

St. Mark's Remarks

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Published Monthly by St. Mark's United Methodist Church
February 2, 2016

Rev. Jolinne Downey, pastor



I love a road trip. In Tennessee, that always meant a journey down the I-40, I have traveled that road many times in my life. When I was a child, my parents would load up the car, plop my brother and I in the backseat, and take off down the I-40 to my grandparents' house. We could hardly wait to get there. In fact, we would not have been on the road long before one of us was asking, "Are we there yet?" We must have driven our parents crazy! Of course, being cooped up in the car would start to get tedious after a while, no matter how many games our parents invented to keep us engaged. Eventually we would end up arguing. Boundary lines were drawn, but someone was always straying over the line, and one of the grown-ups would be called upon to mete out justice. You knew you had gone too far if they threatened to pull over. So we learned to get along well enough to keep moving forward. But oh how we celebrated when we

finally arrived at our destination! To me, the I-40 symbolizes exciting adventures and amazing discoveries. It is the road that leads to the mountains. It is the road that leads to the desert. It is the road that leads to the ocean. It is the road that leads home. But the I-40 can also be perilous. You never know what dangers you may face on the road. And traffic can be such a hassle that you are tempted to look for alternate routes. Sometimes you feel like you are dodging one pothole after another. Sounds like life, huh? In just a few days, we will begin a new journey together. A journey toward the cross. A journey to resurrection. A journey to Easter. It will be the first time you and I have traveled this road together, and I am excited about making this trip with you. The 40 days leading up to Easter make up a season in the Church year that we call "Lent." During this time, followers of Christ reflect on his suffering and death and seek to renew their commitment to him. It is a time often marked by fasting, prayer, and simple living. But this year, instead of giving something up for Lent, I am challenging you to take on something new: Make mercy a habit. We will start our Lenten journey with an Ash Wednesday service at noon on Feb. 10. We hope this will make the service more accessible to the elderly who live in our community as well as to working people who might want to worship during their lunch hour. For those who are unable to attend the noonday service, we will offer a brief Imposition of the Ashes service during our Wednesday night program. That day I will also introduce the I-40 Challenge, which is a covenant I am asking each of our members to make with one another. It is designed to help us practice mercy. Also, beginning in February, our Wednesday night studies will focus on forgiveness. This promises to be a deeply spiritual time in the life of our congregation. I am excited about the journey ahead. I hope you will be, too.

Grace, peace & joy!

Pastor Jo



Choir Notes

BE ON THE ALERT! HE IS "RISEN INDEED"!

Lent is a time of preparation for the celebration of the risen Lord. The choir will be using the time during Lent to prepare our Easter music.

"Risen Indeed" will be shared with the congregation on Palm Sunday, March 20. Please be here to share and celebrate the music of a risen Lord.

Jim Lovelace

THANK YOU!

Dear St. Mark's Members and Friends,

I want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and calls during my knee replacement and recovery.

Many thanks for the cookies and offers of food and assistance.

It is heartwarming and a blessing to have such a great church family!

Love, H.F.

Golden Cross News

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, hard work, and many donations. Because of you, the Golden Cross Mission at St. Mark's has been able to donate: 555 Welcome Baskets, 108 Bingo baskets & gifts, 9 TV's, 14 Move-In-Kits, 48 Blankets and much more over the last 3 years.

In September, St. Mark's Golden Cross funds were running low. With many prayers, we started the ambitious undertaking of making earrings: 1. To raise money to finish the end of 2015. 2. To help raise funds for the continuation of our Golden Cross Mission in 2016.

We sold to : St. Mark's, Ellendale Methodist, Emmanuel Methodist, Golden Cross district meetings, Dilliard's Hair Salon, and friends and family. Due to the Christmas Holidays, sales were amazing!!! To date our profit is over \$600. With the continued help of UMW funds, communion donations, earring sales, and your prayers and support, we will continue this important mission to assist Senior Citizens in need.

God is Good!

St. Mark's Golden Cross Volunteers

St. Mark's United Methodist Women

On chilly Sunday, January 17th, your UMW held a Chili Fundraiser and it was a huge success! Thank you to all who helped prepare and those who supported us and purchased chili!

We also had our first meeting of the year and have a great start on setting our 2016 calendar. Our UMW unit meetings will be the 3rd Saturday of April, July, and October at 10:00 am in the Conference Room.

We have also set the 2nd Thursday of April, July, and October at 11:00 for our quarterly kitchen clean up. We need as many hands as possible, male or female!

Our first meeting was a great success! Eleven ladies attended. We hope for even more at our April meeting! More information is to come! If you any questions about participating, please let Shelly or I know!

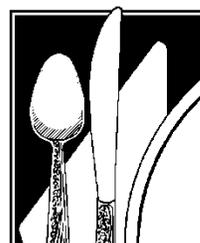
Hearts and love for February!

Sheila Donaldson, UMW President

St. Mark's United Methodist Men

We will meet Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 pm for dinner with a program to follow. As always, you may order steak (\$10) or chicken (\$8) for dinner. Please call Terry Draughon at 359-7342 no later than Thursday, February 11 to make reservations.

Don't forget! This year's Annual Pancake Breakfast will be coming up in February! All proceeds go to our Boy Scout Troop 57 of St. Mark's. Men, we will need your help! Date to be announced.



***St. Mark's United Methodist Men
Monthly Steak Dinner Meeting
February 16th
6:30 p.m. – Fields Hall***



February Birthdays!

Kay Hill	02/06	Anaka Zhao	02/13
Lita Owen	02/16		

Lakeshore Summer Camp

Online registration for Lakeshore Summer Camp 2016 is now available at lakeshoreuma.com. All those who register online through March can use their payment plan, making a \$50 deposit when you register and the balance will be divided over the next three months. For more information, email the camp at office@lakeshoreuma.com or call 731.584.6102.

Grief Support Ministry

Collierville UMC would like to invite you to share “Life After Loss” with those who have lost a loved recently or not so recently. “Life After Loss: A Time to Grieve” offers a support group for adults 18 and older who are experiencing the loss of a spouse, parent, child, sibling or friend.

Trained and experienced facilitators lead participants in learning and sharing about the physical and emotional aspects of grief as well as coping methods for finding healing and new growth. “Life After Loss” provides a safe environment to:

- Share experiences, thoughts and feelings
- Counter the sense of isolation
- Learn new ways of approaching problems
- Understand the importance of good grief
- Offer support to others
- Explore a foundation to others
- Make new friends

The Winter Sessions go from March 8 to April 26, with both a morning, 10:00 -11:30 a.m., and an evening, 7:00-8:30 p.m., session. The program is free and open to the public. Registration is required by contacting me at the church, (901) 853-8383.

You can visit our church web site where you will find more information, www.colliervilleumc.org. Please feel free to call me at the number above if you have any questions or would like more information about “Life After Loss”.

Hope & Peace,
Rev. Deborah C. Suddarth
Executive Minister

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday service will be held Wednesday, February 10th, at 12 noon this year to accommodate those of you who do not drive at night.

We will also offer a brief Imposition of the Ashes service that night at 6:30 p.m.

Scout Sunday

Boy Scout Sunday will be observed Sunday, February 21st. This is to honor all our Scouts who have made achievements throughout the year.

Wednesday Night Dinner & Bible Study

Wednesday night fellowship dinner and Bible study will resume on February 3rd. All are invited. Please sign up if you would like to provide the dinner.

Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. and Bible Study is from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

If You Plan to attend, you can make reservation by calling the church office or signing a sheet in the Narthex.

Communion Offering

The January Communion Offering was donated to Grace Place, which is a mission church chartered through the United Methodist Congregation located inside the Mark Luttrell Correctional Center for Women in Memphis, TN. In the course of a week, over 120 women participate in the church’s ministries of worship, choir practice, study groups, book club, crochet group and exercise classes.

Communion Offering received on Feb. 7th will go to The World Hunger Offering to help the hungry both here at home and around the world.

Follow us on Facebook: St Mark’s United Methodist Church – Memphis, Tennessee

Sweethearts Luncheon

February 13th – Saturday @ 12 noon
 Capleville United Methodist Church (Great Hall)
 4725 Riverdale Rd., Memphis, TN 38141
RSVP by February 10th (901) 363-1860
*Music, dancing, fun, food, friends,
 Fellowship!*
 “Forever Young Outreach Ministry”

February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	2 6p Yoga 6:00-8:00pm Weight Watchers	3 7:00a Emmaus 6:00p Weds. Dinner 6:30p Study	4 10:00a Lds. Bible Study 6:00 p. Yoga	5	6 9:00 a. Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
7 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a 1 st Sun.Lunch	8 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	9 6p Yoga 6:00-8:00pm Weight Watchers	10 7:00a Emmaus 12:00 Ash Wed. Service 6:00p Weds. Dinner 6:30p Study	11 10:00a Lds. Bible Study 6:00 p. Yoga	12	13 9:00 a. Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
14 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice 11:30a Church Council Mtg.	15 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	16 6:00-8:00pm Weight Watchers 6:30p UMM	17 7:00a Emmaus 6:00p Weds. Dinner 6:30p Study	18 10:00a Lds. Bible Study 6:00 p. Yoga	19	20 9:00 a. Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
21 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice Boy Scout Sunday	22 6-7:30p Boy Scouts	23 6p SPRC Meeting 6p Yoga 6:00-8:00pm Weight Watchers	24 7:00a Emmaus 6:00p Weds. Dinner 6:30p Study	25 10:00a Lds. Bible Study 6:00 p. Yoga	26	27 9:00 a. Yoga 10-12:30 Cub Scouts
28 9:30a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Choir Practice	29 6-7:30p Boy Scouts					