

# **SAINT MARK**

## **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

God's Grace Transforming Lives

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**  
**Nine O'clock**

Third Sunday in Lent



# 9 AM Morning Worship

*\*You are invited to stand as you are able in body and or in 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!

### \*Hymn of Praise

**UMH No. 462 | Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus**

### \*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.*

### 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.**

### The Scripture Lesson

**1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

One: The Word of God for the people of God

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Sermon

### The Way of the Cross: Going Against the Grain

## Response to God's Word

### Holy Communion

### Hymn During Communion

#### The Open Table

1. Come, oh come, come to the ta - ble.  
2. Cir - cle round, let's join to - geth - er.  
3. God is love; Love is cre - at - ing

— Gath - er 'round, come with - out fear.  
— Share your joys, and bring your tears.  
— some - thing new, right here, right now.

— Known by name, here at the  
— Strength and hope found at the  
— We're chil - dren of God, here at the

ta - ble, this ta - ble; wel - come  
ta - ble, this ta - ble;  
ta - ble, this ta - ble;

here, to the ta - ble of love. love.

From: *Roll Down, Justice!* (CGBK72).

Text: Mark A. Miller.

Music: *The Open Table*, by Mark A. Miller.

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## **Sending Forth**

\*Hymn of Dedication

**UMH No. 301 | Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**

\*Benediction

Postlude

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## **Worship Team**

<b>Preaching:</b>	Rev. Dr. Carolyn Stephens, <i>Senior Pastor</i>
<b>Liturgists:</b>	Rev. Andy Peabody, <i>Associate Pastor</i>
<b>Music:</b>	Justin Bowen, <i>Interim Director of Fine Arts and Organist</i>
<b>Communion Steward:</b>	J.W. Mozley
<b>Usher Team:</b>	Deana Hilton
<b>Greeter:</b>	Craig Pigg

## **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.*



### **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.

## **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.

## Today's Communion Offering

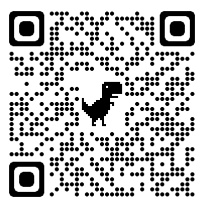
Today's Communion offering goes to support UMCOR. The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable.

## 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.



## 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.

## Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

For reservations, please email **Robert Gilleo** at [RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org](mailto:RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org) no later than 5 PM Tuesday. Dinner begins at 5:30 PM. Program begins at 6:00 PM. Tickets: \$10 for seniors, \$11 general

## **Safe Sanctuary Training**

Next Sunday, March 10, 2024 | 12:30 PM

This training will equip and empower all who work with Saint Mark's vulnerable populations with the training and tools you need to recognize abuse, as well as teach you about Saint Mark's reporting guidelines. All who currently work or hope to work with vulnerable populations should attend.

## **Flower Ministry**

The Flower Ministry is carried out by our own outstanding designer, **David Boswell**. He seeks to serve the Saint Mark community and to glorify God by creating skillful and graceful flower arrangements to enhance worship and other church sponsored activities. To request a flower dedication, please contact the **Church Office** at [office@stmarkumc.org](mailto:office@stmarkumc.org).

## **Easter Eggtravaganza**

Saturday, March 30, 2024

### **We need Easter Candy for the Egg Hunt!**

Please donate bags of individually wrapped candy by Wednesday, March 20th, if you are able. No chocolate, please. It melts! We greatly appreciate it!

### **We need Volunteers for the Easter Eggtravaganza on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.**

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Madi Dunn at [MDunn@stmarkumc.org](mailto:MDunn@stmarkumc.org).

## **Congregational Hikes | Walk with us...**

- April 20<sup>th</sup>- Atlanta Beltline | Monroe Dr. Access Point
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Sweetwater Creek State Park
- August 17<sup>th</sup> - Suwanee Greenway Trail
- October 19<sup>th</sup> - Amicalola Falls State Park

## **Mission Sunday**

**Sunday, March 17, 2024 | After Second Service**

Details in upcoming Remarks and bulletins.

# Holy Week



SAINT MARK  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



March 24 | *Palm Sunday*

March 28 | *Holy Thursday*

Mid-Week Fellowship Dinner | 6 PM

Dramatic Setting of John 13 | 7 PM



March 29 | *Good Friday*

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross | 1:30 PM

Seven Last Words of Christ | 7 PM

March 30 | *Easter Eggtravaganza*

Children's Games | Bouncy House

Easter Egg Hunt | Volunteers Needed



March 31 | *Easter Sunday*

7 AM | Sunrise Service | Terrace

9 AM | Service | Sanctuary

11 AM | Service | Sanctuary

12:30 PM | Brunch | Reservations Requested



FAITH HOPE LOVE



GIVE BLOOD

Saint Mark  
United Methodist Church  
Blood Drive

Sunday, March 3

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

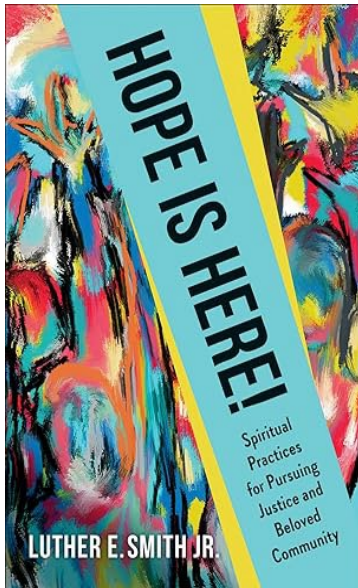


*Click or scan the QR code!*

*All donors will receive a \$20 gift card!*

All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.

**LIFESOUTH**  
Community Blood Centers



# HOPE IS HERE!

## Spiritual Practices for Pursuing Justice and Beloved Community

~ Rev. Dr. Luther E. Smith, Jr.

*Book Study – Winter/Spring 2024*

*Wednesdays, 5:00-5:45 p.m.*

*Rev. Andy Peabody, Facilitator*

### **Calendar**

Feb 28 – Introductory Session

Mar 6 – Discuss Ch. 1 – “Where Hope Abides”

Mar 13 – Discuss Ch. 2 – “Hope’s Work and Its Witnesses”

Mar 20 – Discuss Ch. 3 – “Contemplative Praying”

Mar 27 – Discuss Ch. 4 – “Prophetic Remembering”

Apr 3 – Discuss Ch. 5 – “Crossing Identity Boundaries”

Apr 10 – Discuss Ch. 6 – “Transforming Conflict”

Apr 17 – Discuss Ch. 7 – “Celebrating Community”

April 24 – Possible Next Steps

### **Expectations**

Sessions will begin at 5:00 and end at 5:45 so that participants will still have the opportunity to partake of Wednesday Night Fellowship Supper if they wish. Everyone should read the assigned chapter prior to arrival for book study.

### **Study Guide**

We will be using a congregational study guide created by the Rev. Cecilia D. Armstrong in association with the book’s publishing company, Westminster John Knox Press.

### **Who is Luther Smith?**

If you would like to learn more about Luther Smith and HOPE IS HERE!

You can watch a YouTube interview here: <https://tinyurl.com/3ft8b5jt>

Interviewer is Kate Rademacher/“Writing for Your Life.”

# EASTER SUNDAY BRUNCH



**SAINT MARK**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Caramelized Apple Wood Bacon  
Assorted Fresh Fruit | Breakfast Sausage  
Spinach Salad with Feta Cheese | Caesar Salad

**Roast Sirloin of Beef**

**Honey Glazed Ham**

**Chilled Fresh Gulf Shrimp**

**Quiche Lorraine**

Carrot Soufflé | French Green Beans with Mushrooms  
Pan Seared Asparagus | Roasted Brussels Sprouts with Bacon

Assorted Breads | Muffins and Sweets

Carrot Cake | Strawberry Cream Cheese Pie

Iced Tea | Coffee | Water | Assorted Juices

**\$20 per person | Reservations Required | [stmarkumc.org/store](https://stmarkumc.org/store)**



# Easter Lily Order Form

Purchase an Easter Lily in honor or memory of someone special this Lenten season. Order online at [stmarkumc.org/store](http://stmarkumc.org/store) or by completing this form and place it in the offering plate with your payment, or return both to the church office by **Wednesday, March 27, 2024.**

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>In HONOR of:</b>	<b># of Plants</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

<b>In MEMORY of:</b>	<b># of Plants</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Total # of Lilies Ordered** \_\_\_\_\_

**@ \$10 Each**

**Total Order** \_\_\_\_\_