



NEWSLETTER • JANUARY 2026 • VOL. 24, NO. 1



Family of St. Mark's,

A Note
From Pastor Samuel

Are you interested in reading the Bible in a year? If you haven't done it before, maybe this is the year to do so! To become better disciples of Jesus Christ, God's Word should be foundational in our lives. How can we live something out that we haven't read before? Here are a few resources that I recommend to make this monumental task a little more manageable.

1. The YouVersion Bible App: There are several curated plans to read the Bible in a year, all on your phone! Whether you want to read cover-to-cover (I do not recommend this), take it a few books at a time, or find a topical study to help you understand the context or ways to apply scripture to your life, this is a free resource with something you already carry around.
2. A physical Bible-In-A-Year book: There are many of these with different layouts and styles, and can be good if you are looking for a tangible resource to keep you accountable. One pick I have used is called The Message: Remix written by Eugene Peterson, which actually gives you a day off as a sabbath!
3. The M'Cheyne Reading Plan: Robert Murray M'Cheyne was a Scottish minister from the early 1800s. In trying to help his congregation learn the Bible more effectively, he created a reading plan with four parts: two for family devotionals and two for personal study. In following his plan, you get little pieces from all over the Bible, rather than slogging through Deuteronomy and Leviticus in March, or finishing Revelation in December.

While there are many, many resources to use, these three are ones that I have used in the past and have found effective. Want to learn more? Come and join us at our Wednesday Bible Study, restarting on January 14th at Mill Mountain Coffee!

Merry Christmastide/Epiphanytide, depending when you read this!

Rev. Samuel R. Plymale

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS	2 - 4
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	4
YOUTH MINISTRY	5
BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES	5

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.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Norman & Nancy Craft, Lois and John Bittner, Len Miller, Bettie Miller, Pat Roberts, Suzi Kessler, Lewis Bourne, Hiawatha Nicely, Boris & Linda Koloda, Tom Flinchum, Dan Rose, Art Caffee, Helene DeVries, Dave & Nancy Hamblin, Marjory Sue Watson, Phyllis Simmons, Joyce McCall, Mary Falls, Lorraine Eisner, Irene Davis, Eleanor Sink, the family of Ed Noell. Please let us know of anyone else to add to this list.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The next blood drive will be Saturday, January 3, 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).

ST. MARK'S LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION

On Sunday, January 11th we will celebrate the Leadership of the Laity for 2026. There will be a "Blessing of the Leaders" at the 10:00 Service. After the Service, rather than having Sunday School, there will be a Brunch and Leadership Program in the Fellowship Hall. Children's Sunday school will still be held downstairs as usual. The Program will be presented by Susan Wagner, our Administrative Council Chair. It will be from the book by Bishop, Robert Schnase, entitled "Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation." Some of you may be familiar with this book. There was a big interest in it in all UMC Churches for a while. It is a great inspiration to all churches and worthy of a comeback. If you plan to come for brunch, please RSVP to Susan Wagner by January 5th. [Susanbwagner59@gmail.com](mailto:susanbwagner59@gmail.com).

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on January 29, 2026 at 1pm.

GRIEFSHARE MINISTRY

COME ONE, COME ALL! GriefShare is a Christian based program that helps people survive the journey of grief. There are many different opportunities for you to get involved in supporting this important ministry. Come to find out how you can help us grow and improve on January 8 at 10:00 am in the conference room.

ST. MARK'S MEN

The St. Marks Men's Fellowship will meet on Monday, January 12 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will continue to have discussion and view Ray Vander Lann videos.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will begin Tuesday, January 13th at 10:00 in the Conference Room. We will be doing another Melissa Spoelstra study. This one is on the book of Acts. If you would like to join us, please contact Susan Wagner at susanbwagner59@gmail.com by January 1, so we have time to order the books.

BUCHANAN FOOD PANTRY

On January 24th, St. Mark's will serve at the Buchanan Food Pantry from 9 to 11 am. Please let Nancy Womack know if you are able to help by calling (540)992-1747 or texting to (540)798-5706. All are welcome. We are planning to eat at The Foot of the Mountain after.

LOA DINER'S CLUB

Start 2026 off by joining The Local Office on Aging (LOA) Daleville Diners Club. We gather each month to learn a little, laugh a little, eat a little, and most importantly be a Social Senior! Our next meeting is at 11:00 on Tuesday, January 6th at St. Marks. We will have a guest speaker from Roanoke's Wellness Wagon- **The Calm Clinic and Caravan**- A Mobile Wellness Acupuncture & Acupressure Clinic. Come and learn a little about these ancient practices, as well as holistic healing. You can even try it yourself or just learn about their other services.

Let's work on a healthier US in 2026! For our first lunch of the year, LOA will provide salad fixings and you can bring your beverage and favorite dressing. Please join us and RSVP @ 540-580-5085 or mminnick@loaa.org.

KROGER COMMUNITY CARES PROGRAM

St. Mark's latest Kroger check has arrived. The total amount of **\$210.90** has been deposited into our Building Fund. We have **62 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.

JOYFUL JOURNEYS

All Joyful Journey Travels for 2026 are on the church website stmarksmethodist.com and also flyers are on the bulletin board at the church. Registration forms will be available soon. The trips are:

- Baltimore & Annapolis, MD April 13-16, \$505 per person, double occupancy \$664 per person single occupancy
- Sights & Sounds of Lancaster PA, June 15-17, \$585 per person, double occupancy \$784 per person single occupancy, featuring "Joshua" at the Sight & Sound Theater. White Star has reserved 45 seats for Julia Greer's group as the show has sold out for 2026. The first 45 people who register and pay in full will be guaranteed a seat. After that you may request to be put on a waiting list.
- Wheeling, West Virginia Festival of Lights Nov. 9 -11 \$554 per person double occupancy, \$743 per person single occupancy

All details are on the flyers on the church website and the Joyful Journey Travels bulletin board at the church. The church is only open Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday from 9:00 am -noon. Call the church office before going 540-992- 3030 . You may also call Julia Greer at 540-330-7933 (no texts please). If I do not answer please leave your name and phone number and I will call you back.

We are hoping you will take a JOYFUL JOURNEY with us in 2026. These trips are an outreach ministry of St. Mark's UMC in Daleville, Va. to provide safe, affordable, and fun overnight trips geared to older adults but any age is welcome.

GIVING TREE THANK YOU

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH wish to thank our St Mark's family for your overwhelming generosity! We collected all the gifts on our adopted families Christmas wish list. All the donated gifts were wrapped and delivered to Botetourt Resource Center on Friday December 12. This family will have a very Merry Christmas because of you.

A special thank you to those who came, after a very challenging week of snow and cancellation, and wrapped the many gifts! God has richly blessed us all through providing for this family.

PECANS

Our annual Pecan Order from Whaley Pecan Company in Troy, Alabama, has arrived! They are delicious as always and are great for baking, munching , and sharing. What A Great Gift! They are packaged in 1 lb. bags in halves or chopped. Cost: \$15 per pound. Be sure to get yours to keep on hand all year by contacting the Church Office or Mona Tolley.

UWF NEWS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S PARTY:

Monday, January 5 This is the happiest time of the New Year -- our Annual "Get-Together" Party !! ALL St. Mark's Women are invited to join us! Remember: What happens at the Party, stays at the Party! Join us at Bellacinos on Monday, January 5 at 11:30 AM. As you arrive, please place your food order and then head over to the Party Room. After our meal, we will enjoy lively conversation and our White Elephant Exchange.

WHITE ELEPHANT EXCHANGE: If you wish to participate following our Party, bring a wrapped -- funny or not -- item that we will exchange with each other. So scour your home, garage, and basement -- or purchase a funny gift. Value: \$10 or less. Let's see what "treasures" we will all bring and exchange for another wonderful gift.

OFFICE HOURS

The week of January 12, the church office will be open Monday 1/12 and Friday 1/16.

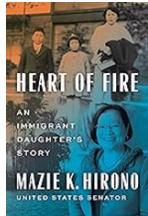
UWF READING PROGRAM

The Reading Program is a cherished United Women in Faith tradition that brings women together as they explore and discuss the written word. You are invited to pick up a book from the library, read/listen, stop and wonder, maybe even journal what moves your soul. Read/listen to the books that are right up your alley and then maybe one or two that are beyond your comfort zone! As you begin your Reading Program journey this year, know we are praying for you along the way -that it will nourish your soul, strengthen your understanding and equip each of you for the work the Spirit has placed in your heart. Some recommended books in the library are below. Any questions, feel free to contact Linda Koloda (992-2744)



Black Was the Ink – Novel After escalating violence in his D.C. neighborhood, 16-year-old Malcolm is shipped off by his mother to his father's family farm in Mississippi. Malcolm is anything but pleased. Then he encounters the ghost of his ancestor, Cedric Johnson, and journeys to 1866. As Cedric, Malcolm meets the real-life Black statesmen who fought for change during the Reconstruction era and made American history. But even after witnessing their bravery, Malcolm's faith in his own future remains shaky, particularly since he knows the gains these statesmen made were almost immediately stripped away. Malcolm must decide which path to take. Can Cedric's experiences help him construct a better future? Or will Malcolm resign himself to resentment and defeat?
Social Action Hard Copy

Heart Of Fire: An Immigrant Daughter's Story



In this intimate and inspiring life story, Mazie Hirono shares her experience as the first Asian American woman and the only immigrant serving in the U.S. Senate. Raised on a rice farm in rural Japan,

Hirono was seven years old when her mother left her abusive husband and sailed with her two elder children to Hawaii, crossing the Pacific in steerage in search of a better life. Though Hirono did not speak or read English when she entered first grade, she would go on

to serve as a state representative and as Hawaii's lieutenant governor before winning election to Congress in 2006. *Leadership Development* Hard Copy



Something Happened in Our Town

From three psychologists involved in community advocacy efforts focused on children's behavioral health and social justice comes this New York Times and #1 Indie bound bestseller centered on two families—one White, one Black—as they discuss a police shooting of a Black man in their community. The story aims to answer children's questions about such traumatic events and to help children identify and counter racial injustice in their own lives. *Nurturing* Hard Copy Children's Section

DOWN AT THE POND

Children's Ministries



ST. MARK'S SAFER SANCTUARIES TRAINING EVENT

Safer Sanctuaries Training will be held on Sunday, January 18th at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please come and learn more about our new Child, Youth and At-Risk Adult Protection Policy. This training is important to keep everyone safe at church, including all our volunteers. Anyone who works with children, youth and our elderly or shut-ins and has not received this training in the past three years is required to attend! If you are in need of childcare, please let Lee Ann know, NO LATER THAN January 11th. If you plan to attend or have questions, please contact her at 540-580-3905 or by email: leeanncritz@yahoo.com

JUMP INTO FROGS & TADPOLES IN JANUARY

FROGS and Tadpoles will resume on Sunday, January 25th from 4 to 6 pm! We will have PAJAMA NIGHT!! WEAR YOUR PAJAMAS, ROBES, and SLIPPERS!! We will have pizza for dinner that night and watch a movie and eat popcorn! We will also be learning about Jesus in the Temple. Please come and bring a friend!

** FROG/Tadpole Leaders, please note that your Leader information will be given out on January 18th during church. Please see Lee Ann for your packet.



The youth are kicking off the new year with two important gatherings — January 11th and January 25th — and we'd love for all our youth to be part of what's ahead.

On January 11th, we'll have a special dinner and focus on planning as we look towards the year ahead. The youth will have a voice in shaping upcoming events, service opportunities, and activities, helping us build a year that's engaging, meaningful, and fun.

Then, on January 25th, we'll begin a new Bible study, *What Does God Want?* by Michael Heiser. This study invites youth to explore God's purpose for His people and what faithful living looks like in today's world.

We're excited about what God has in store this year and hope you'll join us as we grow in faith and community together.



TO ALL WHO CELEBRATE THIS MONTH

Newsletter Deadline is 9 am the 20th of each month	E-mail: Rev. Samuel Plymale: samuelplymale@vaumc.org
Bulletin Deadline: Thurs. 9 AM	Amanda Dillard: stmarksumcdaleville@gmail.com
St. Mark's United Methodist Church	Lee Ann Critz: leeanncritz@yahoo.com
19 Cedar Ridge Drive Daleville, VA 24083	Jessica Graham: jessicagraham109@gmail.com
Phone: 540-992-3030	Deborah Wiley: dwiley4music@gmail.com
	Website: www.stmarksmethodist.com

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)

January 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2	3 Red Cross Blood Drive 8-1 Al-Anon 1pm
4 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am <i>Epiphany Sunday</i>	5 Pickleball 5pm - 7 pm UWF 11:30 at Bellacinos NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7pm	6 LOA Diner's Club 11 am Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	7 AA Meeting 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	8 GriefShare Meeting 10 am Trustees 6:30pm	9	10 Al-Anon 1 pm
11 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am Youth 4-6 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i>	12 Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm St. Mark's Men 7pm	13 Women's Bible Study 10 am Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	14 Pastor's Bible Study 11am AA Meeting 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	15	16	17 Al-Anon 1 pm
18 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am Safer Sanctuaries Training 12pm <i>2nd Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	19 Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm	20 Women's Bible Study 10 am Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	21 Pastor's Bible Study 11am AA Meeting 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	22	23	24 Buchanan Food Pantry 8:30 Al-Anon 1 pm
25 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am FROGs and Tadpoles 4-6 Youth 4-6 <i>3rd Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	26 Pickleball 5pm - 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm	27 Women's Bible Study 10 am Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	28 Pastor's Bible Study 11am AA Meeting 3 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Youth Lock in 7pm	29 Prayer Shawl 1pm	30	31 Al-Anon 1 pm