

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER ♦ JULY 2026 ♦ VOL. 24, NO. 7



The Argument Against Ordinary Time II: What Comes Next?

Family of St. Mark's,

Last month, I wrote about why Ordinary Time should be called Pentecostide. Still, in our United Methodist tradition, we have a history of dividing the year into two phases! The second phase of the largest season of the Christian year is called Kingdomtide, and while it has taken a step back, I would like to explain why I think it is still important in our Christian life.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus calls for His Disciples and the world to hear that the, "Kingdom," has come near! Whether the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven, we are commissioned by Jesus to show the world that God not only created us, but dwells among us, and is calling us to be servants of love, service, and hospitality.

A kingdom is a completely different governmental system than we are used to in the United States. Rather than being focused inwardly on our own personal freedoms, abilities, and possessions, we are called to look outward to the rulings of The Triune God, the only Ruler in existence to ever give His Son in exchange for the crimes of His people (Phil. 2:5-11). In being part of the Kingdom, we recognize that we are a thread in the tapestry of creation, and through cooperation, unity, and abundant love, we see glimpses of the glorious place that has been completed in the final victory over sin and death.

The line on when Pentecostide ends, and Kingdomtide begins is a blurry one, beginning somewhere between the end of July and the middle of August. For me, this is a reminder that the Holy Spirit, given to us from Jesus Christ, calls us to be present, aware, and listening for how we may serve this weary world and community. Like in any aspect of life, there is a time for reflection and planning, but there is also a time for doing. May our Kingdomtide at St. Mark's be a radical time of service to the least-of-these, a continued strengthening of our fellowship, and an open invitation to the world that we are one people from different walks of life, but united by one cross.

In His Service,

Rev. Samuel R. Plymale, Senior Pastor

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TRUSTEE UPDATE

The Trustees are pleased to share several updates with the congregation and to invite everyone to be part of an important upcoming church fundraiser.

On **Saturday, July 25**, the Trustees will host a **Yard Sale and Bake Sale**. Our goal is to raise **\$5,000**. Funds raised will help with the cost of the new air conditioner that was needed for the infant and toddler rooms, as well as future capital improvements, CIP funds, and the Endowment Funds, all of which support the General Budget. We will need many helping hands to make this event a success. Donations of items for the yard sale, baked goods for the bake sale, and items for the concession stand would be greatly appreciated. Volunteer help will also be needed before, during, and after the sale. Please see the attached forms for donation information and volunteer opportunities. These forms are also available in the narthex.

The Trustees also want to share the following updates:

- The annual accessibility survey required by the Conference was completed by Mark Ashby and Pastor Samuel.
- Kathy Beard and Clayton Williams from the Trustees, Neil Norris from PPR, and church members Elizabeth Gilbert and Barbara Wiley completed the annual inspection of the parsonage. Some minor repair items were noted and are being addressed. Elizabeth is heading up a garden and bush improvement effort at the parsonage. If anyone would like to help with that project, please let her know. A new dishwasher was also needed and was purchased through a generous donation by a church member. Neil and Clayton cleaned out the gutters. Some electrical work still needs to be done, new ceiling fans in the bedrooms need to be installed, and the windows need new screens. If anyone would like to help with these projects, please let Samuel, Clayton, or Kathy know.
- The new security lock system has been installed. Many thanks to Dwight Gay, Fred Mattern, Gilbert Armour, Terry Tolley, Bob Wagner, Dale Beard, Darian Shields, & the ladies of the church who provided lunches for the volunteers. We are grateful for the time, skill, and care given to this important project.

- New lights have been installed in the ladies' room and the hallway. Thank you to Bob Wagner and Clayton Williams for their work on this improvement.
 - Mark Ashby is heading up the lawn mowing project and is very thankful for the volunteers who are helping with that. More volunteers are always welcome, even if you can help only one or two times this summer. Every bit of help lightens the load.
 - Fred Mattern and Terry Tolley led the repairs of the furnace in the Family Life Center. They are grateful to all the volunteers who helped with that work.
 - Thank you also to members of the congregation who have made donations in the Trustee Box in the Narthex to help offset the cost of consumable supplies needed in the church and in the kitchens. Your generosity is appreciated.
 - We are also looking for a **green 6-foot ladder** that was loaned to the church by a church member during the lock installation. If anyone knows where it may have been stored, please help us get it returned.
 - Finally, new forms for Building Use, Supply Orders, Reimbursement, and Repair Requests have been prepared and are located outside the church office. Please check with the office if you are interested in using the Family Life Center or other church rooms for family events or special occasions.
- The Trustees are grateful for the many people who quietly give their time, talents, and resources to care for our church. Thank you for helping keep our church facilities safe, welcoming, and ready for ministry.

CHURCH HISTORY TEAM

We would like to form a team that will meet once a month to explore and discuss the rich history of St. Mark's as well as plan for the upcoming 60th anniversary of our church. Through fellowship, study, and shared learning, the team will help preserve our heritage, deepen our understanding of God's work, and encourage future generations to appreciate the legacy of faith entrusted to us. If you're interested please contact Ian Graham at (808)557-7199 or patriotagrr@gmail.com

FAMILY RETREAT

Our Intergenerational Family Retreat is coming July 10–12. **This retreat is for everyone—individuals and families of all ages are welcome.** Children must be accompanied by at least one adult. Register at www.stmarksmethodist.com or pick up a form from the bulletin board. Completed forms may be placed in Susan Wagner’s box outside the church office.

“Growing Together in Faith” Retreat
Schedule: Friday, July 10 – 6:00 PM Family Meal, opening in the Sanctuary, activities based on *The Parable of the Sower*, and 8:00 PM closing worship. Saturday, July 11 – 3:00 PM opening in the Sanctuary, games, activities, and story time (separate for adults and children), 5:00 PM family meal, and 5:30 PM “Journey to the Cross.” Sunday, July 12 – 10:00 AM worship (no Sunday School), followed by a 11:00 AM potluck in the Family Life Center (church provides chicken; please bring a side or dessert). **The Potluck is open to everyone in the church; we will NOT be holding any Sunday School classes that day. Please use the sign up in the narthex to RSVP how many are coming and what you will bring. Sign ups close July 3rd.** Retreat Fellowship continues at Roaring Run with fishing, hiking, and games. Please bring a chair and a yard or board game.

Retreat volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for the following:

July 10: Opening Skit-No line memorization or practices. Meal Help Art Leader to help with painted flower pots

July 11: Help with Meal, Teacher for Adults, Helper for Children’s session, Help set up closing worship- “Journey to the Cross”

July 12: Set up tables for pot luck, Help with pot luck, Clean up from pot luck

TAME

Thank you to everyone who donated to TAME this year. We have met our goal of \$4100. This is the amount needed to fund our September 19th Meal Packing. Any donations past this amount will go to next year’s donations.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

There will not be a July or August meeting for Prayer Shawl. Meetings resume on September 24 at 1:00 in the fellowship hall.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The St. Mark's men's fellowship will meet Monday, July 13 in the fellowship hall at 7 pm. We will continue our discussions and study of Ray Vander Lann videos.

JOYFUL JOURNEYS

JOYFUL JOURNEY TRAVELS has one more 3 days - 2 nights trip for 2026. To get in the Christmas spirit we will be traveling to Wheeling, West Virginia, to celebrate the FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS. The cost is \$554 per person double occupancy and \$743 per person single occupancy. The package includes: 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, including a Holiday Dinner Show, Oglebay Park Festival of Lights Tour, Colonel Ogelbay's Mansion Museum, Winter Fantasy Displays, The Glass Museum and Artisan Center, Tour of West Virginia Independence Hall, Kruger Street Toy and Train Museum, Souvenir Gift, Luggage Handling, Taxes and Meal Gratuities, Motorcoach Transportation and Driver's Tip. For information and Reservations contact JOYFUL JOURNEY - ST. MARK'S UMC, Julia Greer, 19 Cedar Ridge Dr. Daleville, VA. 24083 (540-330-7933). No texts please. Leave your name and phone number and Julia will return your call. Trip details can also be found on the church website stmarksmethodist.com. We hope that you will join us in this celebration preparing for Christmas. Blessings, Julia Greer.

SAVE THE DATE

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

PECANS

We still have some pecans available for purchase. Get them now for all your summer baking needs!

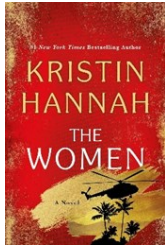
UWF READING PROGRAM



Getting ready to go on vacation? Don't forget to pick up some books from The **United Women in Faith Library!** Contact Linda Koloda 540-353-7117 with questions about the Reading Program.



THE LUCKY ONES This compelling historical fiction account tells the story of 11-year-old Ellis Earl Brown who lives in the Mississippi Delta in 1967. Ellis Earl works hard in school and has big dreams, planning to grow up to become a teacher or a lawyer so his mama won't have to work as a maid and there will always be enough food in the icebox. But when Mama tells Ellis Earl that he might need to quit school to help support the family, he wonders if happy endings are only possible in storybooks. A gripping story about racism, poverty, and the power of community to help lift people up. Education Hard Copy



THE WOMEN: A NOVEL This celebrated novel is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country have too often been forgotten. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, Frances "Frankie"

McGrath joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path. A #1 New York Times, USA Today, Washington Post, and Los Angeles Times bestseller, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era. Nurturing Hard Copy CD (V) (L)



ECHOES OF GRACE This triumphant new novel explores sisterhood, family secrets, inter-generational trauma, life, and love in a modern Gothic setting with a magical realist twist. In Eagle Pass, Texas, Grace struggles to understand the echoes she inherited from her mother's visions, which often distort her reality. One morning, a disturbing echo takes hold of Grace, and tragedy strikes. As Grace's echoes bring ghosts and premonitions, they also bring memories of when Grace fled to Mexico to the house of her maternal grandmother—a woman who Grace had been told died long ago. Will piecing together the truth heal her, or will the echoes destroy everything she holds dear? Social Action Hard Copy



UNTIL SOMEONE LISTENS: A STORY ABOUT BORDERS, FAMILY AND ONE GIRL'S MISSION When Estela Juarez was eight, her mother was deported to Mexico. This heart-wrenching, autobiographical story shares how, in Estela's own words,

Estela learns to find her voice and use it to make change. She wrote letters to local newspapers, Congress, the president, and anyone else who could help. She wrote and wrote and wrote until, finally, someone listened. Leadership Hard Copy Children's Section



THE GIFT OF THE UNEXPECTED: DISCOVERING WHO YOU WERE MEANT TO BE WHEN LIFE GOES OFF PLAN What if the unexpected is the beginning of becoming your truest self? In this book, former journalist and news anchor Jillian Benfield addresses how receiving a life-altering

diagnosis for her unborn son changed her in ways she couldn't have imagined. Overcoming this unexpected circumstance wasn't an option. She would have to undergo it instead. In doing so, she discovered who she was and who God wanted her to become. Spiritual Growth Hard Copy CD



United Women in Faith

UWF NEWS

At our **JUNE** meeting, we welcomed our speaker, **Keith Farmer, Director of Straight Street in Downtown Roanoke.** The Mission and Purpose of **Straight Street** is to provide a Christian environment where at-risk youth can go and obtain necessary skills and training needed to mature and to discover God's Divine plan for their lives. Mr. Farmer also shared information on the **Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center**, located in Blue Ridge in Botetourt County. We followed with lunch and concluded with our business meeting and prayer concerns.

JULY : Summer Break -- We will resume regular meetings in September.



AUGUST : We will enjoy lunch out and no business meeting. As always, All Ladies are invited to join us!



The youth are kicking off the month on our summer mission trip to Nashville, and are scheduled to return on Friday 7/3. We will continue our *What Does God Want?* Bible study throughout the summer during Sunday School. We will not meet for Sunday School on July 12th and will attend the potluck lunch with our church family.

Looking ahead, we will plan an end of summer pool party in August; be on the lookout for a BAND post to sign up.

Also, we will host our next Spaghetti Lunch on Sunday August 30th following Sunday School.



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</p> <p>19 Cedar Ridge Drive Daleville, VA 24083</p> <p>Phone: 540-992-3030</p>	<p>E-mail: Rev. Samuel Plymale: samuelplymale@vaumc.org</p> <p>Amanda Dillard: stmarksumcdaleville@gmail.com</p> <p>Lee Ann Critz: leeanncritz@yahoo.com</p> <p>Jessica Graham: jessicagraham109@gmail.com</p> <p>Deborah Wiley: dwiley4music@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: www.stmarksmethodist.com</p>
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<p>Office Hours: Amanda is in the office Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9:30-12:00.</p> <p>Lee Ann is usually in her office on Wednesdays and Thursdays beginning at 9 am.</p> <p>Pastor Samuel is in office Tuesdays . He is also regularly available by text (434-218-2688) and email (samuelplymale@vaumc.org)</p>
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July 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1		1 Pastor's Bible Study 11am AA Meeting 3 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	2	3	4 Al-Anon 1pm
5 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am <i>6th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	6 Pickleball 5-7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm	7 Boy Scouts 7pm	8 Pastor's Bible Study 11am AA Meeting 3 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm Boy Scouts 7pm AA Meeting 7 pm	9	10 Family Retreat 6pm	11 Al-Anon 1 pm Family Retreat 3pm
12 Worship 10 am Church Pot Luck 11 am <i>Family Retreat 2pm</i> <i>7th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	13 Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm St. Mark's Men 7pm	14 Women's Bible Study 10am Boy Scouts 7pm	15 Pastor's Bible Study 11am AA Meeting 3 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	16 Shepherding Committee 1pm	17	18 Al-Anon 1 pm
19 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am Yard Sale Donation drop off 11am -12 pm <i>8th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	20 Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7pm	21 Boy Scouts 7pm Yard Sale Donation drop off 10am-12pm	22 Pastor's Bible Study 11 am AA Meeting 3 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm Yard Sale Donation drop off 1pm-3pm	23 Yard Sale Donation drop off 6pm-8pm	24 Yard sale set up	25 Yard Sale 8-2pm Al-Anon 1 pm
26 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am <i>9th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	27 Pickleball 5pm - 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm	28 Boy Scouts 7pm	29	30		