

St. Mark United Methodist Church  
550 Hwy. 72 By-Pass NW  
Greenwood, SC 29649  
<http://www.stmarkgreenwood.com>  
Church Phone: 864.229.5416  
Kids' World Phone: 864.227.2776

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GREENWOOD, SC  
Permit # 190

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# *The Witness*



Bypass Campus (BPC)



Rivers Street Campus (RSC)



The Coronaca Campus (TCC)

## St. Mark United Methodist Church

[www.stmarkgreenwood.com](http://www.stmarkgreenwood.com)

Volume 16 Issue 11

December 2022



**Young at Heart (ages 60 and up)**  
will meet **Monday, December 5**, at  
**11 a.m.** in Founders Hall at the  
Bypass Campus. A light lunch will  
be furnished. Please call **Sunni  
Bond** at **227-7428** or email her at  
**frogbond38@gmail.com** to make  
your reservations.



### Christmas Eve Services

**4:00 P.M. Children's Christmas Eve Service - Bypass Campus**

**5:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service - Rivers Street Campus**

**7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Service - Bypass Campus**

### Christmas Day Service

**10:00 A.M. Christmas Day Service - Bypass Campus**





## Greetings to the Saints of St. Mark!

Consider . . .

In the twenty-fifth day of the month of December;  
 In the year five-thousand one-hundred and ninety-nine from the creation of the world,  
 when in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth;  
 In the year two-thousand nine-hundred and fifty-seven from the flood;  
 In the year two-thousand and fifty-one from the birth of Abraham;  
 In the year one-thousand five-hundred and ten from the going forth of the people of Egypt under Moses;  
 In the year one-thousand and thirty-two from the anointing of David as king;

In the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel;  
 In the one-hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad;  
 In the year seven-hundred and fifty-two from the foundation of the city of Rome;  
 In the forty-second year of the reign of the Emperor Octavian Augustus;  
 In the sixth age of the world, while the whole earth was at peace;  
 Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, willing to consecrate the world

by His gracious coming, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit,  
 and the nine months of His conception being now accomplished,  
 was born in Bethlehem of Judah of the Virgin Mary.

This is the birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the flesh.\*

It did, indeed, come to pass that the promised Messiah came to ransom captive Israel and captive humanity. Though we might quibble over the reckoning of some periods of time, God did what He said. He kept His promise made across the years.

And so we wait again. We who celebrate Advent, preparing for the coming of Christmas, now wait again. For this Christmas we wait to celebrate Christ's birth and we still wait for His promised day when He will come again – if not in 2022, then in some time to come.

The passing of time can go so slowly, especially when we have to wait. Yet the pile of calendars at our feet does not deter His coming nor void His promise. The One who waited from eternity past to be born in the manger did come at the right time. And He will come again at the right time.

And so we who live in the interim wait and watch, preparing our lives in hope and grace, and rejoicing in Him “who was, and is, and is to come” (Revelation 1:8).

With Joy,  
 Steve

\*From the Roman Martyrology [www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)



### Worship Attendance Year to Date Average

As of November 27, 2022

8:45 AM - BPC	68
9:00 AM - RSC	687
10:00 AM - TCC	37
11:00 AM - BPC	71
11:15 AM - RSC	100
8:45 Stream - BPC	20
10:00 Stream - TCC	13
11:15 Stream - RSC	24
Worship Attendance	395
Sunday School Attendance	111

### KREW and EPIC Attendance School Year Average

As of November 13, 2022

KREW	64
EPIC	83
HSX	30

The next copy of *The Witness*, the church's monthly newsletter, will be mailed on Thursday, December 29.

**Deadline to submit information for the newsletter is Monday, December 19.**

Copies of the December Birthdays list, December Anniversaries list, and Upper Rooms for November/December are located at the narthex/welcome area at each campus. You can find the birthday and anniversary list on the church mobile app as well.

**The Pastors and congregation extend Christian sympathy to the following members of our church family.**

- Cathy Trevino and her family on the death of her sister, Kitty Warren, on October 30th.
- Stephanie Turner and her family on the death of her mother, Linda Tomczyk, on November 7th.

## Poinsettia / Good Samaritan Fund

The Worship Committee invites you to make a special donation “in honor of” or “in memory of” a loved one or friend in lieu of purchasing Poinsettias. The proceeds will go to our Good Samaritan Fund which is used to provide assistance to those in need throughout the year. A list will be printed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 18. To donate, please fill out the form below. All forms must be received in the church office by Monday, December 12.

### Good Samaritan Fund Donation

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

You can attach your check, Venmo, or pay online.



venmo



## Church Directory

New church directories will be printed in January by request only. You are encouraged to install the Online Directory App on your phone. Contact Debra Robinson for app instructions or to request a paper directory. [debra@stmarkgreenwood.com](mailto:debra@stmarkgreenwood.com) or 229-5416



### 2023 Panama Mission Trip Application Deadline

*Applications for the mission trip to Panama, September 16-24, 2023, are due Friday, December 30, 2022. Applications can be found at all campuses. Contact Cathy ([cathyt24@yahoo.com](mailto:cathyt24@yahoo.com) 864-992-2228) or Christy ([christystevens728@gmail.com](mailto:christystevens728@gmail.com) 864-822-0033) for more information or to apply.*



*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" (Matthew 1:23)*

*"Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." (Matthew 24:44)*

Greetings St. Mark!

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, everywhere you go. Our sanctuaries are adorned with Chrismon Trees, advent wreaths, garland, candles, and nativity scenes. Christmas lights line Main Street. Our homes are filled with all the sights and sounds of Christmas and our Christmas traditions. It's an exciting time as we see and know that our expectations are being met. And as Christmas people it's also an exciting time as we know that promise found in Matthew's Gospel of the Emmanuel, God with us, continues to be fulfilled in our lives through the miracle of the virgin birth on Christmas Day. But Matthew's Gospel also tells us to "be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." It's perplexing! Maybe Matthew's Gospel is telling us that we need to put more effort into decorating and creating new Christmas traditions. Maybe we need to buy more gifts or prepare larger meals? But what if Matthew's Gospel is leading us to something more?

For me at Christmas, I become very set in my ways. Decorations must be in place at a certain time. Christmas can be played at midnight the day after Thanksgiving. My online shopping tracking number spreadsheet gets pulled back up on my computer. My television schedule centers around the dates and times when Rudolph, Frosty, The Grinch, and all the other Christmas specials air. What about you? Do your Christmas routines and traditions cause your life to become as predictable as mine? The author of Matthew's Gospel understands that at certain points and seasons life becomes predictable. That people become so focused on completing work in the fields, or "grinding meals together." (Matthew 24:40-41). That people become focused on carrying out traditions. (Matthew 24:38). Matthew's Gospel understands that such focus on routine causes us to miss what is going on around us. (Matthew 24:38). Matthew's Gospel doesn't want us to do more; instead Matthew Gospel's invites us make space.

As we live within our Christmas traditions and live as Christmas people, holding on to the Promises of the Emmanuel, we are called to make space in our lives to allow God to break through in the predictable, stagnant places within ourselves. To make space for God to transform "swords into plowshares" and "spears into pruning hooks." (Isaiah 2:4)

Are you ready to allow break through at Christmas?

Blessings on the journey,

Pastor Joey





## Hello St. Mark Family!

First and foremost, I want to THANK YOU all for the outpouring of love and support during Pastor Appreciation Month. Thank you for the gift that was given to me during the services and all the calls, texts, emails, and cards of love and support that you all showed. One of the greatest joys in my life is being one of your pastors here at St. Mark. I am grateful for each and every one of you and the relationship that we have. I look forward to many more years together at St. Mark as we work together to make disciples for Jesus Christ, for the transformation of the world.

We are in one of the greatest times of the year! During Advent we take time to prepare our hearts for God's breakthrough power. As we work through our Advent series, I think it's important that we really dive in to each week and how God broke through so many barriers to bring us in to relationship with him. Jesus has always been a part of this world - we know this through our reading of scripture:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

Through Jesus, God broke through this world to bring us peace, love, hope, and joy. In a time when the silence seemed almost deafening God broke through it all for us. Knowing that He did all of this for us changes how we see our lives and our role in this world. Ephesians 5:8b-10 (Voice) tells us exactly what we should do with this peace, love, hope, and joy.

*<sup>8</sup> you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.*

So, in this season of preparation and getting ready, let us block out the silence with the sound of Jesus' peace, love, hope and joy. This sound is God's breakthrough power in our lives that changes us and changes our world. So, during this season I pray that each one of us find God's breakthrough power in our lives and that through that power we go into His world and be His light - shining bright to all those around us.

From Jennifer, Jack, and myself we pray that this season is one of preparation for you and your family. We pray that this season is one of rest. We pray that you find the miracles in the silence, and the power in the waiting of a coming Christ Child. We pray that you and your family have a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

We look forward to seeing YOU at CHURCH! Bring a friend!!

Pastor Robby



## Welcome to the St. Mark Family

Join the staff of St. Mark in welcoming our new church members: Dayna Burton, LaTissa Goode, Marc and Amy Latham, James and Laura Cronin.



James and Laura Cronin



LaTissa Goode



Dayna Burton



Marc and Amy Latham



## ARE YOU UTILIZING THE PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY APPROPRIATELY?

The Prayer Quilt Ministry at St. Mark UMC's three campuses has been operational since February, and about 50 quilts have been distributed. That is not enough!

There is a dedicated cadre of seven women who make the prayer quilts and at this point in time we have a large inventory of quilts. It should not be unusual for there to be a prayer quilt in the sanctuary of one or more of the St. Mark campuses **every single Sunday!** Yet that is not the case.

It is understandable that one might hesitate to request for him/herself, but that should not be a reality. If you have a health issue of any kind, physical or emotional, you have a need for prayer. If life just seems overwhelming right now, you have a need for prayer. Our prayer quilts represent many prayers being said for you and your issues, whatever they may be.

And I am sure many of us have family members or friends who could benefit from extra prayer in their lives any given day.

We do not turn down any requests for prayer quilts; there is no judgment involved. The requirements for requesting a prayer quilt are few: We must have the permission of the recipient or the recipient's caregiver. We cannot do surprise quilts. Someone who can pick up and deliver the quilt needs to attend the specific service where the quilt is presented.

If someone would like a prayer quilt but does not want their name advertised or the reason given, that can be accommodated. We did a quilt for an abused woman with children earlier this year and did not give her name.

Please take advantage of this fantastic ministry and request quilts. You can email [prayerquiltrequests@gmail.com](mailto:prayerquiltrequests@gmail.com) or call me at 227-7428. I would love getting requests even as late as Saturday evening—I can always get a quilt in the sanctuary for the early service at Bypass or leave it in the office of Pastor Joey or Pastor Robby early Sunday morning. Be sure to specify, if you leave a voice message, which campus the quilt should go to.

Sunni Bond, Coordinator  
Prayer Quilt Ministry



## DECEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE

The season of Advent is a time of preparation and celebration as we journey to the celebration of Christmas - Emmanuel, God with us in Jesus Christ. Throughout the month of December we will be celebrating the God who breaks through at Christmas. Each Sunday we will consider that God breaks through the silence, the darkness, the impossible, and the chaos at that first Christmas and He still does today.

We hope you can gather with the church on special Sundays this month along with our regular Sunday worship services. On Thursday, December 22, the Coronaca Campus will be hosting our traditional outdoor Advent Candlelight Service at 6:00 PM. Christmas Eve offers three special services. The first is our Children's Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 PM at the Bypass Campus. This half-hour service is for the young and young at heart as the children get to be an angel, a wise person or a shepherd and join in the Christmas story. At 5:00 PM at our Rivers Street Campus, we will be sharing in a service of Candlelight and Communion in a contemporary setting. Then, at the Bypass Campus, we will finish Christmas Eve with our traditional Candlelight and Communion service at 7:00. Christmas Day comes with one service for us all at the Bypass Campus. It will be a forty-minute, informal service - one can even come in pajamas - where children are invited to bring a toy for the Blessing of the Toys. It promises to be a great way to celebrate the day!

Please note that services from every campus are live-streamed each Sunday, beginning with our 8:45 AM Traditional Worship Service from the Bypass Campus, followed by our 10:00 AM Blended Worship Service from the Coronaca Campus, and lastly, our 11:15 AM Contemporary Worship Service from the Rivers Street Campus. You can watch these services on our Youtube channel at the time indicated for that service. All live-streamed services will be available online after they are completed.

### December 4 - The Second Sunday in Advent - "God Broke through the Darkness"

(Communion will be shared at all campuses and every service)

Pastor Steve at Bypass for 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM Worship

Pastor Joey at Coronaca for 10:00 AM Worship

Pastor Robby at Rivers Street for 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM Worship

### December 11 - The Third Sunday in Advent - "God Broke through the Impossible"

Pastor Steve at Bypass for 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM Worship

Pastor Joey at Coronaca for 10:00 AM Worship

Pastor Robby at Rivers Street for 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM Worship

### December 18 - The Fourth Sunday in Advent - "God Broke through the Chaos"

Pastor Steve at Bypass for 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM Worship

Pastor Joey at Coronaca for 10:00 AM Worship

Rev. Dr. Dan Smyth at Rivers Street for 9:00 AM and 11:15 AM Worship

### December 22 - Candlelight Service - An Outdoor Advent Celebration

Pastor Joey at Coronaca at 6:00 PM

### December 24 - Christmas Eve—Services of Candlelight and Communion

Pastor Steve at Bypass for the Children's Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 PM

Pastor Robby at Rivers Street for the 5:00 PM Service

Pastor Steve at Bypass for the 7:00 PM Service

### December 25 - Christmas Day Celebration (One special 40 minute service)

All Pastors at the Bypass Campus for 10:00 AM Worship





Students in Grade 6-12:  
Join us for an EPIC  
CHRISTMAS  
CELEBRATION!

6:00-8:00

Bring an unwrapped toy!

**EPIC**  
Christmas

DRESS LIKE CHRISTMAS! THE MOST  
"CHRISTMASSY" WINS THE POINTS -AND A PRIZE!  
LOTS OF FUN • LOTS OF GAMES  
BRING AN UNWRAPPED TOY  
AND A SNACK TO SHARE

**Dec. 4th 6:00-8:00**

**1/8/23** **6:30**  
Rivers Street

**EPIC**  
**Dodgeball**  
TOURNAMENT

Pizza  
Ice Cream

Invite a friend!  
PLAY or WATCH!



All children through 5th grade are invited!

**Happy Birthday**  
**JESUS**  
**PARTY**

Sunday, December 11, 2022 10:00 am  
During Sunday School - Pick up and drop off in the classroom

**KREW**  
KIDS REALLY EXCITED ABOUT WORSHIP

THE SPRING SESSION OF KREW KICKS  
OFF JANUARY 22, 2023! SAVE THE DATE!

*Join us for the  
20th Annual  
Christmas  
Pageant!*

The Children of St. Mark Present the 20th Annual  
St. Mark Children's Christmas Pageant

Saturday, December 3, 2022  
10:00 am Wesley Commons Performance  
5:30 pm Community Performance  
Rivers Street Campus

**Christmas Pecans are available for  
purchase at the Bypass Campus.**

**\$15 per pound.  
Proceed benefit missions.**

*Merry Christmas*  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Church office will  
be closed for  
Christmas Friday,  
December 23 and  
Monday, December  
26. The Church  
office will be closed  
for New Years  
Monday, January 2.





**The United Women of Faith will be selling Angels for the Angel tree!**

- Bypass Campus - Sunday, Dec. 4, 11, & 18, before and after Sunday School
- Rivers Street Campus - Sunday, Dec. 11, before and after the 11:15 service
- Coronaca Campus - Sunday, Dec. 18, before and after the service.

Or contact Cathy Trevino at (864)992-2228 or [cathyt24@yahoo.com](mailto:cathyt24@yahoo.com). All money collected will go to missions.

## Christmas Eve

Dec. 24 4:00 Bypass Campus



...a family friendly Christmas eve service...



### What's new in Kids' World?

Kids' World is very excited about the new families that have been able to join us since we have opened our first infant and toddler space!

It has been wonderful to have these precious babies in our center. We are still praying for God to send us more teachers as we look forward to being able to accept in more families in the new year.

Merry Christmas to all!

Amanda Wideman  
Director



**PLEASE NOTE!** All offerings must be in the church office by **December 31** or must be **postmarked by December 31, 2022**, to qualify for 2022 giving on your December statement.

### Flower Calendar

The 2023 Flower Calendar is posted on the bulletin board by the senior pastor's office. If you would like to place flowers on a special date, you need to sign up early. Make sure to include a phone number or email address. When it is your turn, you will be notified early that week as a reminder of the date you chose and will be asked for information for the bulletin.

### Offering Envelopes

If you would like offering envelopes for 2023, please contact Debra at 864.229.5416 or email [debra@stmarkgreenwood.com](mailto:debra@stmarkgreenwood.com) to let her know. Let Debra know at which campus you will pick up your envelopes.

Paige will be on vacation Friday, December 16 through Friday, December 23. Debra and volunteers from the church will be covering the church door and phone.





St. Mark gratefully acknowledges the following gifts:

- To *The General Fund* in loving memory of **Mary Smith** by Ernie and Candy Gillian.
- To *The General Fund* in loving memory of **Tony Adams** by Charlie and Helen Watkins.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **Dale Campbell** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **Ruth Clark** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **Wanda Hill** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **Jean Langley** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **Fred and Betty Latham** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **George and Margaret Martin** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **Janice McMahan** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **Jim Wheeler** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **Jay Adam Pearson** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **Jim and Dee Rollings** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **Brian Waldrep** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **Coleman and Debra Robinson** by Charlotte Koone.
- To *The General Fund* in loving honor of **Jenny Valkenburg** by Charlotte Koone.



Would your child  
or middle schooler  
like to be on our  
parade float?  
Contact Julie or  
Pastor Robby and  
let us know!



## Upcoming Church Meetings

SPRC - Tuesday, December 6  
Bypass Campus, Room 104 7:00 P.M.



Prayers of the Church

Prayer requests will remain on this list for three weeks unless we are notified differently.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING

**Emerald Gardens**  
(201 Overland Drive,  
Greenwood, SC)  
Charlotte Koone

**National Healthcare**  
(437 E Cambridge Ave,  
Greenwood, SC)  
Betty Lightsey

**Shut-In/Homebound**  
Mary Ellen Anderson  
(864.223.5275)  
1830 Alexander Road W  
Greenwood, SC 29649

Danny Bearden  
c/o Khristy Lee  
2419 Lafayette Street  
Winterville, NC 28590

Jean Bedenbaugh  
Lexington Medical Center  
Extended Care  
815 Old Cherokee Road  
Lexington, SC 29072

James and Mary Anna Evans  
5800 Old Providence Road  
Apt 4310  
Charlotte, NC 28226

Charlie Helms (704.535.7848)  
c/o Teena Williams  
4600 Crofton Ct.  
Charlotte, NC 28205

Annell McManus (864.229.1596)  
110 Northgate  
Greenwood, SC 29649

Gary Roper  
301 Fairway Lakes Road  
Greenwood, SC 29649

Jenny Valkenburg  
(864-223-0987)  
119 Creek Road East  
Greenwood, SC 29646

**MEMBERS AND REGULAR  
ATTENDEES**

Dylan DeLoach  
Frankie Elgin  
Katie Bowie  
Stephanie Turner and family  
Jim Conley  
Dodie Conley  
John Clark

**MEMBERS' FRIENDS**

Rev. and Mrs. Milton and Betty  
Moss McGuirt  
Family of Sandra Slay  
Sondra Walker  
Sally Butler

**MILITARY**

Jack Boyd - Army  
Dr. JC Elmore - Army  
Brycen Fleming - Army  
Randall Geddings  
Joshua Goff - Marines  
Dr. Caity Jarrio—Army  
Mackenzie Latham - Air Force  
Banner Peksa - Army  
Parker White - Army

**COLLEGE STUDENTS**

Clemson:  
Caleb McLaughlin, Caroline  
Addis, Clary Pederson, Conner  
Pederson, Dawson Hudson, Ella  
Furman, Gloria Grace Murray,  
Jasmine Creswell, Josh Godwin,  
Kathryn Goff, Laila Monda,  
Patrick Smathers, Rebecca Bell,  
Savannah Farmer, Taylor Case,  
Trevor Brewington, Tyler  
McManus, Wyatt Prince, Will God-  
win, and Zach Robinson.

Furman University:  
Annika Patterson

Georgia Southern:  
Mathis Brewington

Lander:  
Ansley Bain, Caroline  
Alexander, Caroline Rhodes, Car-  
oline Smith, Cole Ison,  
Dylan DeLoach, Jacob Slay, Jewel  
Malone Leopard, Kellynn Ashley,  
Kylie Gantt, Lowndes Still, Ryan  
Latham, and Zoë Moore.

Mars Hill University:  
Sarah Ellen Johnson

Midlands Technical College:  
Parker Boggs

Piedmont Technical College:  
Andrew Tripp, Ethan Long,  
Jeramiah Holmes, Lauren  
Coker, and Sam Rice.

Southern Wesleyan:  
Haley McLaughlin

Texas A&M:  
Blake Lindler

The Citadel:  
Rhett Lindler

The Medical University of South  
Carolina:  
Mae Furman

University of Kentucky:  
Julia Goff

University of South Carolina:  
Caroline Bell, Carter Rhodes,  
Harriet Ward, Jordan Mapes,  
Kynslea Philcox, Lauren Clamp,  
Meg McGovern, and Olivia  
DeTreville.

University of South Carolina,  
Sumter:  
Braeden McDonald

Winthrop:  
Carlie Pundt

Wofford:  
Olivia Murray



The end of the year is typically a time when the giving increases. The low summer months when folks are away on vacation is surpassed by holiday generosity. As we enter the season of Advent, we remember the greatest gift that was ever given. It cost God everything to send His Son for our salvation. Thanks be to God that He did!

As we reach the end of 2022 in December, we hope that generous living and giving will mark our holidays. We, who have been given so much, have the opportunity to give to make a difference - for every gift affects the lives of people near and far, in St. Mark UMC and around the world. We are difference makers every time we give.

The numbers for this financial report come from the most recent information available. As you may recall, this month's newsletter shares a financial picture taken at the close of October (November's finances could not be completely "closed" or reconciled at the time this month's newsletter was put together). While they may be a little over a month old, all transactions, deposits, and expenses have been reconciled to the bank.

The finances at the end of October look like this:

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$241,433</b>		
<b>Actual Expenses</b>	<b>\$825,550</b>	Budgeted Expenses	\$918,591
<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>\$790.719</b>	Anticipated Income	\$917.242

We continue our efforts to hold spending on expenses below what has been budgeted yet still allow our ministries and missions to take place. We've done a good job to hold actual expenses to about \$93,000 less than what we had budgeted for 2022. On the other side of the balance sheet, we had anticipated that we might have received about \$917,242 in gifts but we have actually received about \$790,719 (this is a difference of about \$126,523 in contributions). But our giving has increased over the past month. Fortunately, we also continue to close the gap between what we actually receive in offerings and what we actually spend in expenses. This gap is at its lowest point this year -- \$34,831. Along with this good news, our general fund is at \$241,433 - the highest it has been this year since we received a gift to replenish some of the funds lost last year.

Our faithful and generous giving allows St. Mark to carry out its ministries and mission to care for one another in our church, across the city and our state, and even touch the lives of persons across the globe that we may never meet. Trying to keep our finances in check by holding back on expenses for mission and ministry is never the best solution. When we give the best each of us can, generously and faithfully as God has provided, great things happen and all are blessed.

Pray for St. Mark UMC, that we will continue to trust God to provide. He is ever faithful!



# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship Services are: Bypass Campus:8:45 am & 11:00 am Rivers Street Campus: 9:00 am & 11:15 am Coronaca Campus: 10:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am				1 5:30 West Side AA 7:00 Girls Scouts	2 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	3 4:00 Founders Hall in use 5:00 Children’s Christmas Pageant
4 1:00 Founders Hall in use 6:00 EPIC 8:00 HSX	5 10:00 Staff Meeting 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 11:00 Young at Heart in Founders Hall 5:30 West Side AA	6 9:00 Sanctuary in use 10:00 WOW 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	7 6:30 Men’s Bible Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 10:00 UMW 6:30 Blend band rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir practice 6:30 Men’s Bible Study	8 9:30 Founders Hall in use 11:45 Staff Christmas Gathering 5:30 West Side AA	9 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	10 10:00 Founders Hall in use
11 Special Music at the Bypass Campus during worship	12 10:00 Staff Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 2:00 Founders Hall in use 5:30 West Side AA	13 7:00 Founders Hall in use 6:00 Parkinson Support Group 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	14 6:30 Men’s Bible Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 10:00 Founders Hall in use 6:30 Blend band rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir practice 6:30 Men’s Bible Study	15 Sanctuary, Founders Hall and kitchen in use all day 5:30 West Side AA	16 6:30 Men’s Prayer Breakfast 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:00 Sanctuary in use	17 Sanctuary in use all day Fellowship Hall in use all day 5:00 Wayne Goff Hall in use
18 1:00 Wayne Goff Hall in use	19 Information due for the church newsletter 10:00 Staff Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 5:30 West Side AA	20 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	21 6:30 Men’s Bible Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:30 Blend band rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir practice 6:30 Men’s Bible Study	22 5:30 West Side AA 6:00 Candlelight service at Coronaca	23 Church office is closed for the Christmas holidays	24 4:00 Children’s Christmas Eve Service - Bypass 5:00 Christmas Eve Service - Rivers Street 7:00 Christmas Eve Service - Bypass
25 10:00 Christmas Day Service - Bypass 11:00 RSC in use all day	26 Church office is closed for the Christmas holidays 5:30 West Side AA	27 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	28 6:30 Men’s Bible Study 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class 6:30 Blend band rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir practice 6:30 Men’s Bible Study	29 9:00 Newsletter Labeling 5:30 West Side AA	30 WGH and kitchen in use all day 10:00 Fit 4 Ever Exercise Class	31