



St. Mark Connection



Volume 71

Issue 3

March 2024

St. Mark Presbyterian Church
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Upcoming Events

MARCH 3

Communion Sunday

MARCH 9

Mini Workday

MARCH 10

Daylight Saving Time Begins

MARCH 24

Palm/Passion Sunday
Holy Week Begins

MARCH 28

Maundy Thursday
5:30 p.m. – Soup Supper
6:30 p.m. – Worship Service

MARCH 29

6:30 p.m. – Good Friday Service
at Eastminster

MARCH 31

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter
8:45 a.m. – Continental Breakfast
9:45 a.m. – Worship Service
“Sandwich Sunday” – Austin
Street Center

Dear members and friends of St. Mark,

You gardeners out there know that March is an important month. You are prepping for the springtime plants – cooler plants like lettuce, potatoes, and tomatoes. You have to weed, prepare the topsoil, and start planting the seeds. My wife has been carefully mulching all our organic garbage bits for months. She’s so excited.

The church is very much like a garden.

March is a big month – especially this year. It ends with Easter Sunday, which is the Super Bowl of Sundays. It is consistently the biggest attendance day of the year. It is a day when all able members are present, and our neighbors are more open to coming – IF they are invited by someone they trust. We pull out all the stops with glorious music. We proclaim our most important message: Jesus has risen from the dead and those who believe in him will one day follow.

But we are looking for more than just a glorious day. This day is an opportunity to bring forth a crop of new disciples. In the old days of the church, Easter was the day when the new communicants were baptized. It was a spiritual birthday. Months and even years of preparation went into such a day. And like gardening, we cannot expect a fruitful garden to just spring up just because it rained, and the sun shone bright. We have work to do.

Now is the time to begin preparing people to join us for Easter Sunday. First, ask for the Spirit to introduce you to people whom you are called to invite. It could be family, neighbors, or even perfect strangers. Start preparing the soil now. Listen to people in their struggles. Pray for them. Encourage them with scripture. And then plant the seeds of joining you for church.

Tell them it is a place and community where healing happens and together, we are learning to become loving people. It is not a place for perfect people who have their lives together (as if those people exist). It is a garden where a better world is being born in our hearts – where we are tended by a loving God and tend to each other in God’s loving ways. It is a place and community where people can discover their true purpose on this earth. It is a place and a community where people are not valued for their usefulness but just for who they are – as they are right now.

A gardener knows the joy of seeing those first green sprouts peeking out of the well-loved soil and the greater joy of the fruit that emerges in time. Let us be faithful gardeners this March and prepare to rejoice in God’s wonderful garden!

Your fellow gardener of the Kingdom,

Pastor Paul

Sunday Scriptures and Events

March 3

3rd Sunday in Lent

Celebration of The Lord's Supper
"It's a Foolish Way"

John 2:13-22, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25



March 10

4th Sunday in Lent

"There's Grace Along the Way"

Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21

March 17

5th Sunday in Lent

"The Way Goes Up...Eventually"

Jeremiah 31:31-34, John 12:20-33

March 24

Palm/Passion Sunday – Holy Week Begins

"It's Not the World's Way"

Mark 11:1-11, Mark 15:16-27

March 31

Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday

"It Looks Like a Dead End"

1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 16:1-8

God Bless You on Your Birthday

March 5

Jacob Curry

Shea Curry

March 10

Kat Hutchings

March 15

Cathy Schingle



March 16

Phyllis Speck

March 19

Pauline Millender

March 25

Sabrina King

March 31

Bunty Taylor

St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam Club



The newly organized Unplugged Jam Club is under way! The group is open to anyone and is held every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in Princeton Hall (last classroom on the right). For more information, please contact Bill Oney.

With Deepest Sympathy



Ann Gordon, who joined St. Mark in 2014, passed away on January 20, 2024. She had been in memory care since November 2022. As Ann had no relatives, her caretaker Dina McPherson, hosted a celebration of Ann's Life at her home on February 25, 2024. Please keep everyone who loved Ann in your prayers.



EASTER FLOWERS

The Worship and Music Committee will be taking orders for Easter flowers to decorate our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Forms (with instructions) will be available beginning Sunday, March 3rd in the narthex and church office. Forms will also be sent in the Thursday church email beginning in March. Please order your flowers as soon as possible – the deadline to order is Thursday, March 21st!

New Facility Reservation Request Form

A new "Using Our Facilities" page has been added to the church website. The new page can be found under the **About** menu on the home page. General information is provided, as well as access to Facility Reservation Request Forms for (1) general use and (2) weddings. Requests for use of church facilities can still be submitted by contacting the church office for the appropriate form.

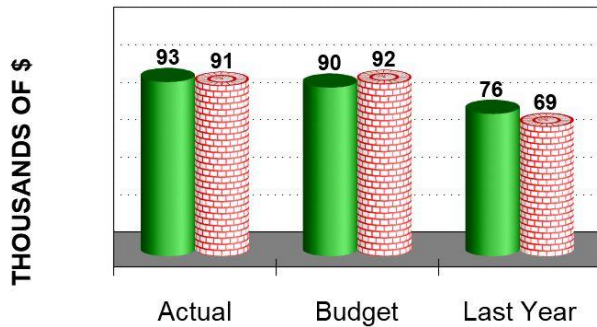


NEW MEMBER

Welcome to our newest member, Bob King! Bob met with the Session on February 20th and was accepted into the full faith and fellowship of St. Mark Presbyterian Church by Reaffirmation of Faith. Bob's formal introduction and profession of faith was during the February 25th worship service.

Treasurer's Report

7 MONTHS THROUGH 1-31-2024



OPERATING FUND

■ +INCOME ■ -EXPENSE

Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are \$3,000 better than budget, and \$1,000 above last year. YTD expenses are \$2,000 below budget, and \$21,000 above last year. Bottom line, we are approximately \$2,000 positive YTD, which is \$4,000 better than budgeted.



Volunteers Needed!

The Administration and Personnel Committee is asking for volunteers to cover the church office when Darlene is out. We need folks who are available Mondays through Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Volunteers can choose specific days and whether they are available for full days or partial days. The only requirements of volunteers will be to: (i) provide a presence in the office; (ii) check email and voicemail messages; (iii) provide food bags to those in need; and (iv) answer the telephone. Feel free to bring a book or magazine while you are on duty! Please let Diane Llywelyn know if you would like to be added to the list of volunteers.

Thanks so much!



Stated Session Meeting February 20th

- Motion passed to adopt the Policies and Procedures Manual, the Child Protection Policy, and the Sexual Misconduct Policy as submitted by the Administration and Personnel Committee.
- Motion passed to approve receiving a Special Easter Offering, with 50% going to One Great Hour of Sharing, 25% going to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and 25% going to support Sandwich Sunday expenses.



Annual Easter Offering

Spring is here and Easter is coming on March 31st, so it's time to turn our hearts toward our annual Easter Offering. This year, St. Mark will be contributing half of our Easter Offering to the One Great Hour of Sharing which supports many of the works of the Presbyterian Church, a fourth to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and a fourth to support Sandwich Sunday expenses. Please prayerfully consider your donation to these wonderful causes and watch for more information coming in the mail soon.

Annual Faith Promise Campaign

The Annual Faith Promise Campaign is off to a great start – and it is continuing! If you haven't already turned in your Faith Promise card, the church is still accepting them. Cards are available in the pew racks or you can contact the church office and one will be provided to you.

Thank you for your commitment to the future of St. Mark Presbyterian Church!

Your Stewardship and Finance Committee



Last week I was in a gathering with a group of colleagues. Some of them I have known for many years. Others I have only known a short while. We were sharing ideas and resources with each other. We were also doing some dreaming and planning for ministries. Those were the things that were on the agenda. It was important and helpful stuff. But we also laughed a bunch too. Sometimes when I am with this group, we share sad things and grieve together. But on this day we were laughing and smiling. Not gut busting rolling on the floor laughing, just smiles and chuckles. And the smiling and

chuckling was happening while we were getting some work done too. I so appreciate the fact that God has gifted me with these folks in my life. I hope that you have some folks like this in your life as well. And I hope you take advantage of opportunities to be with them in the good times and the sad times.

Time Change Reminder Sunday, March 10th

Remember to set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, March 9th!



St. Mark Presbyterian Church
9999 Ferguson Road
Dallas, TX 75228
Non-Profit Organization





HOLY WEEK

Christians around the world will observe Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday on March 24th (the 6th Sunday of Lent) and ending with Holy Saturday on March 30th. There will be four special services during Holy Week and Easter:

1. We will observe Palm Sunday on March 24th in our 9:45 a.m. worship service with palm branches and music by our sanctuary choir.
2. On Maundy Thursday, March 28th at 6:30 p.m., communion will be celebrated in our sanctuary with Eastminster Presbyterian. This is a Covenant event that will also include Journey Church and El Divino as invited guests. A combined St. Mark and Eastminster choir along with our handbell choir will provide music.
3. On Good Friday, March 29th, we will take part in a Covenant service at Eastminster Presbyterian Church at 6:30 pm. This service, "The Stations of the Cross", will also include a combined St. Mark/Eastminster choir. Eastminster's address is 6550 Samuell Blvd, Dallas, Texas.
4. Easter Sunday, March 31st, begins a new church season called Eastertide, when we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. The somber purples and blacks of Lent will be replaced with white paraments along with colorful flowers that will decorate the chancel. Easter day will begin with a continental breakfast hosted by the Fellowship Committee beginning at 8:45 a.m. All are welcome! The Easter Sunday worship service will begin at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. To make the journey of Holy Week the most meaningful experience, we hope you will consider, if possible, attending all the services leading up to and including Easter Sunday.

Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday	Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday Celebration of the Lord's Supper	Friday, March 29 Good Friday	Sunday, March 31 Easter Sunday
9:45 a.m. Worship	5:30 p.m. Soup Supper in the Parlor	6:30 p.m. Worship at Eastminster	8:45 a.m. Continental Breakfast in the Parlor
6:30 p.m. Worship at St. Mark	6:30 p.m. Worship at St. Mark		9:45 a.m. Worship
			



St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas



March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:45a Worship Service 1:00p St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam 	26	27 6:00p Mission & Membership Com Mtg	28 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	29 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga 	1	2
3 9:45a Worship Service 1:00p St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam Communion 	4 6:00p Worship & Music Com Mtg	5 6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg	6 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	7 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga 	8	9 8:00a Property Com Mtg 9:00a Mini-Workday
10 9:45a Worship Service 1:00p St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam Daylight-Saving Time Begins 	11 6:00p Admin & Personnel Com Mtg	12 6:00p Stewardship & Finance Com Mtg 6:00p Christian Educ Com Mtg	13 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	14 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga 	15	16 10:00a Memorial Luncheon / Family Center / D. Robinson
17 9:45a Worship Service 1:00p St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam	18	19 6:30p Session Meeting	20 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	21 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga 	22	23
24 9:45a Worship Service - Palm Sunday 1:00p St. Mark Community Unplugged Jam 	Holy Week 					30
	1 6:00p Worship & Music Com Mtg 	2 6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg	3 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	4 10:30a Bible Study 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Maundy Thursday Service 	5 6:30p Good Friday Service at Eastminster 	
31 8:45a Continental Breakfast 9:45a Worship Service - Easter 4:30p Sandwich Sunday at Austin Street Center 	1 6:00p Worship & Music Com Mtg	2 6:00p Fellowship Com Mtg	3 6:00p Handbells Rehearsal 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	4 10:30a Bible Study 6:00p Zoom Yoga 	5	6

EASTER FLOWERS – ORDER FORM



The Worship and Music Committee is taking orders for Easter flowers to decorate our Sanctuary during the Easter morning service.

This year we will again decorate our sanctuary with a variety of flowers and spring colors. The 6-inch potted flowers are \$12.00 each which includes the foil sleeve. Hybrid lilies are also available but are priced at \$15.00 each. We will try to honor your first choice of flowers but will have no choice in the colors. Your flower will be labeled with your name so you can pick it up after the Easter service.

If you would like to place an order, please complete the form **(one for each flower ordered)** and place it in the offering plate at the back or front of the sanctuary or return it to the church office. Please make your check payable to: St. Mark Presbyterian Church and mark for Easter flowers. Additional forms are available on the narthex table or in the church office.

THE DEADLINE TO ORDER IS THURSDAY, MARCH 21st!

Please select a first choice of flower and indicate a second choice in case the first is not available.

Fill out a separate order form for each flower ordered.

Name: _____

I wish to order:

1st choice _____

2nd choice _____

Select from the following (all in 6-inch pots) at **\$12.00 each**.

Cineraria
Calandiva/Kalanchoe
Mum
Rieger Begonia
Cyclamen
Gardenia

Select the Hybrid Lily at **\$15.00 each**.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In celebration of _____

Other _____