



St. Mark's United Methodist Church

January 2025

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



We need your help Sunday, January 5th!

We will start as soon as Church Service is over to take down the Advent decorations.

There will be jobs for anyone able to stay and help! Many hands make the work go faster!

Severe Winter Weather Guidelines

In the event of severe weather, the church will be closed and all activities canceled anytime Iowa City schools are closed.

Should severe weather occur on Sunday please check the TV station KCRG, channel 9, or their website for information on Sunday services. In addition, if worship is being canceled due to inclement weather, Pastor Alberta will send out an email to all members and also put it on the St. Mark's Facebook page.

United Methodist Men

UMM will meet the second Saturday, January 10th this month meeting at the church with breakfast beginning at 8:00 AM. Program will feature a representative from the CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank. This is a volunteer-driven organization that provides immediate and non-judgmental support for individuals facing emotional, food or financial crisis. All are welcome to join us. **Note date and time change.**

United Women in Faith

January 22nd at 1:00 PM. Jurisdictional Report by Lynn Calvert

All invited to attend!!



JESUS a movie first!

WE ARE EXCITED to host a church movie afternoon on **Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.** JESUS, Deaf Missions film. God's story is unstoppable when it is in the heart language of a people group. Jesus, A Deaf Missions Film is the first feature film about Jesus in the American Sign Language (with subtitles), using native signers to bring the story of Jesus to life from a Deaf perspective for a Deaf audience.

<http://brushfire.com/faithcontentnetwork/jesus-adeafmissionsfilm/592408> for tickets. \$6.30 ages 13 & over; \$5.25 for children ages 6-12. Childcare is available on site.

Grayye Matters

The Tuesday January 7th meeting will be The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row by Anthony Ray Hinton. Grayye Matters meets in the Youth Room at 9:30 AM.



1st – Erin Rindels **3rd** – Erica Davis **6th** – Jeni Lewis and Jeremy Nobbs **9th** – Cheryl Davis
10th – Cora Sanders **11th** – Mark Brock **14th** – Sue Brenneman **17th** – Randy Yeates
19th – Ellen Cary-Grimm **21st** - Dennis Stevens **22nd** – Nicki Paulsen **23rd** – Adam Bywater and Larry Kral
26th – Marge Aldinger and Brom Leopold **30th** – Francesca Brown

Opportunities For You

Looking for more Sunday morning worship team members to read scripture, usher or serve communion. Please call (337-7201) or email the office (office@stmarks-umc.net) if you would be willing to help out.

PRAYER LIST

"Never doubt the power of prayer"

Rev. Brian Oliver, Golden Valley District Superintendent, has put together a 2025 District Church Prayer List asking us to pray for specific churches and their clergy. The list for January includes:

- January 5th Maquoketa, First UM Church and Preston UM Church, Pastors Cephas Davis and Colleen Petaros
- January 12th DeWitt UM Church-Clinton, Lyons/Trinity UM Church-Low Moor UM Church, Pastor Jeff Bixby
- January 19th Calamus, Wesley UM church- Grand Mound, St. Paul's UM Church-Clarence UM Church-Stanwood Union (UM-PCUSA) Church- Wapsi Valley: Olin, Community UM Church-Oxford Junction UM Church, Pastors Derric Okine and Theodora Okine
- January 26th Camanche, St. Mark's UM Church-Delmar UM Church, Pastor Linda Smith
-

Fleece Blanket Project



In January we are going to do the *"tied fleece blanket project for those in need"* again. This is a project dear to my heart and feel so blessed to do it again. The smiles on the faces of the recipients warms my heart. As they wrap the blanket around them, I picture God wrapping his arms around them with love and comfort. **So let's do it again!!!** Each blanket takes two different pieces of fleece 2 – 2 ½ yards each. If this is something you would like to support, please bring donated fleece to the church (box in Fellowship Hall) and I will prepare it for tying. **We will tie the blankets in Fellowship Hall after worship services January 12th and 19th.** Thank you! Kay Seagren

Free Lunch

This month's day for St. Mark's to provide lunch at the **Free Lunch program is Monday, January 20th.** Pans will be available to pick up Sunday, January 12th for volunteers to prepare Tater Tot casserole (recipe provided). Also needed are bars and cookies.

Please bring these donations to church Sunday morning January 19th. There is also the opportunity to volunteer on Monday, January 20th beginning as early as 10:30 preparing silverware packets, salad and dining room setup and serving food at noon and then cleanup after 1:00. This is a wonderful mission to those in need of a good meal.

Any questions, contact St. Mark's faithful Free Lunch Coordinator, Truda Kruger 319-354-5595.

Dinner With Friends **(Old and New)**

It's winter and time to think about enjoying time with friends old and new – “Dinner With Friends” that is. A great opportunity for food, fellowship and fun in small group settings.

If you didn't get a chance to sign up but would like to join Dinner With Friends, please call Barb Fisher-Krueger 319-621-7089 or Sherry Kesselring 319-530-5437 or Donna Tjaden 319-530-8309.

Focus Forward Update--Dec. 2024

Our team has been working together for about 8 months, with a focus on loving, learning, and leading. This has been such an exciting time for us! Each month we have explored our own spiritual formation and set personal goals that we revisit each time we meet. We are inviting all of you on a journey of becoming more passionate spiritual disciples; growing deeper into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Look for more discipleship opportunities in 2025!

Our Focus Forward team recently generated a list of ministries at St. Mark's. Talk about Glory Sightings! There are so many great things happening here. We are now getting into the heart of our work, learning about MAPs or Ministry Action Plans. Our MAPs will be based upon St. Mark's values, mission and vision, which all of you will hear more about soon! Our current and future ministries will help support St. Mark's Disciple Making System in the areas of Engaging, Connecting, Equipping, and Sending. We will continue to update you on our learning and will be sharing opportunities for learning and growth to you in 2025!

January Special Offerings

January 5th – Self Help International
January 12th – Iowa United Methodist Camps
January 19th – Human Relations Sunday
January 26th - CommUnity Food Bank

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

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
2675 E. Washing St., Iowa City, IA 52245
Office– 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