



# St. Mark's United Methodist Church

May 2025

**Mission:** Be a community of Jesus' disciples growing in relationship and serving God.

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**Welcome to our two new members – Izzy Berwald and Averie McCormick**  
Their *Statements of Faith* were so inspiring, we wanted to share them with everyone!

## Izzy's Statement of Faith

I grew up, thinking church was a part of life, but did not understand the true meaning of coming. I first thought we went so my parents could listen to the pastor and I would draw during the service with the bags, but after service, I would annoy the older kids in the youth room and grab the little snacks. But as I get older, and after all the experiences I went through not only in church, but in the world, I understand the true meaning of coming to church and participating here. I believe the true meaning of coming to church now is to participate and learn more about the Holy Trinity as I grow. Philippians 4:13 "I can endure all these things through the power of the one who gives me strength." This verse from the bible reminds me I can always rely on my trust in the lord, and I can always learn more in him. As I grow, I am eager to participate and contribute more to my community and the world and grow and understand my faith.

Growing is not the only the bible and the Holy Trinity important to me in the church, it's also the people here. The people have taught me more than I would have learned from the bible, they taught me how to worship the Lord, and to spread his love. These people have always been there for me and have always loved and supported me through all the changes and weird phases I've gone through as a kid and adolescence. Colossians 3:12 "Therefore, as God choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience". This congregation

demonstrates how God loves us, and I want to do this for others. Not only my family, but my closest friends.

### Averie's Statement of Faith

“The Lord is my Shepherd. I lack nothing. He lets me rest in Grassy Meadows; he leads me to restful waters; he keeps me alive. He guides me in proper paths for the sake of his good name.” (Psalm 23). That is part of a scripture that has been instilled in me for a long time. Being said to me since I was little. I didn't know how much it impacted me until I grew up.

Coming to this church when I was little was exciting to me because I got to be able to see my cousins. I wanted to be in the sanctuary with everyone else, but was supposed to be in Sunday School. My faith has branched out significantly through my grandma's words. Showing me and guiding me when I didn't even realize it. Singing the word of God to me when I wasn't feeling well.

Coming back to this church feels refreshing. With the help of my family and my mentors, my faith is getting stronger with every scripture that flows out and resonating in me. I am able to feel myself again with the love of the Lord.

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### **Wanted**

Your participation to:

Create your dream sundae while creating your dream church!

On **Tuesday, May 6 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** at St. Mark's Focus Forward is hosting an Ice Cream Social to discuss new ministries for the church.

Please come and bring a favorite ice cream topping to share.

**Please plan to share your thoughts about the future of St. Mark's.**

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### **Daytime American Sign Language Class**

A daytime American Sign Language class will held ever Wednesday beginning May 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 4:00 PM in the Youth Room. The class will be learning the Lord's Prayer, Doxology and learn casual communication with hard of hearing and the deaf. This class is in addition to the Monday evening class meeting in the Fireside Room from 6:00 – 7:00 PM.

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## **Blankets of love, warmth and caring for our Graduating Seniors**

**May 18<sup>th</sup>** we will be presenting our graduating seniors with a tied fleece blanket celebrating their accomplishments and wishing them well as they go on to college, find employment or where ever life takes them. Our hope is every time they wrap up in it they remember God's blessings and feel the joy and comfort He will always provide.

Our graduating seniors are Alex Kohler, Averie McCormick Nicholas Meredith, Zachary Meredith, Tyler Rindels, Sam Showers, Alexis Stasch and Lauren Stasch. If you know of others graduating this spring, please provide us with their names.

You can participate by donating money for fleece and helping tie blankets in May 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Please mark "Fleece" on your donation.

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## **Thank You, Thank You, Thank You**

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the church cleanup day. Scouts joined us and worked very hard. The pile of sticks picked up was gigantic and the amount of leaves removed from around the church filled a dump truck. The church yard looks AMAZING!!!

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## **United Methodist Men**

UMM will meet the second Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at the church with breakfast beginning at 8:00 AM followed by a program.

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## **United Women in Faith**

United Women in Faith meeting will be on May 28 at 6:30 PM. For our program we are excited to welcome Chelle Lehman, Program Coordinator for Iowa KidSight! Iowa KidSight is a nonprofit organization working with the Lions Clubs of Iowa and the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital to provide early detection and treatment of vision impairment in young children. KidSight is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and Chelle will be here to tell us about the program and its important role in improving the lives of Iowa's children. It's a fantastic organization and you won't want to miss this program!

*Everyone* is welcome to join us; hope we see you there!

## Grayye Matters

The Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be *Potpourri*. Grayye Matters is a monthly book club that meets in the Youth Room at 9:30 AM. **All are invited to attend!**

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### Backpack Ministry

St. Mark's work to deliver backpacks to Grant Wood Elementary each Friday morning of the school year is an important outreach program that we do as a church community. Are you interested in getting involved? Would you like to see how the program works during the month of May? One hour out of the week volunteering provides food to insecure children with meals for the weekend. There is some lifting involved, but if that is a challenge for you, that's ok. We need door openers with friendly smiles! And you don't have to commit to every Friday. If you would like more information, or are ready to jump in and volunteer, contact Ann Parker via email: [icparkers4@gmail.com](mailto:icparkers4@gmail.com) or phone, 319-430-3544.

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### Easter Basket Ministry

He is risen! Hope your Easter was happy and blessed. Thanks to you many in our community received Easter baskets. They were distributed to children and teen parents at United Action for Youth, Catholic Worker House, Shelter House, Iowa City Rehab and folks at the Free Lunch Program. This ministry is truly a blessing to those less fortunate in our community. Thank you!!!

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### April 2025 Church Council Meeting Notes

The Church Council met Tuesday, April 15, 2024. The following is a summary of the meeting.

#### **Loving:**

We opened our meeting with a prayer, and sharing of joys, concerns, and Glory Sightings.

Circuit Report – Nancy Krutzfield is a new member of the Laity Circuit. She shared the minutes from their April meeting

#### **Learning:**

Focus Forward (Angie Bywater) continued our book discussion on “Power Surge.” The final chapters discussed moving beyond committees to ministry teams that would be formed on an “as-needed” basis for specific tasks.

In addition, it was noted the Focus Forward team will be seeking input from the congregation on future ministries, Bible studies, and sermon topics. The team is also planning an Ice Cream Social with a church-wide discussion and brainstorming session, to be held May 6 from 6:30 to 8:00.

## Leading:

The various council teams reported the following discussions to the Council:

### Loving Arms Team:

- The team from St. Mark's discussed the ongoing transition of Loving Arms Early Learning Center to the new facility owned by Reach for Your Potential. This included a discussion on the exit plan for the daycare from St. Mark's

### Trustees:

- Thanked the members and Scouts that helped with the yard work recently completed.
- Trustees will be reviewing the Endowment Fund in the fall
- Trustees will be announcing CPR and AED training opportunities – later this year.
- Work/improvements are continuing on parsonage.

### Finance:

- Chicken BBQ to be held Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Copy machine lease will be up in June, with current copier being decommissioned on June 20.
- Announced that we will be working with Coralville UMC on the 2024 audit.

### Worship:

- Reviewed the upcoming Holy Week schedule
- Request for input from congregation to share what they would like to hear about for Bible studies and sermon topics.

### Church and Society:

- No report

### Outreach:

- Easter baskets have been assembled for distribution to various agencies working with the less fortunate.

### Missions:

- United Methodist Men contributed \$750 to the Pastoral Care fund
- A special offering will be added for the Pastoral Care fund – to replenish account after funds were used for a cause.

### Pastor's Report:

- Old Capital Kiwanis purchased a medical device for the church – this device is to be used during a choking emergency.

### SPRC:

- Still looking for candidates for the Administrative Coordinator position.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> party cleaning service will be used for daily work for the next 10 to 12 weeks
- Mary Hubbard has agreed to fill the pulpit during Annual Conference

### Discipleship:

- No report – tied in with Focus Forward discussion

Our meeting was closed with a benediction from Boyd Crosby.

For more detailed notes from the committees, please reach out to Rob Rindels at [robrindels@gmail.com](mailto:robrindels@gmail.com) and he will email you committee meeting minutes. We are not able to share the SPPRC minutes due to possible confidential staff information.

Council's May meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

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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 May includes:

May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Burlington, First UM Church, Pastor Austin "Bo" Fields
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	Burlington, Grace UM Church and Burlington, West Hill UM Church, Pastor Tammi Wirt
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Burlington, Spring Grove UM Church and Long Creek UM Church, Pastors Jan Garza and David Mixon
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	West Burlington UM Church, Pastor Nancy Sutherland

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4<sup>th</sup> – Kieran Leopold   5<sup>th</sup> – Colin Beland   14<sup>th</sup> – David McDowell and Lavon Rutt   19<sup>th</sup> - Joyce Kral  
21<sup>st</sup> –Jeff Wasson   22<sup>nd</sup> – Markus VanTol   25<sup>th</sup> – Karla Cook   30<sup>th</sup> – Deanna Miller and Carol Reddick

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### Free Lunch

This month's day for St. Mark's to provide lunch at the **Free Lunch program is Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**. Pans will be available to pick up Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> for volunteers to prepare Tater Tot casserole (recipe provided). Also needed are bars and cookies.

Please bring these donations to church Sunday morning May 18<sup>th</sup>. There is also the opportunity to volunteer on Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### Celebrate with Sam Showers

Sam will be graduating from West High School. A celebration is planned for Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> from 9AM to Noon at the Shower's home, 3639 Foxana Drive. All are welcome to attend!

## May Special Offerings

**May 4<sup>th</sup> – Golden Cross Sunday** - offers care for those served by United Methodist-related homes and agencies for health and wellness within the conference. The offering enhances ministries with older adults, children and families, as well as hospital pastoral care.

**May 11<sup>th</sup> – CommUnity Food Bank** - at Pepperwood Plaza provides produce, bakery, deli, dairy, health, baby, hygiene and non-perishable items. Residents of Johnson County, IA can receive grocery assistance once per week. Clients may choose their own items with some limits based on family size. Pre-made bags are available for individuals who prefer not to shop. Shopping at the Food Bank is completely free and confidential.

**May 18<sup>th</sup> – Rural Life Sunday** - celebrates and affirms the rural heritage of The United Methodist Church. This offering helps each conference nurture, witness and attend to the ongoing crises in rural areas and urban areas within the conference.

**May 25<sup>th</sup> – Iowa City Compassion** - is a Christ centered organization that engages culturally diverse communities together through hope, opportunities and partnerships. Together they equip people at their point of need to move out of poverty and inspire them to be of service to others.

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

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### St. Mark's United Methodist Church

**Vision:** God-filled love and joy

**Mission:** Be a community of Jesus' disciples growing in relationship and serving God

**Values:**

- **Everyone:** recognizing we are all Children of God People of Worth
  - **Discipleship:** growing our faith and relationship in Jesus Christ
  - **Community:** building relationship with hospitality and love
  - **Serving:** reaching out in mission, focused on justice
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St. Mark's United Methodist Church  
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Worship Sunday morning 9:30am