



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

## Inside this edition

Bible Trivia	pg. 3
Birthdays/Anniversaries	pg. 2
Calendar	pg. 5
Pastor Chris	pg. 1-2
Finance	pg. 5
Kidz Korner	pg. 5
Music Notes	pg. 3
Worship Servants	pg. 4

## The Bible As Christian Foundation

**Why** is the Bible so important? This question seems to flummox secular people today, but Christians often have trouble stating the answer in a way that may be understood by non-church folk.

As American's, we are all beholden to the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. The Constitution is our house laid upon the foundation of the Declaration. What it means to be an American begins with these two documents, and conflicting characteristics or laws are rejected. Although many would point to the Constitution as our

prohibiting...". These amendments limit Congress' power, they don't endow us with any rights — because those rights were endowed "by their Creator". I've always thought it may help some of the raucous debates I've seen and heard if the debaters understood that the Declaration is actually our founding document, not the Constitution.

Likewise, the foundational document of the Christian faith is the Bible. Sixty-six books...thirty-nine Old Testament...twenty-seven New Testament. It begins with "In the beginning..." (Gen. 1:1) and ends with "Amen" (Rev. 22:21). But what does it actually

**The Bill of Rights (first 10 Amendments) don't grant any rights! They restrict the government from *infringing* on our rights**

foundational document, that's not accurate. The Declaration ("...inalienable rights...") is our foundational document. The Constitution establishes our *government*, not the nation. That's why the Bill of Rights (first 10 Amendments) don't grant any rights! They restrict the government from *infringing* on our rights ("...endowed by their Creator..."). "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or

say in between? If it is the foundational document for our faith, shouldn't we know?

I must confess, I've started reading the Bible straight through, cover-to-cover more times than I care to count. Most of those attempts were thwarted by genealogy lists and legal requirements and restrictions that would put an insomniac on caffeine pills to sleep (I'm looking at you, Leviticus).

I have read The Bible

# MONTH BIRTHDAYS



**The goal is to have a reading plan that conveys the character and nature of God**

Janet Macklin  
Kirt McLeland  
MaryLee Beitler  
Connor Busick  
Grant Gutierrez  
Donna Miesse  
Nick Wyatt  
Isaiah Gadlage  
Tyler Miller  
Lillian Myers  
Sharon Barger  
Crystal Cochran  
Pat Loshe  
Tessa Pogue  
Marvel Zuercher  
Jacob Fuelling  
Liz Koons  
Pete Adams  
Wayne Geiger  
Allison Hause  
Cierra Lindsey  
Larry Rumschlag  
Myles Baczynski  
Tonya Adams  
Caitlin Longsworth  
Magen Wilson  
Paul Mills  
Bill Murray  
Scott Murray  
Rebecca Dailey  
Norman Hirschy  
Mitchell Siffernick  
Colleen Fast  
Patrick Gunsett  
Drew Phegley  
Kevin Brown  
Kari Burkholder  
Shailyn Dunno  
Julia Jones  
Tom Gosnell  
Kennedy Bixler-  
Scheumann  
Elizabeth Felty  
Donna Barger  
Riane Wyatt  
Phyllis Hindenlang  
MaryLou Andrews  
Cathy Coshow  
Amy Rice

straight through, but not nearly as many times as I've started. A few years ago, St. Mark's joined The Essential 100 Challenge. This Bible reading program is built around 100 carefully selected short Bible passages – 50 Old Testament, 50 New Testament. The goal is to have a reading plan that conveys the character and nature of God without a lot of the details that slow us down and seem to encourage us to stop reading.

Beyond just reading, it's a good idea to discuss what we're reading.

Why? Most of us could probably tell stories of a passage of Scripture suddenly 'coming to life' after years of seeing and reading the passage. I can't tell you how many times I've had this happen to me, and invariably someone tells me, "Well, yeah...of course that's what it means." In other words, discussing the Scriptures can help us learn from each other's perspectives and challenge some of our own long-

held preconceived notions about the Bible, God and ourselves.

I'd like to encourage you to revisit this Challenge! We won't have the same 'push' we had last time. No sermons around the weekly readings. No Sunday School classes based on them. But in times of turmoil, it's good to return to our roots. As Christians, our roots are found in the Scriptures.

If you'd like to revisit the E100 Challenge, a reading plan is available by email (the pdf includes active links to each passage) or on paper. If you'd like a copy of the reading list emailed, simply email Arlette ([mail@stmarksunchurch.org](mailto:mail@stmarksunchurch.org)). If you'd prefer a paper version, call (260.724.7183) or visit the Church Office and request a copy.

Do you claim the Bible as the foundation of your life? When's the last time you really dug into it? Perhaps today can be the day you begin your NEXT dig into it.

*Pastor Chris*



Justin & Leah Keller

Michael & Michelle Eicher

Jim & Becky Baumgartner

Mike & Jennifer Forwerck

Travis & Brooke Landrum

Ryan & Amy Rice

Lucas & Natalie Foster

Gary & Julee Wyatt

Larry & Vickie Rumschlag

Ralph & Sandy Tuttle

# MUSIC NOTES

Many thanks to those who shared a special in August. . .

Judy, Kelly, Ralph (chime trio), Maleah (piano), Isaiah & Pastor Chris (duet), Eunice (solo), Becky, Chris and Marcia (chime trio), Barbara (poem), and Dona. Special thanks to the praise

team and band for serving faithfully every week.

Some of you have asked about two new "musical faces" at St Mark's so here are two short spotlights on them to get acquainted! Please introduce yourself and welcome them to St Mark's. *If there are other faces you don't know in bells or choir, please email Sue and we can do more spotlights on newer people!*

**Judy Schnapp** has been playing keyboard in our Praise Team Band. She taught music in AZ for 17 years, was Teacher of the Year in 2007 and is in the Music Hall of Fame from her high school in Ohio. She served as the children's and adult choir director for Christ United Methodist Church in the 1990's. She has played clarinet in 3 orchestras, including first chair for seven performances of *Messiah*. She also volunteered for Meals on Wheels while in AZ. Her family resides in Perrysburg, Ohio and she moved closer to them after she retired.

**Ralph Tuttle** and his wife, Sandy live in Fort Wayne. He was born and raised in Bluffton and graduated from Huntington College (now Huntington University) in 1986 with a Bachelor's Degree in K-12 Instrumental Music Education. He also received an AAS degree in Electronic Engineering from ITT in 1991 and retired from Aetna in March of 2019 after 25 years of service. His hobbies include woodworking, website design, bowling and science fiction. He is also involved with the shows at the Pulse Opera House in Warren and sits on their Board as treasurer. He describes himself as a jack of all trades and master of none!



## Upcoming Messages

### OCTOBER:

October 4  
Romans 8:37-39  
"Reaching Out – Love of God"

October 11  
Romans 15:1-4  
"Reaching Out – Hope of God"

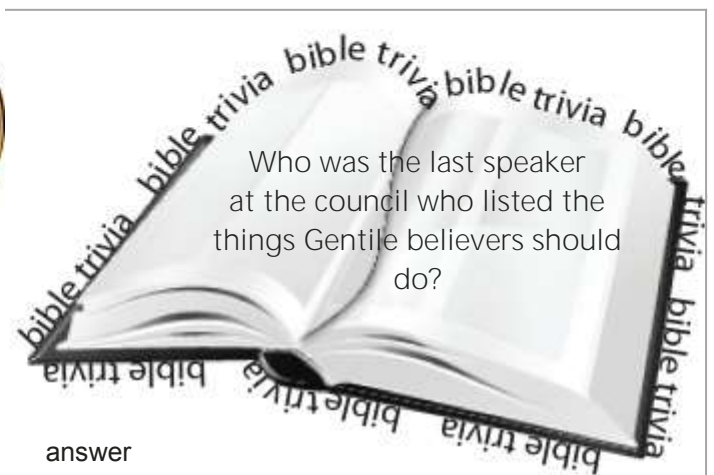
October 18  
Acts 15:13-20  
"Reaching Out – Opportunities"

October 25  
Laity Sunday

## OCTOBER 25, 2020 Laity Sunday



Special Service during regular worship time celebrating the gifts of God's servants.



## WORSHIP SERVANTS SCHEDULE

DATE	SCRIPTURE READING 10:30	USHER/GREETERS
10/4	Dennis Bluhm	Cash McCardwell & Mark Miller
10/11	John McCullough	Jim Burk & John Barkley
10/18 Parking Lot service	Bob Coolman	Jim Burk & John Barkley
10/25 Laity		Larry & Vickie Rumschlag

# Thank You

Dear St. Mark's Church and Endowment Committee,  
 Thank you so much for the prayers and financial support over the last four years of college. I have appreciated the scholarship every single year. The generous scholarship was used toward my tuition this fall. Looking forward to graduating in May 2021.

Thanks again,

Kyle Brown

Dear St. Mark's Church and Endowment Committee,

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship again this year. I appreciate your prayers and support while away at college. I used the scholarship to pay for all of my books this fall.

Thanks again,  
 Kevin Brown

Dear friends at St. Mark's,

Thank you so much for your recent generous gift toward our ministry. Your love, generosity & prayers have sustained us for 44 years!! Thank you. You all are amazing 😊

We are excited about the new generation of leaders who are now in place to carry on the work across the globe. These are colleagues we have known for many years and have much confidence in them to follow Christ and bear good fruit. You are a part of their legacy too. Your prayers and generosity will continue to bear fruit after we retire through these young leaders. Praise be to God!

Much love,  
 Dave & Jill



### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

**High School Youth Group:**

6-8pm-Tuesday

**Middle School Youth Group:**

6-8pm - Wednesday

**Combined Youth Group:**

6-8pm - 3rd Wednesday

*Your generosity and prayers have helped to raise up a new generation of leaders across the globe. Your spiritual legacy lives on through them! We send our love and gratitude to you with this gift.*

*Dave and Jill Beeler*



## 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 @ 906 N 10th St.  
 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.*

- ⇒Thurs., Oct. 1 - October Newsletter prep - 9am
- ⇒Tues., Oct. 6 - Food Pantry, Hoosier Pattern - 4:45pm
- ⇒Wed., Oct. 7 - Praise Team, Sanctuary - 5:30pm
  
- ⇒Tues., Oct. 13 - Food Pantry packing, Hoosier Pattern - 2pm
- ⇒Thurs., Oct. 15 - Finance Committee, Fellowship Hall - 7pm
  
- ⇒Mon., Oct. 19 - Children's Ministry Team -6:30pm
- ⇒Tues., Oct. 20 - Food Pantry, Hoosier Pattern - 4:45pm
- ⇒Wed., Oct. 21 - November Newsletter Article deadline -3pm  
 - Praise Team, Sanctuary - 5:30pm
  
- ⇒Tues., Oct. 27 - Food Pantry packing, Hoosier Pattern - 6:30pm
- ⇒Thurs., Oct. 29 - November Newsletter prep - 9am

**The next newsletter is scheduled for  
 October 29. Article deadline is October 21.**



## Kid's Sunday

No activities at this  
 time.



## FINANCE REPORT

	As of 8/31/20
Total Income	\$ 219,443.67
Total Expenses	\$ 237,279.93
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (17,836.26)



(October) October 1, 2020



*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.

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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*

**Sunday Worship 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**  
**Food Pantry: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays - 4:45-6:15 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**