

# St. Mark's

## BETHANY



November 22, 2023

Join us this Sunday for worship at St. Mark's. This Sunday the series titled, "Fully Committed" will continue. This week the message will be 'Allegiance'. The scripture reference is Exodus 20-2-3.

All Sunday school classes will be at their regular time and area. If you don't attend a class drop by one and try it out.

Sunday School classes:

8:30 New Life Rm. 18  
Sonshine Rm. 17

9:30 Books of the Bibles Rm 17,  
Disciple Rm. 18,  
Young Adults Rm. 5

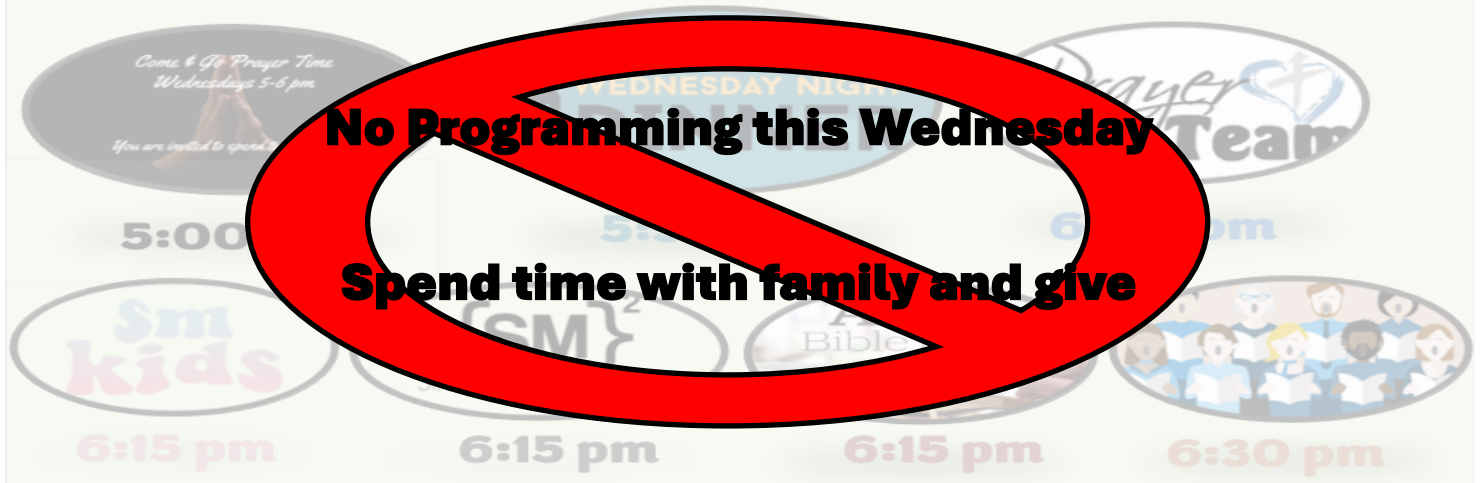
10:45 Faithbuilders Rm 18,  
Good News Choir room,  
R.O.C.K Rm. 19



Traditional services are at 9:30 am and Modern services are at 10:55 am. If you are not able to attend Worship services there will be a live streaming of worship. To watch the life stream, you can join us at:

[9:30 am Sunday morning](#) or at [10:55 Sunday morning](#).

## Wednesday Night!





St. Mark's has had a wonderful history with our Christmas Eve offerings. Each year money collected during Christmas Eve Services goes somewhere in the world to make a real difference in the world for the kingdom. This year we will be assisting to build a Women's Center in Kigoma, Tanzania. The Center will be next to the St. Mark's Methodist Church we helped to build there and will be heavily involved in the community to provide opportunities for events, teaching, shelter and other community

events. Start praying about how God would lead you into being a part in making a real difference.

## Advent Calendar of Events

November 26 Decorate Sanctuary

Dec 3 1st Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm Childrens play "A Night Full of Stars"

Dec 8 Choir Christmas Party

Dec 10 2nd Sunday of Advent

9:30 am Choir Choral Presentation

12:00 pm Rock Class Christmas Party

Dec 11 St. Mark's Bethany Women Christmas Party

Dec 13 All Church Caroling

Dec 14 Second Winders Christmas Lunch

CDO Christmas Play

Dec 16 Faithbuilders Christmas Party

Dec 17 Good News Class Christmas Party

Kiespert Piano Recital

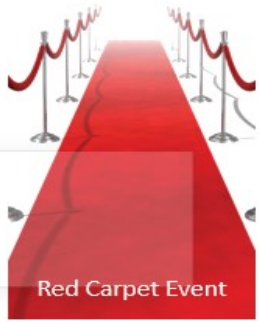
Dec 24 10 am Combined Family Friendly Christmas Service

7 pm Traditional Candlelight Christmas Service

11 pm Midnight Candlelight Service



Come Celebrate the birth of Jesus



Red Carpet Event



St. Mark's Children's Christmas Performance  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 pm doors open, curtain at 4:30

# DECORATE the Church

Following services on Sunday, November 26th, we will be decorating the sanctuary and other parts of the church for Advent. If you would like to help you can either just show up or contact Becky Roman. There will be some light food available to tide you over until we complete the decorating. Thanks!

## Props Needed For Children's Christmas Musical



- Top Hat
  - Toy Harp
  - Old non-usable camera w/Flash
  - French Beret
  - Old Trunks
  - Big Ornate star
- Drop by Church Office



## ROC Still Needs Your Help



REACHING OUR CITY  
COMPASSION • COMMUNITY • CHRIST

St. Mark's you have done a great job of meeting needs. We will keep the grocery cart set up in the narthex for your donations of canned and boxed food for a couple more weeks. Ramen noodles, pasta, any type of canned beans and cake mixes have been requested. Plastic and paper bags are always needed to pack the food. Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. Thank you!



Now Collecting Donations for:

- Newborn clothes size 6 Gently used or new
- Shoes up to size 13
- Bath wash and Lotion
- Bottles
- Diapers size 4, 5, and 6
- Good Start Formula

Collection Box  
outside of Sanctuary  
near West Entry



Thank You!

## Poinsettias to Decorate Sanctuary for Advent



Poinsettias will help decorate the sanctuary this coming Advent Season. You can give one in memory of or in honor of someone. You will be able to take it home with you following Christmas Eve Services. You can sign up for your poinsettias on the church counter or by calling the church office. The price of the poinsettias this year will be \$30. apiece.

Purchase Deadline - December 3



The tree is up! St. Mark's will again be taking part in CareShare for students at Overholser School. You can pick up your child on the tree in the foyer starting this Sunday, November 19th. You can do it as a family a Sunday School class or any way you want. Each child will have a maximum of \$75 for their gifts. We ask you to follow the wish lists on the child's card. Gifts must be turned back in by Sunday, December 3rd. You can help make a child's Christmas special. Drop by the tree and find a child just for you.



[www.pcf4kids.org](http://www.pcf4kids.org)



# Sm kids NEWS



## the Jesus Storybook Bible ADVENT ACTIVITY BOOK

IN GUIDED CRAFTS, PLAT SAINTS, SONGS, RECIPES, AND MORE



Reserve your Advent  
Devotional now on church  
center or see Sharon to get  
your copy

# Happy Thanksgiving



## Kidmin Difference Makers

Jackie Kathy Hazel  
Bruce Aimee Alicia  
Sally Lydia Lorna  
Karen Casey Ed  
Gina Mike Sandy  
Esmeralda Beverly  
Jimmie Sabrina  
Christie Courtney Kristy  
Kelly Jo Logan Kelly  
Stacey Darlene  
Stacey



## PC PARENT CUE

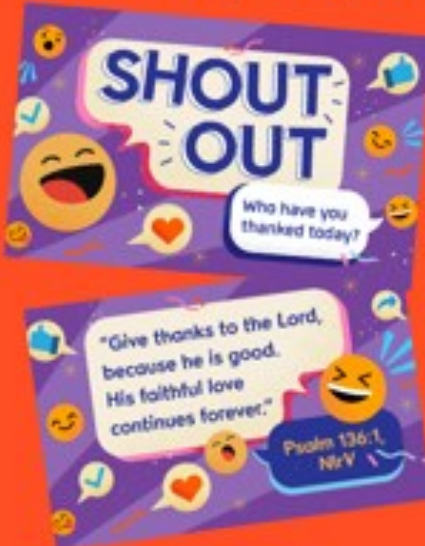
Download the parent cue app  
This app provides resources for our families  
to connect church with home



## Sunday Mornings November

### Kidmin

9:30 - 10:45 ages 4-5th grade



### Nursery

9:30 - 12:00 ages 6mo - 4

### Wee Worship

10:45 am ages 2 1/2 - kindergarten



Bible Words  
"Always give thanks to God"  
Ephesians 5:20

Basic Truth:  
I can thank God for everything

Bottom Line:  
God Loves me



Train up a child in the way he should go,  
even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

**November 2023**

# Prayer Guide

The Way to the Kingdom



**Photo: John Wesley's prayer kneeler – The birthplace of Methodism.**

Each morning at 4 a.m., John Wesley would kneel in prayer in his London home. It was in this place that the fires of Methodism began. As we seek to reconnect to our Wesleyan heritage, it seems the best place we can begin is in prayer. Join us in our monthly prayer series: The Way to the Kingdom.

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## The Way to Awakening

**By David Thomas**

The Global Methodist Church is emerging at such an extraordinary moment when the desperation of our cultural crisis has been met by a stunning outpouring of the presence of God. We had been hopeful as we read our history and took inspiration from the majority world church to pursue a courageous restart and restructuring. But with the outpouring we now have a concrete hope, a sign of the Spirit that Jesus is hearing us, that He is coming to rescue Gen Z and extend His mercy once more. Everything that happened at Asbury University in February 2023 was the fruit of prayer. And if that is what God does when His people pray, we have never been more motivated to pray. Deep within we know that what our hearts, homes, churches, and cities are needing is not just a better Methodism. Long ago we left behind the times when denominational improvements were a sufficient hope. If ecclesial corrections alone were enough to stem the tide of societal decay and renew the church, it would have happened by now. We are the best-resourced Christians who have ever lived and look where we find ourselves. No, the urgency we face is confronting us with unambiguous proof of how human excellence is too small a thing. What we're needing is what only God can do. The genesis of the GM Church is an unrepeatable opportunity to pray for awakening.

The Methodist tree sown and husbanded by our forebears, the fruit and shade of which shaped our society, has deteriorated down to little more than a stump compared to the great "oak of righteousness" (Is 61:3) that we once were. In its deep taproot beneath that stump, however, Methodism was—and, I believe, still is—an awakening movement. We began as a protracted movement of God that produced deep wholeness in people, renewal of the church, evangelization of generations, and transformation of society. And that awakening sap still lies dormant in the cherished root system of what we are becoming. We steward the archetype in our story of what the Church can be when it expresses the fullness of "plain scriptural Christianity," in John Wesley's words.

"There is a wide-open door for a great work here," Paul wrote the Corinthians (I Cor 16:9 [NLT]), and we could say the same of our moment now. The stakes are too high for the Global Methodist Church to be about little more than cobbling together whatever remains of traditionalism in the hope that liberated affinity will revitalize us. We will have to dig deeper than that, beneath the surface, down to the sacred root system from which we came and where there is awakening life still into culture-change. It's all down there in our inheritance.

What we find there is not complicated. Thirst, heart cry, and holy love. Safe and honest soul-friendship among the faithful. Passionate concern for the unbelieving. Endurance married to urgency. Overflow into culture-change. It's all down there in our inheritance.

We can never squeeze new life out of this legacy any more than we can restructure ourselves back into vitality, now or at any other time. Awakening is not something we can manufacture. But we can remove impediments to it. We can position ourselves to receive it. We can crucify careerism and offer ourselves afresh to these hopes. And we can join hands and hearts to cry out to God for His new work of grace until He sends it. More than at any other moment in our lives, this could be the way to awakening.

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**A Suggested Pattern of Prayer**

As you pray through the following prayer points, invite the presence of the Lord into your time of prayer. Each day's prompt has a Scripture reference for you to pray through. As you pray also allow time to listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to you. When you have prayed through the Scripture and prayer point, you may be led to add your own prayers. Pray and consider what action steps you might take in response to the Lord's leading. Repeat this prayer pattern weekly for the month.

**Sunday:** Pray for personal awakening in all of us. Our awakening hopes emerge from our own fresh encounter with Jesus leading to the humility and repentance that opens all channels to His working. (Psalm 66:18)

**Monday:** Pray for deep embrace of a chosen desperation that defies any self-sufficiency and removes the veneer of abundance and capacity that can mask the actual urgency of our need for God. (Psalm 79:8)

**Tuesday:** Pray for a soaring vision of what the Christian movement has been at its best and can be again. Ask God to make the gap between that hope and our everyday experience of Church intolerable to our spirits. (Colossians 3:2)

**Wednesday:** Pray for a willingness to enter the posture and to receive the gift of travailing prayer. Ask God to give you in prayer a share of His burden for this world Jesus died to save, expressed from a heart filled with Gethsemane love. (Luke 22:44)

**Thursday:** Pray for the outpouring of the spirit of prayer in our hearts, homes, churches, and cities—that our petitions would be marked by a fervor and unity unexplainable in human terms. (Zechariah 12:10)

**Friday:** Pray for a renewal of evangelistic passion leading to boldness in the advance of Gospel, particularly among emerging adults. (Acts 4:29 / 28:31)

**Saturday:** Pray for a depth awakening—the healing and authenticity made possible in relationships formed from bonds of safety and courage. Ask God to breathe again on our inheritance in banded discipleship for the kind of relationship our world is craving and He could use to transform us from the inside out. (Galatians 6:2)

*"He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance! Acts 28:31*

David Thomas has served in leadership with Seedbed and New Room, initiatives of Asbury Theological Seminary, which exist to gather, connect, and resource the people of God to sow for a great awakening

### Facts and Figures

2023 Annual Budget	601,800
Rec'd toward Operating 11/18/2023	14,467
Year to Date 2022	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 11/18/23)	499,620
Expenses (thru 11/18/23)	498,461
<u>Attendance</u>	
Sunday, November 19 Total	274
Traditional Worship	152
Modern Worship	61
Online Worship	61

### Prayer Box

Laurie Bucholtz	Paula Galt
Carter King (GS of Mary King)	Roger Pautsch
Annie Imel (DIL John & Joy Imel)	Dorothy Sipes
Pat Wonderly	Karen Hall (friend of Sally Kelly)
Kristen & Mike Musick	Jeff & Tiffany Montesano
Barbara Hill	Geo Montesano
Winn & Ginger Lusk	Hank Brueggen
Diana & Jeff Davidson	Carol Hall
Judy McMinn	Mary Jane Svejkovsky
Jane Foreman	Beth Bidne
Dan & Norma Boland	Judy Knight
Cheryl Andrews	Cindy Wilkerson
Greg Spiser	Mary Desmukes
Mike Spiser	Kelli Pavelko
Lee Spiser	