



NEWSLETTER ♦ FEBRUARY 2021 ♦ VOL. 19, NO. 2

My St. Mark's family-

Every Christian I know is trying to follow Jesus Christ. That's what being a disciple means, right? We try to learn from him, imitate him- literally follow in his footsteps so that we might truly understand who God is, and who God wants us to be.

For the next few weeks leading up to Easter, we are going to spend our time in worship walking with Jesus through the Gospel of Matthew. In the stories of Matthew, we see Jesus teach and heal; lead and preach. He recruits new disciples and trains them to spread his message of love, repentance, and mercy throughout the world.

If you have ever wondered what it really means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, I hope you'll join us in person or online. The world needs the witness of our loving God now more than ever. To quote our Bishop Sharma Lewis, how can you be a life-long learner who influences others to serve? That's what discipleship is all about! Let's walk with Jesus together.

Strength and Wisdom,
Pastor Justin



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LAITY

CORNER

Hello friends,
May I share some random thoughts as I am watching the inauguration of our country's new president and writing this for the February newsletter? It's a new, but still very troubling new year. One of the biggest challenges that we face is our diversity. We are all unique. God made us that way on purpose and He loves us as we are! However, we human beings can let those differences divide us. Watching the events in Washington today gave me hope. No matter how I voted, or which way my opinions lean, our Democracy continues to function!! One nation under God!! God is working to bring hope and healing from all of our divides. As we pray for peace, we become workers with God to work for peace. "God grant me the courage to change (with love) what I can; the grace to accept what I can't; and the wisdom to know the difference!" And the love that comes from God for all who disagree with me!
God's PEACE,
Peggy Lootens

BIG THANK YOU!!

We want to share how deeply grateful we are for the many many people who serve at St. Mark's (many of whom serve behind the scenes!)

After 8+ years of coordinating the Prayer Chain, Diane Glazebrook is handing the responsibility off to Susan Wagner. We are so thankful for Diane's service to this important ministry and for Susan who will be taking it over.

After twenty-two years Jim Sorrels and Cathy Cofflin trained several teams to take over their jobs as the counters for St Mark's! We are so appreciative of the countless hours Jim and Cathy have dedicated to counting and the extra time and care given to training the teams that will take over for them.

Thank you so much to everyone who works in the background in order to keep St Mark's running as we Equip Caring Courageous Disciples!

FINANCE UPDATE

How did we do in 2020?

For the 12 months that ended in December, our expenses exceeded our giving and income by \$21,153. Praise the Lord, we were able to secure a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan of \$37,500 back in April, which was able to cover our deficit, and the loan has now been forgiven! Because of your generosity and the help we received, we ended the year in solid shape. But remember, without the PPP help, we would have run a deficit.

As to the building fund, we received gifts totaling \$52,891, and we made payments of \$45,867. Our bank, First Citizens, was gracious enough to offer their customers a 3 month holiday during the height of the pandemic. Had we not taken advantage of this offer, our payments would have exceeded giving by \$8,264.

Again, thank you for your support during this difficult year. We believe that St. Mark's is ready to emerge from the pandemic in good order. Your giving matters, and again, we thank you for your loving support.

If you have questions about what you gave last year, please feel free to contact Tom Wenrich, our financial secretary. If you have questions about pledging to the building fund, please contact Pastor Justin. And as always, feel free to contact Clayton Williams, finance team chair, or Pastor Justin with any other questions.

DRIVE-IN COMMUNION

On Sunday, February 7th at 11 am we will again offer drive-in communion for those who are not ready or who do not feel safe coming to in-person worship. As per usual, if you are planning to come to drive-in communion please fill out the form which will aid us in contact tracing and help us to plan for parking lot usage. Watch for how to sign up on the Wednesday weekly emails. If you have not signed up to receive the weekly email you can go to our website at www.stmarksmethodist.com, look under "Connect with us" and scroll all the way to the bottom to sign up. **If you do not have internet access, but would like to sign up, please call the church office, 992-3030 during normal office hours, Mon-Thurs 9-4, Fri 9-12:30.**

IN PERSON WORSHIP!

We continue with in person worship! It is necessary for you to register for worship before joining us. The good news is that it's super easy! You have to be feeling well and fill out the form available online by the Thursday before the Sunday you plan to attend. You may register at <https://www.evc.vaumc.org/open/worshipregistration/Index.cfm> (our district is "Roanoke" and church is "Saint Mark's UMC in Daleville").

We also have printed forms available for those who do not have internet access, *OR* you may call the church during office hours and we will fill it out for you.

If you haven't come to worship yet and are wondering what it will be like, when you arrive you will be directed to your socially distanced seating by an usher. Masks are to be worn the whole time you are at St. Mark's. There will be **no** children's church or nursery available so your children will have to remain with you during the service.

As always, if you have any questions or need some help feel free to call the church at 540.992.3030 or email Erin or Pastor Justin.

ONLINE WORSHIP!

Every Sunday!

A Worship service is posted on Facebook and a link is Emailed @ 8:30.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study: The current study will end on February 24th. The next Women's Study will begin on Wednesday, March 10th at 11 am. The topic of the next study will be chosen soon.

BIBLE STUDY AT HOME

Reading the Bible: Daily scripture readings taken from the Common Lectionary are listed on the newsletter calendar.

Daily Devotions: The January/February Upper Room is available for pick-up at the church, please call before dropping by. If you can't come by a copy will be mailed to you, please contact the church (992-3030) to request one. If you do have a computer these are available daily online, just go to www.upperroom.org and click on the devotion. No need to sign up, just scroll down for the devotion.



SHROVE TUESDAY

Join TAME for a To-Go **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** on February 16th from 4:30-7 pm. Order your pancakes, sausage and fried apples either through our website or by calling the office (992-3030) and talking to our secretary, Becky. At your pick-up time your dinners will be brought directly to your car and a donation for TAME can be given. For more information contact Susan Wagner at susanbwagner59@gmail.com

EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a prayer request or would like to become a member of the email prayer chain, please contact Susan Wagner at susanbwagner59@gmail.com or 540-966-3629 if you don't have email. If you have sent prayer requests, please update us by sending an email to Susan.

GRIEFSHARE

Griefshare is a small video-based group that meets seasonally for 13 weeks. It is designed to help work through various stages of grief in a loving, supportive, Christ-centered environment. Using an abundance of caution, Griefshare will meet via Zoom instead of meeting in person. Griefshare will begin on February 4th so please register by January 31st. After registering, you will be contacted by one of our Griefshare leaders. Go to our website for registration:

<http://stmarksmethodist.com/healing-recovery/grief-share> .

BOTETOURT FOOD PANTRY

We continue to collect food for the Botetourt Food Pantry every Thursday. If you have any donations please bring them by and drop them into the box by the front door. As always, thank you to everyone for giving so generously to a worthy cause.

LET'S TAKE A JOYFUL JOURNEY

After dreaming through the White Star travel catalogs, Julia Greer and Nancy Craft have

chosen the following two trips for this summer. Full details, including the price (we are checking with busses) will be in the next newsletter. Save the date of June 16-18, 2021, to visit Ohio's Amish Country featuring 2 fantastic shows. Also save the date September 21-24 to travel to the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee featuring 4 spectacular shows. Of course we are hoping for it being safe to once again travel. We are staying positive that by these dates the covid-19 will no longer be such a threat. Take care, keep safe and healthy. Wear a mask, wash your hands, and socially distance. Blessings, Julia

TAME NEWS

TAME Updates: Since we are following Covid Protocol, we have not been able to do our usual Taste of Fall and Taste of Winter events to raise money That All May Eat. We are planning to do a meal packing in the fall and need to raise the funds to do that. You can make donations to TAME on the church website for now.

In May, you will have the opportunity to support the ministry by participating in a virtual Mother's Day Tea. Tea boxes will be prepared with four savory sandwiches, a scone with Devonshire Cream and several sweet treats as well as teabags of assorted flavored teas. On May 8th you can pick those boxes up at the church through a drive through experience. Depending on where we are with Covid at that time, you may choose to take the boxes and eat in person with your mother or deliver the box to your mother and Zoom with her as you eat the contents of the boxes together. Zoom instructions will be included in the boxes. The boxes must be preordered, so between now and May 8th, be looking for how you can order your boxes ahead of time.

UMM NEWS

The St. Marks Methodist Men will meet by Zoom until we can meet together. We plan to meet at our normal time, 7 pm on the second Monday of the month. We will have a devotional in addition to a discussion of any concerns. If you have not been getting our email and want to be included contact Justin White, Tom Wenrich, or the church office.



UMW NEWS

** FEBRUARY MEETING

** Due to the Virginia regulations of allowing only 10 people in a meeting and the ruling by our United Methodist Church Bishop, we cannot hold in-person meetings at this time. We will re-evaluate our meeting status each month as we continue into 2021 (based on the ever-changing Covid-19 conditions).

When we are able to meet again, we will celebrate with our annual observance of **A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Service** entitled, **She Leads: Empowering Women to Make a Difference**. We look forward to continuing our next 150 years of bold mission work.

Since we are not physically meeting, it is vital to stay connected to each other. We ask you to let us know what is happening in your lives as we move forward. Please email: **barbara.wiley12@gmail.com** -- or call: 992-4033. We want to share in your joys, praises, sorrow and prayer requests.



UMW READING PROGRAM

Making New Year's Resolutions? Now is the time to start reading and set a goal to complete a plan on the UMW Reading Program! You can easily do that by reading 1 book in each of the designated categories of Leadership Development, Spiritual Growth, Mission Education, Social Action and Nurturing. Easy checkout and many choices just waiting for you in our library located just off the right of the narthex. There are hard copy books, CD's and MP3's for adults and children! **You do NOT have to be a UMW member to check out books from this library.**

The purpose of the UMW Reading Program is to encourage us:

- to expand understanding of and participation in God's mission;
- to increase sensitivity to all human beings – their needs, interests, and concerns;
- to encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today;

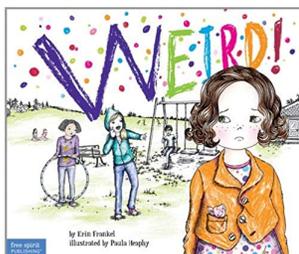
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to grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life;

If this peaks your interest, contact Linda Koloda (992-2744) for more information!

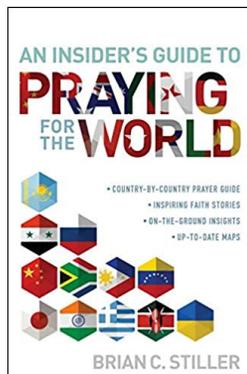


This author gives an unflinching and spirited look at the transitions of midlife. *When Did Everybody Else Get So Old?* plumbs the physical, spiritual, and emotional changes unique to the middle years: from the emptying nest to the physical effects of aging. Grant acknowledges the complexities and loss inherent in midlife and tells stories of sustaining disappointment, taking hard blows to the ego, undergoing a crisis of faith, and grieving the deaths not only of illusions but of loved ones. Yet she illuminates the confidence and grace that this season of life can also bring. Magnetic, good-humored, and full of hope in the sustaining power of the Spirit, this is a must-read for anyone facing the flux and flow of middle age. Available in hard copy.



Luisa is repeatedly teased and called "weird" by her classmate Sam, even though she is simply being herself—laughing with her friends, answering questions in class, greeting her father in Spanish, and wearing her favorite polka-

dot boots. Luisa initially reacts to the bullying by withdrawing and hiding her colorful nature. But with the support of her teachers, parents, classmates, and one special friend named Jayla, she is able to reclaim her color and resist Sam's put-downs. Available in hard copy and located in the children's section.



An Insider's Guide to Praying for the World includes country-specific insights calling us to a deeper understanding of the Christian church and witness. Each chapter also provides prayer challenges that come from believers in the country as well as maps and sample prayers. Nations from every

continent are included. Be inspired to learn about other lands--both familiar ones, such as China and Kenya, and ones you may know very little about, like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. But more important, take part in God's work by praying for the real needs of your brothers and sisters around the world.

Available in hard copy.



GREETINGS ALL!

American Red Cross Sign up NOW for the March 13 the blood drive to secure your favorite time slot. Don't worry if your plans change, just call us and we will adjust the schedule.

Watch the Red Cross website to sign up for the May 8 th blood drive. It should open soon. Other blood drives:

- July 10th
- September 11th
- November 6th

People who are healthy and have a mask are welcome to volunteer at each blood drive. We need workers for registration, taking temperatures, sanitizing tables, chairs and stations and signing up people for the next blood drive.

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS, visit RedCrossBlood.org or RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to schedule an appointment. Call Don or Susan Rose Ditzler to sign-up, volunteer or ask questions at 540-977-2675.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

Thanks from the Red Cross: many many thanks to everyone who donated blood at St. Mark's in January! Together everyone who donated gave a total of 45 pints! Thank you so much!!

A letter from Kathleen

Hello friends!

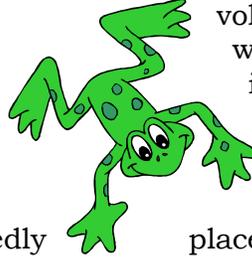
The year 2021 has certainly made a splash! How is everyone doing? Has anyone noticed how the days have begun to stay a little brighter just a little longer? If you're like me, this undoubtedly brings you hope of warmer brighter days to come. Winter is definitely not my favorite season, but I certainly honor the way it has a tendency to slow us down, rest, and reflect. The darkness and cold of winter remind us that there is also light and warmth. When we are in that place of darkness and cold, I am thankful that there is hope in Jesus' light and warmth. I am thankful for the ways God has moved others to bring light and warmth in to my life when the outside world feels dark and cold. Have you experienced this too? This month, as the days get a little longer, I encourage you and your families to reflect on how you have felt light and warmth during these winter months. Maybe share with one another what you hope to experience in the coming months!

Sending Love and Grace,

Kathleen

Upcoming Events:

Scripture Reading: I would like to get the kids more involved in our virtual worships. If any of your kids would like to read the scripture for virtual worship, please let me know!



Season of Lent: Children's activities to get involved in the Season of Lent are in the works! Keep your eye out for an email with information on how to get involved!

Zoom Hangouts will continue to take place every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 5-6 PM.

February Hangout dates: 2/14 – 2/28

SMUMC Children are welcome to join Kathleen and their church friends for virtual fun and fellowship.

A zoom invitation will be sent via email to families for their children to join.

*****FROG DOLLARS ARE BACK!*****

How to Earn FROG Dollars while participating in ZOOM Hangouts

- 1 🐸 : For showing up!
- 2 🐸 : For having your Bible with you
- 3 🐸 : For opening or closing the group in prayer
- 2 🐸 : Sharing with the group a "God Sighting" (How have you seen or felt God recently)
- 3 🐸 : For sharing with the group your favorite Bible story
- 4 🐸 : Talking with your Family about our "Exploration Question" (A question I will ask during our zoom hangout to spike curiosity about our Faith)

MASK MINISTRY

Our mask ministry continues to help slow the spread of COVID19! These faithful sew-ers have made and given away more than 2000 masks so far!! Isn't that amazing?? If you would like to donate homemade masks or fabric please contact Sherrie Andrews!

WE STILL HAVE PECANS!

These delicious pecans from Whaley's Pecan Company in Troy, Alabama, are packaged in 1 lb. bags -- halves or chopped. Cost: \$13 per pound. Be sure and get several bags for your baking and nibbling! They freeze well and last a long time. Contact Donna Henderson (992-5333) or Mona Tolley (992-3496) to get yours.





Hello everyone we are happy to hear about the start of the year! The Youth are currently working on a yearlong challenge of writing and sharing a positive thought/event or experience from this year each week. At

the end of the year we will reflect on all the positivity we have had in our year. So far our youth have shared how school and their sport events have been going. If you would like to join in spreading and sharing positivity this year please feel free to email us or post to our Facebook page to share with everyone!

We are working on ways to get involved with each other and I have asked the youth to share any sports events, live streams and activities they are a part of so we can all be involved.

We have our group devotionals and text messages, google handout and a video Skype at 7 pm Sunday, Feb 7th.

We are thankful for everyone who helped with the Christmas Lights! We are already thinking and planning for this year, so if you have any ideas or ways you would like to get involved please contact shipyardyouth@gmail.com.

We also would love to be in prayer with and for you, please feel free to email us (shipyardyouth@stmarksmethodist.com) or post to our Facebook page. We love and miss you all!



AND



ALL WHO CELEBRATE THIS MONTH!

Newsletter Deadline is 9 am the 20th of each month

Bulletin Deadline: Thurs. 9 AM

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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Kelly Berry: ShipyardYouth@gmail.com

February 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Psalm 35:1-10 Numbers 22:1-21 Acts 21:17-26	2 Psalm 35:1-10 Numbers 22:22-28 1 Corinthians 7:32-40	3 Psalm 35:1-10 Jeremiah 29:1-14 Mark 5:1-20	4 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c Proverbs 12:10-21 Galatians 5:2-15	5 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c Job 36:1-23 1 Corinthians 9:1-16	6 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c Isaiah 46:1-13 Matthew 12:9-14
7 <i>Drive thru Communion 11 am In-Person Service 9:15 am (Registration Required) Youth Group Skype 7 pm</i> Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39 <i>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	8 Psalm 102:12-28 2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37 Acts 14:1-7 <i>United Methodist Men Zoom Meeting 7 pm</i>	9 Psalm 102:12-28 2 Kings 8:1-6 Acts 15:36-41	10 Psalm 102:12-28 Job 6:1-13 Mark 3:7-12	11 Psalm 50:1-6 1 Kings 11:26-40 2 Corinthians 2:12-17	12 Psalm 50:1-6 1 Kings 14:1-18 1 Timothy 1:12-20	13 Psalm 50:1-6 1 Kings 16:1-7 Luke 19:41-44
14 In-Person Service 9:15 am (Registration Required) <i>Children's Zoom Hangout 5-6 pm</i> 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i>	15 Psalm 110:1-4 Exodus 19:7-25 Hebrews 2:1-4	16 Psalm 110:1-4 Job 19:23-27 1 Timothy 3:14-16 Shrove Tuesday To-Go Pancake Dinner see ad	17 Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Ash Wednesday	18 Psalm 25:1-10 Daniel 9:1-14 1 John 1:3-10	19 Psalm 25:1-10 Daniel 9:15-25a 2 Timothy 4:1-5	20 Psalm 25:1-10 Psalm 32 Matthew 9:2-13
21 In-Person Service 9:15 am (Registration Required) Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	22 Psalm 77 Job 4:1-21 Ephesians 2:1-10	23 Psalm 77 Job 5:8-27 1 Peter 3:8-18a	24 Psalm 77 Proverbs 30:1-9 Matthew 4:1-11	25 Psalm 22:23-31 Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18 Romans 3:21-31	26 Psalm 22:23-31 Genesis 16:1-6 Romans 4:1-12	27 Psalm 22:23-31 Genesis 16:7-15 Mark 8:27-30
28 In-Person Service 9:15 am (Registration Required) <i>Children's Zoom Hangout 5-6 pm</i> Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>						