

# St. Mark's

## BETHANY



December 6, 2023

Join us this Sunday for worship at St. Mark's. This Sunday will be the beginning of Advent with the series titled, "Places It Happened". This week the message will be 'Nazareth'. The scripture reference is Luke 1:26-38.

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  
Understanding God's Word Coming Jan. 7, Rm. 5



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](#).



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

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



*Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>*  
*Gather and snack 5:30 pm*  
*Head out caroling 6:00 pm*

*If you can RSVP*  
*Church Office*  
*Becky Roman*  
*Kathi Fisher*



# Poinsettias to Decorate Sanctuary

We still have a couple of poinsettias that have not been purchased.

Cost is \$30/ apiece

Sign up on Church counter or call church office

You may take them home

Following Christmas Eve Services



THANK YOU - ST. MARK'S  
Your generosity has helped make  
Christmas for over 45 children.

Gifts have been delivered and are  
now being wrapped and prepared  
for Christmas morning



## CDO Looking for Stocking Caps



CDO is looking for stocking  
caps for a Christmas pro-  
ject they are working on. If you have any  
old stocking caps around that you no longer  
use they would love to have them. You can  
drop them by the church office anytime be-

*Come & Go Prayer Time  
Wednesdays 5-6 pm*

*Be Prayed  
For/With*

*Pray Alone*

*Special Emphasis This Week  
Healing and interceding for those needing healing*

*You are invited to spend time with God*





# Wednesday Night Dec. 6



**5:00 pm**



**5:30 pm**



**6:00 pm**



**6:15 pm**



**6:15 pm**



**6:15 pm**




**6:30 pm**

  
**YOU ARE INVITED TO**  
**ST MARK'S BETHANY WOMEN**  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH**  
**POTLUCK SALAD AND DESSERTS**  
**MONDAY DECEMBER 11**  
**11:00 IN BARNETT HALL**  
**COME JOIN US FOR**  
**FUN, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP**



**St. Mark's Bethany**  
 During 2024, I commit, with the grace and help of God, to know Jesus better and support the ministries of St. Mark's with my prayers, presence, gifts, service & witness.



The amount I intend to give during 2024 is:

yearly ☐


monthly ☐

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**Prayers Presence Gifts Service Witness**

My financial commitment to St. Marks for 2024 is:  
 yearly ☐  
 monthly ☐

If you have not turned in your pledge card, please take a moment to fill it out and turn it in. Cards are available in the Narthex.

**New Sunday Morning Class**


Starting Sunday, January 14th, 2024, at 10:50 a.m. in room 5, Don and Jan Greve will lead the class verse by verse with discussion and questions. Starting in the gospel of John, we will explore old and new revelations about God's word for His people.

To be a part scan code or sign up on counter

  
**willow**  
 PREGNANCY SUPPORT

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!



# Sm kids NEWS

**Sunday Mornings  
November**

**Kidmin**

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



"A CHILD WILL BE BORN TO US.  
A SON WILL BE GIVEN TO US.  
HE WILL RULE OVER US.  
AND HE WILL BE CALLED  
WONDERFUL ADVISER AND MIGHTY GOD.  
HE WILL ALSO BE CALLED FATHER WHO LIVES  
FOREVER AND PRINCE WHO BRINGS PEACE."



**Nursery**

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

**Wee Worship**

10:45 am ages 2 1/2-kindergarten



"God loved the  
world so much  
that he gave  
his only Son."

JOHN 3:16, GNT



**PAJAMA  
PARTY**

Wednesday

Dec. 6th

in Kidmin



*Joy to the  
World*



Christmas Caroling

December 13th

Contact Becky Roman



The Jesus Storybook Bible  
**ADVENT  
ACTIVITY BOOK**  
24 GUIDED CRAFTS, FUN GAMES, SONGS, RECIPES, AND MORE



Prepare for the coming of Jesus, this Advent with God's Big Story. This Advent Book is a perfect compliment for the busy family.



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



December 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 Wisdom

Dr. Steve Seamands

“Select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, *full of the Spirit and of wisdom.*” (Acts 6:3, emphasis added) Faced with growing dissension within their ranks, that was the Apostles solution for the growing food distribution problem in the Jerusalem church. And their proposal *pleased the whole community* (Acts 6:5). So, they chose seven persons like Stephen. Later, even those who violently opposed him, “could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.” (Acts 6:10)

From its inception, the church has needed leaders, “full of the Spirit and of wisdom.” And how desperately we need them today, especially as we prepare to embark on a perilous voyage into uncharted waters, in the formation and establishment of the Global Methodist Church. So, we need to earnestly pray for wise leaders that the new church will walk in the way of wisdom. And that’s the focus of our prayer guide this month.

But what exactly characterizes a wise leader? In *New Testament Words*, William Barclay discusses the background and meaning of the three great Greek words (*sophia*, *phronesis*, *sunesis*) associated with wisdom found in the New Testament.

Each captures an essential element of wisdom.

- **Sophia** pertains to awareness of eternal things. It has to do primarily with knowledge of ultimate things, human and divine.
- **Phronesis**, often translated *prudence*, is the ability to apply knowledge to the practical problems of daily life and living. Much of the Old Testament wisdom literature such as Proverbs falls into this category.
- **Sunesis** is the ability to test, evaluate and form appropriate judgments. The wise can intelligently assess difficult situations and then choose the right course of action in response to them.

The way to wisdom combines all three elements. According to Barclay, it involves being “wise in the things of eternity and efficient in the things of time.” In Jesus, we find the perfect embodiment of wisdom. Paul stresses that He himself is wisdom, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24, 30). In Him are all the treasures of wisdom (Col. 2:3).

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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:** James urges us to ask, and God will give us wisdom "generously and ungrudgingly". Pray, boldly asking God to grant us wisdom for the living of these days. (James 1:5)

**Monday:** Pray for wisdom as *sophia* in the GM Church, the ability to distinguish between the eternal and the temporal so that we can hold fast to the things that never age. (Matthew 7:24-27)

**Tuesday:** Since Christ himself is our wisdom, pray for a deepening of our union with Christ, so that as our love and devotion for him increases, our wisdom will increase. (Colossians 2:3)

**Wednesday:** Pray for prudential, practical wisdom (*phronesis*), particularly in relation to complex decisions GM Church leaders must make. (Proverbs 8:11-12)

**Thursday:** Pray that we would not be seduced by the power and wisdom of this world but hold fast to the foolishness of God's wisdom revealed in Christ's cross. (1 Corinthians 1:22-25)

**Friday:** Pray for an increase of wisdom as *sunesis*, so that we might discern the long-term implications and consequences of current decisions. (1 Kings 3:9)

**Saturday:** Pray that God will raise up women and men "full of the Spirit and of wisdom" to lead us in the coming days. (Acts 6:3)

*In Him are all the treasures of wisdom. (Col. 2:3)*

*Dr. Stephen Seamands is Emeritus Professor of Christian Doctrine  
at Asbury Theological Seminary, where he taught for 35 years.  
He is the author of numerous books, including his most recent,  
Follow the Healer: Biblical and Theological Foundations for Healing Ministry, Seedbed, Inc.*

### Facts and Figures

2023 Annual Budget	601,800
Rec'd toward Operating 12/2/2023	4916
Year to Date 2022	
Rec'd toward offering (thru 12/2/23)	512,903
Expenses (thru 12/2/23)	521,768
<u>Attendance</u>	
Sunday, December 3 Total	309
Traditional Worship	178
Modern Worship	77
Online Worship	54

### Prayer Box

Miller Gerardy  
Laurie Bucholtz  
Kristen & Mike Musick  
Barbara Hill  
Winn & Ginger Lusk  
Diana & Jeff Davidson  
Judy McMinn  
Jane Foreman  
Dan & Norma Boland  
Cheryl Andrews  
Greg Spiser  
Mike Spiser  
Lee Spiser  
Paula Galt

Roger Pautsch  
Dorothy Sipes  
Karen Hall (friend of Sally Kelly)  
Jeff & Tiffany Montesano  
Geo Montesano  
Carol Hall  
Mary Jane Svejkovsky  
Beth Bidne  
Judy Knight  
Cindy Wilkerson  
Mary Desmukes  
Kelli Pavelko  
Family of Bill Rosenthal  
Karen Anderson (friend of Frankye Flemings)  
Larry Gaston