



St. Mark's United Methodist Church

October 2024

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

United Methodist Men Meeting

Saturday, October 12th at 7:30am for breakfast, and our speaker that morning will be Johnson County Sheriff Brad Kunkel, who will be talking about the concept for a new Law Enforcement Center/Jail. Any questions please call or text Bob Kesselring.

Pastor Appreciation Sunday is celebrated annually on the second Sunday in October, this year it is **October 13th**. This is a good time for us to thank Pastor Alberta for all the work she has done during her first year here. Please consider sending her a note of thanks or stopping to tell her in person. There will be a time for fellowship and cake following worship in Fellowship Hall.

You are invited to join us in a NEW MEMBER CLASS (for prospective and current members too).

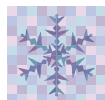
October 27th – December 1st Sundays @ 10:50am – 12:00pm – Room TBA

Please join us as we explore membership in the United Methodist Church through the lens of our membership vows.

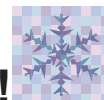
- We will use the Promises to Keep Manual as our study guide for this adventure in spiritual growth. We will read, reflect and discuss God's promise of Transformation, and our promises of Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness.
- For current members this study will offer an opportunity to revisit and re-affirm the promises we formerly made and their power to shape our lives.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center and you can request the manual on Sunday mornings or during office hours 9am-12pm during the week. Otherwise they will be handed out one week prior to the first class so participants can read and prepare for Week 1 Discussions.

Study Leaders: Steve and Karen Laughlin
Assisted by: Pastor Alberta



YOUR HELP NEEDED!



I realize this is a very short notice, but your help is desperately needed to collect winter clothing and winter outerwear for distribution in mid-October! There is a tote in Fellowship Hall for you to donate coats, hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, socks, snow pants, boots and other winter clothing. We only have until Sunday, October 13th to collect items.

Thank you in advance for donating to help keep our community families warm this winter!!





The 2024 Winter Clothing Distribution, sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities and the Iowa City Police Department, will be conducted from the afternoon of Sunday, 10/13, through the early afternoon of Saturday, 10/19. Over these days we will set up, accept clothing donations, sort & organize clothing, distribute the clothing, & clean up after the event. **There will be a tote in the Fellowship Hall at St. Mark's for any donations. Thank you!**

Our event will be held in the gymnasium of The River Community Church, 3001 Muscatine Avenue, in Iowa City. (Enter the parking lot via the driveway on Muscatine Ave; please park away from the building).

As in past years, we looking for donations of gently used or new WARM winter wear, with an emphasis on coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots & winter shoes. Heavy sweaters & sweatshirts are also appreciated.

We currently have very few volunteers to assist

Volunteers are critically needed! Please register using SignUpGenius
at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AE2FA20-51081789-2024>

As you sign up, please pay attention to further information & instructions provided on our SignUpGenius.

Volunteer Opportunities for YOU: Sunday, October 13: 1- 4 p.m. (Set-up space)

Monday & Tuesday, Oct. 14, 15; 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Receive donations, sort & organize items

Wednesday, Oct. 16 - Friday, Oct. 18 9:00 a.m. - 6 p.m. Assist shoppers, maintain displays

Saturday, October 19 Assist shoppers, 9 – noon & Noon - 3 p.m. clean up

For 2024 we will be increasing the number of family representative shoppers to 9 per 30- minute period. (Seven individuals will need to register via a separate SignUpGenius; there will be two openings for drop-ins.)

Don't hesitate to contact us at any time with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Otis (carolyn.otis@gmail.com)
John Barr (BarrJohnO@sau.edu)

Confirmation

Confirmation will start **October 20th**, from 3-5pm for Middle School age students. If interested please contact Pastor Alberta or the church office as soon as possible. More information will follow.

United Women in Faith

Mark your calendars and plan to join St. Mark's United Women in Faith at our meeting on **October 23** at 1:00 PM! Our guest speakers will be Margalea Warner and Phil Steffensmeier from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Johnson County. They will be sharing some of their personal journeys with mental illness as well as what NAMI is and the resources and services it provides. Mental illness affects everyone, whether it is from a personal or a societal standpoint. Please make time to attend this very important program.



It's that time of year - PUMPKIN SALE!!
All proceeds go to the Emma Nugent Scholarship Fund.
Suggested donation is \$5-\$10/pumpkin.

Please place money in the black box inside the church door to the left. Envelopes are provided. Please make checks to St. Mark's UMC with Pumpkins on the memo line.

Thank you!



This past spring and summer, Bishop Kennetha led District Town Hall conversations about our core values as an Iowa Conference. Those have been shared with the Bishop's Leadership Team who have helped to hone these into six proposed core values.

At this all-conference virtual town hall, we'll explore those values and invite you to have further conversation with your local church, providing feedback over the winter. Our hope is that this collaborative process will help us coalesce energy around values that we can affirm at the 2025 Iowa Annual Conference session.

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall to join via Zoom together!

Thank you for your help!

Our work day was productive – thank you to everyone who came to help. There is a list of things left to do on the marker board in the church office.



CIRCUIT NEWS

1) Please consider supporting the West High Supply Initiative. This is a way of providing items for students in need. **The greatest needs are:**

tissues, dry erase markers, pencils, college rule notebooks, backpacks (new or gently used) and healthy snacks (granola bars, snack-sized bags of goldfish, skinny pop, fruit snacks).

These can be dropped off in the cart outside the Coralville UMC sanctuary. Omega Dancel, paraeducator of West High, is a member of Coralville UMC and site coordinator for the collection and distribution of school supplies.

Omega's contact is odancel@yahoo.com

2) Diane Spicknall from Coralville UMC is starting a card ministry. This group will meet the first Thursday of each month from 4:30-5:30pm in the Community Room of Coralville UMC beginning October 3.

If you are interested in being a part of the group to assemble and possibly design simple cards, you are welcome to attend. The purpose of this group is to make cards to be sent to those in our congregations who would benefit from a card.

Diane's contact is DSpick40@aol.com

October Special Offerings

October 6th – World Communion Sunday October 27th – None listed

October 13th – Blanket Sunday

October 20th – Christmas Stockings

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



6th – Peg Horn 10th – Shirley Gentzler 11th – Diane Berwald 17th – Deb Jansen
20th – Carolyn Brock 29th – Randy Hoelscher

More events on the calendar:

October 6th – Communion Sunday

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
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Rev. Alberta Ervin – alberta.ervin@iaumc.net 712-269-6968
Website: stmarks-umc.net
Worship Sunday morning 9:30am