

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER ♦ DECEMBER 2018 ♦ VOL. 16, NO. 12



My St. Mark's family-

My friends, December is upon us. The time has come to prepare our hearts for the birth of the Christ child; which is what the Advent season is all about. For Advent this year, we will listen to the prophets who yearned for a savior. Their predictions tell us a lot about expectations and dreams for who the Messiah would be. Will he bring hope? Will he restore the joy of God's people? Is Jesus the one we've been waiting for?

I hope you'll join us for worship this month, as well as our special Advent programs and worship opportunities:

Sunday, Dec. 9 at 5 pm- "Charlie Brown Christmas." Program at 5 pm, followed by pot-luck dinner.

Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 7 pm at The Glebe- "Go Sing It on the Mountain" Christmas Cantata.

Sunday, Dec. 16 at 11 am worship- "Go Sing It on the Mountain" Christmas Cantata.

Sunday, Dec. 16 at 7 pm- "Quiet Christmas." For folks who need a break from the hustle of the holidays, join us for a quiet, contemplative service.

Monday, Dec. 24 at 5:30 pm- Family Christmas Eve worship with carols and candlelight.

Monday, Dec. 24 at 11 pm- Christmas Eve worship with candlelight, carols, and communion.

Strength and Wisdom,
Pastor Justin

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LAITY

CORNER

As we approach the Christmas Season of “Peace and Goodwill to all” we remember Jesus, who came into our world as one of us, teaching us God’s ways, which can be radically different than the world dictates. He calls us to act in love and forgiveness towards everyone. That can be a real challenge when we come from different viewpoints and convictions. But HE calls us to follow HIM especially when it is a challenge.

Let me paraphrase a recent Facebook post:

Some of the most incredible people I know voted for the opposite party. That doesn’t make some hateful or racist or intolerable; just people with different opinions. I will never think any less of any person who has a different view than me, because some of the most beautiful, inspirational people I know will disagree with what I believe all day long. At the end of the day they are still the same beautiful people. I don’t want to lose quality people in my life because I choose to draw lines between us.

The United Methodist Church is facing some issues that have the potential to split and divide. My prayer is that we can find our way to love and work together for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, even when we don’t see eye to eye on everything, like whatever the final decision is that comes out of the General Conference in February concerning human sexuality.

Another issue that elicits strong emotions is the increase of mass killings because of anger and hatred. I have recently joined a group here at church, which is operating according to our Methodist Resolutions and has adopted the following statement:

We are a faith based group affiliated with St. Mark’s UMC in Daleville, VA very concerned by the escalating gun violence in our country. We seek to follow the teachings of our faith by helping to implement positive, reasonable and responsible changes towards finding solutions for this problem. As a way of honoring the memory of the innocent victims, we hope to see people of all faiths come together with civil dialogue to work for this cause. Being united with one voice we can make a powerful difference.

We are hosting a Prayer Vigil on December 4 in our sanctuary from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. All are

welcome to join us in prayer! (See the invitation below.)

I know there are members of this church family from all points of view on this gun violence issue, but we welcome all sides to come to the table and find ways to talk. God created us all to be unique. He also created us to be better when we join together to work for His Kingdom. On the 18th we joined hands in prayer for our church. Please join me in continuing this prayer.

May God richly bless you all with His peace and love this Christmas Season.

Peggy Lootens, Lay Leader



PRAYER VIGIL

Valley Faiths Against Gun Violence is uniting with and in support of The Newtown Action Alliance and their annual National Prayer Vigil in Washington, DC.

A group of concerned members of St. Mark’s have organized an interfaith prayer

vigil to honor and remember the many victims of gun violence.

The vigil will take place **December 4th at 7 pm** at St. Mark’s UMC.

Guest speaker will be Dr. Tommy McDearis, Pastor, Blacksburg Baptist Church. Dr. McDearis serves as Chaplain for the Blacksburg Police Department and was serving in this capacity when the mass shooting occurred at Virginia Tech.

Please address any questions to: ValleyFaiths@gmail.com.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through Oct. 1, receipts of \$293,412 and expenses of \$312,632. While this leaves a shortfall of \$19,220, we are confident that we can close the gap by year end if everyone does their part. Giving is up and expenses are down as compared to YTD figures last year. Also, FYI, our balance on the Family Life Center mortgage was \$837,602 as of October.

WOMEN’S DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY

The Women’s Bible Study that meets on Tuesdays will resume meeting on January 9th at 10 am in the Choir Room.

SCRAPBOOK FELLOWSHIP

The Scrapbooking Fellowship will not meet in December. We will resume meeting on January 17th from 9 am-2 pm. Brunch will be served that day to kick off the New Year.

ADVENT OFFERING

Our annual Advent offering will again benefit missions, and it is a big part of our mission giving for the year. St. Mark's supports local groups like the Botetourt Resource Center, Back Pack Buddies, Botetourt Food Pantry, and others, as well as larger organizations like the Society of St. Andrew and United Methodist Homes. Contact Pastor Justin if you'd like to know more about the important missions our church supports.

JOYFUL JOURNEY

The Wohlfhart Haus Christmas lunch and program on Dec. 11 is currently filled. You may sign up on the waiting list. The bus will leave from St. Mark's at 10:00 am and return about 6:30 pm.

Anyone interested in the Alaska trip June 6-17, 2019, should turn in a registration form and \$250 deposit (per person) by Dec. 31. Forms can be found on the bulletin board across from the choir room. Questions - contact Julia Greer at 540-330-7933.

YEAR END GIVING

Just a reminder from the Finance team that gifts must be received by Dec. 31 to qualify for 2018 tax deductions. We joyfully and gratefully receive gifts of appreciated stock and other investments as well as regular giving. Feel free to talk to Judy Morris (Finance Chair) or Robert Arritt (Treasurer) with questions.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

There will be an ecumenical Christmas Worship Service held Thursday, December 13th @ 7 pm. The service will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fincastle. Come worship with the churches of the area in celebration of the birth of our Lord.



our mission.

We would like to thank all that have provided support to Girl Power in 2018. Your prayers, words of encouragement, financial contributions, speaking at or hosting events has been key to

2019 is full of fellowship, fun and service This ladies support group is open to those currently in 5th grade and above. It's a safe place to focus on your path with peer support. Together, moms and teens offer support through those changing years. We serve our community and church while following our individual path.

Join us for Let's Get Board on January 6 at 12:15 in the FLC. After the rush of the Christmas season, we will come together to enjoy fellowship over our favorite board games, a snack and reflect on all that has been accomplished by each of you. Please RSVP to reach2sky14@gmail.com

GIRLS NIGHT OUT



St. Mark's
United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

If you need a break from the hustle and bustle of the season, join us for an evening of food and fun. The United Methodist Women are having their annual

Christmas Party and Pot Luck Dinner December 10th at 6:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall and all women are welcome. Bring a dish or two to share and you can participate in any or all of the following:

McDonald's or Hardees gift cards in the amount of \$5 to be given to The Rescue Mission to distribute to their residents.

Christmas decoration/ornament exchange - \$10 limit

Cookie/Candy Exchange - bring 2 dozen goodies and an extra container to take your goodies home in.

If you have questions, contact Nancy Craft at 992-4129. Hope to see you there.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men will not be meeting in December. They will resume their meetings in January.

ANGEL TREE



This advent St Mark's will be setting up an angel tree which will serve to provide Christmas gifts to the students who are part of a ministry named "Kids Soar." St Mark's has been working with Kids Soar for many years before its name changed from Community Outreach Program (C.O.P.). Once a month a group from St Mark's goes to Trinity United Methodist Church to make a hot dinner for students and the volunteers who are working to improve their education.

If you would like to spoil a child from our area by giving them Christmas gifts please take an angel ornament with information about a child and shop for them! Please bring wrapped gifts back to St Mark's no later than December 19th!

If you have any questions about the angel or how to help serve Kids Soar on a monthly basis please contact Erin Huddleston.



42ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

St. Mark's UMC FAMILY LIFE CENTER

THIS SATURDAY, December 1
8 am to 2 pm

How can it be? Just a few days to our CHRISTMAS FAIR! MANY HANDS and FEET will be busy this week putting together the finishing touches.

Along with the many quality crafters joining us, we will have our own St. Mark's craft table, delicious Bakery area and Breakfast and Lunch meals. As always, we will have our delicious Whaley's Pecans and for those of you who love our Apple Butter, we will have ½ pint decorated jars. The Botetourt Town & Country Women's Club will host their annual Silent Auction during the sale.

We know MANY of you have crafting, cooking and baking skills too! We would very much welcome and appreciate all **crafts and baked goods** -- cookies, cakes, pies, bread, etc. -- any of those yummy goodies -- that you would donate. These may be brought to the Family Life Center on Friday afternoon, November 30, between 2 and 6 pm. Thank you for sharing and volunteering!

QUILT -- Every year for our Christmas Fair, our talented St. Mark's ladies busily sew and complete a beautiful queen-sized Quilt. This year's Quilt, "Reindeer Magic" is a 9-patch variation square with lovely mini scenes of sleighs, gifts, stockings and more. Quilt tickets are available from Nancy Hamblin -- and we will continue to

sell them through FAIR day. Cost: \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be at 2 pm this Saturday.

FAIR FLYERS -- be sure to pick up a flyer to share with a friend or post in a business you frequent. They are on the table in the narthex.

Plastic and Paper BAGS -- At the FAIR check-out, our cashiers are in need of bags. No need to recycle, we will do it for you! Please bring and place them under the mail table outside the Church offices.

For more information or if you have questions about the Fair, please contact:

Bakery -- Donna Henderson 992-5333

Quilt -- Nancy Hamblin 992-5505

Crafts -- Susan Lust 904-5505

Vendors -- Dottie Flinchum 992-2577

Reception/Registration -- Barbara Wiley 992-4033

Publicity/Cashiers -- Mona Tolley 992-3496

Kitchen -- contact any of the names above

PECANS ARE HERE!

Our annual Pecan Order has arrived! These delicious pecans from Whaley's Pecan Company in Troy, Alabama, are packaged in 1 lb.

bags -- halves or chopped. Cost: \$12 per pound.

Be sure to get several bags for your Christmas and year-round baking! Pecans will be available on Sunday mornings, at the Christmas Fair, and by contacting Donna Henderson at 992-5333.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Thank you for filling shoeboxes!

Thank you for your help with our fall mission project, "Operation Christmas Child"! With your help, our children were able to donate 83 shoeboxes filled with gifts for needy children! If you donated the shipping cost online, you should receive an email telling you where in the world your shoebox(es) went! Please let Miss Lee Ann know when you find out the destination of your shoebox(es)!

Charlie Brown Christmas Pageant

The FROGs and Tadpoles, along with some of our St. Mark's Youth, will present their "Charlie Brown Christmas Pageant" on Sunday, December 9th at 5:00 pm, followed by a Potluck dinner in the Family Life Center. Everyone is invited to attend! Please bring your FROG and/or

Tadpole to the Sanctuary by 4:30 pm that day. Your food for the Potluck dinner may be taken to the Family Life Center before the pageant begins. Paper products and drinks will be provided by the church. Please invite your friends and family to join us, but adjust the size of your dish/recipe to accommodate more, if you do!

FROGs and Tadpoles should wear a solid colored t-shirt, black shorts or a skort, tennis shoes and white socks or solid color socks to match their shirt.

There will be a practice for the Pageant on Saturday, December 8th at 10 am for all children and youth participating in the pageant. Please make every effort to attend! Please let Miss Michele know if your child is unable to attend.



YOUTH EVENTS AND NEWS:

We have had a busy November. We collected 16 meals for families in the community for Holiday Meals.

December will not be our usual schedule as with Schools being out and Christmas we will have special events and different meeting times!

Saturday December 1st The youth will help break down of the Christmas Fair starting at 2 pm.

Sunday December the 2nd we will be having Sunday School as usual. Youth will be from 5 to 7 pm. It will be a lesson on how do we pray and prayer lead by Pastor Justin!

There will be No Unwind in December! Enjoy the time with your families and your break from school!

December 9th We will be having Sunday School. There will be No Youth, but come out and support the hard work the Youth and



Children are putting into the Christmas play at 5 pm.

December the 16th we will have Sunday School, followed by the Youth Christmas Party at 12 pm. Remember to bring your White Elephant \$10 gift, there will be snacks,

movies and games come out and celebrate all the hard work you have out in this year!

December 23rd We will have Sunday School but there will be No Youth as families begin to travel for Christmas!

December 30th There will be Sunday School but No Youth enjoy Christmas and looking forward to the New Year with your families!

I hope everyone has a blessed and safe Christmas Season! We are looking forward to January and all that it has to offer as we begin to prepare for Youth Sunday, Thank you for your continued support of these wonderful youth!



Newsletter Deadline is the 20th of each month
Bulletin Deadline: Thurs. 9 AM

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Kelly Berry: ShipyardYouth@gmail.com

December 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Christmas Fair 8 am-2 pm
2 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Sunday Classes 10 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Youth Group 5-7 pm <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	3 NarAnon 6:30 pm Worship Band 7 pm AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	4 Diner's Club 10:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Scouts BSA 7 pm Gun Violence Vigil 7 pm	5 Midweek Service 11 am Adult Fellowship Luncheon 11:30 am Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm	6 Thousand Thursday's 10-11:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study 7 pm	7	8 FROGs/Tadpoles Rehearsal 10 am Round Table Christmas Dinner 5 pm Girl Power 5-8 pm
9 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am Christmas Program and Potluck Dinner 5 pm NO Youth Group <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	10 UMW 6 pm NO UMM NarAnon 6:30 pm Worship Band 7 pm AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	11 Diner's Club 10:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Scouts BSA 7 pm	12 Midweek Service 11 am Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir @ The Glebe 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm	13 Thousand Thursday's 10-11:30 am Trinity Outreach 5 pm <i>(Erin's Team)</i> Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study 7 pm Ecumenical Christmas Worship 7 pm @ St. Mark's Episcopal	14	15 Choir Rehearsal 10 am
16 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Christmas Cantata 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am Youth Group Christmas Party 12 pm Quiet Christmas 7 pm <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	17 NarAnon 6:30 pm Worship Band 7 pm AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	18 The Diner's Club 10:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Scouts BSA 7 pm	19 Midweek Service 11 am Handbells 6 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm	20 Thousand Thursday's 10-11:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study 7 pm	21	22
23 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am NO Youth Group <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	24 NarAnon 6:30 pm AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm Christmas Eve Services Family Service 5:30 pm Candlelight Service 11 pm	25 Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Christmas Day	26 NO Midweek Service AA Meeting 8-9 pm	27 Prayer Shawl 1 pm Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study 7 pm	28 Music Ministry's New Year's Party 5 pm	29
30 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am NO Youth Group <i>First Sunday After Christmas</i>	31 NarAnon 6:30 pm AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	Jan 1 Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm New Year's Day	Jan 2 Midweek Service 11 am Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm	Jan 3 Thousand Thursday's 10-11:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Ladies' Bible Study 7 pm	Jan 4	Jan 5

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