



# SAINT MARK

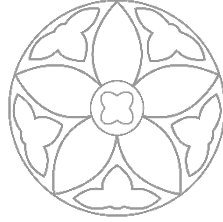
## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

**Sunday, October 29, 2023**  
**Eleven O'clock**

Twenty-Second 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

**Prelude on Guidance**

**Gordon Young**

#### \*The Call to Worship

One: The Lord has been our place of dwelling throughout all of time.

**All: God is our true home.**

One: The Lord existed before creating the world and all its inhabitants

**All: God is our eternal rest.**

One: The Lord invites us to come and know the One who has always been.

**All: We come in worship.**

### **Praise and Thanksgiving**

#### \*Hymn of Praise

**UMH No. 98 | To God Be The Glory**

\*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

**All: Glorious God, you are the source of our life and the sustainer of our strength. You provide for us each day and give us the grace we need for living. When we fail in our efforts to be the people you have created us to be, you extend your loving-kindness to us to start again. Forgive us for the times we turn away from you and seek to go our own way. Draw us back to you, again and again, Lover of souls and Restorer of life, so we can know the full and abundant life you offer to all.**

One: Hear the good news: God plans for us is good and hope-filled. Received the presence of God, so you will know the way go. Accept the instructions of the Spirit, so you will know the joy of the Lord. 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.*

## 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

#### Good Trouble

Thomas Keesecker

*This day has challenged us to make good trouble, to make good trouble, to make good trouble.*

*This day has challenged us to make good trouble to make this world a better place.*

1. *When the world seems lost and torn, more than we can bear,  
We find strength to carry on, turning from despair.  
We shall never be afraid, fear and lies will cease,  
As we struggle day by day, we seek love and peace.*

2. *Marching forth and bound with love, walk this way of life,  
Joined together, we have come to banish hate and strife.  
Make some noise and spread the word: change is on the way.  
Hope is here, we're challenged now, night has turned to day!*

*This day has challenged us to make good trouble, to make good trouble, to make good trouble.*

*This day has challenged us to make good trouble to make this world a better place.*

### \*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

**Deuteronomy 34:1-12**

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.*

\*Hymn of Preparation

**UMH No. 369 | Blessed Assurance**

\*The Gospel Lesson

**Matthew 22: 34-40**

One: The Gospel of Our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

**A New Understanding of the Law**

## **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. 519 | Lift Every Voice and Sing**

\*Benediction

Postlude

**Interpretation of Bach's Prelude in C**

## **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.*

## **Worship Team**

**Preaching:** Rev. Steve Fazenbaker, *Retired Elder in Full Connection, North Georgia Annual Conference | Elder-in-Residence, Saint Mark UMC*

**Liturgists:** Madi Dunn, *Children's Minister*

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:** Joel Black, Bob Brown, Deana Hilton, and Yin Xu-Moore

**Greeter Team:** Roger Brown and Chip duPont

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### **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.

## **Announcements & Special Events**

### **Church Conference**

Sunday, November 5, 2023 | 12:30 PM | Sanctuary

There will be a Church Conference with our District Superintendent, Dr. Michael McQueen, on Sunday, November 5, 2023, at 12:30pm in the sanctuary. This Church Conference will be for the sole purpose of electing members to serve in different leadership capacities, including as your Church Council for the class of 2024 through 2026, as recommended by your Nominations and Leadership Development Committee, or from the floor. All members of Saint Mark are encouraged to be at this Church Conference, so you can be a part of this process.

### **Saint Mark Financial Results**

Through September 2023

	<b>MTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>YTD Variance</b>
Giving Income	\$46,189	\$544,068	\$662,349	(\$118,281)
Other Income	15,616	106,978	166,975	(59,997)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$61,805</b>	<b>\$651,046</b>	<b>\$829,324</b>	<b>(\$178,278)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$68,701</b>	<b>\$740,859</b>	<b>\$829,324</b>	<b>(\$88,465)</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$6,896)</b>	<b>(\$89,813)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$89,813)</b>
Interest Income Not Yet Transferred	\$7,235	\$40,342	\$0	\$40,342
<b>Adjusted Net Surplus (Loss)</b>	<b>\$339</b>	<b>(\$49,471)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$49,471)</b>





## **Trunk or Treat**

Tuesday, October 31st | 5:30 - 7 PM

Join us for a fall evening full of fun, fellowship, costumes, and candy! Our Halloween event will be a safe, festive event for our children, families, and community. Spread the word! If you would like to help with this event, you can:

- **Decorate Your Trunk** - Help make it a great evening for our kids and community by pulling out all the stops and decorating your car trunk as part of our trunk-or-treat!
- **No Trunk?** Don't have a trunk, no worries. Come and we will set you up at a table.
- **Donate Candy** - Bring individually wrapped candy to the church office. Candy will be handed out at the trunk-or-treat.
- **Volunteer** - We will need helpers with the various activities in the back lot.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Children's Minister, Madi Dunn at [MDunn@stmarkumc.org](mailto:MDunn@stmarkumc.org).



### **Next Sunday | Don't Forget**

Remember to change your clocks back one-hour next Sunday, November 5.

### **All Saints Sunday**

Next Sunday, Nov. 5th is All Saints Sunday, a day when we honor all those saints who have passed from this life and into the one to come. We will remember those whose lives have had an impact on ours, including our departed family, friends, and church members. We invite you to bring any photos of your loved ones that you would like to remember and place them on the windowsills of the sanctuary during Morning Worship.

### **Outreach Closet Donations**

As we head into fall season, we need to outfit our outreach closet with winter items. We have created a link and a QR code below for you to order much needed items.



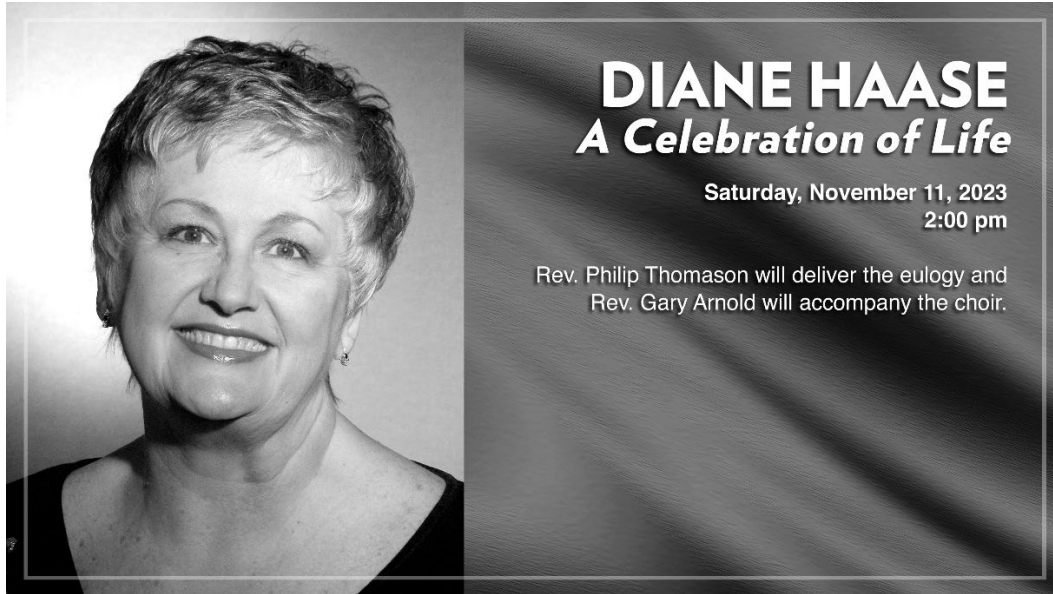
**Walmart**

<https://tinyurl.com/28rtpjd8>



**Amazon**

<https://tinyurl.com/3ve9fje2>



**DIANE HAASE**  
***A Celebration of Life***

Saturday, November 11, 2023  
2:00 pm

Rev. Philip Thomason will deliver the eulogy and  
Rev. Gary Arnold will accompany the choir.

**Diane Haase's Celebration of Life**

Saturday, November 11, 2023 | 2 PM

Mark your calendar for Diane Haase's Celebration of Life on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 2 PM. Rev. Philip Thomason will deliver the eulogy and Rev. Gary Arnold will be accompanist to the choir.

If you ever worked, sang, or performed with Diane, we urge you to join the all-star choir we are pulling together for the celebration of life on Saturday, November 11 at 2 PM. Details to come.

**Wesley Woods Mother's Day Offering | Thank You!**

For more than sixty years Wesley Woods and churches in North Georgia have partnered to support older adults. Church families are vital to ensuring Wesley Woods residents continue to thrive and are celebrated for the lives they live, the wisdom they share and everything they have yet to teach us.

Wesley Woods is grateful to all churches who participated in the Mother's Day Offering and recognizes the below churches who went above and beyond in 2023 to support our mission and ministry.

<https://www.wesleywoods.org/foundation/recognition/church-champions/>

Saint Mark United Methodist Church was recognized for:

- TOP 30 CHURCHES GIVING (OVER 500 MEMBERS)
- CHURCHES GIVING 10 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF SUPPORT

## **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). He will compile the list of those interested. When we gather in the initial Task Force Meeting, as a group, you will determine how to best facilitate and move forward.

We look forward to seeing the progress these two Task Forces will make over the coming months (and years!).

Sincerely,

The Church Council