



SAINT MARK

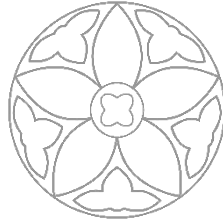
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, February 4, 2024
Eleven O'clock

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Service of Holy Communion





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! Maybe you've been here more times than you can count. Maybe it's been a while, maybe never. Here is what matters: 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: God is the salt of the Earth and the Light of the World.

All: Let us be a witness to God's light that shines so all can see.

One: We do not hide our love for God under the bushel basket.

All: Let us shine our light so that others may see Christ's good works and give glory to the Creator in heaven.

Praise and Thanksgiving

*Hymn of Praise

UMH No. 64 | Holy, Holy, Holy

The Invitation

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*Prayer of Confession & Pardon

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

One: Here the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love towards us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

*Kyrie

Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

*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.

Reception of New Members

Concerns and Celebrations of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer

Proclamation of God's Word

Invitation to the Offertory & Offertory Prayer

Anthem

Joshua Fit the Battle

Moses Hogan

*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 Gospel Lesson

Matthew 5:14-16

One: The Gospel of Our Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Covenant Promises: Authentic in Witness

Response to God's Word

One: It cannot be denied that too often the weight of the Christian movement has been on the side of the strong and the powerful and against the weak and oppressed—this, despite the gospel.

All: The basic fact is that Christianity as it was born in the mind of this Jewish thinker and teacher appears as a technique of survival for the oppressed.

One: That it became, through the intervening years, a religion of the powerful and the dominant, used sometimes as an instrument of oppression, must not tempt us into believing that it was thus in the mind and life of Jesus.

All: In Christ was life; and the life was the light of humanity.

One: Wherever Christ's spirit appears, the oppressed gather fresh courage;

All: For Christ announced the good news that fear, hypocrisy, and hatred, the three hounds of hell that track the trail of the disinherited, need have no dominion over them.

Celebration of Holy Communion

UMH Page 17 | Musical Setting A

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God (Father) Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When human cruelty reared its ugly head, you sustained your people and made it possible for us to survive the middle passage, auction blocks, whipping posts and forced labor.

You softened the hearts of many who worked in secret on our behalf. You lifted our heads with the message that God sides with the oppressed and delivers the captives. You strengthened our hands to struggle for justice and freedom.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All:



One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God (Father), now and for ever.

All:



The Breaking of the Bread

The Lord's Prayer

One: And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

All: 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.

The Communion of the People

Hymn During Communion:
UMH No. 533 | We Shall Overcome

The Prayer of Dedication

Called and unified by God's grace, we are a grateful and diverse congregation of believers. From our contemporary urban setting strengthened by community, worship and study, we humbly strive to emulate the life of Christ. Sustained and empowered by our Christian faith, we go into the world to make a difference, joyfully serving all of God's creation.

Sending Forth

*Hymn of Dedication
UMH No. 548 | In Christ There is No East or West

*Benediction

*Congregational Response
Amen

Postlude

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. Dr. Carolyn Stephens, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Andy Peabody, *Associate Pastor*

Liturgists:

Madi Dunn, *Children's Minister*
Luke Murphy, *Youth Intern*
Meagan Williams, *Assistant Minister of Young Adults*

Communion Servers:

Tom Adams and Bob Thomas

Music:

Justin Bowen, *Interim Director of Fine Arts and Organist*
V. Lee Edwards, *Guest Organist*

Audio Visual:

Johnny Sims, *Coordinator of Online Ministry*, Jay Drew, Deana Hilton, Anna Rader, Paul Spencer, Eric Steverson, and Julie Tootle

Usher Team:

Buddy Wofford, *Head Usher*, Joseph Hackett, Mark Jefferson, and Russell McKinney.

Greeter Team:

Roger Brown, Andy Davis, Pam Davis, Deana Hilton, Sybil Smith, and David Wilson



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.

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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.

Today's Communion Offering

Today's Communion offering goes to support



North Georgia United Methodist
Housing and Homeless Council

Helping the Church serve our neighbors in need.

The North Georgia Housing and Homeless Council provides capital and operational grants to organizations throughout the North Georgia Conference who are serving our brothers and sisters in need.

By contributing to the Homeless Offering, you are directly supporting ministries and agencies serving those experiencing homelessness and poverty in communities across our state. These organizations might include housing programs, food pantries and other feeding programs, Habitat for Humanity houses, and many other programs in communities large and small.

100% of the Homeless Offering goes to ministries serving persons experiencing poverty. Please prayerfully consider supporting this important work.

Learn more at <https://www.ngghc.org/>

Prayer Ministry

Please visit our prayer ministry page at <https://www.stmarkumc.org/prayer-ministry>. There you can submit a prayer request, view prayer requests, and see any pastoral care announcements. If you know of someone in need of our prayers and the person is not listed on our Prayer Ministry page, please email **Robert Gilleo** at RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org to let him know.

2024 Commitment to Saint Mark

If you need help setting up, confirming, managing your electronic donations, or financial commitment for 2024, please contact **Deana Hilton** at **dhilton@stmarkumc.org** or **404-873-2636**, ext. 14.

Tithes & Offerings

Please place your offering in the plate during this morning's service, or use one of the QR codes below. Your generosity allows us to love, accept and serve the people of our community.

- Using your Smartphone's camera, scan the QR Code. & follow the prompts.

SecureGive



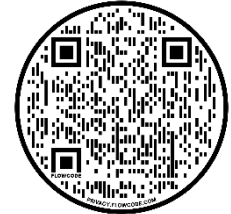
PayPal



Venmo



Text to Give



- To give via text, scan the QR code, and replace the \$\$ in the text with the amount you would like to give. For example, to give \$25, text operating 25.

Congregational Care

Pastor Carolyn has been thinking about some of the ways we can continue caring for each other as a church family, and one of the ways it can be done is through a congregational care ministry. This is a ministry where members write notes and call other members who are sick or homebound, or who have not been in worship for a period of time. This intentional care by members will be in addition to what Pastor Carolyn and Rev. Andy, will continue to do. If you are interested in being a part of the congregational care team, please let Pastor Carolyn know. Please email **Robert Gilleo** at **RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org** to let him know, so that we can add your name to the team. This will be fruitful and thriving ministry of our church.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

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.

Dinner begins at 5:30 PM. Program begins at 6:00 PM.
Tickets: \$10 for seniors, \$11 general

Date	Upcoming Meals	Program
February 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taco and Enchilada Bar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
February 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pizza Night	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ash Wednesday
February 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roast Beef• Mashed Potatoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
February 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spaghetti and Meatballs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Songs of Love and Heartache

Clint Clark-Duke: Songs of Love and Heartache

Join us for an unforgettable evening of "Songs of Love and Heartache" with **Clint Clark-Duke** on Wednesday, February 28, 2024!

Current COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

If you are sick, please stay home. If you have come into contact with someone positive for COVID-19, follow the precautions recommended by the CDC. In order to care for our collective well-being, we strongly recommend that anyone who is eligible to be vaccinated do so, especially before participating in indoor activities.

For all church programs, masking is optional. Please respect the choice of those who continue to wear a mask.

- If you are sick, or think you may be getting sick, please stay home and participate by online options.
- Masking and social distancing are optional.
- Please respect the choice of those who continue to mask and practice social distancing.

Pride for Parents | Thank you!

Focused Community Strategies (FCS) and the countless families alongside express their deepest gratitude for our unwavering support of the Pride for Parents Holiday Store this past December. It was a spectacular event, and are thrilled to announce that it was the best year ever. The incredible success of the store, with record-breaking sales, a remarkable number of transactions, and a significant increase in the number of toys distributed, is a testament to the generosity and compassion of sponsors like you.

Church Calendar Reminders

- **Disciple II** | Tuesdays | Zoom | 6:00 PM
- **Vespers** | Wednesdays | Chapel | 6:30 PM
- **Young Adult Book and Bible Study** | Wednesdays | Room 201 | 6:30 PM
- **Four Quartets Study** | Wednesdays | Room 205 | 6:30 PM
- **Fast Track Disciple I – New Testament** | Wednesdays | Room 111 | 6:30 PM
- **Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas**, Guest Preacher | Sunday, February 11 | Both Services
- **Souper Chili Cookoff** | Sunday, February 11 | Wade Hall | 10:00 AM
- **Souper Chili Social** | Sunday, February 11 | Wade Hall | 12:00 PM
- **Imposition of Holy Ashes** | Wednesday, February 14 | Terrace | 7:00 – 8:00 AM
- **Imposition of Holy Ashes** | Wednesday, February 14 | Terrace | 12:00 – 1:00 PM
- **Ash Wednesday Service** | Wednesday, February 14 | Sanctuary | 6:30 PM
- **President's Day | Church Office Closed** | Monday, February 19
- **Hope Is Here Book Study** | Wednesday, February 21 | Room 111 | 5:00 PM
- **Moms Demand Action Rally at the GA Capitol** | Wednesday, February 28 | Central Presbyterian | 8:30 AM
- **Cabaret with Clint Clark-Duke** | Wednesday, February 28 | Wade Hall | 6:00 PM
- **LifeSouth Blood Drive** | Sunday, March 3 | Outside | 9:00 AM
- **Midtown Alliance Annual Meeting** | Tuesday, March 5 | Fox Theatre
- **Safe Sanctuary Training** | Sunday, March 10 | Wade Hall | 12:30 PM
- **NGUMC Laity Gathering** | Saturday, March 16 | Impact Church - East Point | 11:00
- **Palm Sunday** | Sunday, March 24
- **Midweek Fellowship Dinner** | Thursday, March 28 instead of Wednesday, March 27
- **Holy Thursday Service** | Thursday, March 28 | Sanctuary | 7:00 PM
- **Good Friday Service** | Friday, March 29 | Sanctuary | 7:00 PM
- **Easter Eggtravaganza** | Saturday, March 30
- **Easter** | Sunday, March 31 | Sunrise: 7 AM | Terrace ; 9 AM & 11 AM | Sanctuary
- **Festival Singers of Atlanta** | Saturday, June 1 | Wade Hall
- **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** | Monday, June 3 – Friday, June 7
- **North Georgia Annual Conference** | Thursday, June 13 – Saturday, June 15
- **Soul Shop** - American Foundation for Suicide Prevention | Saturday, June 22 | Wade Hall



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I HAVE A DREAM" speech rang out across America at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom August 28, 1963. This March involving over 250,000 participants was a "peaceful protest" calling attention to some of the injustices that existed in our country at that time.

Earlier that year on June 6, 1963, President John F. Kennedy in a televised broadcast urged the nation to take action toward guaranteeing equal treatment of every American regardless of race. Soon after, Kennedy proposed that Congress consider civil rights legislation that would address voting rights, public accommodations, school desegregation, nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs, and more.

However, when civil rights leaders announced plans for a March on Washington that summer, Kennedy initially opposed the idea, fearing a large demonstration in the capital could turn violent and jeopardize the civil rights bill. After a meeting with key leaders, he was persuaded that the March was "in the great tradition" of American protest.

Those key leaders were some of the most well recognized and highly respected names within the civil rights movement. Each one played an important part in America's struggle for civil rights. People like Roy Wilkins, Whitney Young, A. Phillip Randolph, Martin King, James Farmer, John Lewis, and Bayard Rustin. The 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom would not have captured its astounding success had it not been for the last name on that list, Bayard Rustin.

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom galvanized the people as they sought to address the disparities that existed. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom demonstrated how "civilized-humane-peaceful" people expressed their discontent with the status quo. The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was effective, efficient, coherent, constructive, credible, beneficial, powerful and it was legal.

This February, the social justice committee offers opportunities for you to learn about an unsung hero, a logistical strategist, an intellectual engineer, and a charismatic genius, Bayard Rustin. Each week we will post links in our Remarks and in the bulletin so that you might broaden and expand your knowledge of this individual and the contribution he made.

Submitted by Sheila Chandler Stephens, committee member



Chili & Soup Cookoff

Sunday, February 11, 2024

10 AM - Judging & 12 PM - Social

- ◆ Next Sunday, bring your crockpot or serving container to Wade Hall by 9:45 AM.
- ◆ Church members will sample each soup or chili starting at 10:00 AM.
- ◆ Church members will vote by tokens on their favorite soup or chili.
- ◆ Votes will be counted during the 11:00 AM service.
- ◆ After the 11:00 AM Service, return to Wade Hall, find out who won and enjoy larger serving portions of the delicious dishes!

If you would like to enter the cookoff, contact **Rev. Andy** at **APeabody@stmarkumc.org** or **404-873-2636**.