

October 2017

thelink@st.mark's

Pastor Appreciation Celebration

St. Mark's Church is blessed to have three outstanding pastors. To show our appreciation, St. Mark's family and friends are encouraged to help shower them with small tokens of encouragement through the month of October. The goal is a small gift for each pastor every Sunday-Thursday. To participate in this activity, please contact [Janet Lehman](#) at 717-653-4189.

You are cordially invited to a celebration luncheon honoring
**Pastor Tim,
Pastor Sean,
and Dr. Dave**
Sunday, October 22
at noon.

The Pastor Appreciation luncheon will be held in fellowship hall and includes a salad, a baked potato bar, chicken strips, meatballs, dessert, and beverage. The meal is \$7 for adults; \$3 for children ages 6 - 10; and free for children 5 and younger. Tickets for the luncheon may be purchased in the Welcome Center on October 8 and 15. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Sunday, October 15.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER WALK OCTOBER 29 - 10 AM



Our prayer walk in April was so well received that we will be holding our second one on Oct. 29. Join us as people from both services unite to surround St. Mark's in prayer. We have asked God to be present with us during our sermon series *Here. Now.*; the walk is an opportunity to continue to come together with God's blessing.

You may follow the circular route or find a single spot to lift up prayers for the church and community. A guide will be available to aid your journey.

Both worship services will take place at their normal times with the walk taking place in between. Please come dressed to participate no matter the weather!

Trunk or Treat - Oct. 27

St. Mark's is participating in Main Street Mount Joy's 4th Friday by hosting Trunk or Treat for the children. The Family/Fellowship/Outreach Team is planning an evening of games, activities, and free hot dogs for all our guests. The event will be on the church lawn and the Ministry Center porch.



The team is looking for community groups, families, youth, and/or individuals to help with this outreach activity. Volunteers are needed to supervise either their own games or one of ours and to serve hot dogs. The team is also asking for donations of candy and prizes for the games, as well as small pumpkins for decorating. Donations may be brought to the Welcome Center on Sundays, October 8, 15, and 22. To volunteer, please contact [Janet Lehman](#) at 717-653-4189.

Youth Mission Trip

"This summer my youth group went on a mission trip to North Carolina. The group that I was in painted walls upstairs and downstairs as well as the ceiling and the floor! It was a great experience with my youth group. We all got closer with each other and got closer to Jesus I think! This was definitely an unforgettable mission trip!"

Megan Witmer

Reach had the awesome opportunity this past July to work alongside Christian Endeavor in rebuilding areas of a community in North Carolina. The students helped to improve resident's homes and community centers, met the residents, had the opportunity to share their faith and listen to the stories of the local people.

Each day as they returned to the host church, Reach gathered with other youth groups to worship and listen to speakers share the gospel. Some of our group participated in leading worship; Aria and Aliya Rajnic sang with the band and Collin Arntz operated the sound system each night.



Reach truly enjoyed their time in NC and wish to extend their thanks to St. Mark's for your support. We thank you for the prayers and financial support that made this trip possible.

2 UMCOR Buckets

Thank you St. Mark's for your support of the Friendship Group's UMCOR Cleaning Bucket campaign. \$3000 was given for supplies to fill the buckets; some members picked up and filled buckets themselves. All together we filled and shipped 72 buckets to the UMCOR Mission Center in Mechanicsburg PA.



Special thanks to those who assisted the bucket brigade: Colby Shearer, Sue Rimer, Gail Huff, John Billman, and Scott Libhart.

*Dale & Bonnie Boyer,
Jack & Diana Blace, Carol
Gockley, Rob & Cindy Stoner,
and John & Pat Paules*

STAFF

Senior Pastor - Rev. Timothy J. Smith
(717) 653-5493 ext. 223
tsmith@connectstmarks.com

Associate Pastor - Sean Rajnic
(717) 682-0653
sjrajnic@me.com

Visitation Pastor - Rev. Dr. David Pierce
(717) 371-1725
pierced228@gmail.com

Director of Children's Ministry - Laura Ligo
laura@connectstmarks.com

Dir. of Youth & Young Adults - Jimmy Law
(814) 528-4493
jlaw@connectstmarks.com

Faith Factory Learning Center Director - Patti Shearer (717) 653-8201
faithfactory@connectstmarks.com

Director of Prayer & Equipping Ministries - Jill MacKenzie (717) 413-3547
jillmckn@comcast.net

Church Administrator - Rob Stoner
rob@connectstmarks.com

Administrative Assistant - Sarah Clarke
sclarke@connectstmarks.com

Finance Clerk - Janice Schell
(717) 653-5493 ext. 225
finance@connectstmarks.com

Church Secretary - Kim Wargo
kwargo@connectstmarks.com

Lay Pastor Coordinator - Sylvia Stark
(717) 341-2654
sylviagrace44@gmail.com

Director of Contemporary Worship & Assistant Custodian - Bobby Wehner
(717) 742-8461
bobbywehner@gmail.com

Custodian - Sherrie Gilbert
(717) 669-1931
sherrissacredspace@hotmail.com

Part-time Custodian - Jim White
(717) 682-4182
bikerdancerjim@comcast.net

Part-time Custodian - Mark Laukhuff

Organist - Lois Stites
loisstites@gmail.com

Chancel Choir Director - Michael Kohler
bwaynut@comcast.net

Sunday Custodial Coordinator - Bob Miller



October 8 is also Pastor Appreciation Sunday. All pastors attending the October dinner will receive their meal at no cost!

Free Spaghetti Dinner

A free spaghetti dinner will be served at St. Mark's on Sunday, Oct. 15 from 4 - 5 pm. The meal includes a salad, bread and butter, dessert, and beverage. Guests are reminded that these free dinners are eat-in dinners.

Although there is no cost for the meal, attendees are asked to call the church office at 717-653-5493 by 4 pm on Thursday, October 12 to make reservations.

Marinated Chicken Breast Dinner

On Sunday, October 8, St. Mark's volunteers will begin their 18th year of cooking and serving Sunday Fellowship Dinners. October's dinner features marinated boneless, skinless chicken breasts, au-gratin potatoes, a vegetable, applesauce, rolls & butter, dessert, ice cream, and beverages. Dinner is served from 11 am - 12:30 pm. The cost of the meal is \$10 for adults; \$3 for children 4 - 11; and children 3 and under are free. The profit from this meal will go to St. Mark's General Fund.

Senior Ministry Upcoming Events

We are excited to announce there are two events planned for October. October 10, we will go to Gretna Glen for Autumn Leaves Senior Day. It is a wonderful day filled with fun, fellowship, delicious food and entertainment. Cost is \$20.00 per person and starts at 9:30 am. Space is limited; call Cindi Selph 717-928-4545. We will meet that morning at 8:45 am in the church parking lot.

On October 18, we will tour the Amish Farm House in Lancaster (Hwy. 30 next to Target). Please arrive at 9:30 am for our 10 am tour. The cost is \$20.00 per person. We will have two 14 passenger vans; so we are limited to 28 participants. Each van will have a tour guide and will travel the route together. Afterwards, we will gather at a local restaurant and have lunch together (optional). Sign up in the back of the Welcome Center or call [Cindi Selph](tel:717-928-4545) at 717-928-4545.



October Mission of the Month

Children's Ministry Outreach is our October Mission of the Month. It's no secret that children and youth are valued at St. Mark's, and we want our ministries to continue to make a significant impact on children and families in our community! The goal of Children's Ministry Outreach is to allow our events, programs, and activities to be an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with kids and their families. This year we especially want to connect with those attending the Faith Factory weekday program.

Through your financial support, our team is able to reach out to children and families for Jesus Christ. Funds are used to provide community programming like VBS, Fourth Friday, and Winterfest. Bibles, devotionals, faith-based crafts, and other materials to share. Please prayerfully consider a financial contribution to our Children's Ministry Outreach mission this month. To donate, use a specially-marked giving envelope, text 'help4kids' to 30131 or visit connectstmarks.com/online-giving.

FAITH FACTORY NEWS

The school year is underway and the hallways are humming with activity! It is so nice to have all our teachers back and the classes full of children. We have welcomed 85 children into our traditional preschool classes, 38 full-time children and 55 school age children into our program this fall. We have been praying for our children and we ask that you also pray for both the children and their families.

Families today have so many stressors in their lives and balancing everything can be quite challenging. One of our goals each year is to be a resource and partner for our families, so that they know there is always someone there to listen, help and provide support for them. When our families and teachers connect, children feel it and the effect it has on them personally as well as their education is huge. It is awesome that our families have the staff in prayer and the whole community of St. Marks on their side.



The teachers and I want to say a huge "thank you" for your support during August when we were mission of the month. Your donations of school supplies, prayers and monetary gifts was amazing and it felt like Christmas as the teachers opened all your gifts!

We also want to thank you for voting for Faith Factory in the Lancaster Newspapers Reader's Choice Awards! Being voted favorite was an honor. It truly made all of us feel very proud of what we have accomplished together!



For more information about Faith Factory Learning Center, contact [Patti Shearer](#) at 717-653-8201.

Scholastic Book Fair Coming to St. Mark's

Faith Factory Learning Center will hold a Scholastic Book Fair at St. Mark's in the Welcome Center from November 26 to December 3. It will feature books for children of all ages. This is a great opportunity to purchase books for the holidays and support our mission with Faith Factory. Volunteers are wanted - contact [Kathy Bower](#) at 717-665-9141.

It's Easy to Earn Money for Faith Factory

Do you shop at Giant? Last year, \$1117 was raised because you shopped at Giant during the school year. Log onto giant-foodstores.com/aplus and scroll down to the center of the page to select Register Your Card from the red box on the right marked For Customers. Enter your bonus card number and school code 26723 to designate Faith Factory as your school designation.

Do you shop at Darrenkamp's? Darrenkamp's will donate one percent of your total Gold Card purchases to the non-profit organization of your choice Visit darrenkamps.com and login by selecting the login link below the e-Shop logo in the upper right hand corner of the page. Under My Community Rewards Tab, choose Faith Factory Learning Center. Sign-up today!

Ministry Opportunity - Volunteers Needed

Many volunteers are needed to make the monthly Sunday dinners and the free community dinners possible. Some of the volunteers have been helping with the Sunday dinners since the first dinner in September 2000 but are now retiring. However long they have been involved, all the dinner volunteers enjoy helping with the meals and building relationships with one another as well as community members who attend the dinners.

Volunteers are needed to help the Saturday prior to the second Sunday of the month to prepare for the meal. This includes wrapping the silverware; setting the tables; and, some months, peeling potatoes. Volunteers are also needed the day of the dinner to help cook and serve the dinner, wash dishes, and cleanup afterwards. Dessert donations are also needed for the dinners. Our dinner guests prefer pie and cake to go with their ice cream, but all desserts are appreciated!

Volunteers are also needed the third Sunday of each month October through June to help with the free community dinners. We need people to set tables, cook and serve the meal, wash dishes, clean up following the meals, as well as set up and take down tables and chairs and reset fellowship hall for Monday mornings. Desserts are also needed for the free community dinners.

Free Thanksgiving Day Dinner

October is here and people have started asking if St. Mark's will be serving its annual free Thanksgiving Day Dinner. The answer is yes! St. Mark's will be serving its 13th annual free Thanksgiving Dinner at noon on Thanksgiving Day.

As you can imagine, many volunteers are needed to make this dinner possible. So please prayerfully consider helping with this year's Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Watch for more details in next month's newsletter. If you have questions or would like to volunteer now to help, contact Janet at 717-653-4189.

**Last year 442 people enjoyed St. Mark's delicious Thanksgiving Dinner:
170 people ate dinner at the church;
83 dinners were delivered to sick and shut-ins;
and 189 meals were taken out to be enjoyed by people in their homes.
After these 442 people were served their dinners,
about 55 volunteers dined together.**



"Cookies in a Jar" Fundraiser

Members of the Friendship Community Group will be in the Welcome Center on Oct. 22 & 29 taking orders for "Friendship Monster Cookie Mix in a Jar". These make great hostess and holiday gifts.

All orders are due by Nov. 5 and will be available for pickup on Sunday, Nov. 19. For more information contact Kathy Bower at 717-665-9141 or Pat Bomberger at 717-653-2395.

For a number of years the Friendship Group has held this fundraiser for St. Mark's mission projects. They have contributed to 'For the Love of the Game', Faith Factory Financial Assistance Fund, James Labala, provided funds for church members going on mission projects and assisted church members and their families with financial needs. This year's proceeds will continue to support St. Mark's missions.

Art Sundays

Aspire will be open on the 2nd and 4th Sundays for all types of artists from 6 - 9 pm. Painters, knitters, poets, musicians, etc. are encouraged to bring your project and supplies. Contact Sherrie Gilbert at 717-669-1931 with any questions.



Prayer Ministries

Join a group of Mount Joy residents lifting up community concerns on Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 6:30 pm at Aspire.

Members of St. Mark's are invited to gather for prayer on Oct. 10 at 9 am in the Prayer Room.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry invites you to join them on Thursday, October 19 at 6:30 pm. Contact [Myrl Sherk](mailto:Myrl.Sherk@aspire.org) at 717-653-5133 for meeting locations.

Global Aid Network Mission Packing Project

On Wednesday, October 18 volunteers from all over the country will assist GAIN in ministry work at the Mount Joy location. A group from St. Mark's will be carpooling at 5:30 pm to help from 6 - 8 pm. Contact Mike Fritz at 717-653-8844 by Oct. 11 to sign-up. Pick up liability forms in the Welcome Center.

Men's Ministry

Hey guys! Check out the next Men's Ministry meeting on Tuesday, October 3 at 6:30 pm at Aspire.

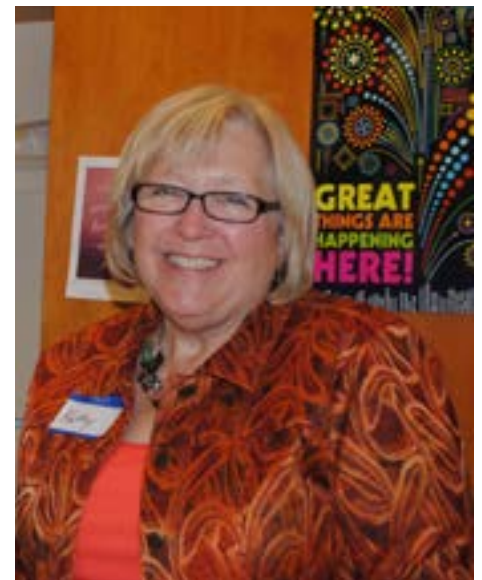
Men's Breakfast

The Men's Ministry invites any men to stop in at Gus's Restaurant on the third Saturday of each month at 8 am for breakfast and fellowship. Contact [Jeff Selph](mailto:Jeff.Selph@aspire.org) with any questions.

St. Mark's Cafe Meeting

The cafe provides a warm, welcoming environment for St. Mark's members, friends, and guests to meet, fellowship, and provide encouragement for one another while enjoying a delicious snack every Sunday morning from 8:30 - 10:45 am.

A cafe meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17 at 6:30 pm in the cafe. This meeting is for all current cafe volunteers (everyone who helps provide the foods, set up and clean up the cafe, and pick up the donuts on Sunday mornings) as well as anyone who is interested in helping with the cafe. The purpose of this meeting is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the cafe and discuss ways to improve the cafe. If you would like to be a part of this exciting ministry, please join us on October 17 at 6:30 pm. If you have questions, please call Janet Lehman at 717-653-4189.





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jean Shelly
- 4 Ken Bailey
Meg Zell
- 5 Austin Aldinger
Hunter Schlaybach
- 6 Joseph Hostetter
Julie Ivey
- 7 Ron Kennard
Michelle Lawson
Benjamin Pietsch
- 8 Tina Schlaybach
Kristel Carter
- 9 Dottie Allen
- 10 Marguerite Walters
- 11 Chris Haines
- 12 Mike Walmer
Becky Lenz
Kelsey McCreight
Jordin Meyers
- 13 Amanda Seely
- 14 Scott Baker
Richard Metzler
Judy Fuhrman
John Watts
Jeff Zerphey
- 15 Betty Rinehart
Allison Albert
- 16 Kinsey Bomberger
Owen Hall
Lucien Ivey
- 17 Jen Schweinsberg
Justin Gephart
Rowen Ross
Joe Ligo
- 18 Charles Gilbert
Ray Rinehart
Paul Hann
Charles Hower
- 19 Patricia Way
- 20 John Morrison
- 21 Edmund Schorr

- 22 Rita Troop
Gary Witmer
Dana Aldinger
Amanda Black
- 23 Madeline Tshudy
Becky Rupp
- 24 Kathy Morrison
Keith Beach
Dakotah Snyder
- 25 Jestena Yeagley
Russel Shirk
Valerie McEwen
- 26 Bob Troop
Heather Williams
Kyle Seely
- 27 Vikki Higgins
- 29 Lorrie Hall
- 30 Mike Wee
- 31 Jacqueline Newcomer
Jocelyn Libhart

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

- Jeff Zerphey - 65
- John Morrison - 65
- Ron Kennard - 75
- Jestena Yeagley - 80
- Ken Bailey - 85

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

- P. Andrew & Christine Colvin - 25
- Robert & Kerry Meyers - 40
- Gerald & Judy Erb - 50
- Don & Carole Musser - 55



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Dan & Mackenzie Bosse
Richard & Deb Rupp
- 4 Keith & Debra Beach
Frank & Lindsey Kerlin
- 5 Ty & Colleen Eshleman
- 7 Gerald & Judy Erb
Bob & Rita Troop
- 8 Bob & Kerry Meyers
Rod & Judy Ray
Elvin & Jestena Yeagley
- 9 Tom & Rebecca Beiler
- 14 James & Mary Hill
- 15 M. Hunter & Megan Gross
Ron & Linda Horton
Brandon & Angie Meyers
- 17 Rory & Jessica Frey
Gary & Dee Witmer
- 18 Kent & Danine Bitting
Tyler & Kelsey McCreight
Charles & Mary Rost
- 20 Kevin & Amy Karr
Don & Carole Musser
- 22 Brian & Elizabeth Courtright
- 24 Philip Andrew & Christine Colvin
- 25 Tony & Janelle Tersine



CAFÉ SCHEDULE AND SETUP

October Schedule

- 1 Judy Libhart, Marge Rineer
- 8 Coffee and donuts
- 15 Judy Baker, Elaine Kuhn
- 22 Elizabeth Courtright, Jestena Yeagley
- 29 Joi Garner, Janice Schell

Donuts - Darryl Wittle

Setup

- Judy Libhart
- Judy Libhart
- Judy Libhart
- Mary Ann Rupp
- Judy Libhart

Altar Flowers

- 1 - Jacqui Eschbach
- 8 - Rody & Judy Ray
- 15 - Anonymous
- 22 - Betty Wolgemuth
- 29 - Anonymous

Community Volunteers Needed

The Elizabethtown Homeless Shelter at St. Paul's UMC is seeking volunteers for the winter season (Dec. 4 through Mar. 29). Training is required on one of the following dates:

Oct. 10 - 6:30-8:30 pm - St. Paul's
Oct. 24 - 6:30-8:30 pm - St. Paul's
Nov. 5 - 4:00-6:00 pm - St. Paul's
Nov. 6 - 4:30-6:30 pm - E-town College
Nov. 13 - 6:30-8:30 pm - St. Paul's

Three volunteer shifts are available: evening (6:30-9:00 pm), overnight (8:30-6:30 am), and morning (6:30-8:30 am).

To sign up for training or for more information, contact Joanna Katherman at etownwintershelter@gmail.com or 717-690-9260. Clearances are required; details will be provided at the training.

Scholarship Awarded

Lancaster Bible College provides a matching scholarship (up to \$500) for students with a minimum 2.0 GPA, who are enrolled full-time and are in good standing. Scholarships from the student's church are used for the match.

This semester, St. Mark's awarded Becky Rupp a \$500 scholarship from the Endowment which was matched by LBC. Congratulations Becky!

*"I can't say thank you enough for granting me a \$500 scholarship. As a working single mom, you can imagine that I don't have extra money laying around for college tuition. I am blessed to have such an amazing church family."
Becky Rupp*



Trustees Corner

The following are recent Trustees projects:

- The worn carpet at the landing/entry of the east stair tower of the Education wing was replaced with rubber floor tile. This is both a safety and long-overdue housekeeping/maint. improvement.
- The wood fence surrounding the Faith Factory/S. June Smith playground between Aspire and the Ministry Center was replaced with a 6' vinyl privacy fence and new larger delivery and walkway gates. This project was partially funded through the proceeds of the 2017 Race for Education with other funds being reserved for classroom supplies and equipment.
- The 3rd and final door for the youth area has been delivered and will be installed by the end of the month. The bathroom installation will complete the project.
- Thanks to Troy Drohan and his team for installing flagstone along the east wall of the church foundation behind the air handlers. This completes our Faith Factory landscaping project begun earlier this year.

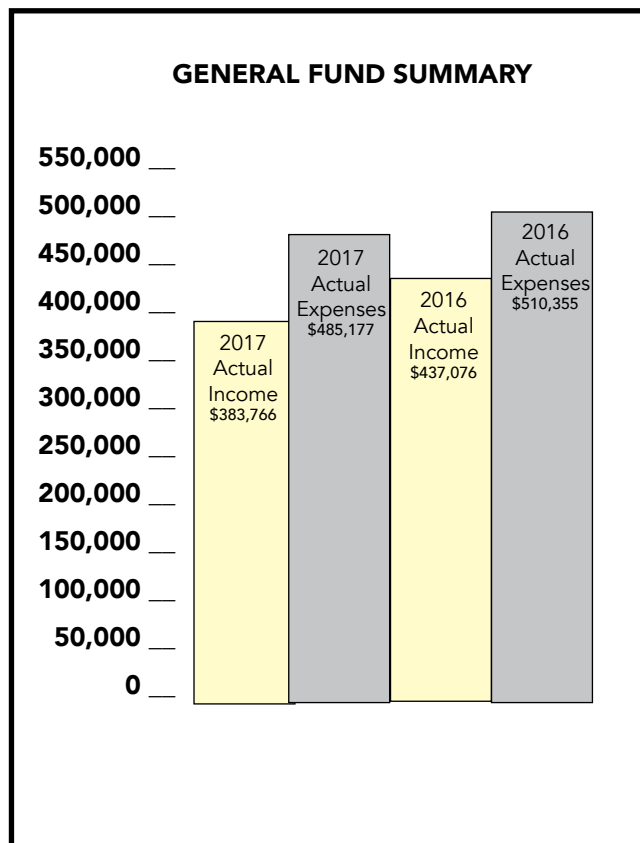


All Saints Day Remembrance

As a church family, we will remember and recognize any saints that have passed away within the last year on Sunday, November 5. Please contact Sarah Clarke at 717-653-5493 by October 25 with your loved one's name and information so that they will be included in the All Saint's Day remembrance.

GIVING REPORT

YEAR 2017 GIVING REPORT		
	January 1 - June 30, 2017	Last Year
	Y.T.D.	Y.T.D.
General Fund		
Actual Income	\$ 383,766	\$ 437,076
Budget Needed	\$ 518,783	\$ 536,955
Actual Expenses	\$ 485,177	\$ 510,355
Building Fund (45 E Main/Trustee Projects Loan)		
Actual Income	\$ 9,605	\$ 13,432
Budget Needed	\$ 9,430	\$ 9,430
<i>Loan Balance = 99,955</i>		
Capital Campaign		
Actual Giving	\$ 64,141	\$ 97,010
Capital Campaign		
Actual Deferred	\$ 21,857	\$ 0
Mission Giving		
<i>July Mission of the Month -</i>		
Aspire Community Center Outreach	\$ 909	\$ 253
Aug. - Faith Factory Financial Asst.	\$ 2,617	\$ 3,762
Total Mission Giving	\$ 16,514	\$ 15,539
St. Mark's Emergency Fund		
Actual Income	\$ 9,305	\$ 13,603
Actual Expenses	\$ 7,067	\$ 11,698
Special Offerings		
Actual Income	\$ 21,326	\$ 12,454
TOTAL GIVING	\$504,657	\$589,114



Sign-up for Online Giving Today!

Help us keep our budget on track by setting up recurring donations through your e-Giving account. Log onto the church website: www.connectstmarks.com. Enter your email and password. Click on the Giving tab. Click on **CLICK HERE TO GIVE NOW**. Set up a one time or recurring donation from your bank account or credit card.

With your continued support we are able to grow our stewardship and spread God's Word throughout the year. If you have any questions, call the church office at 717-653-5493.

Thank You Note

To all our friends at St. Marks,
 Thank you so much for all you do to help us deal with our laundry "problems". Your help has made a remarkable difference in our lives!
 Linda & Heather Shepler

**St. Mark's
 United Methodist Church**
 37 East Main Street
 Mount Joy, PA 17552

(717) 653-5493
www.connectstmarks.com
info@connectstmarks.com

For questions or to submit information contact:
 Sarah Clarke
sclarke@connectstmarks.com
 or Kim Wargo
kwargo@connectstmarks.com

The deadline for the next newsletter is

OCT. 13

Deadlines for the E-note, weekly bulletin and video announcements are two weeks before the publication date. Announcements normally run no more than two/three weeks.



37 East Main Street, Mount Joy, PA 17552

Non-Profit Org
US POSTAGE
PAID
Elizabethtown,
PA 17022
Permit No. 51

Return Service Requested



meeting needs, touching lives, changing the world

A COOLER CHURCH PICNIC THIS YEAR!

