



First and Foremost!!!

Before I jump into my newsletter article, I want to wish everyone reading this the Merriest of Christmases. As 2017 has brought change to your lives, may those changes find you closer to the Savior's crib than you were at this time last year. And may He carry you into and through 2018. On behalf of Annette, Hannah, Isaiah and myself, Merry Christmas and God bless you as 2018 dawns.

Pastor Chris

Confirmation in 2018? Well...Sorta

St. Mark's is making some changes in 2018 to make a bigger impact for Christ with our youth.

Perhaps the biggest change will be to Sunday School. We are returning Youth Sunday School to the adult Sunday School hour (9:30-10:25am). The perceived benefit of having a later time for Youth Sunday School didn't materialize, so we're moving it back to make it fit into the rest of Sunday's schedule.

The other change (we hope to be a major exciting change) is that we'll be using a joint-group curriculum all year! Sunday School will use a portion of the lessons and each youth group session (High School youth meet Sunday evenings & Middle School youth meet Wednesday evenings) will use other portions. The curriculum is called collaborate. This curriculum is aimed at establishing a biblical foundation and it also covers Confirmation. So after we've finished this material, we'll offer an opportunity for our youth (all of them) to be confirmed in the faith. This will be the only confirmation offering in 2018.

Why did we choose this approach?

- Confirmation has traditionally been "added to" a lifelong learning process including home, church and even community support of Christian education. With eroding support outside the Church, many of our kids need a more solid biblical foundation before we even start talking about confirmation!

- While the Church cannot singlehandedly supply everything a person needs to develop a vibrant faith in Jesus, we certainly can (and must) take steps to help encourage a deeper faith development in spite of modern external obstacles to that development.
- Our society is *biblically illiterate*. Most families don't invest time and effort into teaching basic faith tenets. In other words...if they don't get a biblical foundation here...many of them won't likely get it at all.

The overall plan:

- **This is a year-long (45 lessons) Class for ALL YOUTH!**
 - What if someone misses a week, or if Suzy only comes to Sunday School and not Youth Group? What about friends who only come a couple of times, or new youth who start coming later in the year?
 - ✦ There will be review as necessary, but each lesson stands alone fairly well.
 - There are three segments in the curriculum:
 - ✦ Old Testament • New Testament • United Methodist Doctrine
 - We are asking each family to pay \$10/book (total of \$30 for the year) to help offset the cost of these books. If you'd like to help defray some of that cost, please see Pastor

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY

<p>Tori Anderson Carol King Shirley Ploughe Paul Zuercher Barb Butcher Amy Phillips Joe Baker Julia Bolton Gary Fifer Jane Gray</p>	<p>Cindy Thieme Jane Drummer Aniya Hart Hope Gerber Betty McCardwell Elizabeth Ainsworth Pat Jackson Jane Shackley Jeanette Fuhrman John Klug</p>	 <p>Mark Miller Karly Teeter Kameron Brown Judy Halchuck Annika Miller Kade Miller Nancy Egley Barbara Gavin Geraldine Sudduth Alistair Fahncke</p>	<p>Jeri Fahncke Isaac Fuelling Bub Jones Justin Keller David Mere Marilyn Volgelsang Steve Butcher Ray Scott Robin Gerber Laura Hakes Bob Klingensmith</p>
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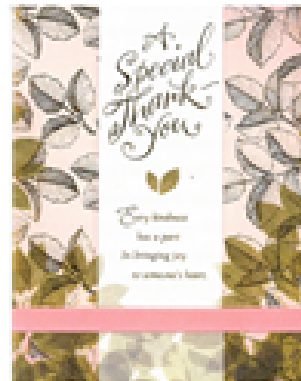
The next newsletter is scheduled for
December 28. Article deadline is December 20.

*Celebrating an
Anniversary*



Randy & Carolyn Hower
Ed & Teresa Gensheimer
Don & Tori Anderson
Mac & Donna Miesse
Jerod & Rebecca Dailey
Steve & Judy Halchuck
Craig & Sue Anderson
Alan & Abbey Martin

*Dear St. Mark's members,
Thank you for all the Halloween "goodies"
you sent to me.
Thanks to Judie and Dennis for delivering
the things to me and also a big Thank-You for
all the goodies they bring to me. I really enjoy
all.
Thank you again.
Love,
Sibyl Bardsley*



*Dear St. Mark's Friends
Thanks to Rev. Eric Suran for coming the night before to pray before the
surgery Monday Oct. 21 and to Rev. Eric for getting up so early to come
and sit with us before surgery And for all the cards and news the lay
word had taken the time to read. The hernia is healing well but not healing
for six weeks
Melody Kaiting*

A BIG thank-you to Pastor Ernie for bringing me communion
and his prayers. Also to the Congregational Care team for the
Halloween bag with goodies and cards from John and Emma.
Many thanks,
Barbara Gaunt

continued from pg. 1:
Confirmation in 2018? Well...Sorta

Chris.

- Each Week Sunday School (9:30am) and Youth Group (Wed/Sun evening) will be coordinated with the same lesson.
 - We may well take longer than a year to complete these lessons. We want students to understand, not necessarily just speed through data.

This material is designed to help youth think through issues and problems in the Bible so they can come to their own conclusion with guidance from leaders. In many teaching situations, students are simply given data and asked to repeat the data so they can pass tests. We're trying to help them think through their faith, which will be a useful skill throughout their lives.

What can you do to help our youth?

- Pray for them and for the leaders
 - Annette Gadlage will lead Sunday School
 - David Mere leads High School Youth
 - Terry Thieme leads Middle School Youth
- Encourage youth participation!
 - Ask questions about what they're discussing. Thinking about these topics will be new and challenging. They need to know that adults think about these things, too and that it's okay to question.
 - Ask the leadership if you can help in some way. Just being there can help communicate that this is important, but I'm sure they wouldn't turn down brownies or cupcakes either. ☺
- Help offset the cost of materials. (See Pastor Chris if you're interested in helping.)

Pastor Chris



*Inclement
Weather
Policy*

**INCLEMENT WEATHER
POLICY**

With the snow season upon us, it's a good idea to revisit St. Mark's Inclement Weather Policy.

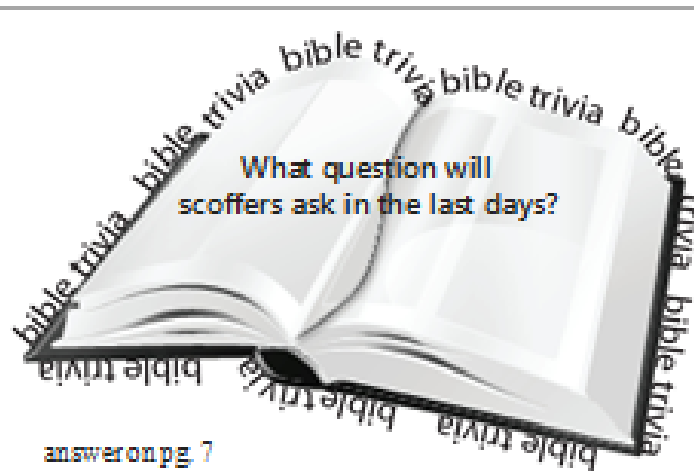
Some decisions are simple. If North Adams schools are closed or

dismiss early, **ALL EVENING EVENTS ARE CANCELLED!**

Sundays are a little more challenging. My personal policy will continue to be that if I can make it to the Church building, I will lead some form of worship. It may not look anything like what the bulletin says. It may be a different message with different music, but I will lead worship if I can make it to the building. I trust that you are wise enough to know when you are not safe coming to worship. If the timing of a storm renders the parking lot unsafe and we do need to cancel Sunday worship, we will make the announcement on:

- the Church's website stmarksumchurch.org
- on television (channels 15, 33 & 21)
- and radio (WBCL-90.3 & WZBD-92.7).

If we announce a "delay", we will have only one (1) worship service at 9:30 am, with no Sunday School, etc.



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

MISSION Matters

DECEMBER

4th Sunday giving

St. Mark's Food Pantry



MS Youth enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, November 22. MS Youth meet Wednesdays from 6-8.

Food pantry totals for October: 347 total served, 131 children and 27 new families

Outbuilding Mission Project Update

The Missions committee met on November 13 and chose from the submitted suggestions the name for the Outbuilding. The outbuilding will be known as St. Mark's Shepherd's House.

At the initial workday on October 21st the walls and light fixtures were washed down. Since that time • the floors have been cleaned • floors were painted and • bathroom walls painted. A building permit has been secured to update the bathroom, add a kitchenette and construct two walls for bedrooms.

Thank you to all who have contributed financially to this project! We are very close to meeting the goal of \$4500.00. Thank you to all who have lifted this project up in prayer.

Ready to help with this project?
Contact either John or Myra McCullough
myra1126@outlook.com or 260.223.3502



4th Sunday Giving for 2018 was approved by the Missions Committee as follows:

- January – UMCOR
- February – LOVE, Inc
- March – Adult Work Teams
- April – SAFE in Adams County
- May – St. Mark's Food Pantry
- June – Beeler's/Campus Crusade for Christ
- July – Grace Children's Hospital Haiti/Bashor Children's Home
- August – St. Mark's Missions Sunday
- September – Habitat for Humanity of Adams County
- October – Adams/Wells Crisis Center
- November – Wings of the Morning Enright's/ Operation Classroom
- December – St. Mark's Food Pantry

MUSIC NOTES

CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

God's Promise, Immanuel

featuring music by Michael Card

Sunday, December 17 during both services

The Adult Bell Choir will be playing in the 8:15 service on December 3 and in the 10 pm service on December 24.



RADA KNIVES AND

MORE

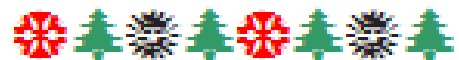
TO SUPPORT
CONGREGATIONAL CARE
available through
December 13

Samples, order forms and
catalogs on the Information
Table.

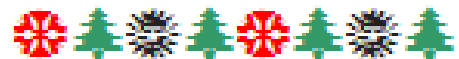
Online catalogs at
rada.cutlery.com

Email orders to
kevsan5957@gmail.com

Payment due at time of
delivery.



DID YOU KNOW ...
There are mailboxes in the
library for **ALL STAFF** and
committee chairs?



WORSHIP SERVANTS SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST 8:15	SCRIPTURE READING 10:30	USHERS 8:15	GREETERS 8:15	GREETERS/USHERS 10:30
12/3	Pastor Emie	Pastor Emie	Dwight McCune, John Barkley, John McCullough, Paul Hurt	Pat Hooginamer, Linda Adams	Craig & Cathy Coshow
12/10	Cindy Thieme	Jaime Macklin	Dwight McCune, John Barkley, John McCullough, Paul Hurt	Lamy & Meki Rumschlag	Jane Drummer / Sharon Barger
12/17	Dennis Bluhm	Dean Fuelling	Sandy Adams, Debschevenius, Sarilyn Dunno, Serenity Dunno	Lamy & Meki Rumschlag	Jane Drummer / Sharon Barger
12/24	Dianne Burk	Scott Mills	Sandy Adams, Debschevenius, Sarilyn Dunno, Serenity Dunno	Dennis & Judie Bluhm	



Upcoming Messages

DECEMBER

December 3
Mark 13:24-37
"Are You Ready?"

December 10
2 Peter 3:8-15a
"God Still Sends Messengers"

December 17
Isaiah 61:1-4
"The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me"

December 24 (9:30 am)
Romans 16:25-27
"You're Invited: Bring a Gift"

December 31 (9:30 am)
Caroling Singalong

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., Dec. 13 - Praise & Fellowship Class carry-in-noon
- Choir Cantata Dress Rehearsal - 6:30 pm

⇒ Sun., Dec. 17 - Choir Christmas Cantata - both services

⇒ Wed., Dec. 20 - Newsletter Article Deadline

⇒ Thurs., Dec. 21 - Finance Committee, Room 13a - 7 pm

⇒ Sun., Dec. 24 - Unified Worship Service - 9:30 am
(no adult or children Sunday School)

⇒ Mon., Dec. 25 - Church Building closed for Christmas

⇒ Thurs., Dec. 28 - Newsletter prep - 9 am

⇒ Sun., Dec. 31 - Unified Worship Service - 9:30 am
(no adult or children Sunday School)

Check the full calendar at stmarksumchurch.org



Presents

Kid's Sunday Hours

Children's Sunday School hour - 2nd Service 10:30-11:30am
5yrs. thru 5th grade meet in Room 19. Sunday School will be a combined classroom, we will add additional classrooms when attendance increases.

Nursery & Tinker Tots- Newborn thru 4yr olds
meet in Room 7 all three hours

1st Service 8:15-9:15am only

Nursery/Cry room: A separate space that gives parents the freedom, if they feel the need, to temporarily soothe their child outside the sanctuary. They can also watch the service through a television monitor so they don't miss anything. We will have one helper in the room at this time.

Adult Sunday School Hour 9:30-10:30am

Pajama Christmas Party

A Family Event, children must be accompanied by an adult.

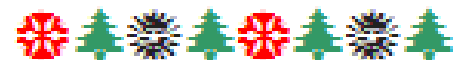
Sunday, Dec. 3
@ 6:30 - 8 pm

Enjoy an evening of Christmas delight.
The children can wear their pajamas.

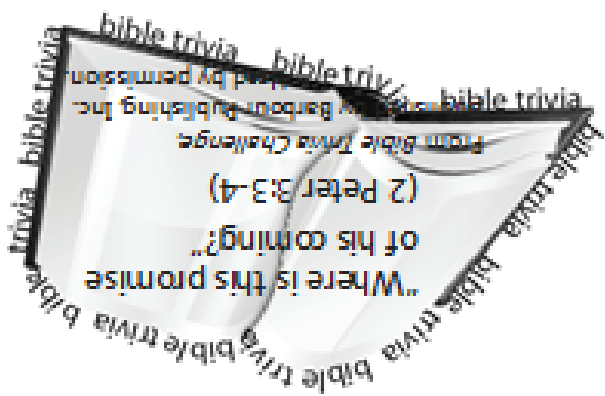
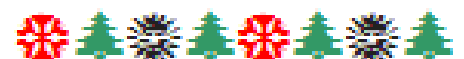


- Christmas program - "Mary did you know"
- Christmas Caroling
- Enjoy cookies and refreshments
- Create a Holiday craft
- Photo opportunity (selfie) with Mary & Joseph and baby Jesus.
- Visit with Santa Claus.

We will be collecting new pajamas for the Adams Wells Crisis Center.



No Sunday School
Sunday, December 24 & 31
One Service at 9:30 am
(nursery cry room available)



November 30, 2017



Saint Mark's
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

...making disciples of Jesus Christ...

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE

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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 Graeffin (Ext. 301) mail@stmarksumchurch.org

Custodian - Norman Hirschy (contact the church office)