

# NEWSLETTER



## Saying Grace

The earliest Christians were sometimes called “followers of the way” (Acts 9) or the “friends of Jesus” (John 14) and their fledgling churches known as “resurrection communities.” There was a deep curiosity among their neighbors as they witnessed Jews, Gentiles, rich and poor caring for each other, sharing meals and helping those in need. In defiance of the local gods, these Friends of Jesus’ sole allegiance was to the God of Israel who had raised Jesus from the dead. What held them together was the deep conviction that Jesus was alive and his Spirit was leading them into a completely new way of life. As they shared the stories of Jesus, of his saving death and resurrection, others joined their communities and soon there was a movement spreading across the world.

This is what we celebrate each time we gather at the Lord’s Table: the living presence of the Lord Jesus among us through his Spirit that binds his people together in love. We know Church history is stained with awful acts that have violated the dignity of men, women and children. We know the failures of the Church to bear witness to Jesus as

Lord against all other competing gods. We know how timid the Church has been in the face of injustice, cruelty, oppression and racism. This is common knowledge and it has forever tarnished the witness of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

Yet, I believe, as you do, that the Holy Spirit is still forming a “people of the way”, gathering the friends of Jesus into “resurrection communities” that will resist the powers that defy God’s reign of mercy, love and justice. In this year of pastoral transition I am reminded that the risen Christ is the one who binds the Church together. Christ is the Head of the Church and his Spirit is the power of the resurrection that binds people together for service in the world.

Saint Mark is where the Friends of Jesus gather to share the stories of Jesus over a meal, love one another, care for those in need and say to the world: God loves you. When you do this, see what signs and wonders occur among us.

Happy Easter,  
Pastor Roy



## BONHOEFFER EVENT

Coming up in just a few days, we have a remarkable opportunity to experience Dietrich Bonhoeffer - pastor, theologian, and member of the German resistance against the Nazis - as he is brought to life onstage by Al Staggs. Bonhoeffer remains an important voice and witness for our time. We'll join him in his prison cell and listen to his struggles with evil, injustice, and God, as well as his passion for life.

Share with your friends and colleagues. Invite your neighbors particularly those who may want to know about the Christian witness during political unrest. Click here for tickets: [bit.ly/2EeE2mY](https://bit.ly/2EeE2mY)



## APRIL 20TH: BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Please join us in sprucing up the butterfly garden. We have been recently recognized as a Monarch Way Station! It's been a hard winter, and it needs some love. Just a few hours on April 20 - 9:30 to 11:30 (rain-date May 4) will make a big contribution to beautifying our grounds right before Easter. Some of our stalwart gardeners have moved away, so we would welcome all helpers. Children and youth are also welcome. Email Alison Bennett at [alison.bennett72@gmail.com](mailto:alison.bennett72@gmail.com) to let her know you are coming.



## SERVICE TIMES FOR APRIL AND MAY

**April 7:** worship at 9:30, presentation by National Capital Presbytery after worship

**April 14, Palm Sunday:** worship at 9:30 and 11, Christian Education for all ages at 9:30

**April 18, Maundy Thursday:** worship with supper at 6:30

**April 19, Good Friday:** worship at 7:30

**April 21, Easter Sunday:** worship with communion at 9:30, worship with baptism at 11:00, no Sunday School

\*Easter potluck brunch and egg hunt between services

**April 28:** worship at 9:30 and 11, Christian Education for all ages at 9:30

**May 5:** worship at 9:30, ministry teams meet at 11:00

**May 12, 19:** worship at 9:30 and 11, Christian Education for all ages at 9:30

**May 26:** Summer schedule begins, worship at 10:00, no Sunday school

## HOLY WEEK

**Maundy Thursday** service (6:30 pm) will be a supper church style service. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a simple meal, singing and scripture. We will also share Holy Communion.



All ages are welcome, this will be a very family friendly service. If you would like to help provide the meal, please contact Nancy Shea.

**Good Friday**, 7:30 pm. We remember Jesus' last night with prayers, music and scripture. Come mark this holy occasion together.

## EASTER SUNDAY

Celebrate the resurrection! Worship with communion at 9:30 and with baptism at 11:00. In between services there will be an Easter potluck brunch. You are invited to bring a dish to share. Also between services there will be an Easter egg hunt for children 5th grade and below. Bring an Easter basket and join in the celebrations.



## CREATION CARE SUNDAY

April 28 is Creation Care Sunday in honor of Earth Day. Roy will preach on our understanding of humans' place in the stewardship of our world. For links to a past sermon and video and more please visit [www.saintmarkpresby.org/ministries/stewardship/presbyterians-for-earth-care/](http://www.saintmarkpresby.org/ministries/stewardship/presbyterians-for-earth-care/)

## MAY 5TH - LEAVE THE CAR AT HOME AND COME TO CHURCH ANOTHER WAY

BIKE or WALK, TAKE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION or SHARE THE RIDE TO CHURCH DAY!

For Spirit and Service Sunday, May 5, dress will be casual – if warm enough -- shorts are fine! Please take the opportunity to continue to celebrate Earth Day and go easy on the Earth. Rain Date May 12.



Members of the Saint Mark Youth Group posed after building their "Wall O' Generosity" to raise funds for their summer activities.

## A WORD OF GRATITUDE FROM PASTOR SHELBY

This community continues to astound me with your generosity and grace. Thanks to you we raised over 10,000.00 to support our youth in mission, service and growing in faith this summer. Your giving allows them to participate in the experiences that will shape them for many years to come. This is an investment in the future of Saint Mark, the larger church and the Christian faith. Thank you, thank you, thank you.



## LEGACY 3 UPDATE

The Legacy 3 Campaign Team wishes to again thank those members who pledged \$380,675 to the Campaign to achieve the goals of -

- 1) restoring funds depleted to pay for the sanctuary renovation.
- 2) funding maintenance, repair and capital improvements like the kitchen,
- 3) funding 10% - \$38,067 - of the total raised for mission.

To date, members have paid \$167,695 or 44% of what they pledged for the 3-year pledge period ending June 30, 2021.

Session has followed through on fulfilling these goals, keeping faith with what members were told, by allocating Legacy funds as follows:

- 1) restore \$100,000 to the General Fund, depleted to pay for the sanctuary
- 2) fund \$242,608 for capital improvements to our facility and grounds
- 3) fund \$38,067 for mission

Session is moving forward with the kitchen renovation and with Property Team Elder Bill Merritt has chosen Mariechen Bresler to manage the project. Mariechen will coordinate the hiring of a kitchen design consultant to develop plans and advise the Property Team on meeting County building codes governing church kitchens.

Legacy Team Co-Chairs Odonna Mathew Simpson and Dick Pavlin will provide an additional update and explanation on the use of Legacy funds on Sunday, April 28 after both the 9:30 and 11:00 am services. Please plan to attend to learn how Legacy Funds are being used to achieve our goals.