

Powerful Christmas Experience

St. Mark's has created a powerful theatrical show for this coming Christmas season entitled "The Thrill of Hope." This inspiring musical event features an original story written by our own Elizabeth and Brian Courtright which will be told through a multimedia presentation including the music of the Trans Siberian Orchestra, original video segments starring members of St. Mark's, and original dance choreography by Aliya Rajnic. The music will be played by a talented band of people from St. Mark's and the community ranging from youth to adult.

For those unfamiliar with the music of the Trans Siberian Orchestra, this musical group melds together many styles of music, including rock, classical, and ballads to create a dramatic musical experience that has a very wide appeal (note that this performance will have more of a "concert" feel with higher volume levels).

This will be a great event for inviting friends and neighbors who are in need of hope this season, but, are less inclined to attend a "typical" church event. The message of God's grace and the many second chances He offers us will be shared in a dramatic way.

The show is free to the public and a free-will donation will be received to benefit the Mount Joy Food Bank. No childcare will be provided. (continued on pg. 3)

Come, Ye Thankful People

One November I put "Come, Ye Thankful People" on the outdoor church sign in preparation for Thanksgiving. Within limited space, it both invited people to come and to be thankful. Many people asked me why I used the word "ye" since no one used that word anymore. "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" is the first line of a hymn, I explained. The hymn invites people to come and "raise the song of harvest home." The crops have been safely gathered in; the winter storms can begin. We can confidently sing, "God our Maker doth provide."

The theme of giving thanks to God is found throughout the Bible. Our fitting response to all that God has provided is to give thanks. The psalmist exclaims, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name." (Psalm 100:4) We can picture the worship leader calling the group to "enter his gates." The gates that the people were called to enter belong to God; they are not our own. God is the reason for our giving thanks.

God can be found both in the events of history as well as in our personal lives. We give thanks knowing that God's love is constant in our lives. We may turn away from God, but God never stops loving us!

Take a moment now to give thanks to God for your many blessings, for all that God has done in your life. I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one a Happy Thanksgiving.

~Pastor Tim Smith

Free Thanksgiving Meal

St. Mark's and community members will cook and serve our 13th annual free Thanksgiving Day Dinner for residents of Mount Joy and the surrounding communities. (continued on pg. 3)



Sunday Fellowship Dinners

St. Mark's Sunday Dinner Team will be cooking and serving dinners on November 12 and December 10 from 11 am – 12:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$3 for children 4 – 11. Turkey with gravy, our own homemade potato filling, vegetables, cranberry sauce and more will be served in November and the proceeds will go to the Mount Joy Food Bank.

The December Fellowship Dinner will feature hamloaf, buttered noodles, sweet potatoes, vegetable and more. The proceeds from this dinner will go Mount Joy's Helping Services and the Free Community Dinners. In appreciation to our children who are preparing for their Christmas program which will be presented on Sunday, December 10, all children in grades 6 and younger are invited to dine for free.

Many volunteers are needed to make these dinners possible! Help is needed with the Saturday preparation, as well as Sunday to cook and serve the meal. We are especially in need of dishwashers and people to help cleanup following the dinners. To volunteer, please contact [Janet](mailto:Janet@connectstmarks.com) at (717) 653-4189.



Winterfest

On Saturday, December 2 from 4 – 7 pm Mount Joy will celebrate Winterfest. Winterfest is Mount Joy's official holiday kickoff with live music, family-fun activities, food, & community tree lighting.

For a number of years, St. Mark's has offered free hot chocolate and cookies to people who attend Winterfest. The tradition will continue this year, as St. Mark's Fellowship Hall will provide a "warm meeting place" for people to eat their food purchased from vendors, as well as enjoy our free hot chocolate and cookies.

Last year St. Mark's gave away more than 720 cups of hot chocolate and more than 200+ dozen cookies! We are asking for help with baking cookies, serving the cookies and hot chocolate, and wiping off the tables throughout the evening.



If you are willing to donate cookies, brownies, rice krispie treats, etc. or are willing to help serve the cookies and hot chocolate at Winterfest, please contact [Janet Lehman](mailto:Janet@connectstmarks.com) at (717) 653-4189.

STAFF

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Part-time Custodian - Mark Laukhuff

Organist - Lois Stites
loisstites@gmail.com

Chancel Choir Director - Michael Kohler
bwaynut@comcast.net

Sunday Custodial Coordinator - Bob Miller

Free Thanksgiving Meal (continued)

This year's Thanksgiving Day Dinner will be served at noon in Fellowship Hall for those who want to enjoy the delicious turkey dinner at the church with family, friends, and community members. Arrangements can also be made to have meals delivered to sick and shut-ins.

**Thanksgiving Dinner pick-up is
between 11 - 11:30 am (to take home).**

Volunteers who will be delivering meals to sick and shut-ins should come to the Fellowship Hall between 11:30 - 11:45 am to get the meals that they will deliver.

St. Mark's goal is to provide a Thanksgiving meal for everyone in the community who is looking for a place to enjoy a delicious home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner. So whether you are going through a difficult time, you have no family in the area, or would like a warm, welcoming place to take your family for a mouth-watering turkey dinner, St. Mark's is the place to come for your Thanksgiving Dinner. The meal includes turkey and gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, vegetables, rolls & butter, cranberry sauce, beverage, and dessert! Although there is no cost, donations will be accepted.

Call the church office at (717) 653-5493 by Friday, Nov. 17 to make your Thanksgiving Day Dinner reservations. Everyone is invited to join us!

Friendship Community Group Fundraiser

Looking for a great hostess or holiday gift? Members of the Friendship Community Group are taking orders for "Friendship Monster Cookie Mix in a Jar".

All orders are due by Nov. 5 and will be available for pickup on Sunday, Nov. 19. For more information contact [Kathy Bower](#) at 717-665-9141 or Pat Bomberger at 717-653-2395.

The Friendship Group is continuing their tradition of holding this fundraiser to support St. Mark's mission projects. They have contributed to 'For the Love of the Game', Faith Factory Financial Assistance Fund, James Labala, provided funds for church members going on mission projects and assisted church members and their families with financial needs. This year's proceeds will continue to support St. Mark's missions.

Senior Ministry Event

Seniors are invited to attend a turkey dinner at Centre Presbyterian Church in Perry County on Saturday, Nov. 4. The dinner includes turkey, mashed potatoes, yams, delicious stuffing, corn, cranberry relish, pepper cabbage, bread, water, homemade ice cream and cake. The cost of dinner is \$13. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center desk or call [Janet Lehman](#) at (717) 653-4189 by Friday, Nov. 3. A carpool will leave the church parking lot at 9 am.

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Powerful Christmas Experience (continued)



The program is best suited for adults and teens, as it contains some emotional segments that may upset more sensitive younger children. Performances are Sunday, December 3, Sunday December 10, and Saturday December 16. Show time is 6:30 pm at all performances and the doors will open at 6:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

Special Congregational Update

On Sunday, November 19 there will be a Special Congregational Update beginning at 10:10 am in Fellowship Hall. Please join us over coffee as we provide a current financial report and projections related to the 2017 General Fund, as well as provide information relative to the pending 2018 balanced budget process.

All our Lead Teams (Leadership, Finance, PPRT & Trustees) have been working to allocate funds to address any such shortfall and staff has been diligently working to reduce or defer expenses, while providing quality and meaningful ministries.

info@connectstmarks.com

FAITH FACTORY NEWS

It has been a busy October filled with lots of apple and pumpkin activities! Our children have been getting to know each other and starting to form new friendships! Bible time has been underway for a few weeks now. The primary Bible class, led by Elma Umholtz and Tammy Ober, had a wonderful lesson on leaning on God. The student's prayers were amazing. It is such a special time for all the school age children to be sent off to Donegal armed with pencils, books and most importantly, the knowledge that God is with them through every step of their day, and loves them through both good and difficult times.

Mr. Richard led the school-age children in "See You at the Pole" last month and it was powerful to hear our children lifting up Jesus in song and prayer around our flag in the front yard! Cars were beeping and heads were turning to see what was happening. What a great way to witness to people going to work that day!



We have some teachers that could use your prayers over the next few weeks. First, we will be saying good-bye to Miss Rhonda, who is in our 3's class. Rhonda will be having knee replacement and is having some health concerns. We wish her the very best and will miss her! Miss Jody will also be having knee replacement and will be out for a few weeks; please keep her in your prayers. Miss Brittany will be leaving us at the end of December for maternity leave; pray for her and her husband as they prepare for their first child!

Thank you for your supporting our fundraiser for families needing financial aid. The Isaac's fundraiser earned \$278.00 and the KidStuff Coupon Book has raised over \$1,300.00. Our families are needing more and more help and it means a lot for them when we are able to reach out and help. We hope you will visit and support the Scholastic Book Fair in early December, which will help put more books into our classrooms!

Enjoy your fall season; we are thankful for you! For information about Faith Factory Learning Center, call [Patti Shearer](tel:7176538201) at (717) 653-8201.

Scholastic Book Fair

Faith Factory Learning Center will hold a Scholastic Book Fair at St. Mark's in the Welcome Center from Nov. 26 - Dec. 3 with books for children of all ages, a great opportunity to purchase gifts for the holidays.

The Book Fair will be open on:

Sun., Nov. 26: 8 - 11 am
Wed., Nov. 29: 6 - 10 am &
11:30 am - 1 pm
Thurs., Nov. 30: 3 - 6:30 pm
Sat., Dec. 2: 9 - 11 am &
4 - 7 pm
Sun., Dec. 3: 8 - 11 am

Purchases can be made with cash, checks and credit cards. Anyone wishing to volunteer to assist with the Book Fair can contact [Kathy Bower](mailto:kathy.bower@faithfactory.org) at (717) 665-9141.

Holiday Shopping and Craft Fair

Don't fight the mall traffic - come shop at St. Mark's on Saturday, December 2 from 9am - 1pm in Fellowship Hall. This is one-stop shopping adventure features vendors such as Pampered Chef, Mary Kay, Origami Owl, LulaRoe, Thirty-One, and many more! Contact [Kim Wargo](mailto:kim.wargo@faithfactory.org) for more information.

Reach Update

Reach Student Ministry is in full swing! After having annual elections for officer positions, Reach has elected Aria Rajnic as President, Sophie May as Vice President, Collin Arntz as Treasurer, and Aliya Rajnic as Secretary. We are all excited to see how God uses these young people to lead the group this coming year!

In October, we worked through a series called "Set Apart," where we learned how God calls us into the process of becoming more Holy, to become more like Jesus. We learned that God doesn't expect us to do this on our own; that we are given people in our lives to help us along this road.

We are planning a Thanksgiving based series in November called "Thank Full", where we will focus on being thankful for all that God has given us, and how we can become blessings to others around us.

Reach would like to thank the congregation for their prayers and support of this ministry, and ask for continued prayer as God continues to move and develop leaders in this group.

~Jimmy Law



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Invite a Friend to our Advent Family Celebration

Children's Ministry will be hosting an Advent Family Celebration on Friday, December 1 at 6pm. All families in the community are invited to join us as we celebrate the beginning of Advent! Join us in Fellowship Hall where families will make wreaths together, enjoy snacks and fellowship, and will hear a special story. Families will be provided with Advent Devotionals to use each week as they prepare for Christmas. Families, singles, old and young are all welcome!

Children's Ministry is seeking help with hospitality at this event. If you would be interested in greeting families, serving hot chocolate and snacks, or helping with craft supplies, please contact [Laura Ligo](mailto:Laura.Ligo) at (717) 653-5493. We would love to have members of the congregation join us to celebrate Advent together!



Reach Student Ministry Fundraiser

The youth are selling tubs of cookie dough from Nov. 5 through Nov. 19 to raise money for student activities. There is a variety to choose from and the cost is \$10.

Youth Group All-Nighter

Are you ready to have fun, exchange goofy gifts, stay up all night, and play sardines for hours? Then you're ready for Reach Student Ministry's annual Christmas Party All-Nighter on December 29 (into the 30)! Details are still being finalized, so keep an eye out for more information! Or feel free to contact [Jimmy Law](mailto:Jimmy.Law).

Faith Factory Sunday Christmas Program

Children's Worship Sunday will be on Sunday, December 10 at the 9:00 service. Our St. Mark's week-day and Sunday morning children are preparing themselves to lead the congregation in meaningful creative worship centered on the theme 'When Hope Came Down'. Throughout the service, children will be praising God through song, dance, drama, art and handbells. Video testimonies will show how the kids imagine what the night of Jesus' birth might have looked like. To serve the senior citizens in our community, the kids are traveling to Juniper Village Retirement Center with their ministry. Please join us to support our children on Sunday, Dec. 10 and invite a friend!

info@connectstmarks.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Thursdays, Nov. 17 and Dec. 21 at 6:30pm. Call [Myrl Sherk](tel:7176535133) at (717) 653-5133 for more information.

Prayer Community of Mount Joy

Join other community members in prayer on December 6 at 6:30 pm in our Ministry Center parlor. Prayer concerns include our schools, government officials, families, the homeless, and much more.

Monthly Prayer Meeting

On the second Tuesday of each month, a group meets in the Prayer Room at 9am to pray for our church, the staff, the leadership and all the ministries of the church. This group has seen an influx of new people, as well. Don't be left out! If you have a burden to lift up prayer, you are invited to join any or all of the above mentioned groups. It would be a terrific blessing to God to have you joining in this ministry.

Men's Ministry

All men are invited to attend Men's Ministry on Tuesdays, November 7 and December 5 at 6:30 pm at Aspire. The current study is 'The Good Book' by Deron Spoo. For more information, contact [Jeff Selph](tel:7179284545) at (717) 928-4545 or [Rob Stoner](tel:7176535493) at (717) 653-5493.

Men's Breakfast

Join the guys at Gus's Restaurant on Saturdays, November 18 and December 16 at 8 am for breakfast and fellowship. Contact [Jeff Selph](tel:7179284545) at (717) 928-4545 for more information.

Recap and Looking Forward

Our Wednesday evening study on the Presence Based Church has generated much discussion. We learned that to experience more of God in our lives and in our church requires more focus on prayer & worship.

It's easy to get distracted from what is most important. In Luke Chapter 10 we find the familiar story of sisters Martha and Mary. Martha became distressed by her many tasks while Mary sat at the feet of Jesus. We also learned about Moses and how he constantly sought the Presence of God. It must have been challenging for him to lead the people through the wilderness. There might have been times when he was ready to quit, however his experience and relationship with God kept him going. A study is being planned for Lent beginning in February.

New Coming in November and December

Advent Begins on December 3

The four weeks prior to Christmas, known as Advent, are a time of preparation to receive and welcome anew Jesus into our lives. This year's theme is "When Hope Came Down".

Invite a Friend

On Sunday mornings in November, we will be exploring ways we might invite our friends and neighbors to one of our special December events such as the children-led worship service and the chancel choir cantata.

Thanksgiving Sunday

We will be collecting our 2018 Intend Cards on Sunday, Nov. 19. Everyone will have the opportunity to indicate their support for St. Mark's Church for the coming year.



~ Pastor Tim Smith



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Beryl Rajnic
Emma Lown
- 2 Joell Garner
- 3 Brandon Witmer
- 4 Colby Shearer
- 5 Philip Yeagley
- 7 Pauline Wolgemuth
Jocelyn Bosse
- 8 Linley Miller
Michael Wee
- 10 Chris Hostetter
Michele Stark
- 11 Tyler Aldinger
Sharon Fritz
Thomas Hill
- 12 Bob Kozma
Linda Grissinger
Barbara Daggett
- 13 Hunter Kennedy
Bernerd Grissinger
- 14 Kathy Bower
- 15 Erin Wee
Ethan Lown
- 17 Cindy Stoner
- 19 Tiersha Bomberger
Brian Bixler
- 20 Robert Bardell
Diane Kerlin
Connor Bowers
- 21 Joyce Condon
Sally Rissinger
- 22 Dean Zimmerman
- 23 Jill MacKenzie
Gail Way
Sylvia Stark
- 24 Linda Landis
- 26 Pat Paules
Jamie Williams
- 28 Diane Mowery
- 29 Mary Brubaker

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

- Cindy Stoner - 65
- Mary Brubaker - 70
- Bob Kozma - 75
- Bernerd Grissinger - 91



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Sam & Sharon Clark
- 3 Gary & Joyce Aston
- 4 Phil & Laura Donmoyer
- 5 Richard & Gail Merchant
- 6 Mike & Nancy Fink
- 8 Jeff & Chris Hostetter
- 10 Dave & Janice Schell
- 11 Glenn & Miriam Wolgemuth
- 15 James & Stacey Spence
- 19 Robert & Mary Ann Funk
- 23 Ken & Yvonne Depoe
- 25 Jeff & Kathy Zerphey
- 27 Steve & Hope Hammond
Paul & Peggy Hann

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

- Sam & Sharon Clark - 20
- Mike & Nancy Fink - 35

NOVEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS

- 5 Shirley Harkins
- 12 Marge Yeich
- 19 Anonymous
- 26 Paul & Peggy Hann



CAFÉ SCHEDULE AND SETUP

November Schedule	Donuts - Ken Gephart	Setup
5 Mary Rost, Nancy Fink, Marion Young		Judy Libhart
12 Coffee and donuts		Judy Libhart
19 Kris Rost, Lois Stites, Mary Ann Rupp		Mary Ann Rupp
26 Cindy Stoner, Kim Wargo, Deb Rupp		Deb Rupp

Daylight Savings Ends

Don't forget to turn your clocks back on Sunday, November 5.

All Saint's Day

Those that have gone before us will be honored and remembered on Sunday, November 5 at both worship services.

Remembrance Service

A community memorial service to pay tribute to loved ones will be held on Saturday, November 4 with special music starting at 10:30 am at St. Mark's. The service will begin at 11 am with a reception and social time following at 11:45 am. To have a loved one recognized, contact Sheetz Funeral Home at (717) 653-5441.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Nancy Persing
Deb Rupp
Angie Meyers
Doug Fullenlove
Martha Hood
- 3 Philip Andrew Colvin
- 4 Pastor Tim Smith
- 5 Charles Rost
- 6 Barb Bender
- 9 Theresa Newcomer
- 10 Russell Kuhn
- 11 Scott Albert
Kim Wargo
Linda Tait
- 15 Kathy Zerphey
- 16 Sue Kerlin
- 17 Mary Brandt
- 18 Nadeem Hall
- 21 Paul Anderson
- 22 Deb Brubaker
Rob Stoner
Peyton Cranford
- 23 Shirley Harkins
- 24 Marge Rineer
Kaitlynn Weaver
- 25 Doris Bardell
Carleigh Rupp
- 26 Milton Kelley
- 27 Ken Depoe
Judy Libhart
- 29 Trudy Shirk
- 30 James Endslo
Frank Kerlin
- 31 Darryl Wittle
Nancy Webster
Linda Wilson

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

- Charles Rost - 70
- Doris Bardell - 75
- James Endslo - 91



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Sean & Beryl Rajnic
- 14 Adam & Lindsay Kitchen
- 26 Leonard & Joanna Smith
- 29 Bruce & Tahnya Lambie
Ken & Theresa Newcomer
- 29 Bob & Myrl Sherk
- 30 Loren & Marjorie Maninger

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

- Ken & Theresa Newcomer - 60

Christmas Poinsettias

You can order Christmas poinsettias for \$8.00 each starting on Nov. 12. These poinsettias will decorate the church in the weeks prior to Christmas. Envelopes will be available in the Sanctuary kiosk and at the Welcome Center. Please enclose your payment and drop it in the offering plate or give it to [Marge Yeich](#) (717) 492-0606. The deadline is December 3.



DECEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS

- 3 Anonymous
- 10 Sue & Bob Kerlin
- 17 Anonymous
- 24 Poinsettias
- 31 Poinsettias

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1.

CAFÉ SCHEDULE AND SETUP

December Schedule	Donuts - Darryl Wittle	Setup
3 Diana Blace, Sylvia Stark, Cindy Stoner		Sylvia Stark
10 Coffee and donuts		Judy Libhart
17 Shirley Forney, Cindy Stoner, Irma Wealand		Judy Libhart
24 Closed		
31 Closed		

November Mission of the Month

Our 2018 Mission of the Month program includes a new focus for Community Outreach Programs. Intending to support St. Mark's outreach into Mount Joy and the surrounding area through: 4th Friday, Winterfest, the Free Community Meals, Trunk or Treat, The Taste of Mount Joy (Cruisin' and Cuisine) Car Show, etc. these programs have a dual focus on witnessing and sharing Christ's love with the community. Teams participating in the sharing of St. Mark's includes: Family Ministries, Children Ministries, our Men's Ministry and the various churches that help out with the free community dinner. All, as followers of Jesus, being called to invite, connect, equip & to be sent; to meet needs, touch lives and change the world. To support these outreach events, use the specially-marked giving envelope, text 'stmarksoutreach' to 30131, or visit www.connectstmarks.com.

Thank You

We would like to thank the congregation for their outpouring of love (and treats) during pastor appreciation month. Your notes, cards, and words of encouragement are deeply appreciated. We truly feel your love. We give thanks to God for each and everyone of you. We are fortunate to serve St. Mark's Church. In Christ, Pastor Tim, Pastor Sean, & Dr. Dave



Parish Resource Center Programs

Neighboring Well: Living Like Jesus in Your Community
Monday, November 6

7:00 – 8:30 pm at [Parish Resource Center](#)

Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but how should we do this in our current culture? Join us for a panel discussion with leaders who are helping churches think about loving their neighbors, but even more, are committed to doing it themselves on a daily basis. Each person attending will leave with practical examples and reflective questions to help them, and people at their church, think honestly about who their neighbors are and how they can practically extend love.

Hope Reborn: An Advent Experience at [Parish Resource Center](#)

December 4 – 8 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm

December 11 – 15 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm

As we celebrate Advent, we wait in expectation for the coming of Jesus. This is a season of hope, yet personally, and in the world around us, hope can feel absent or contrived. This Advent, carve out at least ten minutes to visit the Parish Resource Center and enter into an Advent experience: Hope Reborn. The experience is suitable for children if they are accompanied by an adult who can assist them in the experience.

Thursday Bible Study

You are invited to join in studying God's Word in group Bible Study on Thursdays at 9:30am in Room 102.

Art Sundays

Aspire will be open on Nov. 12 and Dec. 10 for all types of artists from 6 - 9 pm. Painters, knitters, poets, musicians, etc. are encouraged to bring your project and supplies. Contact [Sherrie Gilbert](#) at (717) 669-1931 with any questions.

Socks for Veterans

Operation Toasty Tootsies collects warm socks and distributes them to homeless veterans. You are invited to participate in this ministry by purchasing socks and depositing them in the Toasty Tootsies collection box in the Welcome Center in November. Thanks for your support.

Trustees Corner

The Board of Trustees have recently been joined by Hunter Kennedy and Scott Libhart bringing the current team to 7 members. The team will be back to a full complement of 9 members at the beginning of the new year as Jeff Orner, Gail Way and Chris Haines join.

The Bell Tower and Northwest Stair Tower Restoration / Structural Remediation Project has just been put out for bid. Bids being due on November 3.

Chancel Cantata

Join us for a holiday cantata entitled 'Little Lion, Little Lamb' sung by our own chancel choir on Sunday, December 17 at 9 am. Through original songs and traditional carols, singers and listeners will be reminded that the Christmas story is not just an event in history, but a living story that still impacts the world today.



Do you like to sing? You are invited to join Chancel Choir for the holiday season to participate in the Christmas Cantata. Please contact [Mike Kohler](mailto:mikekohler@connectstmarks.com) at (717) 769-2271.

December Mission of the Month



Rev. James Labala, District Superintendent of the Gompa District in the United Methodist Church in Liberia, Africa is the mission focus for December. James has helped to assist the people of Liberia in their fight against the Ebola virus, as well as provided a vehicle to help connect with the churches in his district. He coordinated the construction of Garwin UM Church and a parsonage, which St. Mark's considers a global church plant.

Remember to pray for James, the people of Liberia, and all of Africa. You can support James financially by using your specially-marked giving envelope, visit www.connectstmarks.com, or text 'Labala' to 30131.

December Free Community Meal

A free hot meal including pulled pork BBQ and macaroni and cheese will be served on Sunday, December 17 at 4 pm in Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in attending, please call the church office at (717) 653-5493 by Thursday, December 14.



Get your Christmas Gift Cards at St. Mark's

You can purchase gift cards from Reach Student Ministry to support upcoming youth activities. Cards include:

Amazon
Applebee's
Bass Pro Shop
Boscov's
CVS
Dunkin Donuts
Great Clips
Lands' End
Olive Garden
Red Lobster
Regal Theatres
Starbucks
Toys R Us
Wal-Mart
Weis
and many more!

Pick up an order sheet in the Welcome Center or at www.connectstmarks.com. Turn in your order to Janice Schell by Dec. 3 for delivery on Dec. 10.

Staff Appreciation Gift

St. Mark's is blessed to have an outstanding staff to lead and challenge us. Once again this Christmas, the Pastor Parish Relations Team, with your help, would like to provide each of our staff members a Christmas gift to affirm his/her ministry. Please pick up an envelope in the Sanctuary kiosk to contribute to this gift. Donations may be placed in the church offering plate through Sunday, Dec. 3. The gifts will be presented at their Dec. 13 staff meeting. Thank you in advance for your support of our staff.
Pastor Parish Relations Team

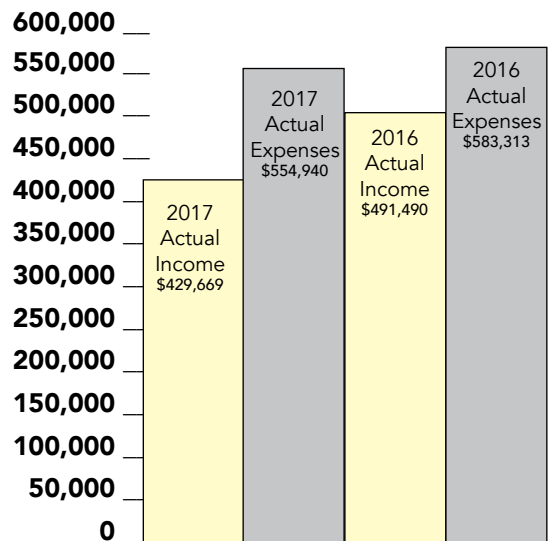
GIVING REPORT

YEAR 2016 GIVING REPORT

January 1 - Sept. 30, 2016 Last Year

General Fund	Y.T.D.	Y.T.D.
Actual Income	\$ 429,669	\$ 491,490
Budget Needed	\$ 583,631	\$ 604,075
Actual Expenses	\$ 554,940	\$ 583,313
Building Fund (45 E Main/Trustee Projects Loan)		
Actual Income	\$ 10,335	\$ 14,922
Budget Needed	\$ 10,609	\$ 10,609
<i>Loan Balance = \$99,107</i>		
Capital Campaign		
Actual Giving	\$ 66,512	\$ 108,734
Mission Giving		
<i>Sept. Mission of the Month -</i>		
FOOD BANK	\$ 5,483	\$ 6,193
Total Mission Giving	\$ 21,188	\$ 19,064
St. Mark's Emergency Fund		
Actual Income	\$ 9,889	\$ 14,538
Actual Expenses	\$ 10,032	\$ 12,082
Special Offerings		
Actual Income	\$ 22,235	\$ 13,839
TOTAL GIVING	\$559,828	\$662,587

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY



EMERGENCY FUND

	THIS YEAR 2017	LAST YEAR 2016
JAN - SEPT		
Financial Assistance	\$ 5,446	\$ 6,396
• 32 persons - 75 % Non-Church Members/Attendees		
Rent Assistance	\$ 4,452	\$ 5,453
• 7 persons - 74 % Non-Church Members/Attendees		
Utility Assistance	\$ 134	\$ 233
• 2 persons - 100 % Non-Church Members/Attendees		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$10,032	\$12,082
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 9,889	\$14,538
BALANCE AS OF SEPT. 30	\$ - 143	\$ 2,456

Online Giving

Fulfill your 2017 pledge by signing up for E-Giving! Enroll today in automatic, recurring donations by Credit Card, Debit Card, or Automatic Withdrawal from a bank account.

Log onto www.connectstmarks.com and click on About Us, Giving, then Online Giving. Log in or Give as a Guest. If you have any questions, contact [Janice Schell](mailto:Janice.Schell@connectstmarks.com) at (717) 653-5493 ext. 225.

www.connectstmarks.com

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

37 East Main Street
Mount Joy, PA 17552

(717) 653-5493

www.connectstmarks.com

info@connectstmarks.com

For questions or to submit information contact:

Sarah Clarke

sclarke@connectstmarks.com

or Kim Wargo

kwargo@connectstmarks.com

The deadline for the next
newsletter is

DECEMBER 15

The deadline for the enote, weekly bulletin and video announcements is two weeks before the publication date. Announcements normally run no more than two/ three weeks.

info@connectstmarks.com



37 East Main Street, Mount Joy, PA 17552

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meeting needs, touching lives, changing the world

WHEN
HOPE
CAME DOWN

advent 2017

Advent Family Celebration
December 1 • 6 PM

Winterfest
December 2 • 4-7 PM

1st Sunday of Advent
December 3 • 9 & 10:45 AM

Thrill of Hope
December 3, 10, 16 • 6:30 PM

Children's Worship
December 10 • 9 AM

Contemporary Worship
December 10 • 10:45 AM

Chancel Choir Cantata
December 17 • 9 AM

Contemporary Worship
December 17 • 10:45 AM

Christmas Eve
December 24 • 9:30 AM
1 PM, 7 PM, 10 PM

ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The poster features a dark blue background with a central image of a lit advent candle with a starburst pattern. Below the candle are silhouettes of houses with warm lights glowing from their windows. The church logo is in the bottom left corner.