Holy Week and Easter

Celebrate Palm Sunday, April 14
The Sunday School Children will parade with palms and sing in worship as we celebrate Holy Week with Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The Choir will present the Cantata “Crown Him the King” at the 9 AM worship service.

Maundy Thursday, April 18
We will gather for worship at 7 PM the evening of Holy Thursday.

Good Friday, April 19
Good Friday we will gather for worship at 7 PM to remember Jesus’ crucifixion and death.

Bring In Filled Easter Eggs
We are now welcoming FILLED plastic Easter eggs. Wrapped Candy or small toys are great things to put in them. Bring them into the office M-F 9:00 - 3:00 PM or to church on Sunday before April 20. Thanks!

Community Egg Hunt, April 20
Free Easter Egg Hunt
10:00 - 11:00 AM on April 20th
for all kids birth - 5th grade
Worship and Easter story
Games and crafts
Appearance by the Easter Bunny!

Easter, April 21
Celebrate Easter morning, the best celebration of the year! We gather to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection at 9:00 and 10:30 AM.
Church Softball Team Sign-up

The church softball needs players. **The deadline is April 1st.** Ages 15-125 can play! Games will be every Tuesday either 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. at Cleveland Park and start after May 6th. Please contact Nick Ulrich at ulrich04@msn.com or #319-573-7252.

Encore Café / Senior Meals

When: Tuesdays
Where: Fellowship Hall
Time: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Meals are available for those 60 and over on a voluntary contribution basis, with a suggested contribution is $5 per meal. (Those under 60 make participate at the rate of $8 per meal.) Reservations are highly recommended at 319.398.7694 or 319.398.7682.

Save the Date - June 23rd for St. Mark's Block Party, Ribbon Cutting, AND African Freedom Celebration! More info to come later.

Lenten Sermon Series

Pastor Bonnie is preaching a series through Lent on forgiveness and one of her resources is the book “Forgiveness: A Lenten Study” by Marjorie J. Thompson. This series will continue through April 14th, Palm Sunday.
Make a Difference

A gift of time and caring can make a huge difference in a senior's day! Some Care Center residents have no regular visitors and feel lonely and forgotten. Probably all have many idle hours every week. Most have given much to others in their healthier years. Now, having had many losses, and limitations on what they can do, some feel "of no use" and a burden to others.

You, or I, can walk right into someone's heart and remind them of how special they were, ------and ARE!! Seniors have paid their dues, and deserve to feel valued and respected. Ways to connect, and sometimes, make a new friend are:

-- Visit someone you know
-- Ask in the St. Mark's Office for a suggestion
-- Visit a friend's friend
-- Call a Care Center and speak to the Social Worker about visiting someone who is lonely.

You'll make a great visitor if you are: optimistic and upbeat, compassionate and want to make a difference. A visit might include playing a game, reading, writing a note, enjoying some trivia questions or looking at family pictures.

Iowa Wesleyan University Choir Concert at St. Mark’s

Our Director of Music, Aaron Warner is pleased to announce that we have the privilege of hosting the Iowa Wesleyan University Concert Choir on May 11th and 12th! The visit will feature a Saturday evening concert and the choir will join us for both services the next day. We will need people to host students overnight while they are here so if you are interested in doing so please let Aaron know. Be sure to watch the midweek news for more information as we get closer!

New Keyboard Thanks

Note from Aaron Warner: "I am excited to announce that we have obtained all of the funds necessary and have purchased a Yamaha CP88 keyboard! This will be a wonderful addition to the family of musical equipment here at St. Mark’s and we could not have done it without you! I want to thank each and every person who donated funds toward this project. We are humbled by your generosity and your support of music at St. Mark’s.” The keyboard has arrived and will be put to good use.
**Staff Change**

After three great seasons of leading the Chancel Choir at St. Mark’s, Loralee Songer has let us know that she will not be able to return this fall as part of the music ministry of St. Mark’s. Loralee will be finishing this season through May, 2019, but will not be returning in September.

I know that Loralee has fostered many friendships here at St. Mark’s and we are all deeply sorrowful in her leaving. However, we also acknowledge her giftedness and are so excited for her to be able to pursue other positions with her musical experience, knowledge, and expertise.

Loralee has been able to bring great beauty to our worship experience at St. Mark’s through her leadership of the choir and for that we are extremely grateful. Please take the time to thank her and encourage her in her future in music.

The SPPRC, Aaron, and I have posted this position and are pursuing new candidates for St. Mark’s Choir Director.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Bonnie, Aaron Warner, and SPPRC Committee

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**Chancel Choir Director Job Opening**

St. Mark’s is looking for a Chancel Choir Director to begin in September 2019. Please submit a resume to Pastor Bonnie at pastorbonnie@stmarksunccr.com or Aaron Warner at aaron@stmarksunccr.com.

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**KIDS & YOUTH**

**Check out Summer Camp**

It’s time to start thinking about Summer Camp!
Check out Pictured Rocks website: [www.picturedrocks.org](http://www.picturedrocks.org)

**Save the Date for VBS**

This summer Vacation Bible School will be June 24-26, 10 AM—1 PM

**SMASH**

Middle & High School Youth Sunday Night 6-8 PM Every Week at the Church

**Registration for Summer Games**

Hey youth! Registration has opened for Summer Games University. You can sign up online at [www.sgu.camp](http://www.sgu.camp). SGU is a Christian summer camp for students who have completed grades 6-12. This one-week camp is an experiential, relationship focused camp where students will have the opportunity to learn more about who Jesus is and build relationships with other Christian students.

Camp is the week of **July 8 - 12, 2019**. Total cost of SGU is $340. An $80 Non-Refundable deposit is required for each camper to reserve their spot but goes toward payment.

**Graduation Recognition**

We will recognize our graduates on Sunday, May 26th during church services. Please let Joy in the office know if you know of any 2019 graduates we need to recognize. #319-396-6361 or adminassist@stmarksunccr.com. Thanks.
Mission TOGETHER

IMT Replaces Rainbow Covenant

“In Mission Together” will replace the 30-plus year-old Rainbow Covenant. However, the Rainbow Covenant form was used one last time, she said, as Conference members completed the Rainbow Covenant form in February 2019 for 2018.

“Then during 2019, we’d like to transition to a simpler, but more effective, approach in reporting to each other how we do mission in a way that helps without hurting,” said Marnin.

After this last time of doing Rainbow Covenant, beginning next year, 2019, churches will be asked to continue to support mission on local, conference, national and international levels, Marnin explained, “But we’d like to do more than just send money.”

“We want to encourage churches to not only give to projects, but to personally serve others, and to create partnerships, going deeper to create healthy relationships with true partners, identifying each partner’s gifts so that each will be honored and appreciated,” she said.

“We want to emphasize being vs. doing, long-term vs. short-term, shared empowerment,” she continued. “And we’ll do it with a one-page work sheet that encourages a full range of mission work.”

“Giving, serving, partnering—those will be our keys,” she said, telling Annual Conference Sessions attendees to look for “In Mission Together” as they do missions during 2019, and to be ready to use the worksheet in 2020.

See the In Mission Together Flyer.
https://www.iaumc.org/files/tables/content/11473715/files/INMISSIONTOGETHERFLYER.pdf

Clothing GIVE-AWAY

The Spring Clothing Give-Away has been scheduled for Apr 26th and 27th from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM each day. Donations will be accepted starting April 1st in the NW corner of the Community Room (Lighter-weight and summer clothing please.) If you would like to volunteer to help with this event or have questions, please contact Vicki Eaton 396-9614 or veaton20@aol.com.

Good Harvest Food Pantry

Food Needed for the Pantry:
Flour  Rice  Tuna  Canola Oil

In March, the Food Pantry served 27 very happy families consisting of 97 people.

A NEW WAY TO DO MISSIONS

African Women Empowered will be selling their fabulous merchandise at these shows this Spring:
Mercy Hospital’s Spring Bazaar
Thursday, April 18th  8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Arts for Africa at Noelridge Christian Church
7111 C Ave NE
Saturday, April 27th  10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Cedar Rapids Downtown Market
is just around the corner!
May 25  June 1  June 15  July 7  July 20  August 3
August 17  Sept 21

AWE

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April Birthdays

Linda Carleton   1  
Rose Lockhart   2  
Jane Stobb   3  
Billie Cooley   5  
Abel Kagoma   5  
Norma Berry   7  
Virginia Abney   9  
Brooke Arp   10  
Sam Staley   10  
Tony Dielschneider   11  
Carolyn King   11  
Nick Ulrich   11  
Linda Hill   12  
Amera Nakurutimana   12  
Cynthia Root   12  
Michele Gibson   13  
Doris Markwitz   16  
Jerry Vifian   16  
Claudia Miner   17  
Kristi Rottman   17  
Ron Reisner   21  
Mary Ann French   23  
Debby Hildebrand   23  
Steve Koeppen   24  
Nichole Schwarting   24  
Jackline Angel   27  
Harold Marling   27  
Wanda Rowray   27  
Harlow Bolinger   28  
Aliana Bolinger   28  
David Mankin   28  
Nadia Kagoma   30  

April Anniversaries

Ken and Vicki Eaton   1  
Jon and Diana Ward   3  

Please let Joy know in the office if we accidently missed your special day, #396-6361. Thanks!

Stewardship Report

Month: February 2019

<table>
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<th>Building Expansion Fund</th>
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<td>Net</td>
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<td>$54,094</td>
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* No services on 2/17 due to weather

Bank Account Information: 2/28/2019

Current Balance: $60,565
Building Fund Balance: $12,581
Other Designated Funds: $44,906
Available for General Budget: $3,078

Our Faithfulness in Church Attendance

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<th>9 AM</th>
<th>10:30 AM</th>
<th>S.S.</th>
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<td>3/3/19</td>
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<td>3/24/19</td>
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<td>80</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>—</td>
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## Sunday Schedule

**Morning Worship**
- **9 AM** — Traditional Worship
- **10 AM** — Fellowship
- **10:30 AM** — Sunday School

**Contemporary Worship**
- **9 AM** — AWE
- **10:30 AM** — Citizenship Classes
- **1 PM** — Girlfriends & God
- **6 PM** — ESL classes

- **6 PM** — SMASH

### Events
- **9 AM** — All Day — WIC
- **10 AM** — Knit/Crochet Group
- **10 AM** — Staff Meeting
- **11:30 AM** — Encore Café
- **6 PM** — SMASH

### Classes
- **9 AM** — AWE
- **10 AM** — Knit/Crochet Group
- **10 AM** — Staff Meeting
- **11:30 AM** — Encore Café
- **6 PM** — SMASH

### Fellowship
- **9 AM** — Traditional Worship
- **10 AM** — Fellowship
- **10:30 AM** — Sunday School

### Kids Program
- **9 AM** — Children sing & worship
- **10 AM** — SMASH

### Easter Services
- **9 AM** — Traditional Worship
- **10 AM** — AWE
- **11:30 AM** — Lenten Luncheon
- **6:30 PM** — Adult Small Group
- **7 PM** — Choir Rehearsal

### Good Friday Services
- **7 PM** — Maundy Thursday Service
- **7 PM** — Good Friday Service

### Other Events
- **9 AM** — Anon
- **10 AM** — Church School
- **2 PM** — Yoga Class

### Office Hours
- **9 AM** — 3 PM

### Special Events
- **April 2019**
  - **10 AM** — EASTER EGG HUNT
  - **10 AM** — EASTER EGG HUNT

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*in italics=off site
St. Mark’s United Methodist Church
4700 Johnson Ave. NW
Cedar Rapids, IA  52405

Return Service Requested

St. Mark’s United Methodist Church Staff

Pastor Bonnie Koeppen
(319) 540-5917
pastorbonnie@stmarksumccr.com

Director of Discipleship & Family Ministries
Mandy Sullivan
mandy@stmarksumccr.com

Director of Music & Assistant Youth Leader
Aaron Warner
aaron@stmarksumccr.com

Administrative Assistant
Joy Louk
adminassist@stmarksumccr.com

Accounts Payable Clerk/Office Assistant
Gayle Johnson
accountspayable@stmarksumccr.com

Director of African Ministries
Helen Armstrong

Choir Director
Loralee Songer
loralee@stmarksumccr.com

Accompanists
Luigi Enrique
Michele Gibson

Financial Secretary
Chuck Weber
chuck@stmarksumccr.com

Office Hours:  Monday - Friday  9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
#319-396-6361
www.stmarksumccr.com
Facebook: St. Mark’s UMC—Cedar Rapids