

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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My St. Mark's family-

Looking toward the beginning of March, we find ourselves now in the heart of the season of Lent. Whether you've given something up, added devotion or service to your routine, or you're simply trying to pray more- this is a time to draw closer to God. We are preparing for Easter, the holiest day of the year for Christians.

I hope you will continue to join us for meaningful Lenten worship, as we focus on our series- A God of Enough? We've been talking about the weight that we feel from our world's focus on material things. What are your priorities right now? Is God first in our lives, or is something else competing for our time and devotion?

God doesn't want us to worry. God wants us to trust that our needs are taken care of. God wants us to be generous with the blessings He has given us. Let's all seek first the kingdom of God- this Lent, and always!

Strength and Wisdom,
Pastor Justin

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CORNER

LAITY A devotional from Charles Ringma's book, Seize the Day, based on excerpts from Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

"The teaching of the gospel is not a message that draws us from life into a holy enclave. Instead, it draws us out of the bondage of our own selfishness and sin and frees us to face life with boldness and in faith. The vision of life that the gospel holds before us is never a narrow one. It involves seeking to effect change in family, society, the state, and the whole of creation. While this vision is too big for us to achieve personally, together we can work for these larger goals, providing we never cease to rely wholly on God. The greater the task, the greater our need for God's grace and empowering and the greater our need to be in 'harmony' with each other."

May we come together to blend our differences into beautiful music for God's kingdom.

Peggy Lootens
Lay Leader

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 pairs 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>.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

An Ecumenical Good Friday Service will be held this year at St. Mark's on March 30th @ 7 pm. *This service is a joint offering of the Southern Botetourt Ministerial Fellowship.*

WOMEN'S DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY

We have started our latest Tuesday morning Women's Study. We are studying the Book of Numbers in the Old Testament. We began our current study on February 6th but it is not too

late to meet with us. We will conclude this study on March 13th and begin a new study the following week. If you would like to join us on Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:30, contact Susan Wagner. Her email is susanbwagner59@gmail.com. Her phone number is 540-521-4227.

WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Women's Thursday Evening Bible Study continues to meet at 7 pm each week at the home of Edna Nicely. If you'd like to know more about this study please call or email Edna Nicely (540-558-2790 or edna.nicely@gmail.com).

SCRAPBOOK FELLOWSHIP

Anyone interested in getting together with fellow scrappers once a month, please let Susan Wagner know. Her email is susanbwagner59@gmail.com. Her phone number is 540-521-4227.



It's never too late to be part of the fun, our next meeting FOOD DE JOUR is March 4 @ 12:15 -2:30 in the Family Life Center. Girl Power is open to ladies currently in 5th grade, middle school, high school and beyond.

During our March meeting, together moms and daughters will make a tasty lunch, hear from a guest speaker and make baskets for Operation Easter Bunny. In order to have enough supplies, please RSVP to Becky at reach2sky14@gmail.com by March 2.

A BIG THANK-YOU FROM TAME.

On behalf of the TAME team, I wish to thank all of you that brought soup or sandwiches, that helped with the event whether it was with the set-up or clean-up or many of the tasks needed to make this a successful event. The proceeds will go toward our ministries to feed the hungry especially the Stop Hunger Now meal packing event. Do consider joining the TAME team at our next meeting, March 15th at 6:30 pm. New members are always welcome.

~Karen Sledd



UMW NEWS

St. Mark's United Methodist Women will meet on Monday, March 12, at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The program is our annual observance of **A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial** entitled, **"Learning for a Lifetime: Developing Leaders"**. Our scripture reading will be Luke 13:18-19. During our program, we will remember our **almost 150 years** as women organized for mission that started in 1869 with eight women in Boston seeing the need for planting the seeds of God's kingdom for women in India. We will look at United Methodist Women's commitment to leadership development TODAY and the potential of their **A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial** gifts in equipping women and children for leadership in Church and Society.

A short business meeting will follow along with refreshments to be served by our Executive Committee.

ALL WOMEN are invited to join us and learn more about who we are as United Methodist Women and the many missions we are passionate about.

RELAY FOR LIFE

The American Cancer Society has decided to have a regional event this year. There will not be a Relay For Life of Botetourt. St. Mark's registered a team in September, but we plan to be involved on a limited basis. Team members plan to walk, however we will not be having a large fundraiser and we don't plan to decorate a campsite. If anyone wants to dedicate luminaria in honor or in memory of someone, we will gladly take care of that for you. Donations can be made to our team and they are appreciated. The Virginia's Blue Ridge Relay will take place on Friday, May 18th at River's Edge North in Roanoke. The event starts at 6 pm and ends at 12 am. Barbara Wiley and Nancy Womack will be happy to answer any questions.

UNITED METHODIST MEN This month's United Methodist Men's meeting is open to the entire church! This special meeting will be held on March 19th.

We will be hosting a **spaghetti dinner** and welcoming James Garner--one of the founders of the Addy Grace Foundation--to speak. James and his wife Jennifer have two beautiful children, one of whom has Spinal Muscular Atrophy which severely limits her movement. Because of this, the Garners find it difficult to find playgrounds on which they can play together. James and Jennifer have a vision for children of all abilities to play together in Botetourt County. All are welcome to hear James talk about his family's journey and calling to "help until the cure is found." Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. James will start his presentation at 7 pm. All donations given for dinner will be given directly to the **Addy Grace Foundation**.



ST. MARK'S BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, March 17th - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Did you know?

- ❖ The blood used in an emergency is already on the shelves before the event occurs.
- ❖ More than 1.6 million people were diagnosed with cancer last year. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment.
- ❖ A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood.

Please consider stopping by to donate a pint of blood.

Volunteers are needed to help with the blood drive. If you can help please call Nancy Craft at 992-4129.

SPRING CLEANING AT ST. MARK'S

Join us at 9 am on Saturday, March 17th. Let's get the building and grounds ready for Spring. Bring with you any yard tools or supplies you think we might need.



JOYFUL JOURNEY TRAVEL CLUB

Our trip to the Museum of the Bible on Monday, March 12 has several openings. The \$71 payment is due immediately.

The Ark Encounter and Creation Museum in Kentucky is a 4 day-3 night trip Apr. 30-May 3. The \$614 cost covers lodging, motorcoach transportation, all meals except lunches, including a riverboat dinner cruise and a meal with entertainment, the Ark and the Creation Museum, and all tips and taxes. It also includes a guided tour of Cincinnati, Ohio. Payment in full is due by March 15.

See the drama of "Jesus" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Pennsylvania Sept. 27-28. The \$277 covers lodging, motorcoach transportation, 1 breakfast buffet, 1 family-style dinner, performance of "Jesus", tour of President Buchanan's Wheatland, all tips and taxes.

For all trips please make your check payable to the JOYFUL JOURNEY TRAVEL CLUB and place it in the envelope on the bulletin board across from the choir room or put it in Julia Greer's mailbox on the wall next to the church offices. Trip information, registration forms, and sign-up sheets are also on the bulletin board. Call Julia Greer at 540-330-7933 if you have questions.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Down at the Pond

FROGS and Tadpoles are looking forward to a busy month in March!

We will meet on March 11th and 25th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. The FROGS and Tadpoles will also

sing at the **11:00 Worship Service on**

Sunday, March 18th. Please bring your

FROG and/or Tadpole to the reserved pews on the right side of the Sanctuary by 10:50 that day.

The children will participate in the **Palm Processional on Palm Sunday, March 25th during the 11:00 Worship Service.** Once the children enter the Sanctuary, they will leave their palms on the Chancel and return to sit with their families. Please make sure your child knows where your family is sitting that day and then bring him/her to the Narthex by 10:55 to line up for the processional. Afterwards, the children will sit with their families or 3 year olds may be taken to the Nursery. There will be no Children's Worship that day, as the Choir presents their Cantata.

Thank you!!

A big "thank you" to all those who donated towards our Backpack Buddies and Heifer Fund Mission projects last month! If you forgot to bring your donation, you may do so by Sunday, March 11th. Please bring your donation to FROGS and Tadpoles or to the Gathering room, 101 downstairs.

Egg Fillers and Hiders Needed!

The youth will be filling Easter eggs for our Egg Hunt during Unwind from the Grind on March 14th! We need folks to help hide all the eggs and help supervise the hunt on Sunday, March 25th. Please let Miss Lee Ann know if you are available to help!

Family Easter Egg Hunt

A Family Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Palm Sunday, March 25th at 4:30. We will begin in the Sanctuary at 4:30 prompt! BYOB (Bring your own basket) and plan on finding lots of treats! Once the egg hunt is over, parents may take their child's basket of treats and leave their FROG or Tadpole in the Sanctuary. Please feel free to invite friends, but if they stay for FROGS and Tadpoles, their parent must fill out a registration form first.



YOUTH EVENTS AND NEWS:

Sunday Youth: If you are between 6th and 12th grade come join us as we meet from 6-8 pm for Bible Study, Fun and Fellowship. We'll see you there!

Sunday, March 18th: Monthly mission at the Brian Center! Meet at St Mark's at 2 and we can caravan over to the Brian Center. We will play BINGO and maybe do a craft with the residents there. We will return to St. Mark's by 4. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us.

Youth Council: will be meeting Sunday, **March 4th @ 5 pm.**

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

March 2nd-3rd: Lock In! from 7 pm to 7 am! We are going to have an All-Nighter Olympics with lots of games, food, and fellowship! Youth are encouraged to invite friends! Par-



ents: Please consider taking a shift for this event. It's a long night with lots of young people in the church and the more adults we have to keep people safe and accounted for, the better.

March 10th: 3-5 pm SnowFlex is a tubing slope on "Liberty Mountain" that is covered with something that is between astro-turf and a hair brush. We "snow-tube" down the slope with tubes that are provided by the facility and it's insanely fun! Parents and youth alike are invited to join us! Please tell me ASAP if you plan to come. The group rate is \$15/person for 2 hours but we need to tell them and give a deposit in order to hold our spot.

***For those of you who are planning on coming on the mission trip but haven't told Erin yet please do so ASAP! We need to be sure that we have all the spots we'll need and plan our transportation accordingly!**



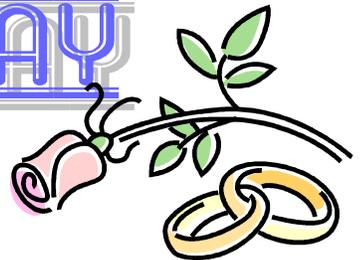
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AND

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

TO ALL WHO

CELEBRATE THIS MONTH!



Newsletter Deadline is the 20th of each month
Bulletin Deadline: Thurs. 9 AM

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March 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 GriefShare 10 am Thousand Thursday's 10-11:30 am <i>See Ad</i> Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm GriefShare 6:30 pm Ladies' Evening Bible Study 7 pm	2 Youth Lock-in Begins 7 pm	3 Youth Lock-in Ends 7 am
4 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am Girl Power 12:30 pm Youth Council 5 pm Youth Group 6-8 pm <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	5 Before Amen 2 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm Worship Band 7 pm AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	6 Women's Morning Bible Study 10 am The Diner's Club 10:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 5:30 pm God 101 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	7 Midweek Service 11 am Adult Fellowship Luncheon 11:30 am Youth Group 4-6 pm Intentional Prayer 5:30 pm Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm	8 GriefShare 10 am Thousand Thursday's 10-11:30 am Trinity Outreach 5 pm (<i>Erin's Team</i>) Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm GriefShare 6:30 pm Ladies' Evening Bible Study 7 pm	9	10 Youth: Snow Flex 10 am - 5 pm
11 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am FROGs and Tadpoles 5-7 pm Youth Group 6-8 pm <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>	12 Before Amen 2 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm UMW 7 pm AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	13 Women's Morning Bible Study 10 am The Diner's Club 10:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 5:30 pm God 101 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	14 Midweek Service 11 am Youth Group: 4-6 pm Intentional Prayer 5:30 pm Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm	15 GriefShare 10 am Thousand Thursday's 10-11:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm GriefShare 6:30 pm TAME 6:30 pm Worship Band 7 pm Ladies' Evening Bible Study 7 pm	16	17 Red Cross Blood Drive 10 am-2 pm Church Clean-up Day 9 am
18 Worship 8:30 & 11 am FROGs / Tadpoles Sing 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am Youth Group 6-8 pm <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	19 Before Amen 2 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm <i>Spaghetti Dinner 6:30 pm United Methodist Men's Meeting 7 pm</i> AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	20 Women's Morning Bible Study 10 am The Diner's Club 10:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm God 101 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	21 Midweek Service 11 am Youth Group: 4-6 pm Intentional Prayer 5:30 pm Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm	22 GriefShare 10 am Thousand Thursday's 10-11:30 am <i>Christmas Fair 5 pm</i> Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm GriefShare 6:30 pm Ladies' Evening Bible Study 7 pm	23	24 Choir: Cantata Practice 10 am
25 Worship 8:30 & 11 am Easter Cantata 11 am Worship: Ecclesia 9:15 am Sunday Classes 10 am Family Egg Hunt 4:30 pm FROGs and Tadpoles 5-7 pm Youth Group 6-8 pm <i>Palm Sunday</i>	26 Before Amen 2 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm Worship Band 7 pm AA/AI Anon 8-9 pm	27 Women's Morning Bible Study 10 am The Diner's Club 10:30 am Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm Cub Scouts 5:30 pm God 101 7 pm Boy Scouts 7 pm	28 Midweek Service 11 am Youth Group: 4-6 pm Intentional Prayer 5:30 pm Handbells 6 pm Chancel Choir 7 pm AA Meeting 8-9 pm	29 NO GriefShare Thousand Thursday's 10-11:30 am Prayer Shawl 1 pm Women's Hope AA 5:30 pm NO GriefShare Ladies' Evening Bible Study 7 pm <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	30 Good Friday Tenebrae Service 7 pm <i>Good Friday</i>	31