

## This Week at Saint Mark

### Second Sunday of Advent December 10

9:00a Morning Worship  
10:10a Christian Education classes  
Newcomers class  
11:15a Morning Worship  
12:30p Children's Christmas Eve service  
rehearsal  
12:30p Charge Conference  
4:30p ASCA group

### Monday, December 11

7:15a Augustine Fellowship  
9:00a ESL classes  
10:00a Finance volunteers  
7:00p Sentimental Journey rehearsal

### Tuesday, December 12

7:15a Augustine Fellowship  
9:00a ESL classes, testing & registration  
2:30p Supper Club prep  
7:00p Crystal Meth Anonymous

### Wednesday, December 13

7:15a Augustine Fellowship  
9:00a ESL classes  
12:00p Midweek Advent worship  
5:00p Beth's study of the Bible class  
5:30p fellowship dinner  
6:00p Emory Hope Clinic Advisory  
Board event  
6:30p Midweek Retreat programming  
6:45p Handbell practice  
7:30p Chancel Choir rehearsal  
8:00p Augustine Fellowship 3

### Thursday, December 14

7:15a Augustine Fellowship  
9:00a ESL classes  
6:00p Actors Express drama rehearsal  
6:00p Cornerstone HOA meeting

### Friday, December 15

7:15a Augustine Fellowship  
6:00p Actors Express drama rehearsal

### Saturday, December 16

9:00a Breakfast Club  
10:00a Crystal Meth Anonymous  
11:30a Open Doors

### Church Parking

Please do not park in the lot on the other side of the 805 Peachtree condominium building (located across 5th Street from the church). Instead, please park in either of the 2 church parking lots located directly behind the church or in the lot at 763 Juniper Street.

### Pledge progress!

We have now received pledges totaling \$483,683. Added to our projected non-pledged giving (\$386,000), this brings our total up to \$869,683, over 76% of our current budget projection of \$1,144,802! One reason our 2018 budget draft is significantly higher than the 2017 budget is because we are trying to include enough money to enable the church to provide more security, given the recent rise in violence toward churches. If you have not done so, you can pledge by filling out a card in the pews, pledging online through the church website [www.stmarkumc.org](http://www.stmarkumc.org) or through the Church Life phone app. Thank you - your generosity makes everything we do possible!

### Congregational Care

#### Hospitalized

Donna Rosenmayer's father Birmingham, AL  
Alice Fuller Kennestone Wellstar

#### At Home

Rex Burruss  
Judi Cheney's brother Sandy Jacksonville, FL  
Michael Collin-Smythe's father  
David Cranford  
Mickel Graham  
Jennifer Hansen's nephew Edward Lehman AL  
Susie Kezh's mother Beth Bice Ellijay  
Stacy Ladd's mother Sue Alexander  
Andrew Land's father Jerry  
Vanessa Meeks  
Bill Murray  
Bill Sanders' father James (hospice)  
Sam Vaught's mother Toni Vaught Roseboro, NC

#### Judi Verdin

#### In Care Facilities

Stephen Fifield Foxglove, East Point  
Julie Jones' mother Shirley Park Springs, St. Mtn.  
Tom Lawson Decatur  
Jeff McMullen's mother Sandra Milledgeville GA  
James Stevenson Lenbrook Square

#### In Military Service

Keith Hutcherson's nephew Parker Heagerty,  
PFC, US Army, Syria  
Al Thomas' grandson Cory Carter Ft Bragg NC  
Army, Washington, DC

Please contact Rev. Beth LaRocca-Pitts to notify the church of a death or illness.  
To reach a minister after office hours in case of emergency, call 1-800-673-0411.

Saint Mark United Methodist Church  
781 Peachtree Street, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
(404) 873-2636 • [www.stmarkumc.org](http://www.stmarkumc.org)

*The Saint Mark Care Line (after hours emergency): 1-800-673-0411*

The Reverend Doctor Beth LaRocca-Pitts Senior Pastor  
The Reverend Jennifer Hansen Minister of Outreach & Missions  
The Reverend Joshua M. Noblitt Minister of Social Justice & Evangelism  
Ms. Jess Cusick Director of Youth Ministries  
Mr. Jonathan Easter Director of Fine Arts  
Minister Sheila Stephens Minister of Education & Spiritual Formation

### Welcome, Visitors!

We're so happy you have chosen to worship with us today! Please stop by the Visitor's Center in the narthex (near the front doors to the sanctuary) before you leave - we have a special gift for you!

*If you would like to provide fresh flowers in the sanctuary for Sunday morning worship, please contact Christia Holloway in the church office.*

### Today is the last Sunday to order your poinsettias!

Please fill out the enclosed order form and place it in the offering plate with your payment today. Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary next Sunday, December 17.

### Midweek Advent Worship Continues on Wednesdays, December 13 & 20

Join us for brief weekly Advent services in the chapel Wednesday at noon (December 13, and 20). Services will include readings, prayer and music led by Rev. Steve Fazenbaker. Stop by the chapel and enjoy a time of peace and reflection during this busy season.

### Next Sunday, December 17 at Saint Mark

The Chancel Choir proudly presents *Handel's Messiah, Part I* during both the 9:00 and 11:15 Morning Worship services on Sunday, December 17.

**Trinity Table Volunteers Needed** Trinity Table is the oldest, large-scale, continuously operating Sunday soup kitchen in Atlanta. Through partnership with numerous area churches, the ministry serves over 200 people every Sunday. Saint Mark partners with Trinity Table by providing the meal one Sunday a year. This year, a Saint Mark team will prepare and serve the meal onsite at Trinity UMC next Sunday, December 17. We need volunteers to prepare sandwiches and pack sack lunches next Sunday at Saint Mark during the Sunday school hour (10:10am) and/or prepare and serve the meal itself at Trinity UMC at 11am. Contact Jena Mozley at [jlweirich@yahoo.com](mailto:jlweirich@yahoo.com) or Ken MacLean at [atlkm@aol.com](mailto:atlkm@aol.com) to learn more.

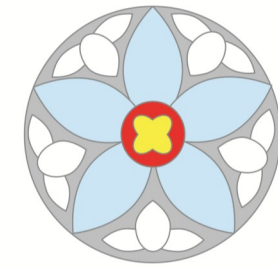
### Longest Night Service of Hope and Healing, Thursday, December 21

On Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 pm in the chapel we will offer our annual Longest Night Service of Hope and Healing, intended for those experiencing grief or sadness during the holiday season. Maybe this is the first Christmas since the loss of a loved one, or perhaps Christmas simply has sad memories associated with it. Because we trust that in God's time all wounds can be healed, we set aside time on this, the darkest night of the year, to affirm that gradually light will return to all of us. If you need a special time of peace and healing this holiday season, we invite you to join us. We know it will be a beautiful time of rest and restoration for you.

### Join us for worship on Christmas Eve

On Sunday, December 24 we will have 1 Morning Worship service at 10:00 am. Our family friendly / children's worship service will be held at 5:00 pm and Candlelight Communion worship services will be held at 7:00pm and 11:00pm.

**WELCOME HOME  
TO**



**SAINT MARK**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sunday, December 10, 2017 - 9:00 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.  
Second Sunday of Advent

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Enter to Fellowship ✠ Sit to Pray ✠ Stand to Worship ✠ Leave to Share

## THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

\* - Where indicated, those who are able, please stand.

*We sing from 2 hymnals during Sunday morning worship. The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) is the large red hymnal in the pew racks. The Faith We Sing (TFWS) is the smaller black hymnal found in the pews.*

### WE GATHER

#### MUSIC AS WE GATHER

#### WELCOME AND LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Josh Noblitt

Leader: We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.  
**Many: Thanks be to God!**

#### CONCERNS

Leader: For all these persons and all who are in need.  
**Many: Hold your people near, O God.**

#### JOYS

Leader: We give thanks to God for these blessings.  
**Many: Thanks be to God!**

Leader: Let us take a moment to center our hearts on God.

#### PRELUDE AND CHIMES

*Advent Carillon* - Arnold Sherman  
Saint Mark Ringers

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

9:00 Shelley Wilson, Leah Bulow, Cooper Long, and Arden Long  
11:15 Monnie, Denise, McKenna, and Ethan Heisler

\*Response

### The Candle of Hope

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

STANLEY BEACH

The can - dle of peace shines bright with God's plan;  
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.  
Our guns and our wea - pons, our hat - red and war,  
Will give way to gar - dens that heal and res - tore.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP from 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Jennifer Hansen

One: To the Lord one day is like a thousand years,  
**Many: and a thousand years are like one day.**

One: The Lord is not slow about his promise,  
**Many: But is patient, not wanting any to perish**

One: But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,  
**Many: and everything that is done on earth will be disclosed.**

One: Therefore, beloved, while we are waiting for these things

**All: Let us strive to be found by him at peace, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.**

\*HYMN

*People, Look East*

UMH No. 202

BESANCON

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

Jason Lowry (9:00)

Carol Rawlinson (11:15)

THE GIFTS OF AND FOR OUR YOUNGER CHURCH

Jennifer Hansen

\*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Wild and Lone the Prophets Voice*

Insert

\*Gospel Lesson

*Mark 1:1-8*

Beth LaRocca-Pitts

SERMON

*"The Way is Prepared"*

Beth LaRocca-Pitts

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jess Cusick

**Our Father, 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 and ever. Amen.**

#### OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

The Invitation

Jess Cusick

Offertory

*Comfort, Comfort* - John Ferguson

*"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" so says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!*

*For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
Calling us to true repentance since the Kingdom now is here.*

*Oh that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!*

*Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!*

*Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!*

*Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign!*

*For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,*

*And all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.*

\*The Doxology

*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.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, oh Israel.**

\*PRAYER AFTER THE OFFERING

Josh Noblitt

## WE ARE SENT FORTH INTO GOD'S WORLD

\*INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

Josh Noblitt

\*HYMN OF DEDICATION

*Heralds of Christ*

UMH No. 567

NATIONAL HYMN

\*BENEDICTION AND TRINITY CHIMES

Beth LaRocca-Pitts

POSTLUDE

*Bring a Torch* - Keith Chapman

### Today at Saint Mark

**Our Newcomers class continues** and will also meet next Sunday, Dec. 17 at 10:10am in the parlor. If you are new to Saint Mark or considering joining the church, we invite you to attend. To learn more, contact Rev. Josh Noblitt at jnoblitt@stmarkumc.org. Next Sunday, participants will have the opportunity to join the church during Morning Worship.

**Foundations class Advent study *Christmas Gifts That Won't Break*** Join the class for an Advent journey with beloved storyteller James W. Moore, exploring the spirit of Christmas, reflecting on the unbreakable gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace that God has given us, and remembering God's greatest gift, who comes to us as a baby and leads us through all the days of our lives. The Foundations class meets in room 111 on Sundays at 10:10am. All are welcome!

**Faith Seekers class Advent study** Robert Giacomini leads the class in an Advent study using Adam Hamilton's new series *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph*, showing Christmas through the eyes of Joseph, a person about which very little is written in the Gospels but who had a profound impact on the life of Jesus. The Faith Seekers class invites you to join them in room 205 on Sunday Mornings at 10:10am.

**Youth Christmas party** Our Youth's Christmas party will be held today at 10:10am so that they can help prepare sack lunches for Trinity Table next Sunday, December 17.

**Today during Morning Worship we will bless the toys we collected for *Pride for Parents*.** *Pride for Parents* is a program that operates a toy store where parents can shop for toys for their children at greatly reduced cost, giving them the dignity to provide for their children at Christmas instead of receiving a handout.

**Called Church Conference** Church members are encouraged to attend a called Church Conference immediately following today's 11:15 worship service to vote on signing a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the developers with whom we have been in conversation about the church property located at the corner of 5th and Juniper Streets. At the meeting we will see a presentation from the developers and have an opportunity to ask questions about their proposal. Real estate attorneys and advisors representing Saint Mark will also be present.

**A rehearsal for the 5pm Children's Christmas Eve service** will take place today immediately following the 11:15 Morning worship service.

#### Assisting in Worship Today

Soundboard: Kale Wright & Deanna Dennis

9:00 Greeters: Greg Brown & Robert Giacomini

Usher Team: Jon Atteberry, Head Usher; Tom Baugh, Team Captain; Walter Allen, Brian Bennett, Tracy Brown, John Davidson, Saundra Kelley, Will Mathews, Hayden McArthur and Ryan McArthur

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