



...a Christ-centered  
community of  
prayer and fellowship,  
reaching out  
with the hope and  
love of God.

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## A Big Fat So What ?!?!

**We're in the middle**  
of a very contentious election. We're also in the midst of a global pandemic.

I've seen Christians from all over the country fighting about how everyone should vote "if you're a real Christian!" "If you're a believer, I don't know how you could vote for x knowing that he supports y!" "If you call yourself a Christian, you have to support n because of issue o!"

"Well, if you're a real Christian, you wouldn't wear a mask because that shows fear, and we're not supposed to fear." "Well, if you're NOT wearing a mask,

Given the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of God's enemy (Satan), which kingdom gains by us slinging hash at each other? Which kingdom wins when I'm so eaten up with anger that I spew venom back at the one who spewed venom on me?

I can assure you of one thing: Jesus is not pleased by our interactions. And God's Kingdom does not gain when his people place their hands on each other's throats.

None of these arguments sway a single opinion, either. No one has ever changed their vote by being called a baby killer, or a fraud, or any other name.

**Who do you think is happy  
with the verbal and online interactions  
00000we've engaged as the Body of Christ?**

you're not protecting others from your potential infection, which violates Jesus' command to love your neighbor."

We've been very busy sticking out our verbal tongues at each other. As we sling accusations at each other, I'd like to ask you a question. Who do you think is pleased by our behavior? Who do you think is happy with the verbal and online interactions we've engaged as the Body of Christ? I'm sure there are many correct answers to that question. It's the spiritual answer I'm seeking, though.

No one has ever developed compassion for humanity by being told they're stupid, scared, or uneducated. No one. Ever. The strong opinions of one person usually respond to the strong opinions of another person with a big fat "So what?!?!?" They don't care about your opinion when it's spoken in anger or littered with name calling.

Far more important question: Can any of you name one soul who was won to Christ through a political argument? I think I can

# NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



**“In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 7:12 [NASB]**

Shannon Eichenauer  
Mary Beth Busick  
Dave Hammond  
George Curtis  
Brittany Thatcher  
Kay Affolder  
Paul Hunt  
Sara Jones  
Donald Lough  
Vivian Rehm  
Steve Kaehr  
Angela Reed  
Teresa Gensheimer  
Jordan Haines  
Elaine Miller  
Mike Wynn  
Ramona Gephart  
Ed Coy  
Buddy Sheets  
Barbara Wolfe  
Susan Camp  
John Lehman  
Mac Miesse  
Christine Journay  
Claire Anderson  
Elizabeth Helmrich  
Sue Coolman  
Jordyn Knous  
Mick Suman  
Amberly Gutierrez  
Dona Longbons  
Marta Rumschlag  
Winnie Light  
Julie McConnell  
Sandra Adams  
Arlette Graeflin  
Bill Johnson  
Adrian Andrews  
Erin Nash  
Jerod Dailey  
Dean Fuelling  
Kim Lengerich  
Myra McCullough  
Serenity Baumann  
Cheryl Manis  
Kristie Brown  
Wanda Borchers  
John Heimann  
Macy Phegley  
Larry Ritter

guess the answer, and so can you.

Shortly after this newsletter is published, the election will be over. I would predict the presidential election won't be over on Election Night regardless of who is declared the winner. So the angry words won't stop.

As believers in Christ, let me encourage you to listen to the voice of Scripture instead of the talking heads shuffled out to convince us of their opinions:<sup>12</sup> “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”

**Matthew 7:12 [NASB]**

When we lose control of our speech and deny the inalienable value of another human being, Satan wins. To use the language of these arguments, “That should settle this for a real believer.” Treat other people the same way you want them to treat you.

If you think they're uninformed dolts, treat them the way you'd want someone to treat you *when* you're an uninformed dolt. If you think they're evil-minded, treat them the way you'd want someone to treat you when they think you're evil-minded. If you think they're blind to a particular issue (or set of issues), how would you like them to treat

your blindness in other issues? And be honest in your assessment. I feel sure you wouldn't want to be called names or told you're stupid, so don't allow that leeway in your responses to others.

None of these politicians will save us, anyway. There is no savior on any ballot anywhere in the world. So, it's not worth giving Satan a foothold in your life and others' lives.

Jesus spoke strongly to the Pharisees and Jewish rulers. But he never spoke without loving them. He never failed to want their salvation as a first priority. So, the next post you see, or comment you

**“That should settle this for a real believer.” Treat other people the same way you want them to treat you.**

hear, that makes your blood pressure rise ... pause a second before responding and consider, “How would Jesus engage this person?” Then, wait until you have a clear answer before you respond.

Let's stop working for Satan's Kingdom, and start acting like God's Children, going about our Father's business. Research. Study. Vote. Advocate. But in all of that ... LOVE!

Happy Autumn,

*Pastor Chris*



Kevin & Cynthia Engle  
Ed & Claudia Karges  
Gary & Nancy Fifer  
Bill & Barbara Wolfe

Mark & Julie Phegley  
Billy & Mallorie Baker  
Bob & Sue Coolman  
Dennis & Judie Bluhm



## Sanctuary Changes

When we first reopened in June, we had hoped to divide the sanctuary differently than we have. We wanted to use the center sections of every other row, but we couldn't figure out how to mark them so that it was obvious to everyone where they shouldn't sit. We've figured this out!

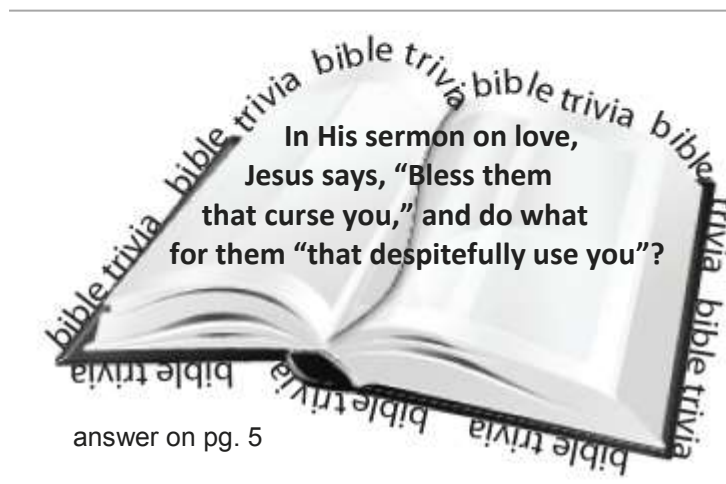
We've opened every row in the sanctuary. One row will be open on the ends and closed in the center. The next row will be open in the center and not on the ends, and so on. We marked the "closed" seating areas with a red drape on the back of the pew. Please sit on a seatback where there is no red drape. This allows us to have less intrusive markings for our distancing, and to have more seating available.



## Upcoming Messages

### NOVEMBER

- November 1  
Matthew 23:1-12  
"Carrying the Legacy"
- November 8  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
"Looking Forward with Hope"
- November 15  
Matthew 25:14-30  
"What You Do  
With Whatcha Got"
- November 22  
Matthew 25:31-46  
"What Is There  
To Give Thanks For?"
- November 29 (Advent Begins)  
Philippians 2:8-11  
"The Crown, The Cradle,  
The Cross"



answer on pg. 5

# WORSHIP SERVANTS SCHEDULE

DATE	SCRIPTURE READING 10:30	USHER/GREETERS
11/0	Joe Baker	Larry & Vickie Rumschlag
11/8	Carey Shifferly	Jim & Becky Baumgartner
11/15	Pat Nash	Jim & Becky Baumgartner
11/22	Amy Phillips	John & Cindy Heimann
11/29	Hannah Gadlage	John & Cindy Heimann

## Christmas Eve Survey

In case you didn't receive the email, we are asking for your input to help us plan appropriately for Christmas Eve worship opportunities. If you have internet access, please complete a survey for your family at <https://stmarksumchurch.org/christmas-eve-survey/>. If you do not have internet access, but would like to provide feedback, please call the Office during regular hours and Arlette can record your survey responses for you over the phone.



Thanks to the following people who provided a special in September during worship services - Praise Team and



Band, Andrea Curtis, Sue, and all of YOU as we sang together one Sunday!

Thank you to all who served at our outdoor service on Sept. 27. Several people were able to attend that service that cannot attend our inside services yet.

Seventeen joined their voices together for Sharon one last time at her funeral. We sang her favorite choir song and she was undoubtedly singing along with us. The family truly appreciated each of you taking time to honor her by doing this.



### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

**Sunday School:** 9:30am

**High School Youth Group:**  
6-8pm-Tuesday

**Middle School Youth Group:**  
6-8pm - Wednesday

**Combined Youth Group:**  
6-8pm - 3rd Wednesday

Thank you to our church family, for all the love and support you have given John over the last four years of this kidney journey. We especially thank you for the prayers, cards, and texts, during the last few weeks. Thank you to Pastor Chris, for keeping Lori sane through the 14 hour ER and hospital stay for John. And thank you to Pastor Ernie for his phone call. For those of you who don't know, Dave Emehiser wanted Sharon's kidney to go to John. Never have we felt such unselfish love as the week went on. John in the hospital with COVID, Sharon on life support. Dave would have moved heaven and earth to make it happen. But as we know now, God has other plans for John. But waiting for an organ, we can only imagine the joy that Sharon has given to so many people. To say we love our church family seems so understated. But we love you, and are grateful God sustained John through this virus.

Lori & John Barkley

## Church Calendar

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

Regular Sunday activities:  
 9:30am - Worship

**Food Pantry @ St. Mark's Room 23**  
 Food Distribution - 1st & 3rd Tuesday - 4:45pm  
 Afternoon packing - 2nd Tuesday - 2pm  
 Evening packing - 4th Tuesday - 6:30pm

*At this time consider all meetings tentative.*

- ⇒ Sun., Nov. 1 - Daylight Saving Time ends
- ⇒ Mon., Nov. 2 - SPRC, Room 23 - 7pm
- ⇒ Tues., Nov. 3 - Food Pantry, Hoosier Pattern - 4:45pm
- ⇒ Wed., Nov. 4 - Praise Team, Sanctuary - 5:30pm
- ⇒ Tues., Nov. 10 - Food Pantry packing, Hoosier Pattern - 2pm
- ⇒ Thurs., Nov. 12 - December Newsletter Article deadline - 3pm  
 - Trustees meeting, Room 23 - 6pm
- ⇒ Mon., Nov. 16 - Children's Ministry Team - 6:30pm
- ⇒ Tues., Nov. 17 - Food Pantry, Hoosier Pattern - 4:45pm
- ⇒ Wed., Nov. 18 - Praise Team, Sanctuary - 5:30pm
- ⇒ Thurs., Nov. 19 - December Newsletter prep - 9am  
 - Finance Committee, Fellowship Hall - 7pm
- ⇒ Tues., Nov. 24 - Food Pantry packing, Hoosier Pattern - 6:30pm
- ⇒ Thurs., Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving: Church Building Closed
- ⇒ Fri., Nov. 27 - Church Building Closed
- ⇒ Sun., Nov. 29 - First Sunday of Advent

**The December newsletter is scheduled for November 19.  
 Article deadline is Thursday, November 12.**



	as of 9/30/20
Income	\$ 255,814.85
Expenses	\$ 260,148.98
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (4,334.13)

Note:  
 Deficit will be offset by Paycheck Protection Program



## Kid's Sunday

No activities at this time.



### DID YOU KNOW ...

You can update your family and contact info on the website or the St. Mark's app?



(Month) Date



*Return Service Requested*

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

...a Christ-centered community of **prayer** and **fellowship**, **reaching out** with the hope and love of God.

**St. Mark's United Methodist Church**  
546 W. US Highway 224 · Decatur, IN 46733  
*mail@stmarksumchurch.org*  
*Phone (260)724-7183*  
*Facebook: stmarksumchurch*  
*www.stmarksumchurch.org*

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

**Worship: Sunday 9:30am**

**HS Youth-Tuesdays 6:00-8:00pm**

**MS Youth-Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm**

**Combined HS & MS Youth**  
**3rd Wednesdays 6:00-8:00pm**

**1st & 3rd Tuesday Food Pantry: 4:45 pm**

**Senior Pastor**  
**Rev. Chris Gadlage**  
*(Ext. 305) or E-mail:*  
*pastor@stmarksumchurch.org*  
*Cell/text: 810-882-1463*

**Associate Pastor**  
**Rev. Ernie Suman**  
*(Ext. 310) or E-mail:*  
*ernie@stmarksumchurch.org*  
*Cell/text: 260-706-1558*

**Youth Pastor - Terry Thieme**  
**Music Director - Sue Coolman**  
**Organist - Dona Longbons**  
**Preschool & Child Care Director**  
**Lisa Nash 724-8082**  
**Office Manager - Arlette Graeflin**  
**Custodian - Norman Hirschy**