



St. Mark Connection

St. Mark Presbyterian Church
9999 Ferguson Road Dallas, TX 75238 214-321-6437
office@saintmarkchurch.org • www.saintmarkchurch.org



Pause and Reflect

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Greetings in Christ!

1 Corinthians 13:13 says: "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

We all know that Valentine's Day is February 14th – the day we express love between each other by sending and receiving cards, flowers, candy, and other gifts. It is also a day to remember that these expressions of love are the foundation for the kind of love God wants us to experience through his word.

Jesus says in Matthew 22:39, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But we know that it is preceded by another and greater commandment: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment."

"Love your neighbor as yourself" is far more than an overused statement; it is something that we as God's people should take the lead on. We live in a world that is more divided than ever. Even without sharing examples, you have probably already thought of many in your own mind. The world needs the love of God expressed through his people more than ever before.

There should be one thing that unites us: the love that Jesus Christ had for us by coming to this world and dying on the cross for us. John 15:13 says: "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." In reality, Jesus laid down his life for not only his friends but also those who treated him with disdain and outright hatred.

reminders

**February 19th
Mardi Gras Luncheon**

**February 22nd
Ash Wednesday**

We can learn so much from his example if we are open to learning more about the kind of love God wants us to have for one another – love that is not dictated by "feelings" because a commandment cannot be given to feel a certain way. Rather, the love God wants us to have is a choice that we make in our hearts to love one another even as he loved us!

Sadly, many churches around the world have often become battle stations instead of "hospitals for the hurting." Let us pray that God will help St. Mark Presbyterian Church to set the tone in our community by being a people who love people! Loving people even when we may not fully and completely agree about everything is the way we need to be!

Blessings and peace!

Bulletin Board

Sunday Scriptures and Events

February 5

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Guest Preacher – Rev. Julie Riley

February 12

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Guest Preacher – Traci Truly

February 19

Transfiguration of the Lord

Guest Preacher – Rev. Bev Hughes

February 22

Ash Wednesday

February 26

1st Sunday in Lent

Guest Preacher – Rev. (Dr.) Richard W. Selby



Ash Wednesday

February 22nd

7:00 p.m. Worship
and Imposition of Ashes

“...for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”
Genesis 3:19b



St. Mark Food Pantry

The church food pantry needs the following items:

- Canned meat products, such as soups, ravioli, SpaghettiOs, etc.
- Chicken, tuna or ham salad kits.
- Fruit cups especially applesauce.
- Bottled water.

Thank you so much.

God Bless You on Your Birthday

February 1

Kathleen Hale

Linda Marshall

Karen Oney

February 2

Rick Brooks

February 5

Hunter Swift

Preston Swift

February 8

Bar Tuinstra

February 12

Rose Marie Stone

February 16

Gary O'Neal

JoAnn Parsley



February 17

Makenna Arthur

February 18

Colin Boring

February 19

Gerald Jones

February 23

Hannah Moore

February 25

Joshua Brown

Lucy Moore

BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE



The Carter BloodCare Team reports that the St. Mark blood drive on January 8th was a success. Ten people tried to give with seven giving regular donations and two people doing double reds. Carter was pleased with the turnout.

Many thanks to those who gave their time and effort to make the blood drive successful. With each unit drawn, you contributed to the Carter BloodCare mission statement: “We Save Lives by Making Transfusions Possible.”





St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas



February 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|------------------------------|-----------|---|
| 29 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga 4:30p Sandwich Sunday at Austin Street Center | 30 | 31 | 1 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal | 2 6:00p Zoom Yoga | 3 | 4 |
| 5 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga | 6 6:00p Worship & Music Com Mtg | 7 6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg 6:00p Stewardship & Finance Com Mtg | 8 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal | 9 6:00p Zoom Yoga | 10 | 11 8:00a Property Com Mtg 9:00a Mini Workday |
| 12 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Mission & Membership Com Mtg | 13 6:00p Admin & Personnel Com Mtg | 14 6:00p Christian Educ Com Mtg | 15 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal | 16 6:00p Zoom Yoga | 17 | 18 |
| 19 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga 12:00p Mardi Gras Luncheon | 20 6:30p Session Meeting | 21 | 22 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Ash Wednesday Service 7:45p Choir Rehearsal <i>Ash Wednesday</i> | 23 6:00p Zoom Yoga | 24 | 25 |
| 26 9:15a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 12:00p Yoga | 27 | 28 | 1 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal | 2 6:00p Zoom Yoga | 3 | 4 |



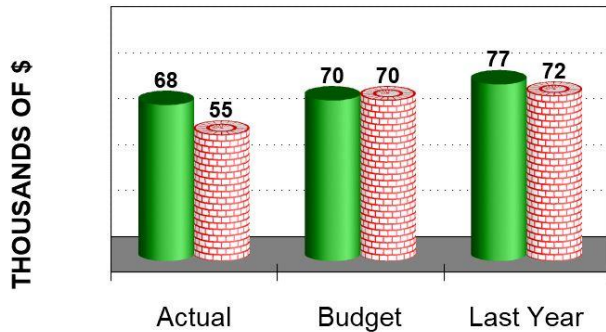
COME AND JOIN US FOR A

St. Mark Mardi Gras Lunch
immediately after Church
February 19th, 2023
King Cake, Gumbo, Red Beans & Rice

Text 124-456-890 to confirm.

Treasurer's Report

6 MONTHS THROUGH 12-31-2022



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are slightly below budget, and \$11,000 below last year. YTD expenses are \$15,000 below budget, and \$17,000 below last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$13,000 cash positive YTD which is \$12,000 better than budget and \$8,000 better than last year.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING – UPDATE

Thanks to the generosity of the St. Mark congregation, we raised \$3,800 for the 2022 Christmas Offering. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated by the PC(USA) Joy Offering and the Ministry of Hope. Thank you again for participating in this worthy cause.

Bruce Huckaba,
Stewardship and Finance



With Deepest Sympathy



Longtime member, Jane Brabec, was promoted to glory on December 17, 2022. Information regarding a Celebration of Jane's life has not yet been received.

Former member, Suzanne Presley, passed away on December 22, 2022. Her Celebration of Life was at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at First United Methodist Church in Quinlan, TX.

Our former pastor, Rick Brooks, lost his father, Dick Brooks, on January 13, 2023. According to his wishes, Dick's body has been donated for research. A celebration of his life will be planned at a military cemetery on a later date.

Worship Service Dates for Holy Week and Easter



| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday, April 2 | Palm Sunday |
| Thursday, April 6 | Maundy Thursday |
| Friday, April 7 | Good Friday |



| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Sunday, April 9 | Easter |
|-----------------|--------|



There is so much going on this month both in the world around us and in our individual lives. So, I thought I would turn my attention to the Psalms. I have done this in the past, but it has been a while.

The Psalms have been important to the people of God for a long, long time. I remember learning a long time ago that the Psalms were kind of like ancient Israel's hymn book.

There are so many emotions expressed in the Psalms. There is joy and hope but there is also lament and despair. Sometimes the author of a Psalm was clearly confident that God was present. Other times the author of a Psalm wondered if they had been abandoned by God. I think it's that variety of genuine emotions expressed in the Psalms that have made them favorites of so many people through the ages.

Psalm 8 is one those that is a celebration of God's presence. Some days this may be our song. It starts like this:

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

I'll invite you to go read the rest of it. Do you ever wake up wanting to sing a song like that?

Psalms of lament are the are the most common type of Psalm. Does that surprise you? Here are the opening lines of Psalm 54:

Save me, O God, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

Again, I'll invite you to go read the rest. Do you ever want to cry out to God like that?

What is your favorite Psalm? Are there ones that you turn to during joyful or stressful time?

Have you ever spent time just exploring the Psalms? Let me encourage you to give it a try.



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Non-Profit Organization

