

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER ♦ JUNE 2026 ♦ VOL. 24, NO. 6



The Argument Against Ordinary Time:

From Pastor Samuel Family of St. Mark's,

Welcome to the longest season of the Christian year! During the summer months, we are called to follow Christ through His Gospel message, and like the plants of the field, to grow and be nurtured by His curation. Traditionally, the name of this season has been called, "Ordinary Time," meaning, "in sequence," or, "numbered," but as United Methodists, I believe we should return back to using our two signature season names: Pentecostide and Kingdomtide! Here's why:

Words change over time, and their meanings can become muddled. For example, did you know that, "silly," used to mean, "holy/blessed?" Some of our earliest English veneration call Mary, the Mother of Jesus, "silly," which stems from the Old English word of, "saelig," which still means innocent/blessed in other languages, such as German and Swedish. However, in English, it transitioned into harmless, then into naive, and finally into foolish under the pen of Shakespeare. It's the same reason that when something is terrible, we don't suddenly bow down in reverence, or when something is lame we don't rush to get the wheelchair. The word, "ordinary," has become that, just... bleh. Regular, basic, to-be-expected. Its original intention was to grow upon itself, that each lesson we learn would be applied to the last, and help us grow as better disciples alongside the harvest in the fields.

Pentecost, despite being such an important holiday for Christians, has lost its effectiveness in our modern church world. The Holy Spirit lives on our branding as United Methodists, but we truly only give it one day of the year? Like Eastertide, Christmastide, Adventide, and Epiphanytide, we are called to hold the power of Our Lord each and every day of our lives, not just when the calendar says so. How would your life look different if you recognized that the Holy Spirit burns brightly inside you, calling you to share in love, charity, and forgiveness in our world today?

We United Methodists have another season, which I'll explain in our next newsletter, called Kingdomtide. Come back next month to learn more!

Merry Pentecostide,

Rev. Samuel R. Plymale, Senior Pastor

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WORDS OF GRATITUDE

I would like to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, calls, gifts, food and visits during the hospitalization and passing of my husband Kenny. Your kindness came at a time when we were at our lowest and it was very appreciated.

Thank You, Becky Arthur

ANNUAL YARD SALE

The church yard sale will be Saturday, July 25 from 8am-2pm. We'll need many volunteers to help with accepting donations and sorting through everything the week of July 19. Please contact Kathy Beard at khbeard@yahoo.com if you'd like to help.

FAMILY VBS

We are trying something different from our regular VBS this year. We will host a Family Retreat, "Growing Together in Faith", on the weekend of July 10-12 and everyone is invited. You don't have to bring children to come. There will be intergenerational activities for all ages.

It will begin with a family meal at 6:00 on Friday, July 10th and intergenerational family activities centered around the "Parable of the Sower."

On Saturday, July 11th, we will reconvene at 3:00pm for more intergenerational faith activities centered around the theme of "Growing Together in Faith". We will eat a meal together at 5:00 and have a closing intergenerational service at 5:30.

On Sunday, June 12th, we will conclude our family retreat with, "Growing Together" fun. Following the 10:00 Service, everyone is invited to a potluck lunch and an afternoon of family fun at Carvin's Cove.

This is a Family VBS. All are welcome. **Children must attend all events with their family unit.** Save the dates and talk it up with the families you know. There are registration forms on the bulletin board outside the Conference Room. Pick some up and give them to people who might attend or register on our church website stmarksmethodist.com

GRADUATES

- Mia Williams graduated from James River High School on May 19, 2026. Mia will attend Virginia Tech in the Fall.
- Bob and Martha Edwards' granddaughter, Rachel Nicole Edwards, graduated with honors from Hollins University on May 17, 2026.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 1pm.

MOWING TEAMS NEEDED

We currently need additional mowing teams to help care for the church grounds. All equipment is provided, and the more teams we have, the less frequently each team will need to mow. If you're interested or would like more information, please contact Mark Ashby at markashby@cox.net.

BUCHANAN FOOD PANTRY

The St. Mark's Buchanan food pantry team will serve on June 27th from 8:30 - 11:00. If you would like to join us or you have questions, please be in touch with Nancy Womack by calling (540)992-1747 or texting to (540)798-5706.

JOYFUL JOURNEYS

There is still time to catch the bus to see JOSHUA at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. June 15-17. \$585 per person double occupancy, \$784 for a single. Full details of the trip are on the Joyful Journey Travels bulletin board at St. Mark's UMC in Daleville or at stmarksmethodist.com. You may also call Julia Greer at 540-330-7933. Please leave your name and number and she will return your call.

Joyful Journey Travels of St. Mark's is also sponsoring a trip to Wheeling, **West Virginia Festival of Lights Nov. 9-11.** \$554 per person double occupancy \$734 for a single. Included in the cost is 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, including a Holiday Dinner Show, Oglebay Park Festival of Lights Tour, Colonel Oglebay's Mansion Museum, Winter Fantasy Displays, the Glass Museum & Artisan Center, Tour of West Virginia Independence Hall, Kruger Street Toy and Train Museum, Souvenir gift, Luggage handling, Taxes & Meal gratuities, Motorcoach transportation, and Driver's tip.

SAVE THE DATE

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

KROGER COMMUNITY CARES

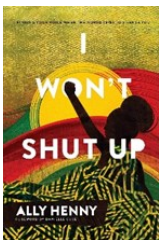
Support our building fund by designating St. Mark's to receive \$ each time you make a purchase at Kroger. You may sign up to have your purchases at Kroger be part of their community cares donation to St. Mark's by calling 1-800-576-4377. Listen for prompt 3, Community Rewards. You only have to give your name, address, phone number, and Kroger card number. St. Mark's UMC in Daleville will be the recipient. The church number is TE560. No computer necessary but it can also be done online or in the Kroger App. Questions, contact Julia Greer at 540-330-7933.

PECANS

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

UWF READING PROGRAM

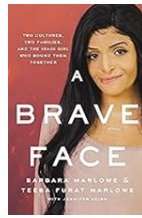
The **United Women in Faith Reading Program** offers a perfect opportunity for summertime reading, engagement, and spiritual growth. The program provides books for all ages—including adults, youth, and children—across five key categories: **Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth.** The library is located just off the right of narthex. **Summer Spotlight Theme:** Reading for growth and mission **Challenge Yourself:** Aim to read one book from each of the five categories. Contact Linda Koloda 540-992-2744 with any questions about the Reading Program.



I WON'T SHUT UP: FINDING YOUR VOICE WHEN THE WORLD TRIES TO SILENCE YOU

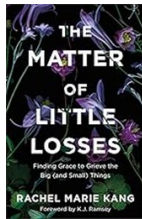
White cultural norms. White beauty standards. White noise. To all of this and more, Ally Henry is here to say, “No. I am a loud Black woman, and I won’t shut up.”

A writer, speaker, advocate-minister, and vice president of The Witness: A Black Christian Collective, Henry tells her own story of finding her voice, pushing back against oppression, and embracing her unique perspective. And she invites readers to find their voice in a world that tries to silence so many. *Leadership* Hard Copy



A BRAVE FACE: TWO CULTURES, TWO FAMILIES AND THE LITTLE GIRL WHO BOUGHT THEM TOGETHER

The inspirational story of an American woman who moved mountains to secure medical treatments—and eventually a home—for a young Iraqi girl severely burned in a roadside terror attack. This is a story of the astonishing power of self-sacrificial love. *Nurturing* Hard Copy and MP3



THE MATTER OF LITTLE LOSSES: FINDING GRACE TO GRIEVE THE BIG (AND SMALL) THINGS

In this compassionate and deeply personal book, Rachel Marie Kang invites readers to see and be seen in the midst of sorrow and suffering. Through prose and poetry that gives voice to all the things we lose along the way, this gracious book helps readers ponder loss without judgment, remember what was, make meaning of memories, and reflect on what is yet to be to heal with hope. As Kang notes, you don’t have to bury your pain, and you don’t have to pretend you’re over it just because the world thinks you should be. *Spiritual Growth* Hard Copy

SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN: A TRUE STORY OF MURDER AND MERCY

In *Seventy Times Seven*, Alex Mar weaves an unforgettable narrative about an act of violence and its aftermath. On a spring afternoon in 1985 in Gary, Indiana, a 15-year-old Black girl, Paula Cooper, kills an elderly White woman and beloved Bible teacher in a violent home invasion. Paula is sentenced to death. Then the victim’s grandson Bill forgives the girl and campaigns to spare her life, beginning a friendship with Paula in the process. As Paula waits on death row, her fate sparks a debate that not only animates legal circles but raises vital questions about the value of human life: What are we demanding when we call for justice? Is forgiveness an act of desperation or profound bravery? *Social Action* Hard Copy (V)



THE LITTLE HOUSE OF HOPE

When Esperanza and her family arrive in the United States from Cuba, they rent a little house, una casita. It may be small, but they soon prove that there’s room enough to share with a whole community. *Education for Mission Children’s Section* Hard Copy



UWF NEWS

Teresa Rothwell, Director of Solomon's Mission in Buchanan was our May speaker. The **Mission** is a non-profit charity that collects clothing and other household items. Teresa shared what the **Mission** does for Botetourt County residents and how we can support them.



JUNE MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 08, 2026 - 11 am Fellowship Hall

We will begin with our JUNE program as we welcome 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 will also share details on the **Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center,** located in Blue Ridge in Botetourt County. We will follow with lunch (*bring your own*) and time to socialize. We will conclude with our business meeting and prayer concerns.

All Ladies are invited to join us.

The Seekers Sunday School class (Young Adult) will be using an intergenerational study called LIFT (Living In Faith Together) during the Sunday School hour at 11 am. All are invited to join this class; however, children and youth must be accompanied by their parents or grandparents. This is not a drop-off class. This summer study is called "Faith, Hope and Love" and includes stories from both the Old and New Testament. This study will begin on June 14th. Anyone of any age can join this study, which will include breaking of bread together, prayer, worship, fun and games!! There is no homework and you need not be present on the Sunday before to enjoy this study! The Nursery Sunday School class will still meet in room 205 for children, ages 3 and younger.

There will be a Family Retreat from July 10th through 12th. Susan Wagner will direct this retreat. Please note, that children must be accompanied by their "family unit". This is not a drop-off event, such as VBS. If you are interested in helping, please contact Susan Wagner. Registration forms are available on the Narthex bulletin board and on the church website. Invite your family and friends! Please see the article in this newsletter regarding this event for more information.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Looking Forward to this Summer

Miss Lee Ann will be having shoulder surgery in June and will be in recovery for 6-8 weeks afterwards, so Children's Ministries will look a bit different this summer.

We will not have Children's Worship for the months of June, July and August.

Children, age 3 and younger, may attend the Nursery.





We will continue our book study of What Does God Want? throughout the summer.

I will be sending out more specific information on departure times and activities for the mission trip in the coming week.

We will also be in contact about scheduling an outing for July and August. Hoping we can have a fun time together this summer in addition to our own family vacations.



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 19 Cedar Ridge Drive Daleville, VA 24083 Phone: 540-992-3030</p>	<p>E-mail: Rev. Samuel Plymale: samuelplymale@vaumc.org Amanda Dillard: stmarksumcdaleville@gmail.com Lee Ann Critz: leeanncritz@yahoo.com Jessica Graham: jessicagraham109@gmail.com Deborah Wiley: dwiley4music@gmail.com 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. 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)</p>
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