



Flowering the Cross

We are planning to start a new tradition on Easter, Flowering the Cross. People place colorful fresh flowers on a drab wooden cross. What's behind this? Is it just a pretty decoration? It does look beautiful but there is also some beautiful meanings associated with the flowering of the cross.

The tree of life in the Garden of Eden has often been seen as a prefiguring of the cross. Some legends even say that the wood of Christ's cross came from the tree of life or from a tree that grew from seeds of the tree of life. There is another legend that says at Christ's death the cross burst into blooming flowers. Art work from the sixth century shows a flowering cross.

No one knows whether or not any of this really happened, the point in all this is that the cross of Christ is the new tree of life and the cross now flowers with new life. Death has been defeated and Christ is risen. Alleluia!

Lenten Study

Wednesday evenings during Lent several members studied Adam Hamilton's book *Final Words from the Cross*. In each lesson we examined in depth one of Jesus' final words spoken from the cross and it's application for us today. We have had some great discussions.

In the first session, we explored "Father, forgive them..." We discovered that while those words were directed at those present - they also include everyone, from all time, including each one of us. Jesus forgives us not only for past indiscretions but also will continue to forgive us and those who come after us.

Next, we discussed Jesus' words to the criminal hanging beside him, "Today you will be with me in Paradise." Even while dying on the cross Jesus offered the gift of salvation. We learned that Jesus not only associated with sinners, his mission was to save the lost. We were encouraged to reach out in love and compassion to those who are lost.

The third word from the Cross, "Behold your son...behold your mother." Jesus loved and cared about his mother Mary. From the cross, Jesus instructed John to continue to care for his mother. Jesus lived out the Fifth Commandment, "Honor your mother and father." We were encouraged to love and care for our parents, as well as, people who are part of our church family.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" was the fourth word. We learned that Jesus was quoting the 22nd Psalm which was really an affirmation of faith. We discussed how sometimes moments of doubt can lead to great faith.

The fifth word, "I thirst," explored once again Jesus' human emotions, including hopelessness and helplessness. Hamilton notes that, "Jesus took the uncomfortable way, the inconvenient way, the way most of us do not want to go." On the cross Jesus was willing to take on humanity's suffering, sin, and hatred.

The final word, "It is finished"... "into your hands I commit my spirit," reflected Jesus' sense of completion. On the cross, Jesus made a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the world once and for all.

Our studies have been a great way to learn more about our faith and connect with each other. We hope you will consider being part of one of our future studies. If you have a suggestion for a future topic, please contact the church office.

Pastor Tim

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Friends and Members of St. Mark's United Methodist Church,

The first Easter caught everyone by surprise. No one had been an eyewitness to the resurrection. No one had seen Jesus rise from the dead. This life changing, world altering event happened in the middle of the night while everyone was sleeping.

Each of the four Gospels reports that women made the discovery of the empty tomb, although each Gospel reports a different number of women present. The Gospel of John has only one woman, Mary Magdalene, going to the tomb early Easter morning. The male disciples, you may recall, were hiding God knows where that morning. They were filled with fear and sorrow. Women were the only people brave enough to venture to the tomb.

Easter amazed everyone because no one expected it. Isn't that the best kind of surprise? Totally unexpected! God knew how much the disciples needed something to lift their sorrowful spirits. They felt defeated - all their hopes and dreams had been dashed as Jesus died upon the cross that Friday afternoon. They might have had difficulty sleeping that weekend.

Easter came with reports from the women that Jesus was alive! The disciples were slow to accept and believe what they were told. They should have believed; the women were credible witnesses. Besides, Jesus had told them several times what would happen. It took them several days and multiple encounters with the Risen Lord before the truth set in. However, once they grasped the significance of the resurrection, they were elated.

Life would never return to what it had been. Easter changed everything. The disciples realized that God's plan of salvation was more far reaching than anything they might have imagined.

2 Today we are God's Twenty-first Century Easter people. We experience the grace and peace of the Risen Lord Jesus. We want to share with others the joy and excitement we feel on Easter. The presence of the Risen Lord is with us today and forever. We will go forth with joy to share news too good to keep to ourselves!

May we once again be surprised by Easter!

Happy Easter everyone!

Pastor Tim

Happy Easter!

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 2.

STAFF

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

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

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

Children's Ministry Director - 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

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

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

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

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

Part-time Custodian - Mark Laukhuff

Organist - Lois Stites
loisstites@gmail.com

Chancel Choir Director - Michael Kohler
bwaynut@comcast.net

Sunday Custodial Coordinator - Bob Miller

Seniors Invited to Share Their Apron Strings

All seniors (men and women) are invited to Wednesday, April 11's get-together at the Country Homes Community Center in Mount Joy. A cold-cut luncheon will be served at 11:30 am followed by a program titled "Apron Strings" by the Mueller Twins. Everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite apron. You might even have a story that you want to share about your apron. Men, you might have an apron you use when grilling, or a carpenter's apron. Women, you might have an apron that belonged to your grandmother or one that you were given when you helped serve a wedding dinner. No matter what apron you have, and even if you don't have an apron, please join us on April 11 for a good lunch and a great time with fellow seniors.

Please make your reservations by contacting Janet Lehman at 717-653-4189 by Monday, April 9. Donations will be received to cover the cost of the meal and a donation to the Mueller twins.



March's Senior Ministry Olympics.

Trustees Corner - Sanctuary Steam Boiler

You may recall that on January 14th we had no heat in the Sanctuary. The problem was a faulty gas valve and we were fortunate to have a new valve shipped in overnight to guarantee heat for the following weekend.

However, we found out that was just the beginning of the story. The steam boiler is a 1988 cast iron unit and has developed a crack, meaning that it does not hold water. In other words, "it must be replaced".

The Trustees have obtained a bid from Worley & Obetz (\$27,600) and are working to obtain 2 competitive bids. The quote includes reuse of the gas valve and firing system that was put in place during our oil to gas conversion 3 years ago. While waiting on the other bids, we are negotiating with W&O to see what saving may be had if we were to take on part of the demolition.

The good news is we made it through the heating season with only minor interruptions from the loss of heat and we will be able to replace the system over the spring / summer months.



Free Chicken and Waffle Dinner

On Sunday, April 22, **(please note that this is the 4th Sunday, not the 3rd.)** St. Mark's will be serving a free dinner from 4-5 pm. The dinner will include chicken and waffles, a vegetable, dessert and a beverage. There is no cost for the dinner but reservations are requested. If you plan to join us for this free community dinner, please call the church office at 717-653-5493 by Thursday, April 19 to make your reservations.

April's Sunday Dinner

The Sunday dinner team invites you to join them on April 8 from 11 am - 12:30 pm for a turkey dinner. In addition to turkey, the meal will include red bliss mashed potatoes, a vegetable, applesauce, rolls & butter, beverages, and dessert. Cost of the meal is \$10 for adults; \$3 for children 4 - 11; and free for children 3 and younger. The profit from this dinner will go to St. Mark's Faith Factory and this summer's VBS program. Although we will not be serving turnips, the team is inviting you to "turn-up" to see why so many people are coming to St. Mark's for their delicious, home-cooked meals!

FAITH FACTORY NEWS

April is here and we are certainly praying for some warmer weather! It is so much fun to watch the children playing outside - just seeing them enjoying life and each other! In one of our classes, the children were having group time, and one of the children was sad about a parent having a cold. The other children must have had the same thought at the same time, because they all had the idea to pray for him. What a sight to see; 4 year olds surrounding their friend and praying for his dad. Reaching out to care for others and recognizing when they need support and prayers is a gift that Jesus calls us to do for our friends. I am so glad that these important lessons are being taught to our littlest ones. It is also a good reminder to all of us to stop and spend the extra time to pray for someone that is on our hearts.



4 March was a fun month as the children celebrated Dr. Seuss and St. Patrick's Day! Not only did "Larry the Leprechaun" come to play silly games on the younger children, our school age children also enjoyed competing in different crazy games. Did you know that it is really hard to pick up Lucky Charms marshmallows with chopsticks? Stacking oreos...not so easy either! We have some pretty talented children who put the teachers abilities to shame!

We wish you all a Happy Easter! For more information about Faith Factory, contact [Patti Shearer](#) at (717) 653-8201.

Race for Education

On Wednesday, April 25 we are raising money for classroom supplies and playground equipment. We will be sending out information fliers to you, our church family. If you feel led to support our "racers", they would greatly appreciate it!

Mother's Day Plant Sale

Faith Factory is having a Plant Sale fundraiser this month. You can purchase multi-colored hanging baskets for \$15 and red, white or pink 8-inch geraniums for \$7. Pick up an order form in the Welcome Center. Orders are due by April 26 with delivery on Friday, May 11. Contact [Patti Shearer](#) at (717) 653-8201 for questions or to place an order.

717.653.5493

Mission of the Month

April's mission of the month is Camp Scholarships! At St. Marks, we value the spiritual development children and youth receive when they participate in Christian Camping. Both our Children and Youth Ministry Directors were nurtured in their call to ministry through the camp as campers and counselors!

At camp, students make new friends, learn independence, and grow in their faith while surrounded by the beauty of God's creation. Camp offers opportunities to create community, develop team skills with their peers, and explore their relationship with God in a new way. For many families, especially families with multiple children, a week at camp can be expensive. St. Mark's provides scholarships to assist families in sending their children to camp.

Please consider donating to support our United Methodist Camps and our St. Mark's kids! Text 'cmcampsch' to 30131 or visit www.connectstmarks.com/online-giving.





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Pam Hoover
Tami da Silva
Janelle Tersine
- 4 Emily Shearer
Whyatt Thompson
- 5 Michaela Kanode
- 6 Matthew Obetz
Sophia Stauffer
- 7 Myrl Sherk
Dwight Bomberger
David Brubaker
Kerry Meyers
- 9 George Warrick
Susan Fiorello
Troy Drohan
- 10 Dan Hill
- 12 Don Scanlin
Judy Erb
Andrew Pavelik
- 13 Margaret Shank
John Billman
- 14 Dee Witmer
Bennett Hammond
- 15 Megan Gross
- 16 Mary Anderson
Easton Boyer
- 17 Shannon Bower
Andrew Orner
- 19 Wesley Bucher
- 20 Charlotte Robinette
Jessica Frey
- 21 Miriam Wolgemuth
Marlin Ruhl
- 22 Cindy Arntz
- 23 Michael Clark
- 24 Samuel Stayer
- 25 Chris Zeeb
Kara Hartman
Alex Eby
- 26 Sophie May
- 27 Jean Rajnic

- 28 Doris Keiser
Marilyn Graybill
Lindsay Kitchen
Sean Haines
- 29 Rod Ray

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

- 80 Don Scanlin
Doris Keiser



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Don & Marilyn Graybill
- 15 Michael & Jen Duralja
Dennis & Pauline Wolgemuth
- 17 Denny & Janet Lehman
- 22 Chris & Julie Ivey
- 25 Wayne & Michelle Lawson
- 26 Russel & Trudy Shirk
Bobby & Maria Tait
- 29 John & Heather Stauffer

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

- 50 Don & Marilyn Graybill



To my St. Mark's family,
Thank you for your kind farewell
wishes and sentiments of
gratitude for my work here at St.
Mark's. Special thanks to those
who blessed me with cards and
gifts - your generosity is very
touching and appreciated.

"Now to him who by the power
at work within us is able to
accomplish abundantly far more
than all we can ask or imagine, to
him be glory in the church and in
Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever. Amen."

Eph. 3:20-21

Kim Wargo

Thank You, Volunteers!

To all the volunteers at St. Mark's, those who teach Sunday School or lead a small group; sing in the choir or play in the praise band; serve on a committee; knit a prayer shawl; cook and serve meals or donate baked goods; greet our members and guests; serve as an usher; visit the sick and shut-ins; pray for our members and our community; or volunteer in any capacity to share the love of Christ - thank you!



CAFÉ SCHEDULE AND SETUP

April Schedule

- 1 Easter Sunday - Closed
- 8 Coffee and donuts
- 15 Marge Rineer, Carol Gockley
- 22 Marge Yeich, Pam Watts, Deb Rupp
- 29 Myrl Sherk, Lois Stites

Donuts - Darryl Wittle

Setup

- Judy Libhart
- Scott Libhart
- Deb Rupp
- Judy Libhart

“Mark Kopp’s for the Love of the Game”

The Men’s Ministry of St. Mark’s United Methodist’s Church, Mount Joy plans to continue its “For the Love of the Game” ministry in memory of Mark Kopp.

Mark’s vision for this ministry, which began as “One Parent, One Child, One Game” was based on his connection with his son Alex through the sport of baseball. Mark knew how much God had blessed his relationship with Alex through their mutual love of baseball and he wanted to share that blessing with other families. The vision, which grew out of the “Dare to Dream” sermon series at St. Mark’s, was a direct effort to provide a way for parents to make a one-to-one connection with their son or daughter at a ball game with hopes of building a lasting memory.

The ministry was expanded to include the entire family and included a food voucher with each game voucher, intentionally providing a way for those on a fixed income to provide a night out for the family.

The Men’s Ministry would like to continue to help families with limited resources have an opportunity to enjoy a day at a Lancaster Barnstormers home baseball game together. Game and food vouchers for any game from May 4th through September 16, 2018 are available on a first come-first served basis. The game vouchers must be exchanged for any regular season game by presenting them at the ticket booth prior to the game.



6 While the name has been changed to “Mark Kopp’s for the Love of the Game” is being offered to any family. In addition, the ministry has been extended to other churches and community groups as part of St. Mark’s tradition to Reach Out. If you know of any families or community group that you think would benefit from this program, please contact the church office at 717-653-5493.

Contributions to assist in the funding of Mark Kopp’s vision would be gratefully appreciated and may be provided via the weekly offering or by on line giving. Contact Janice Schell or Sarah Clarke at the church office 717-653-5493 if you need assistance.

Our program costs for this year will be \$1,750 for 2 tickets plus 2 food vouchers for each of the 70 home games. Thank you for your support!

Men’s Ministry

All men are invited to attend Men’s Ministry on Tuesday, April 3 at 6:30 pm at Aspire. The guys will also meet at Gus’s Restaurant on Saturday, April 21 at 8 am for breakfast and fellowship. Contact [Jeff Selph](#) at (717) 928-4545 for more information.

Prayer Meeting

Gather with others spending time in prayer on Tuesday, Apr. 10 at 9 am in the Prayer Room.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

St. Mark’s Prayer Shawl Ministry invites you to join them on Thursday, April 19 at 6:30 pm to knit or crochet a prayer shawl. For more information, contact [Myrl Sherk](#) at (717) 653-5133.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Do you want to learn more about the Bible? Grow closer to others in the church? Join the Thursday Bible study group from 9:30 - 11:30 am in Room 102. Contact Judy Scanlin for more information.

It’s Not Too Late to Sign Up For Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University, led by Dave Ramsey, is coming to St. Mark’s on Wednesday, April 4. Join our 9-week class and experience a community that isn’t afraid to support each other while tackling a difficult subject - money. Come a feel empowered to change your financial situation with new tools. Classes will be held at Aspire Community Center from Wednesday, April 4 - May 30 from 6:30 -8:30 pm. Class materials cost \$100, and previous FPU graduates can attend the class again for free for their lifetime. Please call [Laura Ligo](#), 717-653-5493, to sign up.

Reach Sub Sale

Orders accepted until April 8 in the Welcome Center with an April 22 delivery date. Proceeds help our youth attend the mission trip

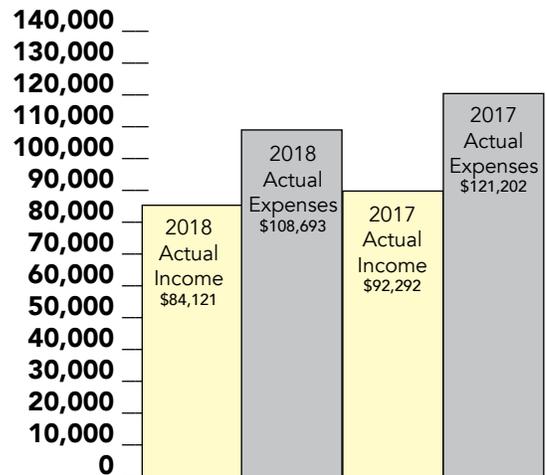
GIVING REPORT

YEAR 2017 GIVING REPORT

January 1 - February 28, 2018 Last Year

General Fund	Y.T.D.	Y.T.D.
Actual Income	\$ 84,121	\$ 92,292
Budget Needed	\$ 102,962	\$ 129,696
Actual Expenses	\$ 108,693	\$ 121,202
Building Fund (45 E Main/Trustee Projects Loan)		
Actual Income	\$ 1,653	\$ 2,375
Budget Needed	\$ 2,358	\$ 2,358
<i>Loan Balance = 91,599</i>		
Capital Campaign		
Actual Giving	\$ 3,679	\$ 27,925
Mission Giving		
Feb. Mission of the Month -		
Rainbow's End	\$ 276	\$ 323
Helping Puerto Rico Rise Again	\$ 1,932	\$ 0
Total Mission Giving	\$ 3,698	\$ 3,786
St. Mark's Emergency Fund		
Actual Income	\$ 2,079	\$ 5,540
Actual Expenses	\$ 510	\$ 1,340
Special Offerings		
Actual Income	\$ 2,827	\$ 2,279
TOTAL GIVING	\$104,413	\$134,197

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY



Sign up for Online Giving Today!

St. Mark's can benefit from your generosity instantly through our E-giving service. You can make an offering at any time from the comfort of your own home without writing a check, while reducing the administrative needs of the church.

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Get Ready for VBS, June 24 - 27!

Our summer theme is "Maker Fun Factory - Created for a Purpose!" We are all made and created by God in His image and it is so awesome to realize He gave us the gift to create too! On June 27 we will be doing a Maker's Craft Fair, encouraging kids to create and build. We'll be building toothpick and marshmallow structures, animals and robots with recycled materials, drawing sidewalk chalk art, stacking cup towers, and making other crafty creations! We are looking for donations of magnetic tiles, mini marshmallows, toothpicks, spirographs, plastic cups, and play doh. Please contact [Laura Ligo](mailto:Laura.Ligo@connectstmarks.com) if you would be willing to donate materials for our VBS program or if you can volunteer to help us with our Maker's Craft Fair!

www.connectstmarks.com

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

The deadline for the next newsletter is

APRIL 16

The deadline for the enote, weekly bulletin and video announcements is two weeks before the publication date. Announcements normally run no more than two/three weeks.

info@connectstmarks.com



37 East Main Street, Mount Joy, PA 17552

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

Change Service Requested



meeting needs, touching lives, changing the world

Easter Services

9 AM Traditional
Faith Factory Sunday for infants-6th graders

10:45 AM Contemporary
Child Care and a Bible lesson for infants-4s

