



St. Mark's United Methodist Church November 2025

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

Looking for 5 families:

November is here and brings Advent as well as the beginning of the wonderful holidays we can spend together, with family, & friends. We are looking for 5 Families who are able to light the candles on the Advent wreath; one family each Sunday, the 5 Sunday's before Christmas:

November 23rd, November 30th, December 7th, December 14th, & December 21st

If this is something you, and your family, would like to take part in, please contact the office: at 319-337-7201 or office@stmarks-umc.net



Graye Matters November 4th at 9:30am

The book for November is: *Good Omens* By: Neil Gaiman & Terry Pratchett

Graye Matters is a monthly book club that meets in the Youth Room on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. *All are invited to attend!*

Tied Fleece Blankets November on 2nd, 9th & 16th in Fellowship Hall after Worship

Weather has turned to fall and winter isn't far behind. We are going to do the "tied fleece blanket project for those in need" again starting in November. 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!!! We will tie the blankets in Fellowship Hall after worship services November 2nd, 9th and 16th. Thank you! -Kay Seagren



UMM Meeting & Breakfast is November 8th at 8:00am; Guest Speaker is Megan Bywater



Everyone is welcome and invited to join the United Methodist Men for breakfast and fellowship from 8:00am to 10:00am. The guest speaker this month is Megan Bywater, who would love to share her passion of music with us all; from lessons to therapy and even just personal enjoyment, come get to know Megan more at UMM breakfast!

The UMM host this breakfast once a month and everyone is invited to attend – not just men.

Message from Megan: Hello! My name is Megan! I have been working at the Joy of Music for almost a month teaching lessons, and leading group and individual music therapy sessions! I am a graduate of Wartburg College where I majored in Music Therapy and minored in Leadership! Go Knights! In my free time I enjoy reading, going for walks, spending time with family and friends, playing my instruments, and taking naps. I also teach piano, guitar, ukulele, and flute! Flute was my main instrument in college, but if I had to pick a favorite, it would have to be piano or flute! I am very passionate about what I do, and I love telling people about it as well!

St. Mark's Yard Clean Up is right around the corner!

Fall is such a beautiful season but my does it make a mess.

The church will have a clean up day on:

Saturday November 15th at 8:00am.

If you are able to attend & help out, it would be greatly appreciated!
Thank you all so much for everything you do to keep St. Mark's looking so beautiful!



November 17th Free Lunch:

This month's day for St. Mark's to provide lunch at the Free Lunch program is: Monday, November 17th. Pans will be available to pick up Sunday, November 9th for volunteers to prepare Tater Tot casserole (recipe provided). Also needed are bars and cookies. Please bring these donations to church Sunday morning November 16th. There is also the opportunity to volunteer on Monday, November 17th beginning as early as 10:30 preparing silverware packets, salad and dining room setup and serving food at noon and then clean up 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



United Women of Faith:

St. Mark's United Women in Faith will meet on November 19th at Noon in Fellowship Hall for a Potluck lunch! Turkey will be provided, please bring a dish to share and your own table service.

All are welcome to attend!



Southeast District Prayer List: *Never doubt the power of prayer*

Rev. Brian Oliver, Southeast District Superintendent, has put together a 2025 District Church Prayer List asking us to pray for specific churches and their clergy.

The list for November includes:

November 2nd: Marengo, First UM Church, Pastor Joe King.

Oxford UM Church - Norway UM Church, Pastor Terry Beltz

November 9th: Sigourney UM Church - Keswick UM Church - Webster UM Church, Pastor Brandi Meyer.

November 16th: Unity Charge: North English UM Church - Millersburg UM Church - United Church of Deep River - Barnes City UM Church, Pastor Michelle Williamson

November 23rd: Williamsburg, St. Paul's UM Church, Pastor Beth Harbaugh

November 30th: Donnellson UM Church - Embury UM Church - Fort Madison UM Church, Pastors Padma Templeton & Nancy St. Clair



Birthday List for November:

1/03: Morgan Sammons, 11/08: Beth Brwon & Helen McClean,
11/10: Elizabeth Yeates, 11/14: Derek Lewis, 11/16: Donna Higgins,
11/17: Parker Max, Ann Paker, & Sam Showers, 11/22: Jacob Sammons,
11/24: Randy Krutzfield, 11/25: Mardee Wood, 11/26: Brad Parker,
11/27: David Clark, 11/28: Barbara Beard, 11/30: Mark Krutzfield,



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Thank you to everyone who participated in the pumpkin donation to support the Emma Nugent Scholarship Fund. Not a single pumpkin was left!



A big shout out to Cory Berwald for all his hard work in helping make this happen! This mission couldn't have happened without you Cory, thank you!!



November Special Offering Calendar:

November 16th: United Methodist Student Day is one of six church-wide Special Sundays designated to support ministries and causes important to the entire United Methodist Church. On this day, we come together to invest in the future of our church by supporting students' education and their journey of faith. Education opens doors and creates opportunities for leadership, service, and faith development. By supporting United Methodist Student Day, we celebrate the power of learning and the important role education plays in developing faithful, thoughtful Christian leaders. This special Sunday reminds us that education is not only a personal achievement—it's a ministry we share together.

November 30th: Women at the Well is a United Methodist congregation which is located within the walls of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, in Mitchellville, Iowa. We worship on Friday afternoons at 3:00 in the Sacred Space. We are a diverse community composed of women incarcerated at ICIW and many volunteers outside the walls who regularly support our ministries and programs. The worship service allows the women to share in the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to experience the life transforming Spirit of God.



Worship Volunteer Schedules for November:

Acolytes Schedule November 2025	
Date	Volunteer
November 2	Izzy Berwald
November 9	Melanie Justice
November 16	Izzy Berwald
November 23	Melanie Justice
November 30	Izzy Berwald

St. Mark's COMMUNION SERVER Schedule November 2025	
November 9 th Communion Sunday ----- <small>This group will be scheduled every-other month: January 2026 March 2026 May 2026</small>	Station 1 – by sliding glass doors Bob & Sherry Kesseling
	Station 2 – middle section Pastor Alberta & Kay Seagren
	Station 3 – by piano Diane Berwald & Nancy Krutzfield

St. Mark's Usher Schedule November 2025	
November 2 nd Communion Sunday	1. Donna Higgins 2. Boyd Crosby
November 9 th	1. Jeremy Showers 2. Jeannie Bennett 3. Lee McKnight
November 16 th	1. Cam Davis 2. Linda Prybil
November 23 rd	1. Deb Jansen 2. Nancy Krutzfield
November 30 th	1. Angie Bywater 2. Kay Seagren

St. Mark's Scripture Reader Schedule November 2025	
November 2 nd	Ann Parker
November 9 th	Lowell Fenner
November 16	Mary Brown
November 23 rd	Cheryl Davis
November 30 th	Kathy Welsh

Worship Volunteers: Thank you all so much for volunteering to help during the St. Mark's Church Services! You are all so appreciated. If you are unable to help when you are scheduled, please contact someone on the list of volunteers & ask if someone can take your place/switch with you & contact the office a.s.a.p. A list of responsibilities of each service is located in the Ushers cabinet in Fellowship Hall, and sent out with the schedule and reminder messages.

A copy of the schedule is posted on the bulletin board in fellowship hall (in the Newsletter) as well as both Usher stations in the Sanctuary. Thank you all again so very much.

If you would like to become a worship volunteer please contact the office, or see the attached sheet with November 2025 Newsletter or blue sheets on the bulletin board in the Narthex!



October 2025 Church Council Meeting

The Church Council met Tuesday, October 21, 2025. The following is a summary of the meeting.

Loving:

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

Learning:

- David Bywater shared an update from Focus Forward:
 - Group has been reading “Start With Why”
 - Updated vision statement – “God’s Community Filled with Love and Joy”
 - Planning to showcase people from St. Mark’s and how they are living into the Values and Mission of the church
 - Updated the “Say Yes To God” survey to be distributed

Leading:

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

Trustees:

- Noted that work in the Education Wing is nearing completion and the Team is excited about showcasing the updates at the celebration on October 26.
- St. Mark’s Fall Cleanup Day – November 15 starting at 8:00 am.

Finance:

- The Pork Chop BBQ was a success – and a great day of fellowship!
- Christina Leopold will serve as chair of the team starting in 2026
- 2026 Working Budget was approved by Council

Worship:

- Upcoming events:
 - Nov. 1 – All Saint’s Day
 - Nov. 9 – Communion (moved due to All Saint’s Day)
 - Nov. 23 – Hanging of the Greens
 - Nov. 30 – Beginning of Advent
 - Dec. 21 – Blue Christmas Service
 - Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 pm

Church and Society:

- No report

Outreach:

- No report

Missions:

- No Report

Pastor’s Report:

- Council approved Pastor Alberta’s request to possibly work with Old Capitol Kiwanis to share a Zoom account – pending discussion with Kiwanis group.
- Discussed upcoming Charge Conference – November 2 at St. Mark’s
 - Finance team asked the council to provide light refreshments
 - Council completed Ministry Action Plan for the Charge Conference.

SPRT:

- Team is working through staff reviews – have completed some but a few remaining.
- Staff job descriptions have been updated
- Reviewed PTO and vacation accrual policies for full and part time staff
- Parsonage inspection has been completed
- Team is looking for new members to volunteer

Discipleship:

- No Report

Our meeting was closed with a benediction by Diane Berwald.

For more detailed notes from the committees, please reach out to Rob Rindels at 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.

The next meeting of the Council will be Tuesday, November 18th.



Finance Update

End of September finances were:

September YTD Actual
Income \$23,536.63 \$235,666.47
Expenses 27,180.06 210,059.28
Difference income vs
expenses -\$3,643.43 \$25,607.19

Several have asked how we did on the chicken and pork chop barbecues:

Chicken BBQ: Expenses = \$5,791.32 Income = \$12,104.00 for a profit of \$6,312.68

Pork Chop BBQ: Expenses = \$3,491.80 Income = \$8,234.00 for a profit of \$4,742.20

Thank you Cory Berwald for leading both of these profitable and fellowship ministries!



A common phrase you will hear at St. Marks is COGPOW
We believe everyone is a Child Of God & a Person of Worth
-including YOU-

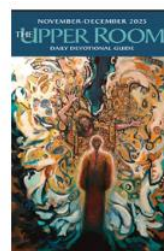
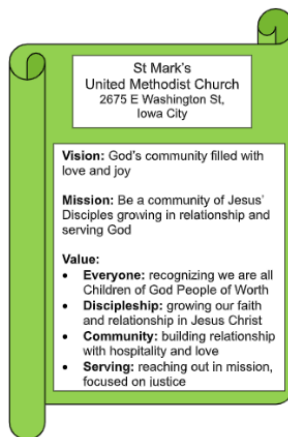


November:

1st: All Saints Day
9th: Holy Communion
23rd: Hanging of the Greens
30th: Beginning of Advent

December:

21st: Blue Christmas Service
24th: Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 pm



November/December edition
of The Upper Room is available
in the Narthex!
Grab yours today

Sunday Service Live Streams & Bulletin: Earlier this year, Facebook changed their policy on live streams to where they only stay up for 30 days before being automatically deleted. However, if you need to access a service we keep all our past ones on our website, stmarks-umc.net, under the Worship Services tab as well as on our YouTube page, St. Mark's UMC Iowa City. For any questions, email Sam at media@stmarks-umc.net

The weekly bulletins are no longer being sent via email but can be accessed on the website:
<https://stmarks-umc.net/worship-services-and-announcements/>

Thank you for joining us in Worship!



St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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Rev. Alberta Ervin – alberta.ervin@iaumc.net 712-269-6968

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Worship Sunday mornings 9:30am – 10:30am