



St. Mark's United Methodist Church

July 2024

We live to embrace and serve all with the courage of Jesus Christ to heal and reconcile ourselves and the world.

Passionate Spiritual Disciples Ephesians 3:20-21

Discipleship is hard work. It means both learning and leading. When I think of the Disciples who were chosen by Jesus, I envision men who found great joy from watching, listening, and being with Jesus. Then they went out to share that joy with others. They learned what it meant to experience God, be molded and shaped by God, and see the world through God's eyes.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a congregation filled with Disciples that have a passion for learning about God and then going out in the world and sharing their newfound wisdom with others? Guess what, we can be that congregation. You are invited to become a Passionate Spiritual Disciple for God. What do you think? Are there things you want to know more about? Are there things you have forgotten that you'd like to remember? Maybe you are wondering why you need to become a Passionate Spiritual Disciple.

Spiritual Disciples put the focus of their work on spreading the good news of God's power and authority in this world. Over the years, the church has begun to focus more on the finance, building maintenance, and tactile pieces of ministry. While these pieces are important to the daily operations, we are also a congregation that has a soul. We are a life giving body of Christ that has hands, feet, voice, and Spirit.

Paul writes this prayer in Ephesians to remind us of God's power that works in and through us into the world. He writes, "Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen."

What distinguishes the church from any other social group that does good in the community, is the Spirit of God we bring with us. Our acknowledgment that all we do begins with God alive with in us. It is God's love and power that works through us that transforms the world around us. This news is what fills my soul and calls me to be a passionate spiritual disciple.

I invite you to join me this next year to learn what it means to be a Passionate Spiritual Disciple. There is so much God is calling us to do. I'm excited to see where God will lead us. Will you join the journey?

In Christ,
Pastor Alberta

MISSION TRIP PLANNED

On July 16 a group from St. Mark's will visit Midwest Mission at Jefferson, Iowa. We will have a 1/2 day shift, working from 12:30 to 4:00. We will learn about the work at Jefferson. How to pack rice kits, assemble personal dignity kits, sewing kits and try sewing projects.

Each person will be required to pay \$6.00, to defray the cost of materials. We can take up to 8 people, but need to preregister to save a spot. Please talk to Barb Fisher-Krueger for more information. It is approx. 3 hours to Jefferson and we will carpool from St. Mark's.

United Women of Faith

United Women of Faith July meeting will be a guided tour of the Iowa City Public Library at 11:00 AM July 24th. (Note time different from UWF booklet) Lunch will follow at the downtown Bread Garden. We can carpool from the church parking lot at 10:30am. All women invited!



Glory sightings, God sightings, God moments... these are all names for when we see God at work around us.

The Focus Forward group has been sharing these observations at our monthly meetings, and we would like to invite you to join us in identifying and sharing God sightings. A few of the things we shared at our last meeting included reconciled family relationships, a beautiful and unexpected reflection that appeared on the wall above a loved one's photo, an experience of being in the right place at the right time to help a stranger in grief.

Yesterday David and I attended a worship service in Park Rapids, MN, where a group shared experiences from a recent mission trip, including some of their God moments! One of the individuals commented that ***when we recognize what a difference God is making, it inspires us to join God at work!*** By the way, this was a God moment for me, reminding me to write (and giving me the words for) the newsletter article I agreed to submit about God sightings!

So whatever you want to name it, we encourage you to be purposeful about looking for God at work around you and asking each other - at home, at fellowship time, in your Trustees or Finance or Worship committees - "where have you seen or experienced God this week?"

Angie Bywater

Flood Bucket Teams

Dear friends,

The floods in Northwestern Iowa have many connections to us here in Iowa City. Many of you may remember the floods that have occurred here several years ago. In addition to our prayers, there are two ways we can help. One is to make flood buckets filled with cleaning supplies. The other is to create a mission team to go and help as the needs arise.

Therefore, I believe God is calling us to create Flood bucket teams. Yes, multiple teams. One team is to organize be a part of making of the flood buckets. The other team is to organize or be a part of the mission team to Northwestern Iowa.

If you are interested in either of these, please let the office know as soon as possible. This is another mission project where we can share God's love with those in need.

As I shared in worship, I will be glad to be a resource for this project and help make this mission happen. I invite you the prayerfully, consider how God is calling you to be a part of this project as well.

In Christ,
Pastor Alberta

T-shirt Sale! Don't Miss Out!!

It is so nice to bring back "YES"!!! Yearning – Emerging – Serving



We have new "YES" t-shirts available for just \$15 in many colors in sizes from small to 3XL. T-shirts are available for you to purchase (however many you want) on Sunday's after worship service OR by contacting the church office at 319-337-7201. There has been some talk among a few folks that one Sunday in August will be YES t-shirt day where we will all come to worship in our YES t-shirts. Don't be left out!

And all God's people said "YES"!!!!



Jesus Says YES!!!



St. Mark's for Family Vacation Bible School 2024!

Who: You, Your Family, Your Friends and Neighbors! All ages are invited to join us!

What: Food, Fun, Music and Fellowship!

Where: St. Mark's United Methodist Church

When: July 29-30-31, 6:30-8:00 pm

Join us as we explore the stories of the Wiseman/Foolish Man, Noah's Ark and the Tower of Babel through music, activities, and sharing insights with one another. Whether you are new to St. Mark's and just starting your journey, or a regular attendee, we welcome you in saying YES to three evenings of learning about these favorite Bible stories.





For planning purposes, please RSVP. Registration forms can be found on the welcome table at the church, or on the church website: <https://stmarks-umc.net> Registrations may be returned to the office or emailed to: office@stmarks-umc.net Questions? Please call the church office: 319-337-7201.

We look forward to sharing time with you and your family!

July Special Offerings

July 7th – Congregational Assistance Fund
 July 14th – None listed

July 21st – CommUnity Food Bank
 July 28th – None listed

Special Offering envelopes are located in the sanctuary door bulletin holders.



3rd – Brad Thayer **6th** – Mike Huffman **7th** – Melanie Justice **10th** – Phyllis Lindemann
11th – Christina Leopold & Linda Ruefer **12th** – Joanne Woodman
25th – Cindy George & Steve Laughlin **30th** – Clarence Skog & LaVonna Gaunt

More Events on the July Calendar:

July 4th – Independence Day – Church office is closed
 July 7th – Communion Sunday

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
 2675 E. Washing St., Iowa City, IA 52245
 Office – Shandy Crook – office@stmarks-umc.net 319-337-7201
 Rev. Alberta Ervin – alberta.ervin@iaumc.net 712-269-6968
 Website: stmarks-umc.net
 Worship Sunday morning 9:30am