

**2016 United Methodist General Conference**

864 elected delegates representing United Methodists from around the world will gather in Portland, Oregon, beginning on May 10, for our General Conference. Meeting every four years, General Conference prays, worships, debates, and ultimately decides the path ahead for our part of the Christian family.

The delegates, half clergy and half lay, will vote on many topics over the course of their ten-day meeting, including missions support, church agency budgets, plans to start new congregations, pastoral training and appointment processes, the role of our bishops, and questions around human sexuality, just to name a few. Some of these topics are unique to the church, and some of them are the same issues we face in our culture and world at large.

You will likely see more in the news about the Conference's deliberations on gay marriage, since that is much more interesting to the media than our good work, say, reducing malaria rates and starting new churches for displaced persons in Africa.

While we continue to do the good work that our worldwide connection allows us to do, I believe the United Methodist Church must remain faithful to the clear teaching of Scripture on healthy sexual expression.

The Christian ethic says sex is a good gift from a good God, given for a man and a woman in marriage. That was just as much a scandal when it was first embodied and first preached as it is in our century. This is not a case of the church being "behind the times." We in the 21st century need the healing this ethic offers, just as much as the people of the first century did. And we need a healing that can flow to us and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we walk with humility before the Lord, since all of us experience sin and brokenness in our lives.

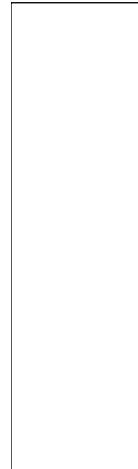
The United Methodist Church is not a single-issue-driven church, and neither is our local congregation. We do our best when we share and

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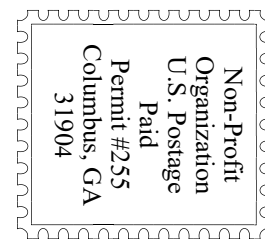
St. Mark United Methodist Church  
6795 Whitesville Road  
Columbus, Georgia 31904  
706-327-3376 fax 706-323-1803  
www.StMarkUMC.com  
www.facebook.com/StMarkColGa  
Twitter: @StMarkColGa

**Your Church Staff**

- Scott Tucker**  
Senior Pastor
- Aimee Baxter**  
Associate Pastor
- Shannon Baxter, Jr.**  
Director of Family Ministries
- Sarah Jane Hebert**  
Associate Director of Family Ministries
- Joni Biancardi**  
Director of Kitchen and Recreation Ministries
- Patrick Duncan**  
Director of Music Ministries
- Kenny Roberts**  
Church Administrator
- Angela Leichter**  
Administrative Assistant
- Tavada Patton**  
CDC Director
- Kate Collier**  
Preschool Director
- Wiley Gray**  
Facilities Manager
- Glenn Myhand**  
Groundskeeper
- David Roberts**  
Pianist
- Shirley Williamson**  
Organist
- Andy Funderburk**  
**Jonny Hicks**  
Media Technicians



Return Service Requested



**St. Mark United Methodist Church**

May 8, 2016	7th Sunday of Easter	8:30 and 11:00 am
<b>Prelude</b>	<i>Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus</i>	Men's Choir
<b>Opening Prayer</b>		Patrick Duncan
<b>Worship Song</b>		<i>Open the Eyes of My Heart</i>
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		Scott Tucker
<b>*Fellowship Moments</b>		
<b>*Songs of Worship</b>	<i>When We All Get to Heaven</i> <i>Holy, Holy, Holy</i> <i>You Are My King</i>	
<b>Morning Prayer</b>		Aimee Baxter
<b>Anthem</b>	<i>The Unclouded Day</i>	Men's Choir
<b>Children's Moments</b>		Sarah Jane Hebert
	<i>(Children may leave for Children's Church during the 11:00 service)</i>	
<b>*The Doxology</b>		
<b>Offertory Prayer</b>		Aimee Baxter
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>As Sure As the Sun</i>	Isabel Baxter Andrew Leichter
<b>Sermon</b>	<b>"More Than Judgment"</b> <i>Brave: Lessons from the Book of Daniel (Part 4)</i> Daniel 4-5 (Pew Bible, p. 468)	Scott Tucker
<b>*Song of Personal Response</b>	<i>Wherever He Leads I'll Go</i>	
<b>*Benediction</b>		Scott Tucker
<b>*Postlude</b>	<i>What a Mighty God We Serve</i> *Please stand as you are able.	Orchestra

*The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by David Dykes in honor of Emily Dykes' birthday.*

**INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?**

Contact Scott Tucker at [scott@stmarkumc.com](mailto:scott@stmarkumc.com) or 706-327-3376 with your questions or to inquire about the next St. Mark 101 orientation... a time of fellowship and teaching about how we follow Christ at St. Mark United Methodist Church.

**Sunday Servants for May 8, 2016**

Worship Ministries	Children & Youth Ministries
<b>8:30 Servants:</b> <b>Ushers: Team Captain – Frank Zylstra</b> David Rulon, Ty Niblack, Jeff Kennedy, & Ronnie Barnes <b>On Call: Bobby Streetman</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Bill & Elaine Abrahamson Ronnie & Betty Barnes <b>C.A.R.E. Cards:</b> Lauren Funderburk	<b>Children's Sunday School:</b> <b>Preschool:</b> Sandy Nelms <b>K-3 Girls:</b> Tristan Wedge <b>K-3 Boys:</b> Aaron Hebert <b>4th-5th:</b> Patty Tucker <b>Children's Church Helper:</b> Virginia McCullough & Sara Jane Hebert <b>Praiseland Teacher &amp; Helper:</b> Julie Yerkes & Sandy Nelms
<b>11:00 Servants:</b> <b>Ushers: Team Captain – Jack Pope</b> Sunday Ben, Mike Stanislawski, Fred McCraw, Tommy Cox & Ray Durden <b>On Call: Clark Webster</b> <b>Greeters:</b> Fred Jones & Gloria Jones, Elizabeth Woods <b>C.A.R.E. Cards:</b> Lauren Funderburk <b>Acolytes:</b> Parker Gresham & Riya Ben <b>Altar Guild:</b> Corey Salzman, Gretchen Smith, & Dianne Peed <b>Flower Ministry:</b> Rae Meriaux, Lawanda Myers, & Darlene Van Pelt	<b>Youth Sunday School:</b> <b>Middle School Guys (Ed. Ctr. Rm 20):</b> Garrett Affleck <b>Middle School Girls (Ed. Ctr. Rm. 14):</b> Amy Pierson & Sarah Jane Hebert <b>High School Guys (Youth Center):</b> Ward Jordan & Buzz Brown <b>High School Girls (Starbucks):</b> Jennifer McCarty, Janice Dukes, Sandy Nelms, & Corey Salzman

Adult Sunday School Opportunities		
Class Name/Teacher	Current Study	Location
<b>Fellowship</b> Lynn Harbour	<i>Heaven (small booklet)</i> By Randy Alcorn	Activity Center Room 223
<b>Friendly</b> Carla Askew	<i>The Sermon on the Mount</i> By John Stott	Activity Center Room 242
<b>Good News</b> Aina Cummins	<i>Mark</i>	Education Center Room 3
<b>Lost and Found</b> Lauren Funderburk	<i>The Story</i> By Randy Frazee	Education Center Room 4
<b>Faith and Marriage</b> Clark and Hanna Webster	<i>Christian Marriage</i>	Church Office Conference Room
<b>Young Adult Class</b> David and Louisa Brown	<i>The Parables of Jesus</i>	Education Center Room 19
<b>New Song</b> Lynn Davis	<i>1 Peter</i>	Activity Center Room 129
<b>Nonamé</b> Brenda Gilkey	<i>Acts</i>	Activity Center Room 107
<b>Seekers (Men's Class)</b> Dick Meriaux	<i>Acts</i>	Activity Center Room 116
<b>St. James</b> Bill Weekes	<i>Faithlink: Contemporary Issues</i>	Education Center Room 301

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demonstrate the power of the Gospel to forgive all sin and to transform all lives, and we do that with all the people God entrusts to our care.

I will be praying, and I hope you will be too, for God's Kingdom to come, for his will to be done, not just at the General Conference, but in our church and our own lives as well.

Keep up with Conference news on our official news site at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org), or on independent sites like [www.unitedmethodistreporter.com](http://www.unitedmethodistreporter.com) or [www.goodnewsmag.org](http://www.goodnewsmag.org).

With joy,

*Scott*

## ST. MARK UMC

### Announcements

#### Welcome New Members!

Patrick & Kelly Barnes  
Richard Stinson  
Cathy & Michelle Pendleton

#### St. Mark Preschool Summer Day Camp

Now enrolling children ages 2-6. Camp is 9-12:30 Tues. -Thurs., May 31-June 23 & July 5- July 28. Tuition is \$200 per month with a \$35 registration fee. If you register & pay for both sessions by May 1, it is \$350 for the summer.

We have a weekly theme that our activities are based upon. Every day we will have a short devotional, snack, sack lunch from home, outdoor time( weather permitting), story time, art and/ or science, and a lot of FUN!



#### May 8—June 19

Sound Choices ministers to women every week that are facing an unplanned

pregnancy. They do this by offering free pregnancy testing, counseling, and an ultrasound. These women are given the opportunity to see the value of the life of their baby, and to understand how much God loves them. Sound Choices is asking our church to partner with them by participating in Baby Bottle Boomerang. Let's ALL pray about investing in life this year. We are asking that you take the bottles home, fill them with a check (made out to St. Mark), cash or coins, and return them to the church on Father's Day. Please list the name and address of a loved one you wish to honor on the enclosed card. Sound Choices will notify them of your gift! Thank you in advance for your participation in the life-saving work of Sound Choices!

### Only 20 spots left for this year's Kid's Camp!!



Don't forget to register for the annual **Kid's Camp** at Pine Eden Retreat Center in Hamilton, Ga. Visit [www.stmarkumc.com/kidscamp](http://www.stmarkumc.com/kidscamp) to register your rising 2nd - 6th grader (2016-17 school year).

Cost: \$210

Dates:

June 19-23 (2nd - 4th\* graders)

July 17-21 (4th\* - 6th graders)

\*4th graders may choose one of either week

### CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS

#### St. Mark Family

Ann Cason	Helen Edwards	Nell Scarborough
Ann Dermer	Joyce Jordan	Mary Thompson
Ann Cannon	Lynn Davis	Nina Kennedy

#### St. Mark Extended Family

Jennifer Jenkins	C. D. Phillips	Jean Hammond
Mary Screws	George Odom	Pat Wells
Rentz Family	Nathan Patrick	Andrea Truett
Emma Armour	Butch Lammert	Cheryl Metivier
Glenda Smith	Kay & Rob Cox	Hurley Family
Rob & Donna Key		

**"Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!"**

*Psalm 66:2*

Prayer requests run in the bulletin for **2 weeks**. To renew or add a new request, please contact Angela Leichter in the church office or [angela@stmarkumc.com](mailto:angela@stmarkumc.com).

#### MINISTRY TO DEPLOYED PERSONS

Please pray for Hunter Locklair and all our military and their families. *When a family member or friend is deployed, please call Nancy Streetman at 706-989-3551 or the Church Office.*

#### FRIEND OF THE WEEK

The friend of the week is a sick or homebound St. Mark member. *Please take time to pray for and send a note to our special friend.*

#### Gerry Brown

Magnolia Manor - P.O. Box 9696  
2010 Warm Springs Rd. Rm 242A  
Columbus, GA 31904

#### RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS

##### Sunday, May 1, 2016

Morning Worship.....	346
Sunday School .....	147
Weekly Giving.....	\$15,269.00
Weekly Budget .....	\$14,903.85
Weekly Designated.....	\$1,248.00
YTD Giving .....	\$273,766.68
YTD Budget.....	\$268,269.30

### ST. MARK FAMILY MINISTRIES

Serving children of all ages and their families.

Director: Shannon Baxter

[shannon@stmarkumc.com](mailto:shannon@stmarkumc.com)

Associate Director: Sarah Jane Hebert

[sarahjane@stmarkumc.com](mailto:sarahjane@stmarkumc.com)

#### Announcements

#### Summer Happenings

Summer for the St. Mark Family Ministry gets started next month! Check out a few of the planned activities below and contact Shannon or Sarah Jane if you have any questions.

- **Weekly Swimming**  
Preschoolers and elementary-aged kids are invited as we swim each Sunday night (except Kids Camp weeks) at a local neighborhood pool beginning at 5 pm. The location will be announced weekly.
- **Sunday Night Youth Afterglows**  
Because it's summer we can stay out a little later! After youth worship and dinner, we'll head somewhere local to swim, watch a movie, bowl, play laser tag... SNY will start at 5 pm each week and end at different times based on the activity. Transportation may be provided, but help with this is always welcome!

### ST. MARK KIDS (Birth - 5th Grade)

[www.StMarkUMC.com/GetConnected/Kids](http://www.StMarkUMC.com/GetConnected/Kids)

#### St. Mark Kids Weekly Schedule

##### Sunday, May 8:

8:30 am - Worship Service  
9:45 am - Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 am - Worship Service  
(Children's Church for Elementary students and 3-5 year olds)

##### Wednesday, May 11:

6:00 pm - Wednesday Nite Kids!\*

\*Activities begin on Playground



### ST. MARK YOUTH (6th-12th Grades)

[www.StMarkUMC.com/GetConnected/Youth](http://www.StMarkUMC.com/GetConnected/Youth)

@StMarkImpact #StMarkImpact

#### St. Mark Youth Weekly Schedule

##### Sunday, May 8:

8:30 & 11:00 am - Worship Services  
9:45 am - Sunday School  
\*No evening activities\*

##### Wednesday, May 11:

6:15 pm - Youth Bible Study\*  
\*Middle School meets at Church  
\*High School meets at Starbucks



### ST. MARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS :**

**MON.-THURS. 8:30-5:00;**

**FRI. 8:30-12:00**

Sun 8		<b>Happy Mother's Day!</b>
	8:30 & 11:00am	Worship Services Sanctuary
	9:45am	Sunday School
Mon 9	10:00am	<i>Law of Love</i> —Gretchen Smith Conference Rm
Tues 10	7:00am	Men's Prayer Breakfast IHOP- 2939 N Lake Pkwy
	10:00am	Staff Meeting Conference Rm
	2:00pm	<i>Book of Genesis</i> —Brenda Gilkey Contact Brenda for home location 706-327-2905
	6:30pm	Staff-Parish Relations Cmte Conference Rm
Wed 11	5:45pm	Handbells Choir room
	6:15pm	Orchestra Rehearsal
	6:00pm	<i>Reset—Ten Steps to Spiritual Renewal</i> Lynn Hodges—Edu Ctr. Rm 4
	6:00pm	Children's Activities
	6:00pm	Youth
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs 12	9:30am	<i>Heroes, Rogues, &amp; the Rest</i> J. Ellsworth Kalas—Mildred McAfee



#### Pentecost Sunday is May 15

Please wear red on this day that marks God's gift of the Holy Spirit, his abiding presence with his Church.

#### PASTOR ON-CALL

If you or someone you know is sick or in the hospital, please contact the church office or pastor on-call after hours. *For emergencies at night or on weekends, call Scott Tucker at 762-822-9449.*

#### Online Giving

Leave your checkbook at home and give electronically instead! Have your weekly or monthly contribution debited from your checking or savings account and transferred directly into the church account. **Get started today** by clicking the DONATE button on St. Mark's website homepage, [www.stmarkumc.com](http://www.stmarkumc.com), and following the easy steps. For more info, contact Church Administrator Kenny Roberts ([kenny@stmarkumc.com](mailto:kenny@stmarkumc.com)).

#### In Memorial

The St. Mark Preschool and St. James Sunday School class are planning a memorial to our dear friend and fellow teacher, Donna Hughes.

A tree will be planted on the playground in loving memory and we are also hoping to refresh and dedicate room number 1 in the Education Center as "Mrs. Donna's Playroom". A few of the planned projects for the room are to paint the room, install a playhouse and purchase some new toys. If you would like to contribute to this remembrance effort or have any questions, please contact Kate Collier.



### ACTIVITY CENTER

Hours of Operation

Mon: 9am-6pm

Tues/Thurs: 9am-8pm

Wed: 9am-2pm Fri: 9am-12pm

To help us better accommodate your reservations, if you would like to reserve the Activity Center or room for a special event, please contact our Recreation Ministries Director, Joni Biancardi.  
**Phone:**  
706-327-3376 ext.25 or email below.

#### Activities This Week:

##### Monday

12:00pm: Pick-up Basketball

7:00pm: Yoga Class\*

\*Hallelujah Hollow

##### Tuesday

10:45am: Yoga Class

12:00pm: Pick-up Basketball

6:00pm: Yoga Class

6:30pm: *TOPS* - Rm 222

##### Wednesday

12:00pm: Pick-up Basketball

##### Thursday

12:00pm: Pick-up Basketball

6:00pm: Yoga Class

**Recreation Ministries Director: Joni Biancardi**  
[joni@stmarkumc.com](mailto:joni@stmarkumc.com)