



Messenger

Changing the world through Christ, by caring for all people.

Volume 57, Number 12

June 13, 2017

VBS Hero Central!

St. Mark's UMC celebrated Vacation Bible School last week with 105 children attending and 42 teen and adult volunteers. We learned about the heart, courage, wisdom, hope, and power of God's heroes! We had a great time, with the preschool and 4th and 5th graders spending time in their own areas, and the Kindergarten through 3rd graders rotating through different areas.



Jesus was lost and found during storytime, there was an explosive Diet Coke and Mentos experiment, the craft and snack areas had many fun activities, and the preschoolers had different hero regalia every day. Hats, shields, armbands, and especially capes, were part of the fun as we realized that God's Heroes have to prepare to do the right thing and help God. And of course, music time was rocking. Or, should I say "leaping!"

Many parents, grandparents, and congregants attended the closing celebration Friday night which included songs, skits, and a slideshow. It was all so much fun, we can't wait to do it again next year! Until then, Heroes, "Do Good! Seek Peace! And Go after It!"

VBS - Mission Accomplished!

With the slogan "Heroes Help," students and members of the congregation contributed to two worthy causes: Literacy Connects and the Hope UMC food bank.

Books, food, and coins were collected throughout the week. We gave Literacy Connects over 400 books to be donated to struggling readers and provided the Hope food bank almost 350 food items. Literacy Connects said that many children would benefit from our donation, and the Librarian there was impressed with the quality of the books. Jocelyne of Hope UMC was thrilled to stock the food shelves of Hope UMC, which were almost completely empty. Jocelyne said, "Now my father (the pastor) won't have to tell people there is no food." Great job, Heroes. You helped many people with your generous donations!

*With great appreciation,
Margaret Synhorst, Interim Christian
Formation Coordinator: Children and Adults*



Before and after photos of the food bank shelves.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEER HEROES

- Annie Busby
- Annika Noreen
- Addison DaDeppo
- Arlene Krueger
- Ashley Drake
- Ashley Holmes
- Barb Sargent
- Benjamin Fish
- Brenna Eblen
- Carli Ogle
- Carol Cecilia
- Cathy Simpson
- Chase Laos
- Cindy Flannery
- Daniel Titzel
- Debbie Krueger
- Emmie Hernandez
- Hannah Eblen
- Harold Putt
- Jen Morrison
- John Synhorst
- Julia Younggren
- Julie Eblen
- Kathy Hale
- Kierra Ritchey
- Liam DaDeppo
- Lisa DaDeppo
- Mackenzie Kester
- Marlyce Wright
- Maryann Nuckolls
- Meghan Buckner
- Nancy Yob
- Pam Howard
- Paul Simpson
- Rose Wilson
- Samm Attebery
- Shari Attebery
- Sue Davis
- Sue Pierce
- Sydney Edwards
- Tatum Yob
- Tim Weiler
- Vere Titzel



St. Mark's Messenger

Published bi-weekly

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
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Email:

info@umcstmarks.org

Website:

www.umcstmarks.org

Sunday Worship:
8:15, 9:45, 11:15am

Wednesday Nights:
Community Meal
5:45pm
Music/Programs
6:15-7:15pm

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Sharon Ragland

Associate Pastor:
Rev. Tammy Hallam

Interim Christian Formation for Children & Adults:
Margaret Synhorst

Youth Ministries:
Kim Ogle

Communications & Outreach:
Sallyann Wassmuth

Messenger Editor:
Sallyann Wassmuth

Next Deadline:
Thursday,
June 22, at noon

Calendar Notes

Thurs., June 15, 11:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall, SOS Luncheon

Sat., June 17, 7:30 p.m. - Sanctuary, Wesley Bell Ringers

Sun., June 18, - Father's Day
No Youth group, No GLOW

Mon., June 19, 9:15 a.m. - Fellowship Hall, Holy Yoga

Wed., June 21, 7:30 a.m. - Coco's, Marksmen Breakfast

Wed., June 21, 5:45 p.m. - Fellowship Hall, SOUL STATION

Mon., June 26, 9:15 a.m. - Fellowship Hall, Holy Yoga

Wed., June 28, 5:45 p.m. - Fellowship Hall, SOUL STATION

Thurs., June 29, 6:30 p.m. - Library, Technology Committee

Sun., July 2, - July 4th weekend
No Youth group, No GLOW

Be a GOOD NEIGHBOR, Make an Appointment Today!



ST. Mark's will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, August 13, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please call, text, or email to make an appointment with Martha Lundgren (see directory).

Dear Church Family...

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining the Literacy Connects program, received on May 11, speaks volumes about what matters to you. You matter to us!

As a new donor, you share in the vision of a society that thrives because literacy and creative expression are championed, fully supported, and made accessible to all individuals. Together we are transforming lives within our community, and you are a critical member of our team.



Thank you again for your generous contribution. Through you, we can deliver a system of literacy services that build skills and provide support for learners of all ages.

In appreciation,

*Betty Stauffer, Executive Director
Literacy Connects*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generosity last year in fulfilling the Apportionment Covenant. Your faithfulness to sacrifice and give out of gratitude to God has helped and supported ministries throughout the world. The generosity you have shown has truly made a difference in the lives of many.



*Faith, hope & love,
Dottie (Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank)
South District - DSC*

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the get well cards and best wishes during my illness.

Blessings,
Joe Brown

Just Breathe

"We only feel one emotion at a time, so it's impossible to give thanks and feel fear or anger."

—Ann Voskamp, *One Thousand Gifts*

"It's all about perspective," I remember saying to someone the other day when they graciously showed how much they cared in asking how our family was doing with so many losses and challenges this year. I was not saying this as a Christian cliché or from a place of denial, but from experiencing how what I choose to think about something effects how I see things and that affects how I live every day. Ann Voskamp's book, *One Thousand Gifts* details her journey of keeping a daily journal on what she is thankful for in the moment. She writes that this simple exercise changed her thought life which led her to be more aware of the "graces or gifts" that God was bringing in the middle of hard times. One of the benefits that she experienced from making this a part of her life was a new sense of joy.

Since reading the book, I have noticed this about myself. What I needed to realize was that — I, and no one else, had the power over what I would set my mind on. If I began my day with God, thanking Jesus and writing those things down so I could visualize them, I was able to see more of the small (or big) graces throughout my day. I would spend less time thinking about what is wrong, what I do not have, what people are not doing that I think they should be doing, and I begin to think about what is right, what I do have, and what people are doing that I can be thankful for. It really is a choice and I choose to be thankful.

What can you give thanks for at this moment? I invite you to take some time out of your day, maybe even begin an "I Am Thankful" journal and write down these graces and gifts that you become aware of throughout your day. Maybe even begin your day giving thanks, and before you close your eyes at night give thanks to God for...(you name it). If you do this consistently, I think you will be surprised at how when things get challenging you will remember, "it's all about perspective."

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. -Colossians 3:17

Peace, Pastor T



Nash Neighbors Donation Time



It is that time of year when St. Mark's Nash Neighbors will collect and donate school supplies to Nash Elementary School for use during the 2017-18 school year. There will be a container in the courtyard each Sunday in July to collect your donations. The following are requested classroom supplies we invite the congregation to donate:

- Unscented 2-liter Pump Bottles of Hand Sanitizer
- Boxes of Tissues • Clorox Wipes • Glue Sticks • Black Dry Erase Markers

Thank you for your donations!
Barb Sargent, Nash Neighbors Committee

Percussionist Job Opening!

 St. Mark's is currently accepting applications for a percussionist for the Praise Team band. This person will play with The Praise Team for the 11:15 a.m. contemporary service each Sunday and attend scheduled rehearsals. This individual should have knowledge of contemporary worship and music, possess the ability to read and skills to perform music from lead sheets, and the ability to work well as part of a team. You may view the job description at http://www.umcstmarks.org/pdf/jobdesc_pd.pdf. Applications should be submitted no later than June 30th.

Music Leader Job Opening!

 St. Mark's is currently accepting applications for a Children's Sunday School Music Leader. This person will provide leadership in the Sunday School classes for children, teaching songs of Christian faith to the children and acquainting the Sunday School staff with the songs. You may view the job description at http://www.umcstmarks.org/pdf/jobdesc_cssml.pdf. Applications should be submitted no later than June 24th.

Grants or Gift Matching Assistance Needed

The Finance Committee has been exploring opportunities to augment St. Mark's stewardship and capital campaigns by pursuing grants or gift matching opportunities available from foundations and corporations. Initial research and feasibility analysis has been at a high level, to determine the objective of various funding sources, qualification criteria, award potential, and application timing. The Finance Committee shared our positive assessment with the Advisory Board and the Covenant Council. Committees have been asked to advise their projects that could be funded through this effort.



At this time, the Finance Committee would like to ensure everyone at St. Mark's is aware of our pursuit of grants and gift matching opportunities. We also want to request assistance in maximizing our collective networking, talents, and resources by hearing from you if:

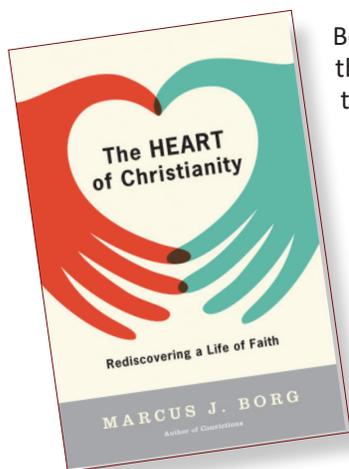
- You are aware of any family foundations, corporate foundations, or other grants or gift matching opportunities that might fund work like we do at St. Mark's? (Note: This may include a company where you currently work or from which you retired. Finance will be happy to assist with qualification research if the foundation/corporation name is provided.)
- You have grant writing background or grant review experience, and would be willing to consult or collaborate with the Finance Committee on this effort?

Please email your responses to Bill Zermuehlen (see directory), Finance Team Lead for Grants. The goal of this initiative is to pursue opportunities with the best possible "fit" to our mission statement, offering the greatest probability of an award for St. Mark's. Further, it is hoped that future awards will begin an ongoing expansion of this alternate funding source, and enhance St. Mark's ability to spread its light into the world.

Lezley Barth, Finance Chairperson

The Heart of Christianity

Professor, lecturer, world-renowned author Marcus J. Borg asked his "unchurched" university students to write a short essay about their impressions of Christianity. They consistently used five adjectives to describe Christian believers: "literalistic, anti-intellectual, self-righteous, judgmental and bigoted."



Borg, a passionate believer in living the life of faith, wanted to change the students' views and offer them a progressive alternative view of what the Christian life can be. *The Heart of Christianity* was the result of Mr. Borg's work.

In this book, it is argued that the essential ingredients of a Christian life—faith, being born again, the kingdom of God, the gospel of love—are as vitally important today as they have always been, even during this time of conflict and change in the church.

St. Mark's will offer a six-session discussion class of this book on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. beginning July 5, and ending on August 9. Participants will want to read chapters of the book prior to each week's discussion, so the book may be purchased for \$10 from the church or an e-version is available. Linda Walker will facilitate. You may register online at <http://www.umcstmarks.org/adult-classes.php>. Registration is open until Sunday, June 25.

We hope that you will prayerfully consider joining us for this study of *The Heart of Christianity*. Borg wants to show us, as today's thinking Christians, how to discover a life of faith by re-thinking familiar beliefs, and that living the Christian life is essentially about opening one's heart—to God, and to others.

WASS UP?

June 13, 2017

Volume 18, Issue 12

FUNTASTICS JUNE 25

UPCOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL EVENTS

June 18, 2017 —
Father's Day
No Youth Group



Spend Time With
Dad DAY

June 25, 2017 —
4:00 to 6:30
Funtastics

July 2, 2017—



4th of July Holiday
NO YOUTH
GROUP

July 9, 2017—

Spider-Man: Homecoming
premier week-end
Time tba

July 7-15, 2017—
SSP

Includes 3 Single Out-
door Attractions: Choose from
Go-Karts, Bumper Boats &
Mini-Golf. Your cost is only \$5.
FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS
WELCOME!



Spider-Man: Homecoming
Opens July 7. If you can be pa-
tient and wait two days, you and
a friend can go with us. The
movie times are not posted, yet.
Your admission is only \$5 !

To get a permission slip for your
friend, click here

[http://www.umcstmarks.org/pdf/
YouthPermissionSlip.pdf](http://www.umcstmarks.org/pdf/YouthPermissionSlip.pdf)

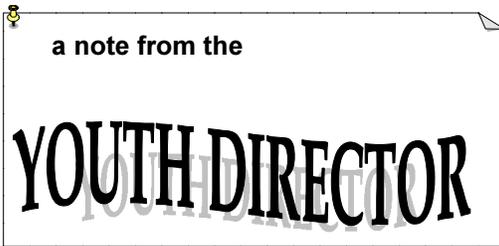
or see the back of this page for
instructions for downloading a
permission slip.



Sierra Service Project News

**FINAL PAYMENT OF \$75
WAS DUE IN JUNE .**

**Total registration for SSP is \$175.
Contact Kim, if you need a scholarship.**



Is Vacation Bible School just for little kids? Sure, the program focuses on younger kids, but without adults and youth, VBS couldn't happen.

Many of you gave up your mornings during the first week of June to help with VBS. You played games, sang songs, kept groups together, and showed love and respect to younger people.

I think that's what Jesus had in mind when he said, "Let the children come to me." (Matthew 19:14) When you served with the kids or did other service projects this summer, you showed people Jesus.



Blessings,
Kim

Some of the summer events have fees to try to offset the cost of admission. You do not have to miss any events this summer, just because the fee doesn't fit into the family budget that week. Scholarships are always available. Contact Kim or Rachel.

How do I download a permission slip?

- Step 1: Go to umcstmarks.org
- Step 2: Find the site map in the upper right corner, & click.
- Step 3: Go to Youth Permission Slip (It's the last thing on the list.)
- Step 4: Click & Print
- Step 5: Share with a friend!

*Like us on Facebook:
St. Mark's Youth Group*



More Adventures with Flat Sharon continued from back page...



In front of Krista and Joe Kagan's home in Hamburg MI with Art, Art's sister Mary and her husband Glenn, Krista and Joe.



In front of Sharon's childhood home in Livonia MI with Art, sister-in-law Marti, brother Larry and childhood friend Linda.



Bay City MI with Art's sister Mary

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS!

In the Hospital:

Jude Anderson, Gary Dean, Ardyce Johnson, Jerry Langemeier, Marla Mutschler, Jim Ward

Rehab or Care Facilities:

Than Brademas, Donald Chester, Patricia Keele, Bob Ross, Howard Russell, Susan Zimmerman.

Undergoing Treatment at Home:

Jim Allison, Judy Drescher, April DuBoce,

Bill Duryee, Tiffany Guerette, Megan Krzmarzick, Karen Linebarier, Dell Long, Judy Mitzimberg, Don Watt, Connie White.

Recovering at Home:

Dorothy Bonar, Audrey Dawson, Diane Judge, Judith Smith, Dave Webster, Yvonne Yare.

Upcoming Surgeries:

Janet Krug



LOVED ONES IN THE MILITARY...

Please keep these people in your prayers. Email additions or updates to messenger@umcstmarks.org.

Hank Bautzmann, son of Nancy Bautzmann

Jon Chytka, nephew of Roger & Donna Severson

Zachary Dojaquez, grandson of Roger & Donna Severson

Brandonn Eto, friend of Zirnheld/Compennolle family

Rob Eubank, son of David & Johanna Eubank

Mike Freeman, son of Ken & Ann Freeman

Patrick Harris, grandson of Marilyn Vaughn

Greg Haynes, son of Bob & Melinda Haynes

Matthew Hughey, son of Juliee & Billy Morrison and grandson of Joyce Flick

Rachel Kester, daughter of Don & Ruth Kester

Travis Kroll, son-in-law of Becky Strain

Adam Laurie, son of Ingrid Christensen

Chad Long, grandson of Pat Long

Mark Joseph Maver, son of Seymour & Marcia Maver

Joshua Miller, grandson of Ginny Johnson

Jake Newton, son of Robert & Cheri Newton

John O'Regan, husband of Ashley O'Regan and grandson-in-law of Janet Krug

Brian Osborn, pastor in the DSW Conference

William Putt, son of Harold & Susan Putt

Joshua Ruth, son-in-law of Marjie Walp

Adam Seia, son of David & Vonda Seia

Jason Smith, grandson of Jerry & Judy Smith

Alex Snow, brother of Shelley Shelton

Clint Staschke, son-in-law of Cliff & June Young

Michael and Karisa Szczygiel, daughter and son-in-law of Joyce Flick

Timothy Trexler, great-nephew of Gail Blevins

Brianna Walker, granddaughter of Barbara Fradenburgh; niece of John Fradenburgh



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Reflections

Hope you enjoy a few photo's from the Ragland's adventures... including Flat Sharon!



Religious roots, Grand Forks, ND



Naperville, IL UMC



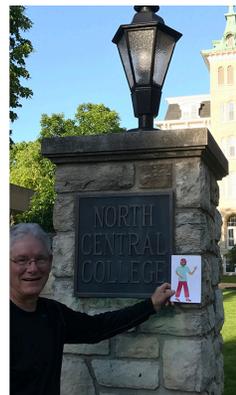
MN Bear Sanctuary



With Mary and Glenn's Lab Chloe.



Racine WI - Ann & Noah Hutler



North Central College
Old Main - Sharon and Art attended.



Sharon's Flowers



Piloting the boat, Moose Lake, MN



Riparian Preserve in Gilbert, AZ