

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER ♦ APRIL 2026 ♦ VOL. 24, NO. 4



Lententide Reflection

Family of St. Mark's,

Generally, a pastor is supposed to be the one you think is perfect, or has all of their ducks in a row, but this Lent has been different than any previous one for me. Instead of some information-filled story of fun, I wanted to take my space to thank each one of you for your prayers, support, and encouragement as I continue to navigate a new season of life. Lent has always been important to me, but I genuinely would say it is my favorite Christian season of the year (LOL). The biggest thing Lent has taught me in my discipline this year is about guilt.

Over the season, we have been preaching about guilt and how it and shame can stop us from understanding our belovedness in Christ's Kingdom, and how He died for every single one of us on the cross. Even with that truth, this year's Lenten journey has been one in which I have not always kept up with the daily practices, either forgetting in the busyness of the world or intentionally choosing to do something else. The humbling grace is that, regardless of why you fall short, Christ is waiting, hand outstretched, to pick you back up and have you try again. A maxim that has stuck with me is that, "nobody is counting your mistakes as much as you are," so don't let your losses chart the course of your future! Receive your blessing, pick up your cross, and follow Him anew!

As we celebrate Easter, remember the blessing of an abundant, eternal life that Christ gave you on Calvary. Let us continue to show mercy, peace, and love to the least-of-these, and discern what we may do to show the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth today!

In His Service,

Rev. Samuel R. Plymale

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Prayer offering for our community

Lord, gracious King, our Creator, our Redeemer.

Thank you for the gift of community.
The gift of chosen love.

What a blessing it is to serve one another and to be a part of your kingdom.

Thank you for inviting us to you everyday. Please give us the courage to choose and to walk in your light.

You know our hearts. Our joys and our pains. We lift those up to you with a grateful soul.

The blood you shed on the cross was for each one of us. You gave us life freely, while we are undeserving. You call us to you.

Please be with us and for us. Guide our steps as we give ourselves to you fully.

Praise and glory be to God forever and ever! Amen.

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 or need to submit a prayer request, contact Susan Wagner at susanbwagner59@gmail.com.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Administrative Council will meet on Monday, April 13 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend. Only Ad. Council Members get a vote if voting is done.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 1pm.

ST. MARK'S MEN

The St. Mark's men's fellowship will have a dinner get together for our April meeting. Please note the time and place. We will meet at 6 pm on Monday April 13 at Bella Pizza on Lee Highway for dinner and fellowship. Call Tom Wenrich if you need additional information.

WOMEN'S SPRING STUDY

"Dare to Hope: Living Intentionally in an Unstable World" will be the Spring Women's Bible Study beginning on Tuesday, April 14th. The meeting time will be determined by the group. The study is by Melissa Spoelstra, a teacher we have come to love. We tend to worry in this unstable world we are living. God offers hope in the Book of Jeremiah. Melissa examines this hope-filled message in a six weeks study. If you are interested in joining us for this study, contact Susan Wagner.

SAVE THE DATE

TAME will hold the Rise Against Hunger meal packing on Saturday, September 19. Put it on your calendars now!

BUCHANAN FOOD PANTRY

St. Mark's will be serving at the Buchanan Food Pantry on April 11. Please let Nancy Womack know if you are able to help. (text to 540-798-5706 or call 540-992-1747).

KROGER COMMUNITY CARES PROGRAM

St. Mark's latest Kroger check has arrived. The total amount of **\$224.59** has been deposited into our Building Fund. We now have **64 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.

FAMILY VBS

We are trying something different from our regular VBS this year. **Save the date** for a Family Retreat, "Growing Together in Faith", on the weekend of July 10-12. It will begin with a family meal at 6:00 on Friday, July 10th and intergenerational family activities centered around the "Parable of the Sower."

On Saturday, July 11th, we will reconvene at 3:00pm for more intergenerational faith activities centered around the theme of growing together in faith. We will eat a meal together at 5:00 and have a closing intergenerational service at 5:30.

On Sunday, June 12th, there will be a family getaway to a park for more "Growing Together" fun. Details for each of the days will be firmed up as plans are formulated. For now, save the date and talk it up with the families you know.

JOYFUL JOURNEYS

It is NOT TOO LATE to join the Joyful Journey trips to Baltimore/Annapolis April 13-15 & Lancaster, PA. June 15-17.

The Lancaster trip is featuring a never before shown production of *Joshua* at the Sight & Sound Theatre with preferred seating. Anyone interested should call Julia Greer at 540-330-7933 ASAP. Please leave your name and phone number if she does not answer. No texts please.

Information about the trips can also be found at the church and on the church website stmarksmethodist.com

Both of these trips are customized for Joyful Journey Travels by White Star Tours in Reading, PA. Joyful Journey Travels is an outreach ministry of St. Mark's to provide safe, fun, affordable, Christian trips geared to Sr. Citizens but any age is welcome. We would love to have you join us!



United
Women
in Faith

UWF NEWS

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

At our March meeting, we participated in our Annual Program: "**A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial**". The 2026 theme was "**The Future is Now: Invest in Our Children.**" Our children are influenced, and their future is shaped, by all they experience at home and school, in their church, community, and world. We are their caregivers and those who shape their environment. Too many of our children live in poverty, are hungry, live in unsafe places, and don't have the healthcare or early education they need because their parents can't afford it. Our children need us to act on their behalf and protect them. This year's offering will help children through the work of our National Mission Institutions, which helps our most marginalized and vulnerable children through low-cost early childhood education, afterschool programs with a hot meal, caring mentors and enrichment programs, and mental health counseling and social-emotional support, internships and work experiences.



APRIL MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 13,

2026 - 11 am

Fellowship Hall

We will begin with our

April program and follow

with lunch (*bring your own*) and time to

socialize. We will conclude with our

business meeting and prayer concerns.

ALL Ladies are invited to join us.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Down at the Pond

FROGs and Tadpoles will be meeting on Sunday, April 12th and April 26th from 4 -6 pm! The FROG Store will be open on April 26th at 6 pm for the final time this school year. We will be learning about how the Disciples told others about Jesus and how we should too! We will also be celebrating Earth Day!

Please turn in your **Change Collection Cans** for our **Lenten Mission project for Children's Ministries**, please bring it to church and put it in the designated place in the Narthex by Easter Sunday, April 5th. These Collection Cans will support T.A.M.E., our St. Mark's UMC feeding ministry!

Breakfast with the Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt

Mark your calendars now for Breakfast with the Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4th! Breakfast will begin at 9 am and the Easter Egg Hunt will begin promptly at 10:30 am!! Don't forget to make your reservation for breakfast online. This is a fun event for people of all ages, not just children! Bring your own basket and your neighbors and friends!



Bagged Candy and Filled Easter Eggs Please!!

We need candy/treat filled plastic Easter eggs for our Egg Hunt! You may leave your donations under the bulletin board in the Narthex in the designated container during the month of March. Please consider stuffing your plastic eggs with individually wrapped candy (peanut-free, please) or small toys. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Ann Critz.

Helpers needed for Breakfast with the Bunny!

Adults and Youth are asked to serve as Game and Craft Leaders and Egg Hiders the morning of Breakfast with the Bunny. Please consider serving for this important outreach to the community! Contact Lee Ann Critz at 540-580-3905 or leeanncritz@yahoo.com, if you feel called to serve.

Safer Sanctuaries Training

There will be a Safer Sanctuaries Training on Sunday, May 3rd after Sunday School is over at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the last training session available before the summer! Please let Lee Ann know that you will attend by text or calling her at 540-580-3905 or by email to: leeanncritz@yahoo.com.

Saturday April 4: Hide eggs and facilitate games/crafts for Breakfast with the Bunny. Please arrive by 8:30am.



Sunday April 12: Youth 4-6pm - we will be helping Miss Lee Ann with an activity with the FROGs for Easter

Wednesday April 15: Registration for the mission trip must be complete today and your \$200 payment is due today

Friday April 24: We will attend the Salem Ridgeyak Game at 6:35. Everyone will purchase their own tickets but we can carpool if you need a ride

Sunday April 26: Youth 4-6pm - Last regular youth meeting of the season

We are continuing our Sunday school study "What Does God Want?" throughout the summer.



TO ALL WHO CELEBRATE THIS MONTH

<p>Newsletter Deadline is 9 am the 20th of each month</p> <p>Bulletin Deadline: Thurs. 9 AM</p> <p>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 Amanda Dillard: stmarksumcdaleville@gmail.com Lee Ann Critz: leeanncritz@yahoo.com Jessica Graham: jessicagraham109@gmail.com Deborah Wiley: dwiley4music@gmail.com Website: www.stmarksmethodist.com</p>
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Office Hours: Amanda is in the office Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9:00-12:00.
Lee Ann is usually in her office on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning at 9 am.
Pastor Samuel is in office Tuesdays . He is also regularly available by text (434-218-2688) and email (samuelplymale@vaumc.org)

