

# ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER ♦ FEBRUARY 2018 ♦ VOL. 16, NO. 2



My St. Mark's family-

I hope everyone is staying warm as we trudge through the heart of winter. The holidays are firmly in the rear-view mirror, and in the life of the church, we begin to look toward spring- and Easter! And of course, the preparation for our Easter celebration begins with Lent.

In an odd coincidence, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year. So bring your sweetheart to church! ☺ We will have two opportunities to mark the beginning of Lent. First, our 11 am Worship service on February 14th will include the imposition of ashes. Then, the Southern Botetourt Community Ash Wednesday service will be held at 7 pm at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Fincastle. I will be sharing the message that evening.

As we look toward a meaningful Lenten season, I also want to take a moment to invite you to join us for our Lenten worship series- A God of Enough. We'll be talking about the weight that we feel from our world's focus on material things. How can we stop worrying about money? How can we learn to trust that God will provide? Join us Sundays in February and March to learn more!

Strength and Wisdom,  
Pastor Justin

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A new adventure. . . trying small groups. . . very exciting. . . a little troublesome(?) . . . it's change!

We haven't ever tried such a thing before: a concentrated effort to create a ministry that invites everyone to participate all at the same time. We may find that some fine tuning of the logistics needs to be done, but all of us are in this journey together, so we will learn to navigate together. Have you decided to jump on board? Will you help us work together to iron out details? Great!!

Personally, I am taking this opportunity to lead a study that I have wanted to do for a while, based on Max Ludaco's BEFORE AMEN, learning to make prayer more relevant. I'm a little nervous, because the when and where are still to be decided, but we will figure it out, together.

There is such a wonderful variety of small groups offered that we should each be able to find one that sparks our interest. The bonus is that whichever one is your choice, we will all gain closer relationships with our St. Mark's family of believers and our Father in Heaven.

Are you ready to do some exploring together? It could be a real blessing. . . and FUN!!

Together in Christ,  
Peggy Lootens, Lay Leader

## JAVA WITH JUSTIN!

Are you interested in joining St. Mark's? Maybe you have some questions about what makes the United Methodist Church unique? What does it mean to be a member? What do Methodists believe?

Pastor Justin will be teaching a new member class from **February 11th-25th** at 10 am during the Sunday School hour. We'll talk about how the United Methodist Church is designed, what our beliefs are, and what makes St. Mark's special! Bring your coffee and your questions! Send Pastor Justin an email if you are planning to attend, [justinwhite@vaumc.org](mailto:justinwhite@vaumc.org).

## GRIEFSHARE TO BEGIN AGAIN

GriefShare is a small support group offering hope and encouragement for those who have lost someone they love through death. St. Mark's UMC is beginning its another cycle of classes on Thursday, February 22nd through May 24th, 2018. There will be two sessions each week at 10:00 A.M. and 6:30 P.M.

GriefShare is open to anyone in the community, and since each class will cover a different topic, you are welcome to begin on any Thursday. Because participants may miss some class sessions, all are invited to return for another cycle of classes at any time. Sharing this journey of grief with others can be very helpful.

For more information you may call the church office (540-992-3030), Peggy Lootens (276-759-1485), and check out the website at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

## LENTEN OFFERING

Our Lenten Offering is once again going to buy shoes for the Rescue Mission's "Back to School Blast". Last year we were able to provide 500 pair of shoes for children who otherwise would not have had a nice pair to start the school year. We'd like to match that this year. We need to raise \$6000.00 in order to reach our goal and provide 500 pairs of shoes and 500 pairs of socks. Please mark your donation "Lenten Offering" and place it in the offering plate. If you would like to learn more about Back 2 School Blast please go to <http://stmarksmethodist.com/service-mission/back-2-school-blast>

## HOSPITALITY TRAINING

Lent and Easter are when churches have the most guests. Because of this we want to make sure that all who serve in our Hospitality ministry are all on the same page. Each team should lead to the next in order for guests to know that they are welcome and valued in worship with us. *On February 11th we will have Hospitality training during the 11 am service and after the 11 am service.* This training is for all interior and exterior greeters, ushers, and Welcome Center servants who were unable to attend the training in September. Please join Erin Huddleston for this quick training in the Family Life Center. If you have any questions please contact Erin at [StMarksErinH@gmail.com](mailto:StMarksErinH@gmail.com)

## TAME SOUPER BOWL LUNCHEON

Winter is upon us with some very cold days. What could warm us up better than a warm bowl of soup? On February the 4th we invite you to join us in the Family Life Center for our Souper Bowl Sunday Soup and Sandwich fund raiser after the 11 am service. You can support the TAME ministry and have a hearty lunch so that you can go home and plan for the big game. If you would like to donate a crockpot of soup or a plate of sandwiches for the event that would be most helpful. Call Karen Sledd @ 992-3592 and let me know. We hope to see you there!



## TAME NEEDS YOU!

We all enjoy or at least feel good about packing meals to send to food scarce areas in the world in the annual TAME meal packing event in the fall. We could not do this without you! What you may not know is that to do this requires fund raisers throughout the year to raise the 9 to 10 thousand dollars to make this happen. TAME has just a handful of members at present. We appreciate that the congregation supports our efforts generously. But we could also use your help by you being a part of TAME. Consider coming to our next meeting on March the 15th @ 6:30 pm.



## SHROVE TUESDAY

Come and join us for pancakes and sausage on Tuesday **February 13th!** The Shipyard Youth are going to be hosting a pancake dinner to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Pancakes will be served from 5:30-7 pm. This meal will not only help our church to sit and share a meal together and enjoy each other's presence, but it will help young people fun their mission trip for the summer.

## LADY'S DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY

Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study will continue. We are finishing up a study on the Lord's Prayer on Tuesday, January 30th. We will begin a new 6 week study on February 6th. We will be studying **Numbers: Learning Contentment in a Culture of More**. Comparing our own dissatisfaction with our life circumstance to the grumbling of the Israelites as God leads them out of slavery.

## LADY'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Women's Thursday Evening Bible Study continues to meet at 7 pm every week at the home of Edna Nicely. They study various topics and are currently viewing Joyce Meyer videos which they discuss afterward. If you'd like to know more about this study please call or email Edna Nicely (540-558-2790 or edna.nicely@gmail.com).



Girl Power is a new group that will meet monthly. This supportive group is open to young ladies currently in 5th grade and up. Together mothers, daughters and women will connect with each other to offer encouragement as we walk through the teen years and beyond. Guest speakers will help us focus on each of our paths through life experiences. We will plan to meet the first weekend of the month, days will vary depending on activities. Our first meeting, Love Thy Self will be February 17th, 6:30-8:30 in the Family Life Center. We will make desserts and complete a string art project. In order to have enough supplies, please RSVP by February 4th to Becky Gay at reach2sky14@gmail.com.

## THOUSAND THURSDAYS

Every Thursday he's in town, Pastor Justin will be at Land of a Thousand Hills (Daleville Town Center) from 10 am-11:30 am. Have a question? Need to talk? Just drop by- no appointment necessary.

## ST. MARK'S ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

At the prospect of inclement weather please note that St. Mark's posts delays and closings on WDBJ7. You may check them either by watching channel 7 or by going to WDBJ7.COM.



St. Mark's

United Methodist Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

## UMW NEWS

### Looking ahead:

Our first UMW meeting of the New Year was postponed due to the ice we received on January 8. We have rescheduled our *Call to Prayer and Self-Denial* program to our March 12th meeting.

Our **February meeting will be Monday, February 12**, at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will focus on the many **Missionary Conferences** that are available to us. **Louise Landis Miller**, currently our Roanoke District UMW Secretary, will be with us to share information on these Conferences with a first-hand look at the many she has led and attended. Louise has held many offices in her local UMW unit and in her Church, and on the Roanoke District and Conference Level. She served 2-years as the Dean of the School of Christian Mission (*now known as Mission Encounter*) and 2 years as the UMW Vice President of the Virginia Conference.

A short business meeting will follow the program, along with refreshments. **LADIES** – you are invited to join us and learn more about United Methodist Women and the importance we put on missions.

There is a time  
for everything,  
and a season for every  
activity under heaven...



Ecclesiastes 3:1

## JOYFUL JOURNEY TRAVEL CLUB



The Joyful Journey Travel Club hits the roads again with 2 over-nighters. Also watch for information on several day trips.

**The Ark Encounter and Creation Museum** in Kentucky April 30-May 3, 2018.

The cost of \$614 per person, double occupancy, includes the following: 3 night's lodging, 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners including a Riverboat Dinner Cruise and a dinner with entertainment, admission to the Ark Encounter, admission to the Creation Museum, guided tour of Cincinnati, motor-coach transportation, taxes, and all gratuities. The bus will leave from St. Mark's. Contact Julia Greer at 540-330-7933 if you have any questions. The sign-up sheet and brochures are on the bulletin board across from the choir room. Places will only be reserved when the registration form with a \$25 deposit (part of the total but non-refundable unless the trip is cancelled) is received. Registration forms with the deposit may be put in the envelop attached to the bulletin board or put in Julia's church mailbox next to the church offices.

**The Sight & Sound's "Jesus"** Sept. 27-28, 2018, in Lancaster County, PA.

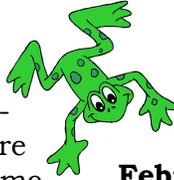
The cost of \$277 per person, double occupancy, includes the following: 1 night's lodging, 1 breakfast buffet, 1 family-style dinner, performance of "Jesus", tour of President Buchanan's "Wheatland", motor-coach transportation, taxes and all gratuities. The bus will leave from St. Mark's. Contact Julia Greer at 540-330-7933 if you have any questions. The sign-up sheet and registration forms are on the bulletin board across from the choir room. Places will only be reserved when the registration form with a \$25 deposit (part of the total cost but non-refundable unless the trip is cancelled) is received. Forms with the deposit may be put in the envelop attached to the bulletin board or put in Julia's church mailbox next to the church offices.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

### Down at the Pond

FROGS and Tadpoles will meet on February 11th to celebrate Valentine's Day! The Tadpoles will take their valentines home to share and the FROGS will be playing the game HEARTS! Please continue to collect the tab tops from cans for the Ronald McDonald House.

Also, the FROGS and Tadpoles will be having special **Mission Projects** on February 25th to go along with our study of "The Boy's Lunch" (Feeding the 5,000). Please bring your donations that night! We will be collecting the following items for Backpack Buddies: Juice boxes, Canned Tuna, Ritz Crackers and Saltine Crackers. We will also be collecting monetary donations to purchase fish fingerlings for The Heifer Project! The children in The Garden: Where Disciples Grow will be collecting for both of these mission projects from February 18th through March 11th in The Gathering room.



## FROGS/Tadpoles

### Winter/Spring 2018 Schedule

**\*\* Intergenerational fun and fellowship activities for the entire family!**

**February 11:** FROGS/Tadpoles 5-7 pm

**February 25:** FROGS/Tadpoles 5-7 pm (FROG store OPEN at 7 pm)

**March 11:** FROGS/Tadpoles 5-7 pm

**March 18:** FROGS/Tadpoles sing during the 11:00 am Worship Service

**March 25:** Family Easter Egg Hunt 4:30 pm\*\*

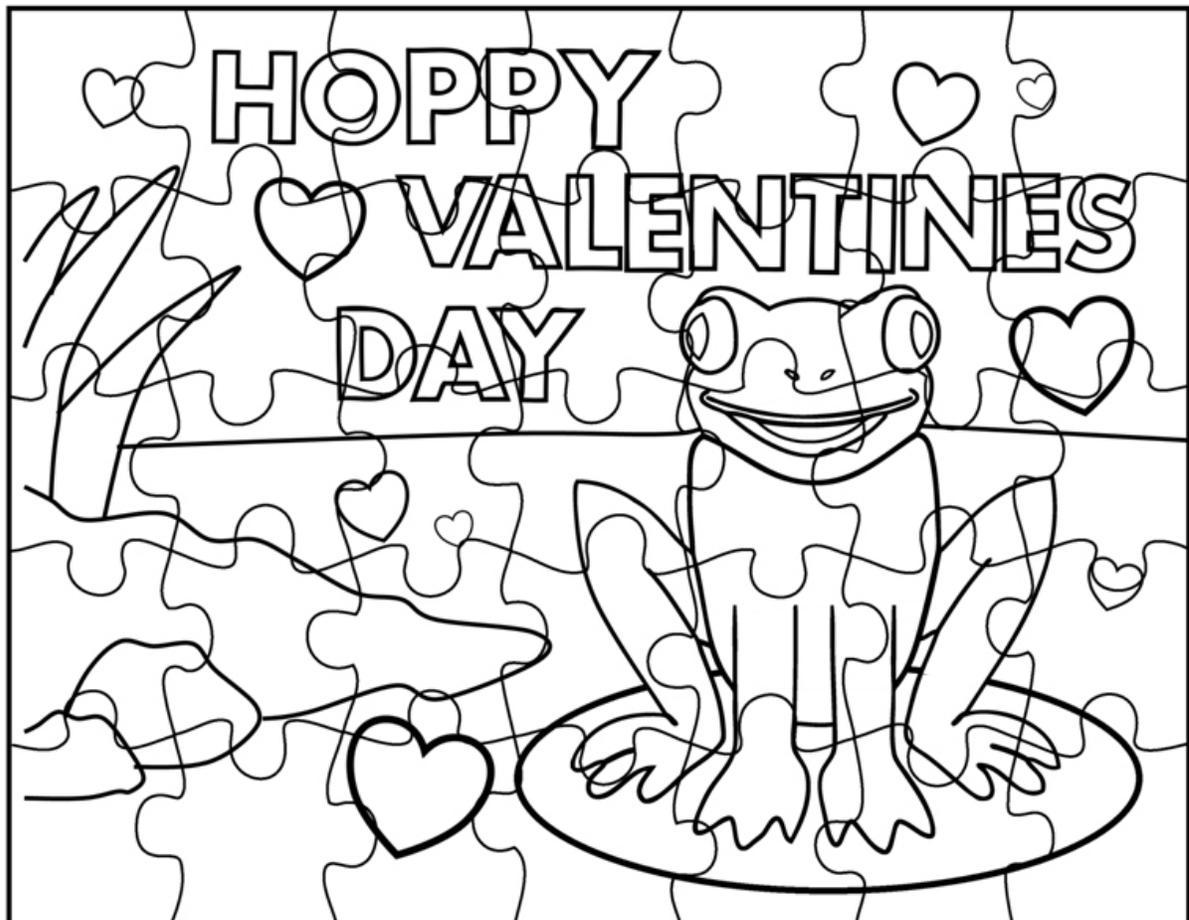
**March 25:** FROGS/Tadpoles 5-7 pm (FROG store OPEN at 7 pm)

**April 8:** FROGS/Tadpoles 5-7 pm

**April 22:** FROGS/Tadpoles 5-7 pm (FROG store OPEN at 7 pm)

**April 29:** FROGS/Tadpoles sing during the 11:00 am Worship Service

◆ In case of bad weather, please watch Channel 7 WDBJ for a notice, or log onto [www.wdbj7.com](http://www.wdbj7.com). If you feel that the driving conditions in your area are dangerous, please do not come!



35 Pieces

© Crafting The Word Of God

## YOUTH EVENTS AND NEWS:

**Sunday Youth:** Shipyard Youth will meet at 6 pm.  
There will be no Shipyard Youth on February 11th because we will *just* be getting back from Wesley Weekend! Take a breather and rest for a while! Share with your family all that you've experienced!

**Youth Council** will be meeting Sunday, February 18th @ 5 pm.

**Wednesday Youth:**  
Unwind for the Grind continues to meet from 4-6 pm. Come join the fun!

Are you coming on the **Wesley Weekend @ VT** Retreat with us?? We will be leaving St Mark's at 5:30 pm on **February 9th** and should return at about 12:30 pm on February 11th! We're so excited to be able to participate in



this district event and hope you are too!! For more information and for the permission form for the retreat please go to <http://stmarksmethodist.com/discipleship-ministries/youth-ministries> and scroll all the way to the bottom of the page.

On **February 13th** the Shipyard will be celebrating **Shrove Tuesday** by hosting a pancake dinner in the Family Life Center! The money we raise from this event will help you pay for your mission trip. This will be a big "All-Hands-On-Deck!!" We need people to help set up (you can come straight off the bus), to cook pancakes and sausages, to serve, and to clean up. E-mail [shipyardyouth@gmail.com](mailto:shipyardyouth@gmail.com) to tell us what you would like to do! This event will only help you pay for your mission trip if you come and help.



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

**St. Mark's United Methodist Church**  
19 Cedar Ridge Drive Daleville, VA 24083

**Phone:** 540-992-3030

**Website:** [www.stmarksmethodist.com](http://www.stmarksmethodist.com)

**E-mail:** Rev. Dr. Justin White: [justinwhite@vaumc.org](mailto:justinwhite@vaumc.org)  
Becky Arthur: [stmarksumcdaleville@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksumcdaleville@gmail.com)  
Lee Ann Critz: [leeanncritz@yahoo.com](mailto:leeanncritz@yahoo.com)  
Zach Wilhelm: [plainpoet@gmail.com](mailto:plainpoet@gmail.com)  
Erin Huddleston: [StMarksErinH@gmail.com](mailto:StMarksErinH@gmail.com)  
Michele Richardson: [stmarksmusicminister@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksmusicminister@gmail.com)

# February 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <b>Thousand Thursday's</b> <b>10-11:30 am See Ad</b> Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm <b>Ladies' Evening Bible Study 7 pm</b>	2	3
4 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am <b>TAME Souper Bowl Lunch</b> <b>Following 11:00 service</b> Youth Group 6-8 pm  <i>5th Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	5 NarAnon 6:30 pm <b>Worship Band 7 pm</b> <b>Finance Mtg. 7 pm</b> AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	6 <b>Women's Morning Bible Study 10 am</b> The Diner's Club 10:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	7 <b>Midweek Service 11 am</b> Adult Fellowship Luncheon 11:30 am Youth Group 4-6 pm <b>Intentional Prayer 5:30 pm</b> Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm	8 <b>Thousand Thursday's 10-11:30 am See Ad</b> Trinity Outreach 5 pm <i>(Norman's Team)</i> Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm <b>Ladies' Evening Bible Study 7 pm</b>	9	10
11 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am <b>Hospitality Training 11 am</b> <b>&amp; following 11:00 worship</b> <b>New Member Class 10 am</b> <b>FROGS and Tadpoles 4-6 pm</b> Youth Group 6-8 pm  <i>6th Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	12 NarAnon 6:30 pm UMW 7 pm UMM 7 pm <b>Worship Band 7 pm</b> AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	13 <b>Women's Morning Bible Study 10 am</b> The Diner's Club 10:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm <b>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:30-7 pm</b> Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	14 <b>Midweek Service 11 am</b> Youth Group: 4-6 pm <b>Intentional Prayer 5:30 pm</b> Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm <b>ASH WEDNESDAY Service 7 pm @ St. Mark's Episcopal, Fincastle</b>	15 <b>Thousand Thursday's 10-11:30 am See Ad</b> Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm <b>Ladies' Evening Bible Study 7 pm</b>	16	17 <b>Girl Power 6-8:30 pm</b> <i>See Ad</i>
18 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am <b>New Member Class 10 am</b> Youth Council 5 pm Youth Group 6-8 pm  <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	19 NarAnon 6:30 pm <b>Worship Band 7 pm</b> AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	20 <b>Women's Morning Bible Study 10 am</b> The Diner's Club 10:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	21 <b>Midweek Service 11 am</b> Youth Group: 4-6 pm <b>Intentional Prayer 5:30 pm</b> Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm	22 <b>GriefShare 10 am</b> <b>Thousand Thursday's 10-11:30 am See Ad</b> <b>Prayer Shawl 1 pm</b> Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm <b>GriefShare 6:30 pm</b> <b>Ladies' Evening Bible Study 7 pm</b>	23	24
25 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am <b>New Member Class 10 am</b> <b>FROGS and Tadpoles 4-6 pm</b> Youth Group 6-8 pm  <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	26 NarAnon 6:30 pm <b>Worship Band 7 pm</b> AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	27 <b>Women's Morning Bible Study 10 am</b> The Diner's Club 10:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm <b>Administrative Council 7 pm</b>	28 <b>Midweek Service 11 am</b> Youth Group: 4-6 pm <b>Intentional Prayer 5:30 pm</b> Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm			