



SAINT MARK

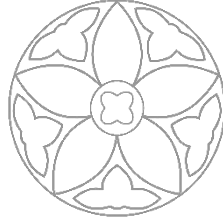
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, November 19, 2023
Eleven O'clock

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Harvest Sunday





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

*The Call to Worship

One: We gather in this space in the presence of God.

All: We come to share in God's love.

One: We come in this place to be transformed by God's grace.

All: We come seeking to be a people who offer grace.

One: We come to be equipped for the work we are called to do.

All: Lord Jesus, we come.

Praise and Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Praise

UMH No. 89 | Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

All: Generous and faithful God, in your great love you have given us the wisdom, ability, and strength to do the good works you have prepared in advance for us to do. We confess that we fail at times to recognize the gifts and talents we have received from you. We fail to employ them for the good of changing our lives, the lives of our neighbors, and the world. Forgive us, we pray. By the presence of your Holy Spirit remind us of your gifts to us and the work to be done, so we will be faithful in all we do.

One: Hear the good news: God has entrusted you with talents for the transformation of the world. Go and be faithful. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: 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.

Ministry Moment

Multimedia

Reception into Membership

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

What Gift Can We Bring

Benjamin Harlan

What gift can we bring, what present, what token?

What words can convey it--the joy of this day?

When grateful we come, rememb'ring, rejoicing, what song can we offer in honor and praise?

Give thanks for the past, for those who had vision,

Who planted and watered so dreams could come true.

Give thanks for the now, for study, for worship, for mission that bids us turn prayer into deed.

Give thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises,

For knowing whatever tomorrow may bring.

God gives us his word that always forever, we rest in his keeping and live in his love.

This gift we now bring, this present, this token,

These words can convey it--the joy of this day!

When grateful we come, rememb'ring, rejoicing, this song we now offer in honor and praise!

This song we now offer in honor and praise.

*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

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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. 396 | O Jesus, I Have Promised

*The Gospel Lesson

Matthew 25: 14-30

One: The Gospel of Our Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

We Give Thanks: For the Gifts You Have Given

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. 399 | Take My Life

*Benediction

Postlude



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.

Worship Team

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

Liturgists: Rev. Steve Fazenbaker, *Retired Elder in Full Connection, North Georgia Annual Conference | Elder-in-Residence, Saint Mark UMC*
Rev. Dr. Brett Opalinski, *Emory University Candler School of Theology Assistant Dean of Methodist Studies; Assistant Professor in the Practice of Spiritual Formation and Church Leadership | Elder in Full Connection, Florida Annual Conference | Elder-in-Residence, Saint Mark UMC*
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, Roger Brown, and Deana Hilton

Greeter Team: Chip duPont and Luke Murphy

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We Welcome You

Welcome! We are so glad you are worshipping with us today!

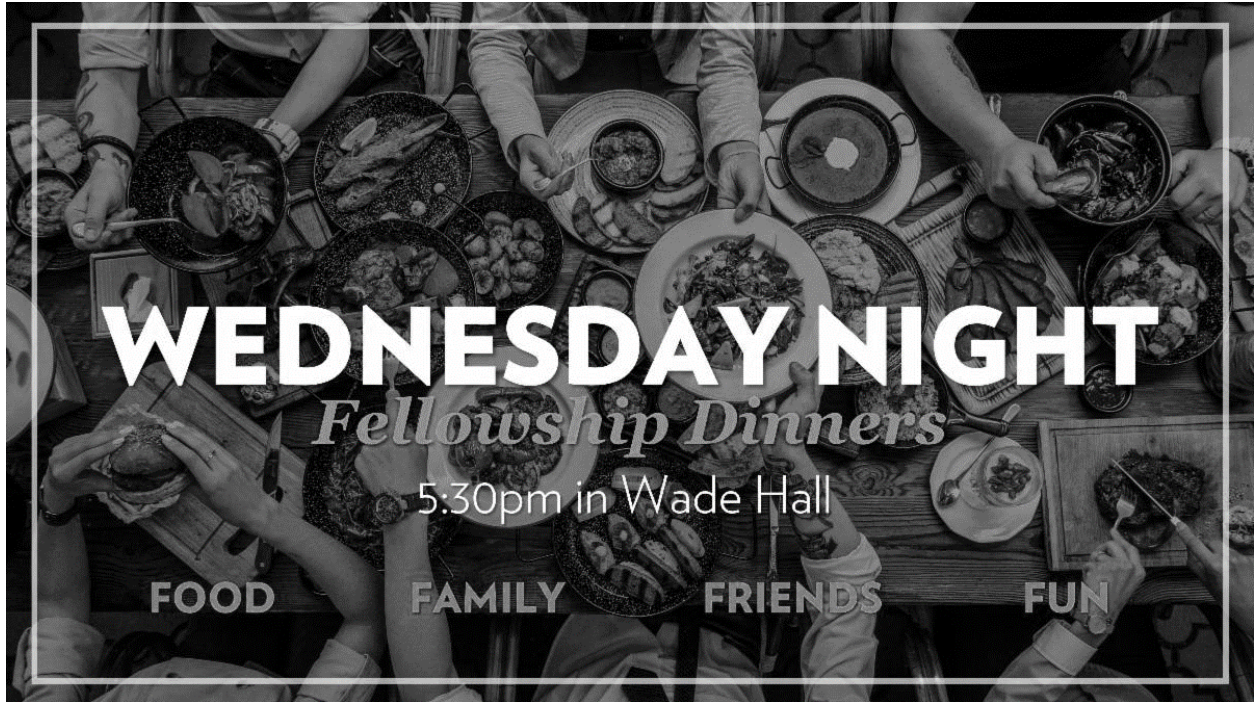


Attendance

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.



Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

No meal this Wednesday.

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

November 22	NO MEAL
November 29	Lemon Baked Salmon
December 6	Homemade Chili
December 13	Pork Tenderloin
December 20 - January 10	NO MEALS

Transgender Awareness Week November 13-19, 2023

Trans Awareness Week takes place the week before Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20. Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence that year.

Read more about Transgender Awareness Week and Transgender Day of Remembrance below, and find out how you can participate.

What is Transgender Awareness Week?

Transgender Awareness Week is a week when transgender people and their allies take action to bring attention to the trans community by educating the public about who transgender people are, sharing stories and experiences, and advancing advocacy around issues of prejudice, discrimination, and violence that affect the transgender community.

For more about how GLAAD has observed Transgender Awareness Week this year and through the years, check out: <https://glaad.org/tag/trans-awareness-week>

Transgender Day of Remembrance November 20, 2023

What is Transgender Day of Remembrance?

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was founded in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated the one-year anniversary of Hester's death and all the transgender people lost to violence that year. That initial event began the world-wide observance that is the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. You can participate in TDOR by attending or organizing a vigil on November 20 to honor all those whose lives were lost to anti-transgender violence that year. Vigils are typically hosted by local transgender advocates or LGBTQ organizations, and held at community centers, parks, places of worship and other venues. The vigil often involves reading a list of the names of those who have been killed.

For more resources to learn about our transgender siblings, check out: <https://glaad.org/transgender/>



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>



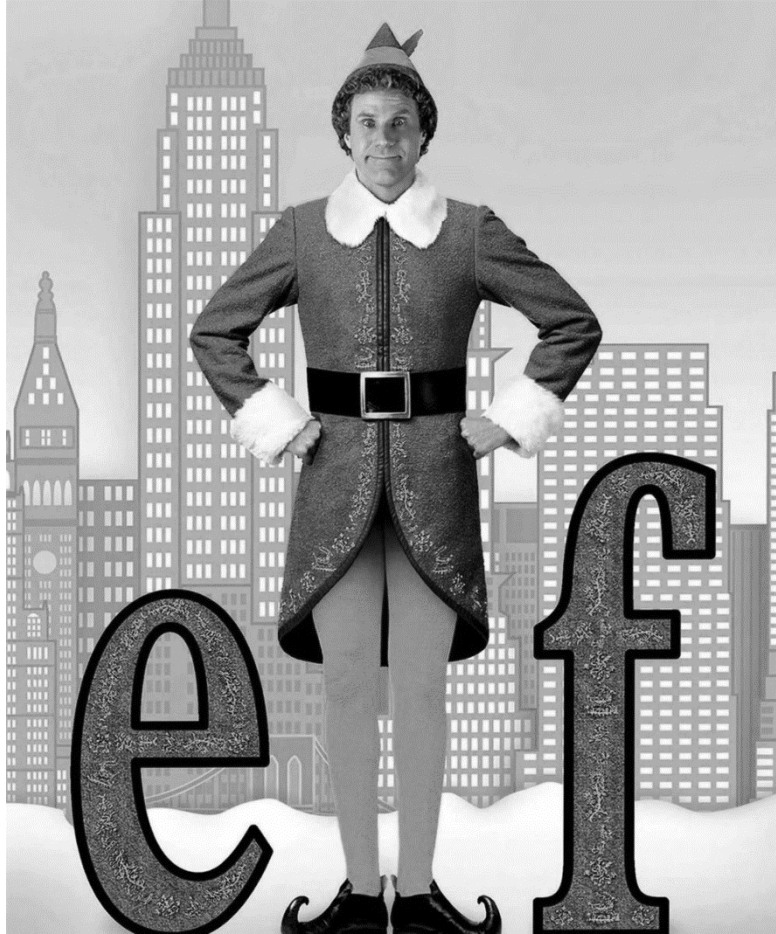
amazon



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

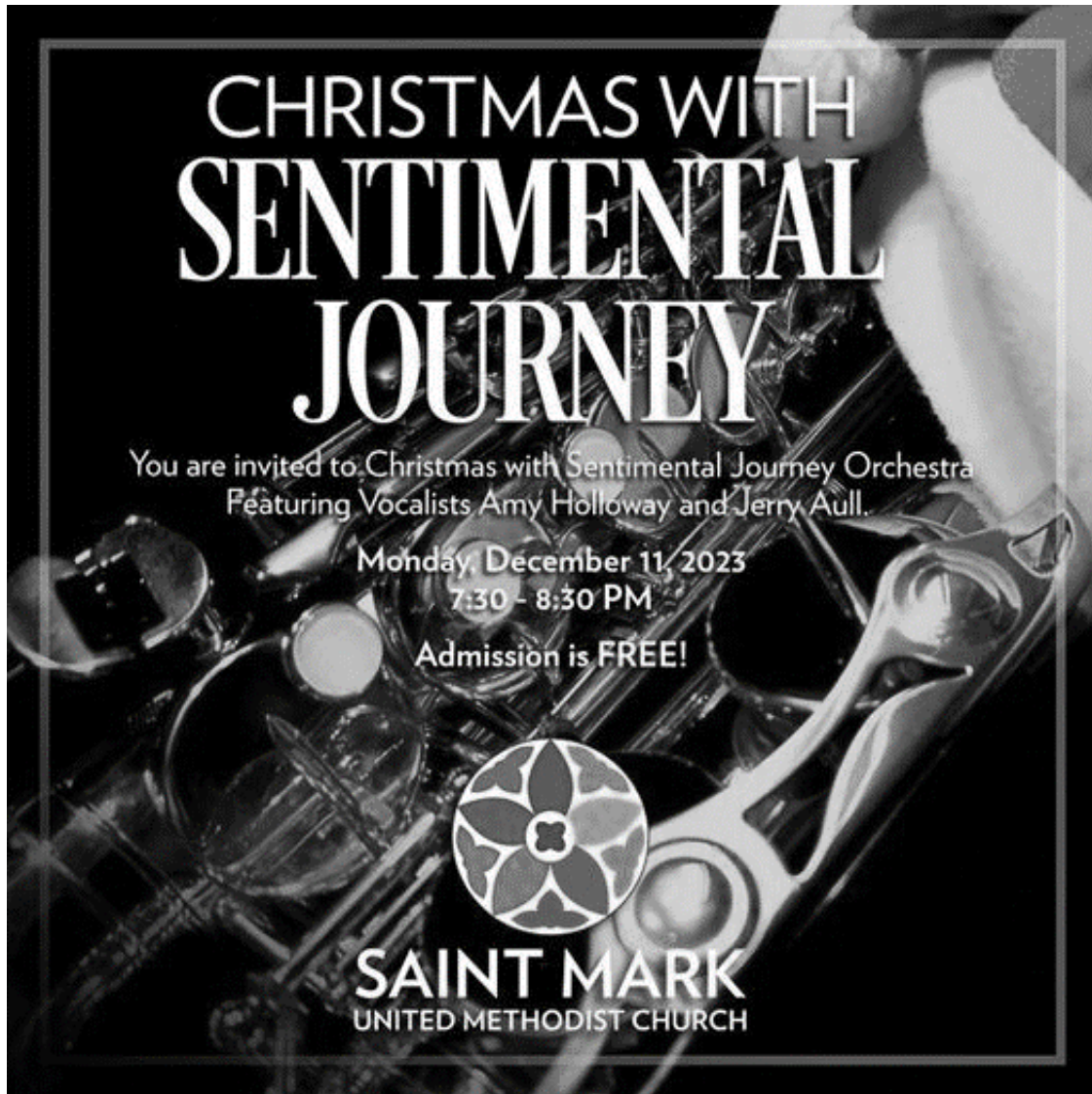
Join us for a Holly Jolly Family Movie Night!

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.