



October 5, 2017

What the Heck Is Charge Conference?

I like to teach this every few years because we have a tendency to forget what isn't repeated more often.

Well, in order to answer what Charge Conference is, I should probably explain what a "charge" is first. In the early days of Methodism, pastors were not appointed to churches (technically they still aren't). They were appointed to "circuits". A circuit was a region, and the pastor was appointed to lead every church within his (no female clergy in those early days) borders. Most pastors travelled on horseback, and were therefore called "circuit riders".

As time passed, these circuits grew somewhat smaller as the U.S. was settled and more pastors were being ordained. When pastors became less mobile, many churches under one pastor found the need to make joint decisions about pastoral issues (compensation or "pastoral support" being one of those issues). As these churches started making mutual decisions, they were called a "charge" because the pastor was "charged" with the care and leadership of these churches combined.

As an aside, this is one of the major strengths in the United Methodist appointive system in my opinion. The system is setup so that each church is lead mostly by the laity rather than an autocratic pastor/priest who dictates how the church functions. While many churches today have lost that reliance on lay leadership, St. Mark's has developed a strong core of lay leaders who continue to develop so that the church's future can be guided by pastoral leadership without relying on a pastor to make every decision for the church.

Back to the charges, most of the joint decisions fell into a category of annual decisions, like pastoral compensation, parsonage provision, budgeting, leadership positions, etc., so we have an annual event to make these decisions for the coming year. In the early years, these decisions

were actually debated and made at Charge Conference. As charges grew smaller, most of the debating and decision-making happened prior to Charge Conference, rendering this event little more than a rubber stamp to make "final approval" of the prior approvals gained on the committee and Church Council levels.

So, should you come? In a word, yes. More specifically, this is a historic event in the life of the church and if you haven't ever been to Charge Conference, I would encourage you to attend (at least once) so you can see the wheels in motion. [Incidentally, I would also encourage attending Council meetings and/or other committee meetings at least once to see how decisions are made. The only committee that does not permit guests without prior approval is Staff Parish Relations.]

Are there any technicalities? Well...yes!...and no. Technically, voting is a privilege of charge members only. However, with most of the decisions being approved more than made, no one checks "membership cards" at the door.

What can I expect? We'll gather with several other churches (makes these less cumbersome for the District Superintendent who leads all Charge Conferences). We will sing and worship together. Our District Superintendent will preach. What is being planned is less of a sermon and more of a 'sharing of his heart.'

If you don't care about Charge Conference...if you've been before and don't want to go again...if you are a member or not...I would encourage you to come just to hear a different voice. You get to [have to?] hear me preach all the time. You could

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

Stan Hill
Jana Mein
Donna Miesse
Isaiah Gadage
Sharon Barger
Tessa Bolton
Marvel Zuercher
Jacob Fuelling

Liz Koons
Terry Adams
Larry Rumschlag
Myles Baczynski
Tonya Adams
Caitlin Longworth
Magen Wilson
Rebecca Dailey



Ed Karges
Norman Hirschy
Colleen Fast
Drew Phegley
Kevin Brown
Kari Burkholder
Shailyn Dunno
Julia Jones

Kennady Bixler
Donna Barger
Riane Wyatt
Phyllis Hindenlang
Mary Lou Andrews
Cathy Coshow
Amy Rice

The next newsletter is scheduled for
November 7. Article deadline is October 25.

*Celebrating an
Anniversary*



Justin & Leah Keller
Jim & Becky Baumgartner
Travis & Brooke Landrum
Ryan & Amy Rice
Gary & Julie Wyatt
Larry & Vickie Rumschlag

Thank You

I want to give a big thank-you for all the nice birthday cards for my 92nd birthday! Thank you to Ernie & Becky for bringing me communion each month. I received the chrysanthemum flowers from Congregational Care. I so appreciate it.
Barbara Gaunt

Dear Members, Friends and Youth of St. Mark's
Thank you for the pretty carnation. It is doing great.

Also thank you for the greeting card and the pictures of the youth. I certainly enjoyed all—
"Still am".

Thank you again.
Love, Sibyl Bardley

*During a time like this
we realize how much
our friends and relatives
really mean to us.
Your expression of sympathy
will always be remembered.*

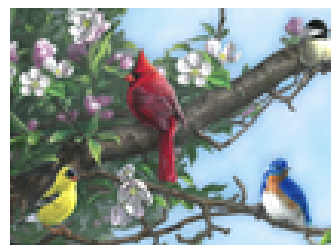


Family of St. Mark's
Thank you for all the love & support you have shown Barbara this past year. Thank you for all the cards, flowers, & prayers you sent her. Thank you Pastors Chris & Emie for your visits, & Norm & Liz for the weekly visits & for bringing her communion.

The family of Barbara Zimmerman

To Thank You

St. Mark's Staff & family,
Thank you for the potted flowers. The love and support from our St. Mark's family is helping us through this very difficult time. We are blessed.
Ernie & Becky Suman



*Thank You!
Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for all the prayers, get well cards, phone calls, food & gifts.
I especially want to thank associate Pastor Emie & Becky for their visits & Pastor Chris for visiting me at Lutheran Hospital and a big thank-you to my Daughters for all the help during my fall hospital stay.*

*Thank you for all the birthday cards too.
Another thank-you to the ladies that made the beautiful blanket dedicated to me. I was so surprised. I am surely blessed.
God Bless, Kate Brunner*

continued from pg. 1:
What the Heck Is Charge Conference?

come just to hear somebody else's voice for a little bit. :)

Charge Conference is Sunday, November 5, 6pm. We are also hosting again this year, so it gives us another opportunity to show off our hospitality skills. We'll be organizing a *welcome wagon* just like last year, so all who come can be welcomed to St. Mark's in the name of the Lord! (More info on the *welcome wagon* coming later.)

Again, Charge Conference: Sunday, November 5, 6pm at St. Mark's. Hope to see you there.

Pastor Chris



Friends,
 Prayer brings us near to God. It is a vital part of our personal relationship with God. It's where we give the Lord thanks and praise, seek the

will of God, present our requests, release our concerns, receive the Lord's gracious forgiveness, and channel His power in order to forgive others. Prayer is also an opportunity to draw close to God, affirm our faith, and strengthen our relationship with the God we serve. May we always be grateful for the privilege of spending time this way with God, the Creator of the universe.

Sometimes it is not easy to pray. One of the many superb quotes of Oswald Chambers is, "Prayer is not preparation for the battle, it is the battle." We do not know what goes on in the spiritual realm when we pray. We do know, however, that when we pray according to God's will we receive access, through Jesus Christ, into the very presence of God who has authority over all enemies; visible and invisible. Let us put our trust in our Victorious Warrior and go to God in prayer, spending time with Him, and seek His will.

Isaiah 55:8-9 tells us that God's ways and thoughts are higher than our ways and thoughts. Let us turn our ear to listen for God's voice and then pray boldly, in Jesus' name.

[Commission on a Way Forward](#) was proposed by the Council of Bishops and approved by the 2016 General Conference to do a complete examination and possible revision of every paragraph of the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and explore options that help to maintain and strengthen the unity of the Church.

The worldwide United Methodist Church is in prayer for this effort. Our Indiana Conference has been assigned the week of October 15th to focus our prayers on the Commission on a Way Forward. Let us set aside our personal thoughts and agendas, and join together seeking God's hand in prayer.

Each church can decide on their own plan of individual and corporate prayer and fasting during this designated week. Please inform prayer coordinators and prayer warriors in your congregations. Also, please announce this request during your services the weekend of October 7 and 8, as well as October 14 and 15.

May we cover this mission in prayer during the entire week, starting October 15.

Thank you for your faithfulness to pray.
 Darlene Neckers
 Conference Prayer Coordinator

BACK to BELLS

Handbell Workshop

Sat, Oct 14

12-4 pm

will host

Handbell Musicians of America have extended an invitation to handbell directors and ringers from Indiana and Ohio.

Your help is needed to show our hospitality.

- Hosts 11:30-1:30
- Hosts 1:30-3:30
- snacks

Please sign up at the Information Table. Thank you!

True or False:
 When Jesus talked about the stone that the builders rejected, the Pharisees were not aware He was speaking of them.

answer on pg. 7

YOUTH

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Sunday School:
11:30 am-1:00 pm
High School:
6-8 pm - Sunday night
Middle School:
6-8 pm - Wednesday night

ST. MARK'S UMC YOUTH

SOUP & SALAD LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, OCT. 15TH

10:30-12:30

A VARIETY OF SOUPS, SALADS, BREADS AND DESSERTS
(SERVED IN THE CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL)

A FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BENEFIT
THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO RED BIRD
MISSION JULY 22-28, 2018



SAVE THE DATE

December 27
MS Youth will be serving the Community Dinner at 1st UMC from 5-6 pm (parents are welcome!)

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH BROWN BAGS

Oct. 11
Nov. 8
Dec. 13
Jan. 10
Feb. 14
Mar. 14
Apr. 11
May 9

Youth packing Brown Bags for Head Start Children during Wednesday youth 6:00-8:00 pm



Summer is winding down at the Thieme pond. It was a great summer with lots of s'mores, BIG fish, swimming and new friends. Pictured: (left) Jamie Butcher with one of two catfish caught recently, and (right) Carter Thomas getting his gear ready. The youth shared their catch with parents at an August Fish Fry.

Middle School Youth will move back to the church building in October, Wednesdays 6:00-8:00 pm.

The Middle School Youth finished cleaning the Woodcrest Woods paths for this summer and started packing Brown Bags for the Head Start children in September. Your hard work is appreciated!



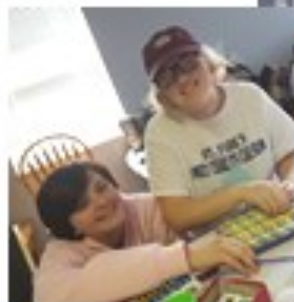
A BIG THANK-YOU to all the youth who helped pack UMCOR Hygiene kits, shared crafts and snacks with the children and families at Pine Crossing and shopped for six children in the Clothe-A-Kid project for Love INC!



UMCOR hygiene kits - 301 kits were delivered to St. Joseph UMC by Eunice Wynn and Ed & Theresa Gensheimer. 40 completed kits were donated by New Hope Church. Your generosity of supplies and monetary donations were greatly appreciated! Special thanks to Sue Coolman and Cathy Plasterer for their awesome organizing and packing skills. We wouldn't have made it without you!



The Pine Crossing Apartments Fall Festival was a great success with 25-30 participating in the September 17th event. Many children and youth were on hand to tie-dye shirts and make prayer boxes and picture frames. Apples, cookies, snack mix and caramel dip were enjoyed by all. Another date is being planned for November.



Youth are always welcome to serve at St. Mark's Food Pantry the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 4:45 pm (worship) or 5:15 pm (pantry). The pantry is located on the South end of the Hoosier Pattern building (109 N 10th).

For more information or to help with packing bags on the 4th Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m., contact Annette Gadlage @ 513.917.5400.

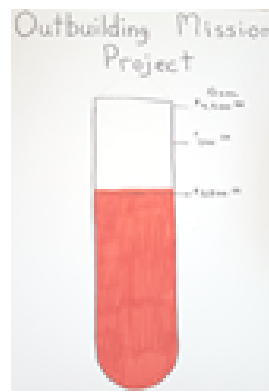
MISSION Matters

OCTOBER
4th Sunday giving
Adams Wells Crisis Center

The Missions Committee is grateful for the many blessings of time, talent and treasures that come from the congregation and community. While the highlights are included below, there are many "good" works being shared quietly with many people in many places - bless you!

Co-chairpersons
Cindy Thieme and Sandy Brown

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can."
John Wesley



PARSONAGE OUTBUILDING MISSION PROJECT UPDATE

A few months ago the Missions Committee presented the decision to use a portion of the Outbuilding at the Parsonage as an additional ministry location for St. Mark's. The estimated cost of renovations was approximately \$4,500.00. We are pleased to report that we have received donations in the amount of \$3,700.00. Therefore, we believe we can begin moving forward on

the project.

A work day at the Outbuilding is planned for Saturday, October 21 from 8 am-noon. During that time we will clean the entire space, walls, floors, etc.

Everyone is welcome to participate.

Plan to bring cleaning supplies, buckets, rags, sponges, etc.
Please mark your calendar to serve and confirm with John or Myra McCullough at 260-223-352, 260-223-2872 or myra126@eawifi.com.

Name the Outbuilding Ministry

We need your help to name the offsite St. Mark's ministry. All suggestions are welcome. Place your suggestions in the box labeled "Names for the Outbuilding Ministry" on the Information Table.

The Missions Committee will choose a name from the box at their November meeting. Thank you for your thoughtful suggestions.



ADULT RED BIRD TRIP

Several churches were represented on this year's Red Bird Mission Trip:

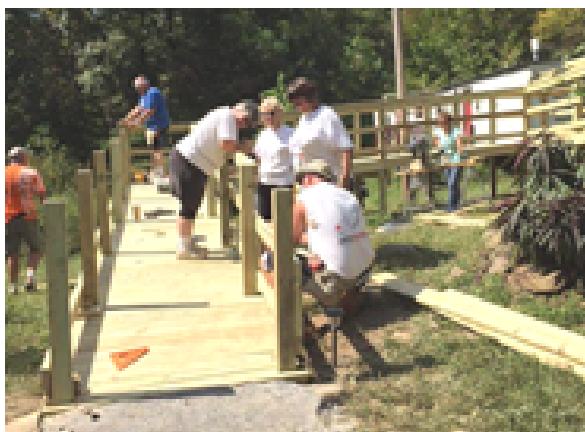
- 1st UMC: Jim and Nancy Laucks
Roger and Nancy Thompson
- Union Chapel UMC: Suetta Miller
Ed and Claudia Karges
- Aldersgate UMC: Terri Coolman
- St. Mark's UMC: Barb Wolfe, Cindy Thieme, Eunice Wynn,
Amy Phillips, Craig and Sue Anderson and
Pastor Chris Gadlage

A 65 ft. ramp was completed by Thursday. Friday the team did miscellaneous jobs at an additional site.

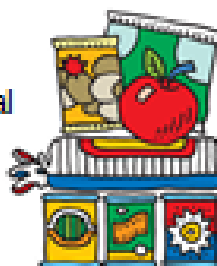
The Red Bird Mission Adult and Youth Work Teams will present their mission experiences at both services Sunday, October 15.



St. Mark's supplied servants for Operation Help during the month of September. Our thanks to Marcia Stevens, Pat Hoopingamer, Alan and Abbey Martin and Pam Hakes for their donation of time on Wednesdays.



August/Missions Sunday - \$720 Total
September/Habitat for Humanity - \$566 given on Sept. 24, 2017.



FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to everyone who donated 109 boxes of cereal and canned goods for the Soup and Cereal Pounding. 216 individuals and 74 families were served in August with 7 new families. So your gifts and food/paper donations each month are greatly appreciated.

WORSHIP SERVANTS SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGEST 8:15	SCRIPTURE READING 10:30	USHERS 8:15	GREETERS 8:15	GREETERS/USHERS 10:30
10/8	Eunice Wynn	Scott Mills	Nann & Julie Zimmerman, Lynn & Janet Lipp	Bob & Jeanette Fuhrman	Steve & Pam Hakes+
10/15	John McCullough	Jane Drummer	Nann & Julie Zimmerman, Lynn & Janet Lipp	Jim & Dianne Burk	Randy & Carolyn Hower
10/22	Amy Phillips	Parker Busick	Steve & Judy Hakbuck, Alan & Abbey Martin	Jim & Dianne Burk	Randy & Carolyn Hower
10/29	Shannon Emerbiser	Jaime Macklin	Steve & Judy Hakbuck, Alan & Abbey Martin	Lynn & Jan Lipp	Marta Rumschlag, Nancy Teeter



Upcoming Messages

OCTOBER

- October 8
Matthew 21:28-32, 42-43
"HEY! Look at Me!
Part 2"
- October 15
1 Corinthians 5:1-7
"Let's Meet Jesus in
the Middle"
- October 22
Romans 8:1-4
"Letting Go of One
Truth to Take Hold of
Another"
- October 29
Matthew 16:24-27
"Following Halfway"

Church Calendar

Pastor Chris Gadlage's day of rest: Friday
cell/text 810-882-1463
email: pastor@stmarksumchurch.org

Regular Sunday activities:
8:15 & 10:30 am - Worship
All morning: Nursery for infants through 4 yrs.
9:30-10:25 am - Adult Sunday school
10:30 am - Children's Sunday School
11:30 am - MS & HS Youth Sunday School
6 pm - High School Youth

Regular Monday: 9 am - Sewing/Quilting Group, Rm 24

1st & 3rd Tuesday activities: 12:30 pm - Staff Meeting

Regular Wednesday activities:
5:30 pm - Praise Team, Sanctuary
6 pm - Middle School Youth
6:45 pm - Women's Bible Study, Room 1
7 pm - Choir Practice, Music Rm
8 pm - Bells Practice, Sanctuary

Food Pantry @ 906 N 10th St.
Worship & Food Distribution - 1st & 3rd Tuesday - 4:45 pm
Afternoon packing - 2nd Tuesday - 2 pm
Evening packing - 4th Tuesday - 6:30 pm

- ⇒ Wed., Oct. 4 - Bell choir rehearsals begin, Sanctuary-8pm
- ⇒ Thurs., Oct. 5 - Newsletter prep - 9 am
- ⇒ Sun., Oct. 8 - Children's Bells resume - 10:15 am
- ⇒ Sun., Oct. 15 - Youth Soup & Salad Luncheon - 10:30am
- ⇒ Women's Prayer Group, Room 1 - 9 am
- ⇒ Thurs., Oct. 19 - Finance Committee mtg, Rm 13a-7 pm
- ⇒ Sat., Oct. 21 - Outbuilding Work Day - 8am-noon
- ⇒ Mon., Oct. 23 - Church Council, Room 22 - 7 pm
- ⇒ Wed., Oct. 25 - Newsletter Article Deadline
- ⇒ Sun., Oct. 29 - All Saints' Day
- Woodcrest Communion Service - 4 pm
- ⇒ Thurs., Nov. 2 - Newsletter prep - 9 am
- ⇒ Sun., Nov. 5 - Daylight Savings Time begins
- Charge Conference, St. Mark's hosts-6 pm

Check the full calendar at stmarksumchurch.org

The next Community Dinner at First United Methodist Church is November 29th from 5:00-6:00 p.m. Watch for sign up sheets at the beginning of November for ways you can serve!

October 5, 2017



...making disciples of Jesus Christ...

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
546 W. US Highway 224
Decatur, IN 46733-7547



Return Service Requested

St. Mark's United Methodist Church · 546 W. US Highway 224 · Decatur, IN 46733

Contact us: mail@stmarksumchurch.org

Phone (260)724-7183

Facebook: Decatur St. Mark's UMC

www.stmarksumchurch.org

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 8:00-4:00 & Fri 8:00-12:00

Worship: Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 am Every other Tuesday 4:45 pm

Adult Sunday School 9:30 am. Children's One Room School Hour (ages 5-5th grade) - Sundays 10:30 am

Youth Sunday School (grades 6-12) - 11:30 am

High School Youth - Sundays 7:00-9:00 pm

Middle School Youth - Wednesdays 6:00-8:00 pm

1st & 3rd Tuesday - Worship: 4:45 pm. Food Pantry: 5:15-6:15 pm

Senior Pastor - Rev. Chris Gadlage (Ext. 305) or

E-mail: pastor@stmarksumchurch.org Parsonage: 260-301-9292 Cell/text: 810-882-1463

Associate Pastor - Rev. Ernie Suman (Ext. 310) or

E-mail: ernie@stmarksumchurch.org Cell/text: 260-706-1558

High School Pastor - David Mere david@stmarksumchurch.org

Middle High Pastor - Terry Thieme terry@stmarksumchurch.org

Music Director - Sue Coolman sue@stmarksumchurch.org

Praise Leader - Jaime Macklin jaimie@stmarksumchurch.org

Organist - Dona Longbons dona@stmarksumchurch.org

Children's Ministry Director - Jody Helmrich (Ext. 306) jody@stmarksumchurch.org

Preschool & Child Care Director - Lisa Nash 724-8082 lisa@stmarksumchurch.org

Office Manager - Arlette Graefflin (Ext. 301) mail@stmarksumchurch.org

Custodian - Norman Hirschy (contact the church office)