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 Rev Herbert W. Watson, Jr., Pastor

Merry

Christmas

# The St Marker

Volume IX

Issue IV

October, November, December 2020

**Vision:**

Transform Our Lives  
 Revitalize Our Faith  
 Influence Our Community

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*“The Holiday is here.  
 Tis the season to  
 share.*

*If you truly believe  
 that Love Matters,  
 show someone you  
 care.”*



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**UMM Fish/Chicken Fry October 24 & Community/Shred It Day October 31**

It was a cool crisp fall day with an overcast. It was a steady flow of cars at the UMM drive-thru fish/chicken fry and clothing drive for veterans. The food pick up and clothing drop off area was set up outside of the church. After each person picked up their food they could proceed to the next stop to make their clothing donation. It was a smooth transition from one stop to the next. Clothing donations were sent to The Maryland Center for Veterans Education & Training, Inc., 301 N. High St., Baltimore, Md., 21202.

Along with their dinners, each person was gifted with a bag containing a mask, ink pen, information on health care (healthy recipes included) puzzles, (to occupy your time and keep your mind active) election 2020 information, National Make a Difference Day, Task Force Update, Pantry Drive-Thru and the Women’s Retreat for April 2022. A lot of material for your reading pleasure.

It was a very successful day. UMM sold 341 dinners and received enough clothing to fill up a 15 passenger van three times! Congratulations UMM for a job well done.

UMM didn’t stop with the above, they followed up their commitment to good stewardship and community service with Community/Shred It Day the very next week. This proved to be another success. A large number of people turned out to take advantage of free shredding. In addition, Luther O. Hebron Food Bank (LOHFB) was in full operation, ladies of St. Mark were on hand to distribute communion elements and Nikki King-Martin, Small Business Consulting, was on hand to make the day a little brighter by giving out gift bags to those who had something to shred.

The UMM sends a big thank you out to the ushers, trustees, hospitality and all other participants who helped to make both events a success. A very big thank you to Maryland Delegate Michael J. Rogers (AACO District 32) who came out to both events to show his support.

*by Hillary E. Brown*





## *Pantry Days #12, 13, 14, & 15*

October 15, Pantry #12. It was a warm beautiful sunshiny day. In addition to the usual fresh produce, 186 families received a variety of juices and milk. A total of 14,000 pounds of food was distributed.

November 12, Pantry #13. It rained and rained and rained. Stopping just a half hour before the end at 12pm. Our hard working volunteers did not let that deter them from their mission of making sure that every car left with bags/boxes of food. Included this time around was bags of apples, sweet potatoes, white potatoes, squash, and a variety of meats. The people came out in droves. They began to line up at 9am. The line was steady and very, very long. The last car served was at 11:55am. A total of 17,000 pounds of food was distributed to 194 families.

November 20, Pantry #14. It was turkey day! In contrast to November 12, it was a beautiful warm sunny day. The cars just kept on coming. Along with 232 turkeys being given away was fresh produce, stuffing, cranberry sauce, macaroni and cheese and other canned goods. It was smiles all around as 216 families knew they were going to have a festive Thanksgiving.

December 10, Pantry #15. On this chilly but crisp fall day, the sun did shine. There was a long line of cars with the earliest showing up at 8:30am for a 10am start time. Eighteen thousand pounds of food was distributed to 221 families. Recipients received fresh produce, meat, cereal, pasta, canned goods, paper goods and various toiletries. As always recipients were very appreciative.

The first Pantry Day was held in February 2019. From that time to February 2020, all pantries were walk ins. Due to COVID-19, as a safety precaution, drive-thru was implemented beginning in May 2020 continuing through December 22, 2020, the last Pantry Day for the year. No matter the weather, rain, shine, hot or cold, the pantries never shut down. The trucks came, the volunteers came and those who were in need of assistance came. They knew they could count on St. Mark. It was a very rewarding experience to see the smiles on the many faces of the recipients and to hear the very sincere thank yous.

Though the year is coming to an end the need for Food Pantries and other assistance will continue well into 2021. We can only hope and pray that things will get better in the new year. However, we must be prepared for the what ifs.

Sincerest thanks to the many volunteers who gave freely of their time, our coordinators Ramona Burnett and Diana Taylor and Maryland Delegate Michael J. Rogers for his support. We are very grateful to the Maryland Food Bank, AACO Food Bank and the AACO Partnership for Children, Youth and Families. It was the combined partnership of these organizations and the afore mentioned individuals that made it all possible.

*Volunteers are welcomed and needed. Think about it when making your New Years Resolution*





# Luther O. Hebron Food Bank and SHARE, "Serving Those In Need"

Following Pantry Day there was more St Mark generosity on display. If you had stepped into the fellowship hall on Saturday November 21, you would have thought you were in a major grocery store. There were turkeys, turkeys and more turkeys that would soon be the centerpiece of many tables on Thanksgiving Day. With the help of Giant Delivers, and ACO Food Bank, LOHFB gave away 250 turkeys along with all the fixin's for Thanksgiving dinner and beyond, as there were many other food items given away as well. Want to know more about LOHFB, contact Dorothea Hebron, dorothea.hebron@verizon.net.

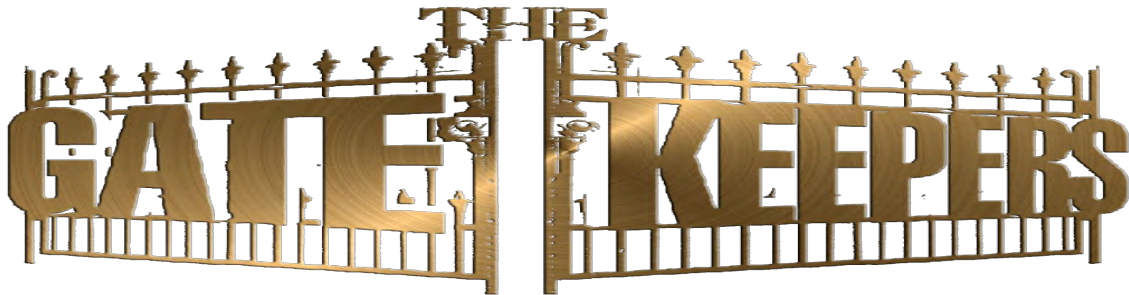


SHARE recipients preordered a variety of food packages and were able to combine or add to their packages. There were turkeys, chickens, steaks, fresh produce, and a variety of fruit. In one combined box there was even a holiday pie. At least 46 families took advantage of the low cost deals that SHARE has to offer. For information about the SHARE program contact Ramona Burnett, rwb509@gmail.com.



## St. Mark Ushers 96th Anniversary

*Special Recognition To  
Junior and Senior Usher Board*



Your dedication to the Usher's Ministry shows all who come through our doors, the hospitality that St. Mark United Methodist Church has to offer is truly a gift from God. We appreciate you, and in recognition of all that you do we thank you.

Wayne M. Sewell  
President, SMUC Usher Board

Rev. Herbert W. Watson, Jr.  
Pastor, SMUMC



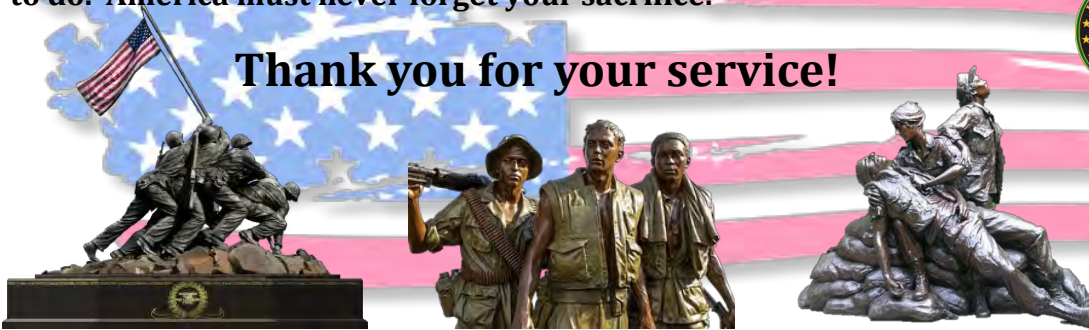


# VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11

Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it.....it flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it. Thank you for bravely doing what you're called to do so that we can safely do what we're free to do. America must never forget your sacrifice.



**Thank you for your service!**



## Audio Visual Ministry - Moving Forward



If you've tuned in to our Sunday Worship services online recently you could see some major improvements taking place. Our new video recording system will enable us to produce elaborate video productions well into the future. We now have high definition broadcast, and other improvements are on the way. We are phasing in several improvements and would like you to see them as they occur. We welcome your feedback. What would you like to see us improve on? Tune in and submit your feedback. We're growing our team too! If you have an interest in Video production please come join us as we make these improvements. Eventually we will be back inside the sanctuary, but for now viewing the service on YouTube, the website, or Facebook is possible thanks to this new equipment.

by Sandra Wilson-Hawkins, AV Ministry Chairperson

## Holiday Post Office

Did you take advantage of the free holiday postal service offered by St Mark? A great way to say hello, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to those you hold dear. Sure you can always pick up the phone and call, but there's something special about receiving a beautiful card. Lips form a smile and eyes shine bright, this is what a card can do. All because ..... it came from you.



## Something New



*Merry Christmas!*



St Mark received an early Christmas present. A donation of a brand new freezer.

## The Last Food Truck



Food truck Fridays have come to an end. It was fun while it lasted, but on Friday October 31, PKG's Mobile Kitchen, the most popular of all the food trucks that came to St. Mark, drove off into the sunset. There were many sad faces with tasty palates left behind. Though some may have had thoughts of running behind the truck begging them to come back, no one did. Folk exercised great restraint. But not to worry, Food Truck Fridays will be back in Spring 2021. Til then we must simply say sayonara!



Come back!



Effective December 31, 2020, Hillary E. Brown will be stepping down from the position of Communications Chairperson. If anyone is interested in assuming the position you may contact the church council.