

The St. Mark's Call II Newsletter 2023 Summer Edition VOLUME 1 ISSUE 8

INSIDE

THIS ISSUE

Editor's Corner



Page 1

Pastor's Corner

Faith Inspires Grit: Embracing the Spirit of Juneteenth



Page 2

Have You Ever Heard of Opal Lee?

Welcome to The Mark

Rev. Robert Kelley IV

Zachary Holder



Pages 3-4

Leadership Board Updates

Leadership Board Q and A

Race Amity

Announcements and Condolences

Graduate Recognition Sunday

Reconciling Congregation Survey



Pages 5-10

Men's Ministry Mission Project

New Website Launch/VBS

Invitation to join the Church Choir

Summer Guest Incentive

New Members Class

Just for Fun

Word Search/Good Reads for Children

Recipe-Juneteenth Red Punch

 Pages 11-17

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Editor's Corner

Greetings and welcome to Summer!

I hope that you are enjoying the warmer weather, cool breezes, fun in the sun or perhaps a trip somewhere. Go strawberry picking, spend a day at the beach, see some sights, sit on the porch, or take a hike. Join a Life Group. Whatever you do, remember St. Mark's is always open.

Enjoy!!!



PASTOR'S CORNER



Faith Inspires Grit: Embracing the Spirit of Juneteenth Genesis 6: 9-22

On Juneteenth, we reflect on what it means to have grit and its connection to struggles and triumphs throughout history. Grit requires not only the perseverance and passion to achieve long-term goals, but also the determination and resilience to confront setbacks, challenges, or obstacles. No matter how long the journey, gritty people persist in their journey toward their goals by combining passion, perseverance, and a growth mindset.

Although the contexts differ greatly, Noah's story and the experiences of Black enslaved people exemplify grit as they offer insights into resilience, faith, and endurance in adversity. Both narratives highlight the power of faith and determination in difficult circumstances. The indomitable spirit exhibited by Noah and Black enslaved people inspires us to endure and persist in challenging times.

Despite doubt and mockery, Noah persevered, completing a seemingly impossible project with unwavering faith. His story reminds us that faith inspires grit. When we step out in faith and obedience, we draw strength from Jesus as we navigate life's challenges.

Enslaved people displayed incredible strength, resilience, and determination in the face of unimaginable adversity. Despite inhumane conditions, they preserved their culture, maintained their families, found moments of joy and fought against all forms of oppression. Acts of resistance, clandestine schools, secret worship, support networks, and the preservation of cultural practices reveal Black resilience.

Heroes like Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and Sojourner Truth exemplify the extraordinary grit and courage displayed by Black people during slavery. Their commitment to freedom and justice inspires our understanding of human strength and resilience.

Recognizing the grit of Black people during slavery honors their contributions to the struggle for equality and justice. It reminds us of their enduring legacy and the ongoing fight against systemic oppression.

As we celebrate Juneteenth, we must remember that the work for equality continues. We must remain dedicated to fighting for justice, inclusion, and equal rights. It requires ongoing effort, education, awareness, and institutional change. By challenging biases, amplifying marginalized voices, and advocating for policies that address disparities, we can create a more just and inclusive society. It is not easy work, but Christ has called us, like Noah, to be gritty people who are willing to serve God by transforming the world and by loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.

To develop grit, we must embrace challenges as opportunities for growth; cultivate resilience and view setbacks as steppingstones towards a more inclusive future; engage in intention practice to improve skills and contribute to a just society; and surround ourselves with a support system of like-minded individuals. In addition, we must foster self-discipline, maintain a positive mindset, practice gratitude and self-care and, most of all, keep the faith.

Developing grit is an ongoing journey. As we celebrate Juneteenth year after year, let us reaffirm our commitment to justice, equity, and inclusion. May we persevere, pursue our goals, and advocate for a more just and inclusive society, knowing that our collective efforts sustain us in the face of adversity. Together, we can make a difference and create a more equitable future for all.

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF OPAL LEE?

By Sandra Cook McKnight

Have you ever heard of Opal Lee, the grandmother of Juneteenth?

Opal Lee was a grandmother, civil rights activist, community leader and teacher. She enjoyed passing down true stories, others have forgotten, especially about her favorite holiday, Juneteenth. She led a movement to make Juneteenth a national holiday. From 2016 to 2020, she began walking from her home in Fort Worth, Texas across America and collected more than 1.5 million signatures for her petition to the US Congress. It was a journey complete with rejection and disappointments. Nothing stopped her. When she was 94 years old, President Joe Biden signed legislation to make Juneteenth a national holiday commemorating the end of American slavery. The celebration of Juneteenth marks that day in 1865 when the last enslaved people in Galveston, Texas were free. Africans were captured and arrived here in Jamestown, Virginia in 1619. They were the first Africans and were sold into slavery in the British North American colonies. They worked on plantations all over the south and up and down eastern America. As many of you know, New Jersey was the last state in this part of America to outlaw slavery.

President Abraham Lincoln ended the Civil War in 1863. Along with its end, there was an Emancipation Proclamation issued on January 1st. It stated that all persons held as slaves shall be ...forever free. Only problem was that no one told the people in Texas, especially the African Americans. The slave owners knew but they defied the government. Of course, since Texas was so large it probably took longer to get the word out. In fact, Texas was the largest state in the union. It was large, remote and without protection from the union troops. Major General Gordon Granger prepared General Order Number 3, announcing the end of legalized slavery in the state. Of course, this was official in December 1865 when the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified by the necessary number of states.

On that first Juneteenth celebration, African Americans gathered in the clearings to feast on vibrant red foods they were denied during servitude, such as barbecue, strawberry pie and punch made with fresh fruit. They gathered to remember the sorrow of enslavement as well as to sing and celebrate the joy of liberation. At least seven freedoms were gained for the African Americans following the Thirteenth Amendment to the US Constitution in 1865. We could (1) work for wages, (2) own land, (3) name ourselves, (4) read and write, (5) serve in the military, (6) travel, and (7) worship freely.

Welcome To the Mark

St. Mark's Youth Director Rev. Robert H. Kelley



Rev. Robert H. Kelley IV is the son of Bishop Robert H. Kelley III and the late Renee C. Kelley and grandson of the late Deacon Lindy Curry who served at Union Baptist Church in Montclair, New Jersey.

Rev. Kelley learned the transformative power of the gospel to create socio-economic change and equity as an apprentice to his father Bishop Robert Kelley III while church planting and coordinating resources to create programming for community outreach targeting malnutrition, education and HIV-Aids in the Southern African countries of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

Rev. Kelley currently has a huge responsibility for overseeing the facility maintenance, buildings, and grounds of the Montclair Public School System. He received his BA in Theology and Honors Baccalaureate in Pastoral Care and Counseling from the University of Pretoria, in Pretoria, South Africa and was licensed and ordained under the ministry of My Father's House Christian Fellowship Church of Johannesburg, South Africa. He holds an ecclesiastical endorsement for Army Chaplaincy from the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church under the supervision of Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton and is currently a Chaplain for the New Jersey Army National Guard.

He served with Montclair Emergency Services for the Homeless as liaison between MESH and its partner churches. He also was responsible in assisting the police with locating homeless members of the community and providing them with transportation to local churches and shelters for overnight respite, counseling, and supportive services.

He served as a youth leader at St. Paul Baptist Church in Montclair, New Jersey under Interim Pastor Rev. Deborah Spivey. He also served under Pastor Jevon Caldwell- Gross of St Mark's United Methodist Church as a Pastoral Fellow and Spiritual Mentor for teens and young adult programs.

The Mark's New Intern Zachary Holder, Lay Servant



Zachary Holder is a native of Barbados, who enjoys working closely with people. His passion and determination have led to his work with GNJ and Next Generation Ministries. Zachary was most recently elected to serve as the Young Adult Council chairperson. Zachary is an Advance Lay Servant of Roselle United Methodist Church. He has served as the pastoral assistant at Covenant United Methodist Church in Plainfield, NJ. He is currently serving on the Board of First Friends of NJ & NY. In his free time, he enjoys playing and watching sports. Beyond the many gifts and talents that Zachary embodies, it is his humble spirit that allows his gifts to come to life!

Leadership Board Updates

Spring 2023 Leadership Board Updates Lillie J. Edwards, Leadership Board Chair

Your Leadership Board seeks to ensure that The Mark has the resources to fulfill our mission and vision; to support the pastor and her household; to care for church property; and to provide God-centered staff-parish relations for the pastor, personnel, and the congregation. Here are the highlights of our work done in the name of Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit from March to June 2023.

MESH (Montclair Emergency Services for Hope)

The Mark successfully partnered with MESH to provide warm shelter for 12-20 guests when temperatures fell below 32°F from November 2022 – April 2023. Michele Murray expanded this work into mission projects that provided water and snacks from The Mark, Girls Scouts, and the Edgemont PTA. The Mark honored MESH's former Executive Director, Gwen Ames, on Mother's Day and honored MESH president Albie Monterrosa on Father's Day with a \$300 donation to MESH. Also, in June 2023, Pastor Kay's New Jersey mission connections provided MESH with three thousand bottles of water.

New Safe Sanctuary Policy

The Board revised and approved a Safe Sanctuary Policy, required by the United Methodist Church, to ensure the protection of minors, vulnerable adults, and those who work with them in our ministries. Members and staff are completing the required online training and submitting information for background checks.

Taking Care of God's House: Spring Clean-up and Organizing

Lenora Isaac, Louise Alexander, Michael Gooden, Edvard Dubuisson, Jennifer Nelson, and Lillie Edwards cleaned and organized the storage closets in the fellowship hall and installed a new stage curtain. One of the closets is being remediated and renovated after suffering water damage.

Property Management New Team Members

The Board welcomed Rev. Dr. Everett Kilgo to the Property Management Team. He joins Michael Gooden, Lenora Isaac, Malcolm Neptune, and Rev. Vincent Taylor.

Support for Ministries: New "Building Use Form" for The Mark's Ministries

Sharon Douglas, our office manager, helped the Board create a clearer, simpler form solely for building and grounds use by our own ministries.

Accessibility: Stairlift Between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

Thank you to Michael Gooden for securing the permit to install a stairlift, a gift from Bishop Alfred Johnson in loving memory of his wife, Rev. Sherrie Boyens Dobbs.

Reconciling Task Force (RTF)

The Leadership Board has established a Reconciling Task Force that will recommend to the Leadership Board a church policy on LGBTQ+ inclusion and joining the Reconciling Ministries Network. The RTF will provide additional communications and educational events so everyone can understand and weigh in as part of our church becoming fully inclusive. The Task Force members are Michael Acedansky, Paul McRae, Michele Murray, Dr. Franz Smith, and Donna White (chair), with Pastor Kay providing the theological foundation for this work.

More Effective Outreach Coming in July: New Website, New App, and New Logo

Pastor Kay, Sharon Douglas (our office manager), Jessica Gooden (financial secretary), Jennifer Nelson, and Lenora Isaac have been developing our new website and app with our new vendor, SubSplash. You can go to one

place to see live-streamed sermons, former sermons, the church calendar, and a list of small groups, submit forms, and donate to our mission. This new outreach invites people to love God and to be in a community with Mark's church family. It tells the world that The Mark embraces, encourages, and equips us because we love God and God's people!

New Building Fees for External Users

The Mark's building use fees have stayed the same for over a decade, so the Board increased prices for external users to cover our higher costs.

Next Leadership Board Meetings in the Fellowship Hall Immediately Following Worship
Sunday, September 17, and December 10, 2023

Leadership Board Q & A: How Things Work

How things work in the United Methodist Church sometimes seems complex and confusing, so we invite you to send the Leadership Board your questions to info@themarkmtc.org.

Question: Who should I contact if I have a request or a question about the church: Pastor Kay, the Leadership Board, or staff?

Answer:

Pastor (All ministries report directly to the pastor)

- Becoming a member of The Mark
- Your spiritual gifts and your calling to serve in a ministry
- Anything having to do with worship or worship ministries
- An idea for a new ministry, mission, small group, or bible study
- Pastoral counseling

Staff and Volunteer Ministry Leaders

- To join or assist a ministry (e.g., Men's Ministry, Children and Youth, Worship Team, etc.)

Leadership Board Chair or Vice Chair

- Finance (donations or expenditures) or church property (the building or the church lawn)
- Placing an item on the Board meeting agenda (inform the Board chair as early as possible before the Board meeting.
- Resolving conflict with ministries, the pastor, or staff

Church Office Manager

- Getting on the church calendar and reserving indoor or outdoor space for a ministry or missions
- Funeral arrangements (and contact the pastor). Only a member of the deceased's family may make funeral arrangements and only through the church office and the pastor.
- Announcements for the website, worship, robocall, or email

Sexton

- The sexton reports directly to the Leadership Board. All requests to the sexton must go directly to the church office.

Race Amity Montclair: United Methodist Stand Against Racism By Lillie Edwards

Get your United Methodists Stand Against Racism tee-shirts here:
<https://www.jimcolemanstore.com/umc/products/umc-stand-against-racism.html>

The United Methodist Church proclaims the value of each person as a unique child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons.

The United Methodist Church recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful division and marginalization.

The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large.

The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places.

from *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016*, ¶5

The Mark Montclair celebrated Montclair Race Amity Day on Sunday, June 11, 2023, in partnership with the Montclair Race Amity Initiative, the Montclair History Center, The Mark Cares, Inc., Montclair Baha'i Community, and The Circle of Sparks Improv Theater Project. The program featured Jazz House Kids Trio, Maati Cultural Arts Community Drummers, Desiree Lawrence, spoken word by Montclair High School students, featuring Janiyah Dunmore, and the first Race Amity Day Awards were presented to Mattie Martin and to the Friends of the James Howe House.

The Race Amity Initiative seeks to foster cross-racial and cross-cultural friendships by creating spaces to share our stories, by serving the community, and by learning from each other how to increase access, equity, social justice and unity in our neighborhoods and communities. In 2019, at the request of the Montclair Baha'i Faith Community, the Montclair Town Council issued a Proclamation that names the 2nd Sunday in June as Race Amity Day in Montclair. In 2021 a small interracial, intergenerational group of like-minded people have met monthly to forge friendships, and to undertake collaborative efforts in the spirit of race amity. That group has become the Montclair Race Amity Initiative.

Members and friends of The Mark are invited to join the Race Amity Initiative and attend a dinner planning meeting, on Saturday, September 23, 2023, 5:00 – 8:00 pm. Contact Lillie Edwards at edwardslilliej@gmail.com if you would like to attend the dinner.

Find out more about Montclair Race Amity Initiative here:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/518118127028341/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Richard Alston and Dr. Robert L. Cooper

church fellowship hall following the concert.

The Mark Cares, Inc., a 501c3 charitable organization, sponsored the second of two concerts, “Classically Black: Traditional Spirituals,” on Sunday, June 4, 2023 at The Mark Montclair, featuring Dr. Richard Alston, concert pianist, and Dr. Robert L. Cooper, lyric baritone. “The Mark Cares, Inc. empowers marginalized individuals, families, and communities in Montclair and surrounding geographical areas to live healthy, happy, and fulfilling lives through local collaborations and civic actions that foster social and economic equality.” At the June concert, The Mark Cares, Inc. presented a \$1000 donation to MESH. Rev. Wade Renn, founder and vice president of Montclair Emergency Services for Hope (MESH), received the donation on behalf of MESH. Concert goers attended a reception with light refreshments in the



Life can often feel like a scattering of random events. The various choices, opportunities, or even pain we experience seem to have on real purpose or connection. But if we pay attention to God’s work, our lives tell a different story. The story of Joseph in Genesis teaches us to look for the big picture in our lives. It shows us how God weaves what seems random into a beautiful image of joy, survival, purpose, and meaning. In *The Big Picture: Seeing God’s Dream for Your life*, authors Jevon and Nicole Caldwell-Gross take a closer look at the life of Joseph to discover God’s presence in moments of triumph and trauma. Join us for this five-week sermon and study series, and see God’s dream for your life as you begin connecting the dots of God’s grace, presence, and protection.

July 2: I Can’t See It | Genesis 37: 1-11

When God gives us a dream and we are unable to see it yet, certain actions should be taken. How do we navigate uncertainty and confusion about the next steps and uncertain future?

July 9: I Am a Survivor | Genesis 37: 19-24, 28

Finding God’s dream for our life will require us to do something. What are the requirements for discovering and pursuing God’s dream for our lives?

July 16: Dreaming in Prison | Genesis 40: 1-8

Despite life’s uncertainty, we can still continue to dream. How do we maintain our ability to dream when we’re living in a nightmare?

July 23: Timing is Everything | Genesis 41: 1, 8-16

Dreamers of God’s dreams must make a decision whether to trust God not only to make our dreams a reality, but to do it as just the right time. How do we accept God’s timing when it’s hard to wait?

July 30: The Moment I’ve Been Waiting For | Genesis 45: 1-8

This is the moment where we go from being in a dark place to living with purpose. How do we deal with past wounds in order to embrace God’s dream in our lives?

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)



How St. Mark's Has Helped Me Grow Spiritually By Charles Drane 2023 Recipient Scholarship Award



People can have an incredible impact on the growth of others. Be they a parent, friend, or a celebrity you look up to. Relationships are very important for humans as we are social creatures, and many studies have shown that people who have bonds with others are happier and, in some cases, lead longer, more productive lives. St. Mark's has been very influential to me because of the relationships that I was able to build with the others. And the most important relationship with God. I have grown in many ways thanks to the church. I will explain how the church, and people I've met have helped me to grow.

I've been going to church for a very long time. My mother has been a Christian for as long as I can remember. I began going to St. Mark's when I was 7, as that was when my family moved to Montclair. Even before then I went to Metropolitan Church in Newark. This was the church where I was baptized and the only other church, I remember my mother taking me too weekly. I still remember my very first time coming to St. Mark's. The first person I can remember meeting was Ms. Esther, because she was doing an activity where she asked the kids questions on

stage in front of the congregation. She and Dr. Lilly are two of the people who've taught me and guided me the most. I've always felt a sense of love being a part of the St. Mark's community, and I truly appreciate that. Not only have I met many wonderful people, but I truly feel much closer to God, as I've been a part of many ministries, and learn more about him. Like I said, I was baptized before joining St. Mark's, but being there and learning more, has helped me to truly understand what it means to be baptized and accept Jesus into my life.

In conclusion, St. Mark's has been absolutely invaluable to me, both as a Christian who wants to grow closer to God, and as a young man who wants to lead a productive life. I don't believe I'd be the same person I am today, if I didn't have those relationships, that I was blessed with coming to St. Mark's. I am even more thankful for how the people around me have treated me, always with love and respect. I can't stress enough how much I've enjoyed coming to church and being a part of fellowship with everyone. I don't know where I'll go in the future, but I do know I won't soon forget my time at St. Mark's.

Ila VanAnglen has graduated from kindergarten and starts first grade in September.

Ryan Fullard is moving up to second grade at Demarest Elementary in Bloomfield and **Logan Fullard** graduated from Pre-K at Sandy Lane in Belleville. God willing, she will attend Lacordaire Academy in the fall.

Betty Holloway has completed the Local Church Historian School curriculum for church historians. She is now a certified Local Church Historian.

Kristian McKnight has accepted the position of Assistant Principal at the Butterfly Ridge Elementary School in Frederick County, Maryland.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

Our Heartfelt Condolences

Sharon Burton Turner, James Burton on the loss of their mother, Ruth Burton.
Barbara Brome on the loss of her husband, Rev. Albert Timothy Brome
Larry and Terrilyn Williams on the passing of Terrilyn's mother, Helen Robinson
Jessie and Fairrella Banks on the passing of Fairrella's father, Armour Harding Brown.



Dear Church Family and Friends,

Greetings in Christ!

"In response to God's unconditional love for all people made known to us in Jesus Christ, we are called to be a welcoming and affirming community."

The Mark Montclair seeks to commit to the inclusion and affirmation of those of all sexual orientations and gender identities in both the policy and practices of the United Methodist Church.

The Leadership Board voted on March 26, 2023, to charge the Reconciling Task Force (RTF) with clarifying The Mark's position on being a Reconciling Congregation. To this end, the RTF will communicate with and educate our congregation, so it better understands what being a Reconciling Congregation means.

A Reconciling Congregation specifically welcomes and affirms all people, inclusive of race, nationality, economic status, educational status, sexual orientation, gender identities, and gender expressions, follows a deliberate welcoming process that includes relational organizing and education across the entire congregation, and has held a congregational vote in favor of a public statement of welcome and affirmation for persons of ALL sexual orientations and gender identities.

The RTF will assess the congregation's knowledge of what it means to be a Reconciling Congregation and provide communications and educational events, so members can fully understand and weigh in on the process of our church becoming fully inclusive. To begin this process, the RTF has prepared a short survey to determine the willingness and understanding of The Mark to be a welcoming and affirming church. Our mission states: *"We will serve as disciples of Jesus Christ by embracing, equipping and empowering all peoples of the global community to know God through Jesus Christ and the power of The Holy Spirit."*

Please find the survey link below. Kindly take a moment to review the information and answer only one (1) question that best aligns with your viewpoint.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8JJ5NGQ>

Sincerely,

The Reconciling Task Force



ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

We trust you are doing well and experiencing the blessings of the Lord in powerful ways in both your Church and personal life! Isn't God good?

We, the Men at The Mark, are embarking on a new long-term mission project. We met with Anne Mernin on Monday, July 10, to discuss partnering with Toni's Kitchen to provide a Neighborhood Mobile Market.

Toni's Kitchen is a food ministry of St Luke's Episcopal Church in Montclair, NJ. They envision a community where everyone has reliable access to healthy food. They use the community partner model to enhance access and connections to programs and resources that encourage healthy, independent lives.

Their Neighborhood Mobile Market program serves three communities: Montclair, Bloomfield, and West Orange. These mobile markets provide farmer's market style set-ups for families to choose fresh produce, shelf-stable groceries, and hot meals from their kitchen. These markets are designed to provide food to our neighbors in need in ways that respect their dignity, improve health, and foster independence.

The Men of the Mark will manage this mission project providing two markets monthly in Montclair's Fourth Ward. This project aims to create a lasting and impactful solution that would ensure a wider reach in Montclair and positively impact the lives of those who rely on the services provided by the former church's food pantry.

We seek the support and involvement of all the Men of the Mark to manage this project successfully. We will be asking for volunteers to drive the mobile food van, assist with the set-up at the distribution site, and aid in food distribution. These mobile markets will take place on two Saturdays each month, running for about an hour and a half.

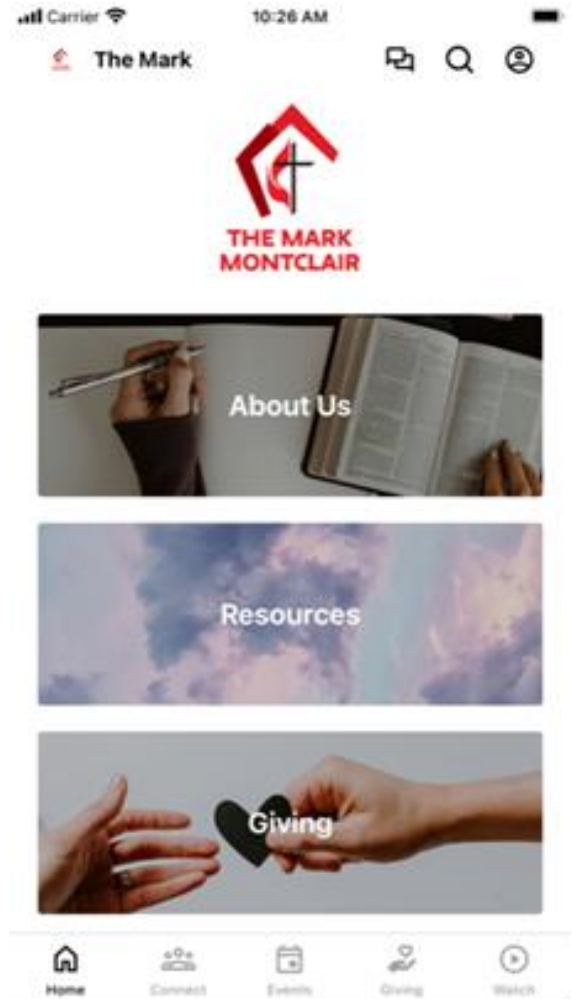
The Men of the Mark are a fellowship of men striving to be better servants of God by engaging and encouraging men of our community to join together to make good men better.

Thank you for considering our invitation to join us in this mission project. We hope to see you soon at The Mark and hope you will consider becoming part of the growing fellowship of our Ministry.

Sincerely,

The Men of the Mark

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)



We're thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of our new website, The Mark Montclair, on Sunday, July 23, 2023. The redesigned website will offer improved accessibility, a new giving portal, and a live stream option for virtual participation. Stay tuned for more details. We encourage you to install the app and explore its features to become familiar with it. The links to download the app are provided below:

[This link is for Apple Store](#)

[The Mark Montclair Education](#)

[This link is for Google Play Store.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)

Join us for Vacation Bible School



NURTURE SEEDS OF FAITH

JULY 31-AUGUST 4, 2023

5:00 PM-7:00 PM

5 days of fun for kids entering grades K-6

Fun Games *Feed Music*

 **THE MARK MONTCLAIR**

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
51 Elm Street, Montclair NJ
Phone: 973-744-2345
email: info@themarkmtc.org

*For registration Call
or email The Mark*

**Join The Mark Choir
&
Sing With Us**



The Music Department, headed by our director, the Rev. Dr. Everett L. Kilgo, is launching an open recruitment for those with musical and vocal talent. A commitment to Thursday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning service are required. Interested parties may leave their contact information with the Musical Director or any member of the choir/ensemble. You may also contact the church office during normal business hours.

We welcome you in advance.

 **Come and worship!** 





THE MARK
MONTCLAIR

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Praise God with us.

Introducing
The Mark Montclair
Summer Guest Incentive



Invite your family and friends to worship at The Mark.



Starting June 25, 2023
and ending August 27, 2023

Members with the most guests will receive an award
offered in three categories, \$500, \$300, and \$100.

Winners will receive their awards at a reception in
September 2023.

Rev. Kay Dubussion, Senior Pastor

51 Elm Street
Montclair, NJ 07042
TheMarkMtc.org
973-744-2345

ANNOUNCEMENTS (cont.)



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

We are excited about your journey at The Mark

A four-week class for new members to learn about the church's history, mission, and vision is scheduled on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm on August 8, 15, 22, and 29. For the Zoom link, call or email the church office. All new members are required to attend.

All church announcements must highlight the church, its ministries, and its community partners. No personal events will be announced. All announcements must be sent to info@themarkmtc.org or sdouglas@themarkmtc.org.

Email announcements or horizontal fliers must be submitted by Monday for the pastor's approval. Staff cannot approve announcements or guarantee that the information will be shared with the congregation.

During worship, all announcements are presented within a video. Under special circumstances, such as a funeral, announcements may be read, but only by the pastor or liturgist.

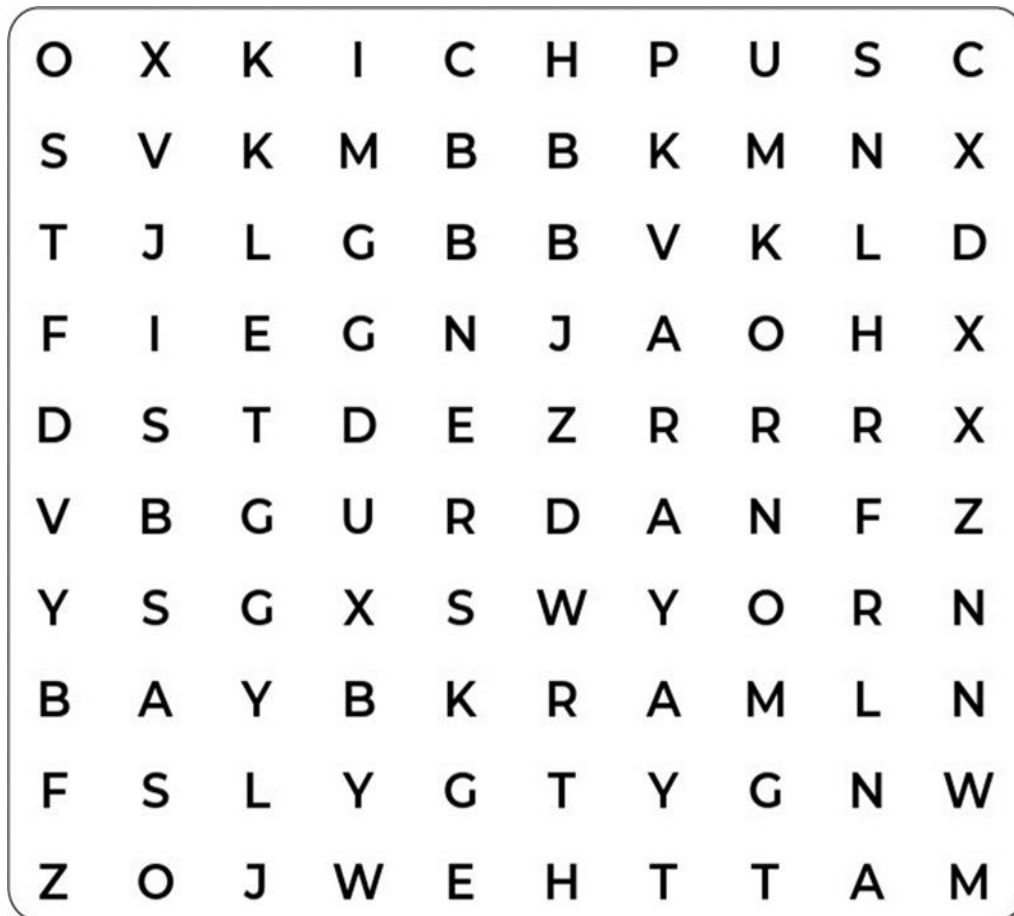
The Mark uses the following platforms for announcements:

1. Mailchimp ("Connect with The Mark" on Tuesday and "Worship with The Mark" on Saturday)
2. E-Blast with the Pastor's permission
3. Robocall on Friday
4. Sunday Worship Video
5. The St. Mark's Call II Newsletter

Just for Fun

The Word Search Battle Bible

Difficulty: Easy



Play this puzzle online at: <https://wwmmrdsearchbattle.io/topic/bible>

LORD
MARK

MATTHEW
RABBI

TITUS

Good Reads for Children

As your children enjoy their summer vacations, listed below are some book titles that may be helpful for learning about history, self-improvement and affirmations. The age range is from 5-9.

Opal Lee by Alice Faye Duncan

Little Daymond Learns to Earn by Daymond John

The Queen of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes

Repeat After Me by Jazmyn Simon and Dule' Hill

Happy in our Skin by Fran Manushkin

The 1619 Project Born on the Water by Nikole Hannah Jones and Renee' Watson

The ABC's of Black History by Rio Cortez

Amanda Gorman by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara

Something Beautiful by Sharon Dennis Wyeth

Recipe

JUNETEENTH "RED PUNCH" STRAWBERRY LEMONADE



Ingredients

2 cups fresh strawberries, hulled, or 2 cups thawed frozen strawberries

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar

1 12oz. can lemonade, concentrate, thawed or 1 cup fresh-squeezed lemon juice (about 8 lemons)

7 cups cold water

Instructions

Slice the strawberries.

Place the ingredients in a blender in order. You can also use a hand mixer on low speed.

Pulse the mixture a few times.

Gradually turn the speed to medium and blend until smooth. Pour into a large pitcher or punch bowl. Serve over ice.

Makes 10 servings.

Recipe courtesy of Angela Shelf Medearis, author of The New African American Kitchen.

Enjoy!

Submitted by Sandra Cook McKnight