

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER ♦ APRIL 2024 ♦ VOL. 22, NO. 4



Family of St. Mark's,

From Pastor Samuel

On March 16th, the Valley Ridge District hosted a seminar with Dr. Elane Heath, a prominent theologian and minister, to discuss the future of church outreach, or perhaps the Biblical past we have forgotten. Based on her book, *God Unbound*, she reminded us that our current way of, “doing church,” is very modern in the history of Christianity. Reading from Luke 10, we find the way of how Jesus sent out His disciples, two-by-two, and being invited into the community as guests, rather than being hosts awaiting guests. Of course, as the world has changed drastically in the past 200 years, let alone 2,000, we have become comfortable with being the central point of a community, and allowing the sick, hungry, and heavy-laden to reach up to our doors, rather than the more Biblical opposite.

The concept of reaching out into our communities is part of our Wesleyan heritage, as that is one reason that John Wesley began being ostracized from the Anglican clergy: he committed the vile act of open-air preaching! The purpose of this was because John had seen the overworked, underpaid, and heartbroken workers of England destroying themselves and communities while the church turned a blind eye. As we enter this post-pandemic world, we have to ask ourselves the same questions that John did: who are we choosing not to see?

As we prepare to enter into Eastertide (Alleluia!), if we truly believe that Jesus Christ rose from the grave, and promised us that same power, how are we living into that call? Do our neighbors know The Way, Truth, and Life? Do we even know our neighbors? Let this next church season return us to practical ways of sharing the Gospel, to return into our community in genuine, empowering love. As has been quoted by many people: we may be the only scripture that our friends, family, and world hear about.

In His Service,

Rev. Samuel R. Plymale

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LAITY

CORNER

The founder of our denomination, John Wesley wrote about three simple rules that help people apply their faith to everyday life, and not only live in a way that honors God, but encourages continual growth and development of our faith.

The first simple rule, “Do No Harm,” we are seeking direction in our life, we often think about what we should do. It is interesting that John Wesley began the Simple Rules instead with what we refrain from doing. Our first call is to avoid doing harm to others.

Scripture references:

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil but take thought of what is noble in the sight of all.” If all of us can keep that thought in our minds at all times, we might be better at tempering our desire to ‘get even’ or strike back. This a lot harder to do than it ought to be. So how do we do that?” Romans 12: 17, CEB

Key questions:

What comes to mind when you think about the first of the Three Simple Rules, Do No Harm? Bishop Rueben Job said this in his writing, “to do no harm means that I will be on guard so that all of my actions and even my silence will not add injury to another of God’s children or to any part of God’s creation.” How do we go about doing that?

Three words, do no harm, that are not so simple. It is also not about others but about each of us, taking this seriously—and asking with the questions about our words and actions, what impact might this have on our lives and the lives of others? How would our faith change, or how would our faith journey change if we really focused on doing no harm? Next month, we will look at the second of the “Three Simple Rules”-“Do Good”.

PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know that we have prayer warriors behind the scenes praying for our church family and their friends and family. We also pray for ministries and situations. This is done via e-

mail. If you would like to be one of our prayer warriors, contact Susan Wagner at susanbwagner59@gmail.com.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Deuteronomy 4: 7b says, “. . . the Lord our God is near to us whenever we pray to him.”

Let’s pray for:

- ◆ The family of Pency Croy, who went home to heaven on February 26.
- ◆ Dee Nichols, who is now in Hospice Care at the Glebe.
- ◆ Those suffering from natural disasters.
- ◆ Those experiencing the results of war and violence.
- ◆ All who are grieving loss.
- ◆ And all who do not know the love of God and the saving grace of Jesus.

Be with all of us as we share your love!

AMEN

GRIEFSHARE

This Christian based program welcomes anyone who has lost a loved one and needs to find healing and hope.

We began our spring GriefShare session on Thursday, February 8 through May 16, 2024. We will skip the weeks of March 28 and April 11.

There are two sessions, so you can choose either 10:00 am or 6:30 pm.

If Botetourt County Schools are closed for bad weather, we will also not meet.

Contact the church office for more information, or you can register on the website.

TAME

Thank you to all who supported, attended and helped with the Easter Bunny Breakfast. TAME’s next big event will be our annual “**Mother’s Day Tea**”. That will be held on Saturday, **May 11th**. Save the date and talk it up. Consider dining in this year for an elegant “High Tea” Experience. Take out will be available too. Look for announcements in the bulletin and on our website beginning soon.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Sign up now to donate!

May 4th, 8 AM to 1 PM @ St. Mark’s

For an appointment, please visit
redcrossblood.org

Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone for making the Spring Semester Backpack Buddies mission a huge success! Because of your generosity, we, along with 4 other churches, were able to provide weekend meals for 20 elementary students needing a boost. A special thanks to the Shipyard Youth who used proceeds from their Pancake Supper to grocery shop and help us fill the backpacks!
~The Backpack Buddies Team



United
Women
in Faith

UWF NEWS

In March, our United Women in Faith welcomed our speaker, Jessica Meyer. Jessica presented a very enlightening program about her call to become a Christian Missionary with **International Christian Center for the Deaf (ICCD)**, a non-profit Christian organization with the purpose of sharing the gospel with the Deaf in Third World countries. In addition to the United States, they partner with seven countries (Mexico, Cuba, The Bahamas, Uganda, Boliva, Brazil and India). The Deaf in other countries are often rejected, neglected, and abused in their homes and villages. Many are uneducated and made to feel invisible. Many cannot read and have no language beyond invented gestures. Often they are raised by parents who believe they are incapable of becoming anything of value. Every year, thousands rely on **ICCD** for physical, emotional, and educational support. Jessica shared ways we can help: **PRAYER** for their efforts; **DONATIONS** to help fund missionaries and provide for the needs of the Deaf and **JOIN the ICCD** who are always in need of caring people.

WELCOMING SPRING UWF MEETING: MONDAY, APRIL 8

Join us at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall. Following the program, we will enjoy lunch together; bring your own food and beverage. We will conclude with our Business Meeting. As always, ALL Ladies are invited to join us!



LUNCH AND LEARN (DINERS)

Lunch and Learn Dinners will meet Tuesday, April 2nd at 11 am.



ST. MARK'S MEN

The St. Mark's Men's Fellowship will meet Monday, April 8 at 7 pm at the church. Samuel will be joining us for the worship portion of the meeting.

UWF READING PROGRAM



Whether you're an adult, youth, or child, there's something for everyone in this program. Here are some compelling reasons why you should consider reading books from

the United Women in Faith Reading List:

1. Diverse Categories and Enlightening Subjects:

The reading list covers a wide range of categories, including **Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth**. You'll find books that inspire, challenge, and nurture your faith journey.

2. Community Connection:

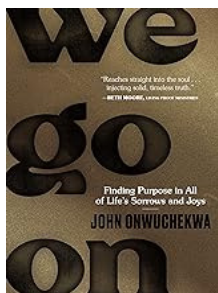
The Reading Program is not meant to be a solitary endeavor. You can enhance the experience by:

- ◆ Sharing the program with fellow United Women in Faith members and community members.
- ◆ Helping others access the recommended books.
- ◆ Connecting with local and district groups to discuss the readings.
- ◆ Starting a book club or sharing e-books to encourage dialogue and reflection.

3. Prayer and Advocacy: Many of the books address critical issues such as climate change, mass incarceration, and racism. As you read, take these concerns to God during your prayer time and consider advocating for tangible change in your community.

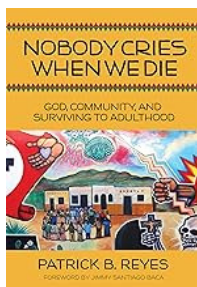
4. Recognition: When you complete a book, track your progress using the easy-to-use Reporting Form. Submit the Report of Completion Requirements, and you'll receive a **Certificate of Recognition**. St. Mark's was recognized as the unit in 2023 in the entire Valley Ridge District for having read the most books and also recognizing Cindy Harris for the individual reading the most book!

Remember, reading is both rewarding and connecting. So, dive into the UWF Reading Program, explore captivating mysteries, heartfelt biographies, and urgent messages, and let the written word inspire your faith journey! If you think you might be interested, contact Linda Koloda (992-2744). In the meantime, check out some of the suggestions below.



WE GO ON: FINDING PURPOSE IN ALL OF LIFE'S SORROWS AND JOYS

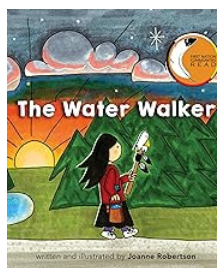
Rich with black-and-white photography, powerful stories, and life-changing reflections from the book of Ecclesiastes, *We Go On* calls you to find the true answer to the question: Why am I here? This hope-filled exploration of this biblical book of wisdom turns our attention to what our true purpose is and how to let that purpose shape our relationships, career, and life choices. Along with biblical insights, the author weaves together meaningful challenges that, even from difficult beginnings, we can continue to trust God's path. *Spiritual Growth* CD



NOBODY CRIES WHEN WE DIE -

For people of color living each day surrounded by violence, and for whom survival is not a given, vocational discernment is more than "finding your purpose"—it's a matter of life and death. Patrick Reyes, the author, shares his story of how the community around him - his grandmother, robed clergy, educators, friends, and neighbors - saved him from gang life, abuse, and the economic and racial oppression that threatened to kill him before he ever reached adulthood. A story balancing the tension between pain and healing, *Nobody Cries When We Die* takes you to the places that make American society flinch, redefines what you are called to do with your life, and gives you strength to save lives and lead in your own community. *Social Action* Hard Copy **BO-NUS BOOK**

THE WATER WALKER The story of a determined Ojibwe Grandmother (Nokomis) Josephine-ba Mandamin and her great love for Nibi (water). Nokomis walks to raise awareness of our need to protect Nibi for future generations,



and for all life on the planet. She, along with other women, men, and youth, have walked around all the Great Lakes from the four salt waters, or oceans, to Lake Superior. The walks are full of challenges, and by her example Josephine-ba invites us all to take up our

responsibility to protect our water, the giver of life, and to protect our planet for all generations. *Nurturing Hard Copy* Children's Section

LET THE CLEAN OUT BEGIN!

The Church Yard Sale will happen again this summer on July 27th. Save your treasures that you want to remove from your home for our sale! We will let you know when we will be accepting items closer to the sale date.

KROGER COMMUNITY CARES PROGRAM

St. Mark's latest Kroger check has arrived. The total amount of **\$456.69** has been deposited into our Building Fund.

We now have **69 households** enrolled in the Community Rewards program. Thank you all for signing up! Please consider enrolling and making St. Mark's United Methodist Church (TE560) your organization of choice. Google the Kroger Community Cares Program and follow the instructions on how to link your Kroger account to St. Mark's UMC.

PICKLEBALL

Pickleball continues on its regular schedule:
 1st & 4th Mondays @ 5-7 pm
 2nd & 3rd Mondays @ 10 am-12 pm
 5th Mondays: NO pickleball

GOING PLACES WITH JOYFUL JOURNEY TRAVELS IN 2024

Don't let the time slip up on you and miss out on the 3 Belles of the South. The deadline is April 12. It is a fantastic trip, so come on along and have a great time.

For \$723 per person (double occupancy) you can have 4 nights sleep without having to make up your own bed, enjoy eating 4 nice breakfasts with friends and new friends, have 3 leisurely dinners without having to prepare them or wash the dishes (includes a family-style at Paula Deen's The Lady and Sons),

guided tours of historic Savannah, Ga. and Beaufort, SC and the Golden Isles of St. Simons and Jekyll and you can sight-see instead of drive. Relax at the Musical Revue Show in the historic Savannah Theater. Visit the historic Savannah History Museum and the Parris Island Museum and the Jekyll Island Club Hotel. Browse the unique shops in Savannah's River Street District & Old City Market and much more. The price also includes luggage handling in Ga., all taxes and meal gratuities, and deluxe motorcoach transportation. What a fun way to spend June 17-21. Get on board now. Flyers and registration forms can be found on the church website at stmarksmethodist.com, at St. Mark's Church in Daleville, or by contacting Julia Greer at 540-330-7933 or julia.short.greer@gmail.com (no texts please).

If you have been to see all of the above and like chocolate join us to see "Daniel" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. and then go to Chocolate World in Hershey, Pa. August 5-7, \$514 per person (double occupancy) the deadline is June 3rd.

If you are looking for a unique tour, try the Grand Canyon of PA. by covered wagon. October 14-17, \$685 per person (double occupancy). Final payment due by Aug. 12.

Hope to see you soon. Blessings, Julia Greer



GRADUATES

Please send in the names of those who are graduating this year. We'd love to list their names in our next newsletter.

stmarksumcdaleville@gmail.com

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Interested in helping children in need to sleep better? So many great charities provide clothing, meals, and toys to families in need. But as wonderful as this aid is, few organizations offer suitable beds and bedding to the kids in these families. The United Women of Faith will be collecting funds to help Mt. Pleasant UMC of Roanoke with a projected build project of 20 bunk beds May 3-4. The project is organized by SHP (Sleep in Heavenly Peace) which is a national non-profit organization. Volunteers believe a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. Their motto is **NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!**®. SHP was established in 2012 by Luke Michelson, who was having a faith crisis and felt called to do a service project in his neighborhood. His family built a bed and volunteers stepped up and the project was full speed ahead from that point on. The goal was to have a SHP chapter in every state and now there are over 270 all over the US and in Canada. Volunteers are dedicated to building, assembling, and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. Each bed comes with a mattress, sheets, pillow, and comforter. SLP started from the voices of people willing to open their mouths and spread the word. It takes all of us to find, organize and supply these children with beds to sleep in. You will be amazed at the response you receive when you share with others your involvement with this group. The more volunteers, the more beds can be built, and more children can be helped. Spreading the word may be the most important way for people to volunteer. We will be collecting monetary donations of any amount until April 22. You may drop your check into the offering plate, payable to St. Mark's UWF with the designation of SHP in the reference line or contact Ramona Tolley. For more information on SHP, call Linda Koloda (992-2744) or you can check social media for SHP and watch videos of Returning the Favor.

<p>Newsletter Deadline is 9 am the 20th of each month Bulletin Deadline: Thurs. 9 AM St. Mark's United Methodist Church 19 Cedar Ridge Drive Daleville, VA 24083 Phone: 540-992-3030</p>	<p>E-mail: Rev. Samuel Plymale: samuelplymale@vaumc.org Becky Arthur: stmarksumcdaleville@gmail.com Lee Ann Critz: leeanncritz@yahoo.com Website: www.stmarksmethodist.com</p>
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Office Hours: Becky is in the office M-F 9-12:30 (9-3:30 on Thu)

Lee Ann is usually in her office on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning at 9 am.

Pastor Samuel is usually in his office Tue-Fri from 9 am-12 pm. Visitation is available Tue-Sun set up a time with him by email (samuelplymale@vaumc.org) or by phone (434-218-2688)

Children's Ministries Down at the Pond



FROGS and Tadpoles will be meeting on Sunday, April 14th and April 28th from 4-6 pm! The FROG Store will be open on April 28th at 6 pm for the final time this school year. We will be studying about Jesus and the children and preparing on both days we meet this month for our Children's Sabbath on Mother's Day Sunday, May 12th at the 10:00 Worship Service.

If you forgot to turn in your Change Collection Can for our Lenten Mission project for Children's Ministries, please bring your can to church and place it in the designated basket in the Narthex. These Collection Cans will support T.A.M.E., our St. Mark's feeding ministry.

Breakfast with the Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt

THANK YOU to the members of T.A.M.E., Easter Egg Donators, Easter Egg Hiders, Game Leaders, Craft Helpers, and our mystery Easter Bunny who made Breakfast with the Bunny and the Easter Egg Hunt possible!! What a wonderful, successful collaborative effort it was for the church and the children of our church and community! Thank you!!



Looking Ahead to Vacation Bible School

All children ages 3, who are toilet trained, through rising 6th graders are invited to Cokesbury's Shake It Up Café Vacation Bible School program this summer! Vacation Bible School will be held Monday, June 24th through Friday, June 28th from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Registration will begin later in April, but please mark your calendars now!

Wanted: Servers and Sous Chefs to explore the Bible as a cookbook filled with recipes for living out God's Word!

Adults and youth are needed for this **church-wide ministry** to the children of this church and this community. Qualifications are: a love of children, a desire to reach out to children and share the love of God with others and a sense of humor! There are many and varied opportunities to serve, so please prayerfully consider doing so! Contact Lee Ann **early** to make sure you get to volunteer in the area you prefer! Please contact Lee Ann Critz at leeanncritz@yahoo.com or at 580-3905. Join us for fun at *Shake It Up Café!*

There will be a VBS/Safe Sanctuaries meeting for all VBS volunteers on Sunday, May 5th after the 11:00 Worship Service. If you are interested in taking Safe Sanctuaries Training and are not planning to help with VBS, you may arrive at 1:00 pm. Please let Lee Ann know if you are planning to come to either or both of these important meetings by calling or texting to 540-580-3905 or email at leeanncritz@yahoo.com. Please note that everyone working with the children or youth programs at St. Mark's UMC is required to take Safe Sanctuaries training every 3 years. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Ann Critz.

Creative (and non-creative) people needed for VBS Decoration Creation!

We will have a VBS Decoration work day on Sunday, April 21st after the 11:00 Worship Service is over in room 103 downstairs. Please bring a change of clothes and dress to make a mess! A light lunch will be provided, so please let Lee Ann know if you are planning to come!



Family of St. Mark's,

Springtime has been a wonderful season for our Youth, as we have been having fun and serving others! Over the past several weeks, we have been studying through the Gospels of John and Mark during Lent, and look forward to diving deeper into 1 John after Easter. We have been assisting with assembling Easter eggs for Breakfast With The Bunny, with cleaning the church, and planning a youth trip to Washington D.C.'s Museum of The Bible. For fun, we have enjoyed the trampoline park, and are preparing to see The Rend Collective in concert after Easter!

Please continue to keep the Youth in your prayers during this exciting time, as we have begun the search for a new Youth Director, and hope to find the perfect fit for our wonderful church. I want to personally thank our volunteers and families for their support over the past few months! It definitely takes a village to raise a Youth.

In His Service,

Rev. Samuel R. Plymale, Senior Pastor



TO ALL WHO CELEBRATE THIS MONTH

April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pickleball Today 5-7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 8 pm AI Anon 7 pm	2 Diners Lunch and Learn 11 am Cub Scouts 5:45 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	3 AA Meeting 3 pm Choir 6:30 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 8 pm	4 Women's Bible Study 10 am GriefShare 10 am GriefShare 6:30 pm	5 Men's Choir 12:30 pm	6 AI-Anon 1 pm
7 Worship 9 am Sunday Classes 10 am Worship 11 am Youth go to Rend Collective Concert <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i>	8 Pickleball 10 am-12 pm United Women in Faith 11 am NarAnon 6:30 pm St. Mark's Men 7 pm AA 8 pm AI Anon 7 pm	9 Cub Scouts 5:45 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	10 AA Meeting 3 pm Christmas Fair Mtg 4 pm Choir 6:30 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 8 pm	11 Women's Bible Study 10 am	12 Men's Choir 12:30 pm	13 AI-Anon 1 pm
14 Worship 9 am Sunday Classes 10 am Worship 11 am FROGS/Tadpoles 4-6 pm <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i>	15 Pickleball 10 am-12 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 8 pm AI Anon 7 pm	16 Cub Scouts 5:45 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	17 Pastor's Bible Study 11 am Noon Day Prayer Service 12 pm AA Meeting 3 pm Choir 6:30 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 8 pm	18 GriefShare 10 am GriefShare 6:30 pm	19 Men's Choir 12:30 pm	20 AI-Anon 1 pm
21 Worship 9 am Sunday Classes 10 am Worship 11 am VBS Decoration Creation 12 pm <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i>	22 Pickleball 5-7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 8 pm AI Anon 7 pm	23 Cub Scouts 5:45 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	24 Pastor's Bible Study 11 am Noon Day Prayer Service 12 pm AA Meeting 3 pm Choir 6:30 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 8 pm	25 GriefShare 10 am GriefShare 6:30 pm	26 Men's Choir 12:30 pm	27 AI-Anon 1 pm
28 Worship 9 am Sunday Classes 10 am Worship 11 am FROGS/Tadpoles 4-6 pm <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	29 NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 8 pm AI Anon 7 pm	30 Cub Scouts 5:45 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	May 1 Pastor's Bible Study 11 am Noon Day Prayer Service 12 pm AA Meeting 3 pm Choir 6:30 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 8 pm	May 2 GriefShare 10 am GriefShare 6:30 pm	May 3 Men's Choir 12:30 pm	May 4 Red Cross Blood Drive 8-1 pm AI-Anon 1 pm