clock**

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost





## **11 AM 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!

#### Prelude

#### \*The Call to Worship

One: We come with a deep longing in our hearts.

**All: A longing that cannot be filled with things or the empty promises the world offers**

One: We come with a longing that rises from the core of our being.

**All: A longing that only can be satisfied by our True Source.**

One: We come with a longing for our Maker and Lord.

**All: Meet us now and here, O God.**

### **Praise and Thanksgiving**

#### \*Hymn of Praise

**UMH No. 154 | All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name**

\*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

**All: Creator and Redeemer, you have called us out of darkness into your marvelous light, and have empowered us to lead others to you. We often fail, however, to live as you have instructed, and are often unprepared when the opportunity to show your love comes our way. Forgive us we pray. Remind us that we are your ambassadors, called to do deeds of your love and to declare your praise.**

One: Hear the good news: You are a chosen people, God's special possession. You are loved, show love. You are blessed, be a blessing. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

\*Gloria Patri

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

\*The Passing of the Peace

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

**All: And also, with you.**

*Let us offer each other signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.*

Reception of New Members

Baptism

**UMH No. 611 | Child of Blessing, Child of Promise**

Concerns and Celebrations of the Congregation

## Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Proclamation of God's Word

### Invitation to the Offertory & Offertory Prayer

#### Anthem

##### **Keep Your Lamps**

**Andre Thomas**

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.*

*Children, don't get weary, don't get weary, don't get weary,  
Children don't get weary 'til your work is done.*

*Christian journey soon be over, Christian journey soon be over.  
Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.*

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.*

#### \*Doxology

##### **UMH No. 95 | Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

## The Scripture Lesson

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

One: The Word of God for the people of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Message for the Younger Church

*All children are invited to come up to the chancel area.*

## \*The Gospel Lesson

### **Matthew 25: 1-13**

One: The Gospel of Our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

### **We Give Thanks: While We Wait Expectantly**

## **Response to God's Word**

### \*Affirmation of Faith

#### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\* universal

## **Sending Forth**

\*Hymn of Dedication

**UMH No. 327 | Crown Him with Many Crowns**

\*Benediction

Postlude

The flowers are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Diane Haase, by her daughter, Erica Clausen-Lee.

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## **Worship Team**

**Preaching:** Rev. Dr. Carolyn Stephens, *Senior Pastor*

**Liturgists:** 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 | Elder in Full Connection, Florida Annual Conference | Elder-in-Residence, Saint Mark UMC*

Madi Dunn, *Children's Minister*

B. Luke Murphy, *Lay Reader*

Meagan Williams, *Assistant to the Pastor of Youth and Young Adults*

**Music:** Phil Crumbly and V. Lee Edwards, *Interim Directors and Organist*

**Audio Visual:** Johnny Sims, *Coordinator of Online Ministry*, Jay Drew, Deana Hilton, Anna Rader, Eric Steverson, and Julie Tootle

**Usher Team:** Buddy Wofford, *Head Usher*, Joseph Hackett, Mark Jefferson, and Russell McKinney

**Greeter Team:** Andy and Pam Davis, *Head Greeter*



## **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.



## **We Invite You to Stay Connected with Saint Mark**

Visit [www.stmarkumc.org](http://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.

## **Listening Sessions – We heard you!**

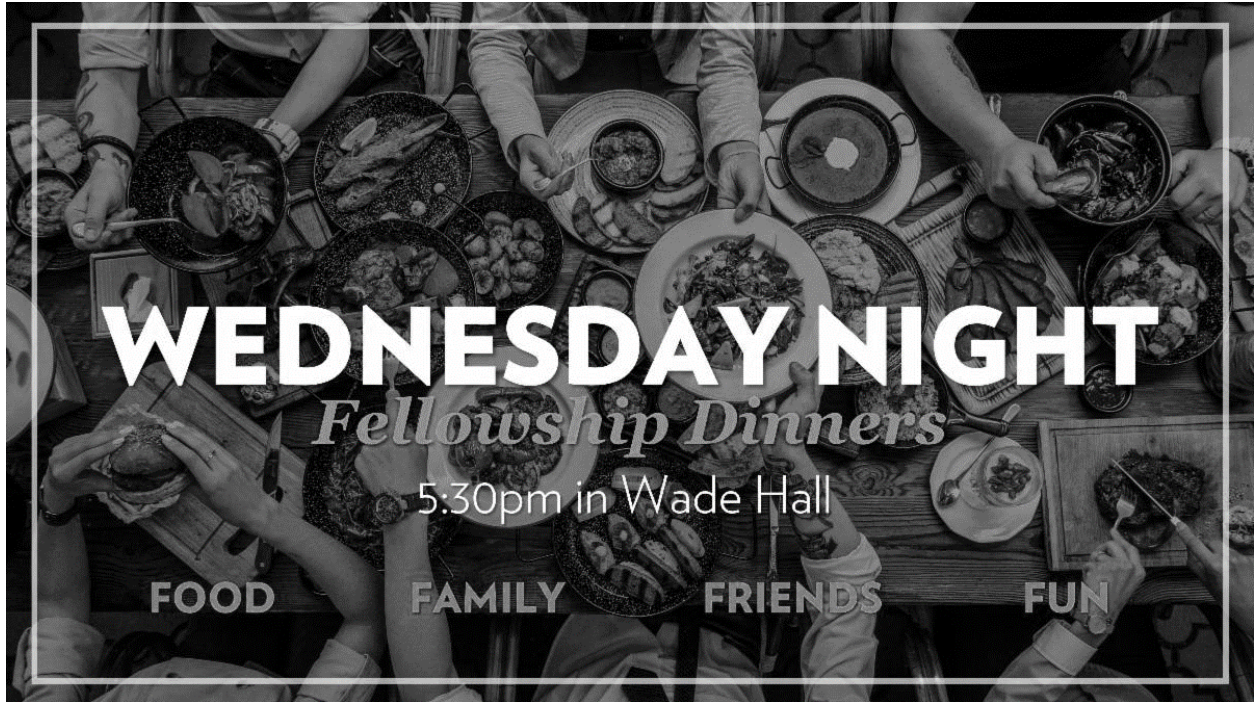
The Church Council is recommending the formation of two unique task forces for two of the consistent themes from the feedback.

**Communication** – we need to improve the way we communicate with each other. This Task Force will be responsible for gathering input from the congregation, creating a plan for thoughtful, timely and effective communication, and presenting an action plan for all to follow.

**Vision Fulfillment** – we have a vision and now we need a strategy and action plan to ensure the uniqueness and diversity of Saint Mark is celebrated and visible to all. This Task Force will be responsible for creating a near-term and long-term plan for Saint Mark to be a viable and thriving destination church as well as a place of worship for the growing community around us.

Neither of these will be quick or easy but so critical to the stability and long-term growth of our beloved Saint Mark.

If you would like to be on either of the task forces above, please email **Robert Gilleo** at [rjgilleo@stmarkumc.org](mailto:rjgilleo@stmarkumc.org).



For reservations, please email Robert Gilleo at [RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org](mailto:RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org) or complete the Microsoft Forms survey (<https://forms.office.com/r/29Xbv198wy>) no later than 5 PM Tuesday.

### Upcoming Meals

November 15	Rotisserie Chicken
November 22	NO MEAL
November 29	Lemon Baked Salmon
December 6	Homemade Chili
December 13	Pork Tenderloin
December 20 - January 10	NO MEALS



## The Baptismal Covenant

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Lars now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ.**

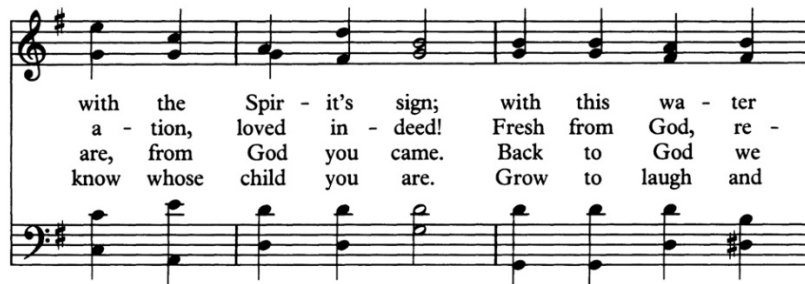
**We will surround Lars with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his trust of God, and be found faithful in his service to others.**

**We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

## UMC Hymn 611 | Child of Blessing, Child of Promise



1. Child of bless - ing, child of prom - ise, bap - tized  
2. Child of love, our love's ex - pres - sion, love's cre -  
3. Child of joy, our dear - est trea - sure, God's you  
4. Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to



with the Spir - it's sign; with this wa - ter  
a - tion, loved in - deed! Fresh from God, re -  
are, from God you came. Back to God we  
know whose child you are. Grow to laugh and



God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.  
fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.  
hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.  
sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

WORDS: Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1981  
MUSIC: Attr. to C. F. Witt, 1715; adapt. by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1861  
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STUTTGART  
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# Youth LOCK-IN

Games, Movies, Food, Sport Activities, Music, Prizes,  
Pumpkin Pie Eating Contest, & More!

17TH  
NOV.

\*(Bring A Sleeping Bag & Pillow)

BRING A FRIEND!

FREE  
EVENT

FRI. 8:00PM - SAT. 9:00AM

## MIDNIGHT MISSIONS INITIATIVE

This Year For Our Midnight Missions Opportunity We Are Choosing To Partner With **Lost N Found Youth**, An Atlanta Local Non-Profit That Advocates And Helps Homeless LGBTQIA+ Youth Who Have Ended Up On The Streets Because Their Family Has Chosen Not To Accept Them For Who They Are.

Due To The Holidays Coming Up **Lost N Found Youth** Will Be In Need Of Canned Food And Non-Perishables To Feed All The Youth They Help. We Are Asking That Each Of Our Youth Bring A Bag Of Appropriate Food To The Lock-In And Then Together We Will Sort Through And Organize All Donations At Midnight. There Is **NO LIMIT** To How Much You Can Donate, Any And **ALL** Donations Will Be Welcomed.

The Non-Profit Has Said All Types Of Non-Perishables And Foods Are Needed. \*Examples Listed Below!

All Canned Goods, Boxed Pasta, Boxed Rice, Boxes Of Mixed Bagged Chips, Ramen Noodles, Granola Bars, Etc.

# HOLIDAY FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, December 8

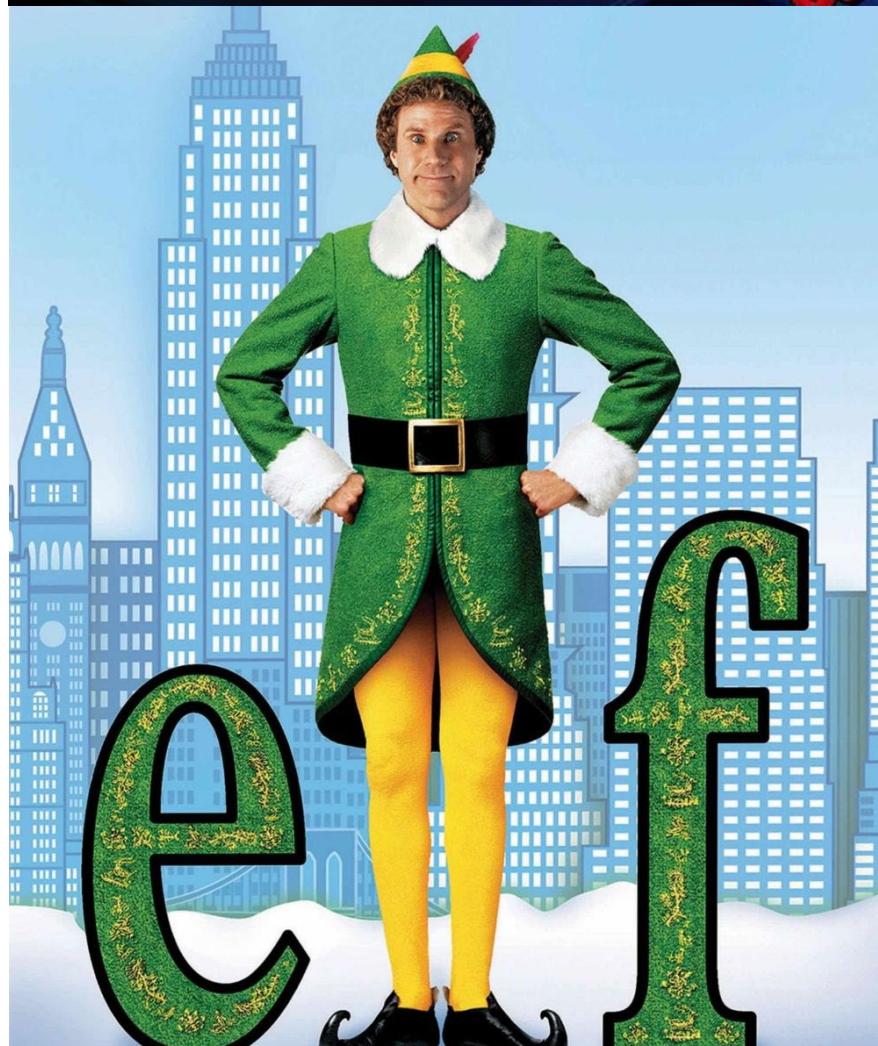
Join us at 6:00 p.m. for candy, popcorn,  
hot chocolate, and the movie, ELF!

Seating begins at 5:30 p.m.  
Bring your own seat and blankets  
for this FREE Community Event!

*Professionally broadcast by Southern Outdoor Cinema.*



**SAINT MARK**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





### **SAVE THE DATE**

Monday, December 11, 2023 | 7:30 – 8:30 PM

## **Christmas with Sentimental Journey Orchestra featuring Saint Mark's own Amy Holloway**

Join us for an unforgettable night of music and nostalgia!

Experience the magic of the season with our "Christmas with Sentimental Journey" concert, where timeless classics and heartwarming melodies come to life.

Get ready to be swept away by the enchanting sounds of the holiday season. Share this special evening with loved ones and create cherished memories. Let's make this holiday season even more memorable together.