



SAINT MARK

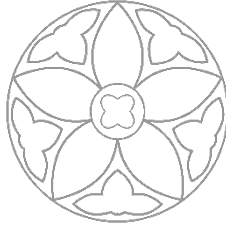
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, December 3, 2023
Nine O'clock

First Sunday of Advent





9 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!

*Hymn of Praise

UMH No. 202 v. 1 & 4 | People, Look East

*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.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

One: Wherever we turn there is cause for deep concern. Children are hungry, people are unemployed or underemployed, many are unhoused, families are breaking up, politicians are pursuing self-promoting ambitions, and our government is out of touch with the masses. The center is not holding, and things are falling apart. If ever there was a time when we needed Advent, it is now. Everywhere around us we see suffering and brokenness, and we experience them even in our own lives, causing us to be teetering on the verge of despair. We need Advent!

All: The prophet Isaiah cried out for us, “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down ... To make your name known ... so that nations might tremble at your presence.” Our cry is the same, O Lord. Tear through the brokenness in our world and in our lives and come down to us again. We long to be your people, a people of hope.

One: We light this first candle as a sign of our hope. Hope that you will meet us, even in the brokenness and failings of our world and our lives. Hope that you still see us, though we feel we are lost in the struggle. Hope that you will seek us out and rescue us from the rubble. Let this light be the guide that brings us to Emmanuel once more.

Light the first candle on the wreath.

One: Fill us with your hope, Lord.

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 64: 1-9

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Waiting for a Savior... Come Now, We Pray

Response to God's Word

Holy Communion
Sending Forth

*Hymn of Dedication
UMH No. 706 v. 1 & 3 | Soon and Very Soon

*Benediction

Postlude

Worship Team

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

Liturgists: Madi Dunn, *Children's Minister*

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

Music: Justin Bowen, *Interim Director of Fine Arts and Organist*

Madeline Pascavage, *Cantor | Hymn Leader*

Communion Steward: J.W. Mozley

Usher Team: Christian Fuller

Greeter: Kristen Fuller

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We Welcome You

As a United Methodist Church, we are proud to be a congregation with open hearts, open minds, and open doors. We strive to be a congregation that embodies God's absolute love and hospitality, proclaiming Jesus as our savior and as our model of the ultimate embodiment of God's love. We believe that all persons are of sacred worth and dignity as part of God's good creation. Saint Mark United Methodist Church welcomes all persons into the full life and ministry of our congregation, regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, family, or socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, or faith history.



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 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.

Today's Communion Offering

Today's Communion offering goes to support Saint Mark's Outreach ministries.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

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

Upcoming Meals

December 6	Homemade Chili
December 13	Pork Tenderloin
December 20 - January 10	NO MEALS

Trinity Table Volunteers Needed Today, December 3, 2023

December 3 | 11:00 am

5 volunteers needed for ONLY 1 hour
Wrap 300 hot dogs in Wade Hall (Kitchen)

December 3 | 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Pass out meals at Trinity Methodist Church Table
10 volunteers needed.

Come Be a Part of the Table

For more information or to volunteer, contact Jena Mozley at jenamozley@yahoo.com or text at 770-329-1445.

Supper Club Volunteers

Every Tuesday afternoon, Supper Club prepares and serves a hot meal to 60 people who are in need. Similar to Breakfast Club, this ministry provides a meal to individuals in a loving and respectful environment.

In 2024, similar to Breakfast Club, we are looking for people to volunteer on a rotational basis a few times a month. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Viveca Richards at 864-884-1206 or via email at viveca1956@gmail.com.



PRIDE FOR PARENTS

**Donations accepted from now through
Monday, December 11, 2023.**

This year, Saint Mark is again proud to support Pride for Parents. We will collect toys through Monday, December 11, 2023 at Saint Mark or you can order directly off their Amazon and Target wish lists below. The December 11th deadline is so that they can pick up, sort, and price the toys before the store opens. The store will be officially open this year from December 14th to 23rd.

Pride for Parents is an opportunity for South Atlanta families to provide for their loved ones at Christmas. Toys and gifts area available to purchase at a reduced cost. Families from the neighborhood get to shop for that perfect toy for their loved ones. The revenue generated from the store goes right back to the community supporting affordable housing.

Toy donations are needed!

Amazon Wish List: <https://tinyurl.com/4ccj8ur6>

Target Wish List: <https://tinyurl.com/4z626zs9>



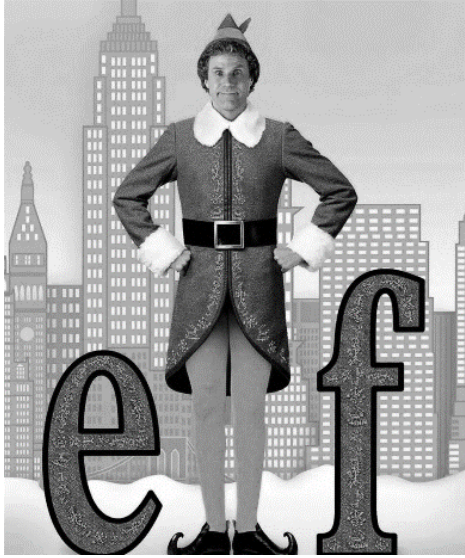
amazon



TARGET®

Volunteer at the Store

Once the store is open, Pride for Parents is always welcoming the support of community partners. There are various tasks, including gift wrapping, register support, toy sorting, pricing, and stocking. If you are interested, in volunteering use the following link to register: https://form.jotform.com/FCS_/pride-for-parents-join-the-joy



Holly Jolly Family Movie Night! Friday, December 8 | 6:00 PM

Join us for a Holly Jolly Family Movie Night!

Get ready to spread Christmas cheer with our FREE Outdoor Family Movie Night featuring the heartwarming classic, "ELF"!

Free movie, popcorn and hot cocoa for everyone!

Bring your family, friends, and your coziest blankets (and one blanket to DONATE to our Saint Mark Outreach Ministry Closet) to our festive movie night.

Dress in your comfiest PJs as this will be outside, in the neighborhood and bring your holiday spirit. Share the joy and invite your neighbors and loved ones. The more, the merrier! Let's celebrate the season with Buddy the Elf and his hilarious adventures!

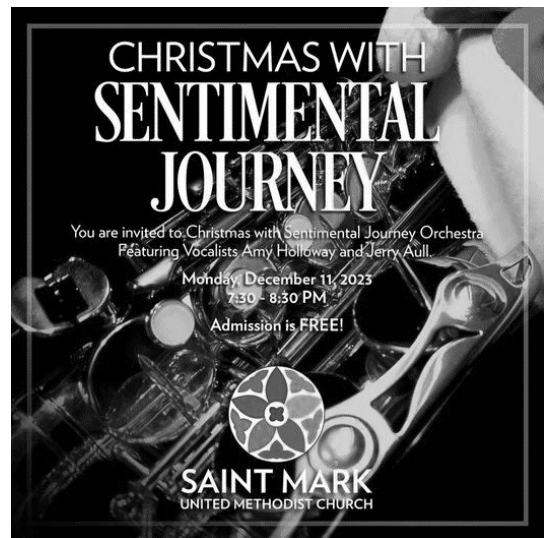
Christmas with Sentimental Journey Orchestra and Amy Holloway Monday, December 11 | 7:30 PM

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.





ST MARK YOUNG ADULT

CHRISTMAS PARTY

7pm

WEDNESDAY 12/20

@ AARON AND ANNA'S
199 14TH ST NE
APT 2003

PARKING IS TRICKY SO
TRY TO CARPOOL
FROM ST MARK IF
POSSIBLE :)

WHAT TO BRING:
A SHAREABLE SNACK
OR DRINK
A \$10 MAX GOOFY
GIFT



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Purchase a Christmas Poinsettia in honor or memory of someone special this Advent season. Order online at stmarkumc.org/store or by completing this form and place it in the offering plate with your payment, or return both to the church office by **Thursday, December 14, 2023**.

Your Name _____

Your Phone Number _____

Your Email Address _____

<u>In HONOR of:</u>	<u># of Plants</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

<u>In MEMORY of:</u>	<u># of Plants</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



Total # of Poinsettias Ordered _____

@ \$10 Each

Total Order _____