

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER ♦ MARCH 2026 ♦ VOL. 24, NO. 3



Family of St. Mark's,

Out of anything that our church does, our worship service impacts the largest group at once. It is a time of fellowship where most of the church sees each other, prays together, and prepares for the coming week in harmony as a congregation and as disciples of Jesus Christ. Have you ever wanted to be a part of our services more than experiencing them from the pews? Here are a few areas we always need help with:

Greeters/Ushers: This group is focused on making sure everyone is welcomed into the sanctuary of St. Mark's. Whether it's their first time or their 100th, the greeters look to make God's hospitality known. They also have the sacred opportunity to collect the offerings the church uses to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in our community and world!

Scripture Readers: Another vital role in worship is the speaking of The Word. Not only are you connecting yourself into a multi-millennia tradition, you are sharing familiar stories, but knowing that they change every time that we speak them. Not because the words on the page change, but because we have changed.

Communionites and Communion Stewards: Being part of one of the sacraments of Jesus Christ is a powerful experience to receive, but is also powerful to give! Whether by breaking bread, holding the chalice, offering blessings to our church, or baking bread for the service, this is one of my personal favorite ways to serve our congregation.

Acolytes: It's not just for kids! If you have ever wanted to bring the Light into our sanctuary, serve Holy Communion, or assist in other aspects of our worship, being an acolyte may be something you are led to. In a way, it's a blending of all of the roles above into one alb-ed package! (Did you know alb is the name of the robe?)

Counters: After our worship, we need to make sure we are transparent and accountable for all of God's people. This is a task that is necessary for making sure funds are correctly measured and allocated to where they need to go. We have a great team, but even one extra counter would allow our hard-working disciples to have a small break every few weeks.

If you're interested in any of these, or other ways to assist in worship, I am always available to discuss, give you a demonstration, or get you plugged into a week to try!

In His Service,

Rev. Samuel R. Plymale

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RADICAL HOSPITALITY

Susan Wagner, our Ad. Council Chair began to share with you on January 18 what Radical Hospitality means. Here is further explanation.

Goes Beyond "Friendly": It's a conscious, fundamental shift from simple politeness to actively dismantling barriers like scheduling, transport, childcare, and societal norms that exclude people.

Reaffirms Worth: It restores dignity by showing genuine respect and care, transforming difficult situations for those experiencing homelessness, poverty, or mental health challenges.

Intentional & Empathetic: Involves deep consideration of others' needs, creating a welcoming environment through personal attention, like learning names, offering umbrellas in the rain, or providing essential services like showers for the unhoused.

Community-Building: Aims to create inclusive spaces where diverse experiences are shared, enriching the whole community and fostering a sense of belonging for everyone.

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Challenge for Day 2: Let's continue the challenge you were given on January 18th to speak to someone you do not know within the first 5 minutes after the close of the service. But, let's add one more challenge: This week and for the rest of the year, invite someone to church. We share with others when we have seen a great movie or dined at a wonderful restaurant, but how often do we share about our church and invite others to come be a part of it. Share the good things we do in the community like our back pack ministry, food distribution in Buchanan or our Tuna Boat ministry. Share that we participate in Rise Against Hunger, support the United Women in Faith and their ministries such as the Rescue Mission and Christmas Presents for needy families within our community.

We have a good thing here at St. Mark's! Let's share it.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Administrative Council will meet on Monday, April 13 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend. Only Ad. Council Members get a vote if voting is done.

Backpack BUDDIES  **THANK YOU**
Thanks to everyone for making the Spring Semester Backpack Buddies Mission a huge success! Because of your generosity, our church provided weekend meals for 22 elementary students needing a boost. Our next packing event will be in the Fall Semester, probably October.

WOMEN'S LENTEN STUDY

There will be a Women's Bible Study during Lent. It will meet on Tuesdays at **11am** from March 10-April 7. If you would like to be a part of this study, let Susan Wagner know Susanbwagner59@gmail.com

TAME SOUPER BOWL

TAME will sponsor the Souper Bowl Luncheon on Sunday, March 8, beginning at 11:00am and running through 1:00pm. Come enjoy a delicious bowl of soup and donate to the TAME September 19th Meal Packing for "Rise Against Hunger." If you would like to donate a crockpot of soup, contact Susan Wagner. Susanbwagner59@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on March 26, 2026 at 1pm.



CANTATA

I am excited to announce that our choir will be presenting a special cantata titled "Come to the Cross and Remember" on Palm Sunday, March 29. Christ's journey to the cross is filled with powerful images of His sacrificial love for us. During this performance, these symbols—the Palms, the Cup and the Bread, the Nails, and the Crown of Thorns and more—will be brought forward to create a very moving portrayal of Holy Week. We invite you to bring your family and friends to see and hear this deeply spiritual experience as we reflect on the significance of the season together. We look forward to seeing you there.

Deborah Wiley, Minister of Music

ST. MARK'S MEN



The St. Mark's Methodist Men will meet Monday, March 9 at 7pm in the fellowship hall. We will continue our discussions and Ray Vander Lann videos

UWF NEWS



United Women in Faith

At our February meeting, we welcomed Rebecca Huff, CEO of the non-profit organization, **Heart Havens**. This organization

empowers adults with developmental disabilities to live independently and thrive in their communities through residential support, including group homes and sponsored residential programs. They provide services like 24-hour support, training and assistance with daily activities. **Heart Havens** was established by the Virginia United Methodist Conference in **1999** and relies on donations to supplement funding for activities and services not covered by Medicaid, ensuring residents can participate fully in community life. **Heart Havens** depends on a lot of volunteers and donations and hopes to continue growing with more "homes for life" opening throughout Virginia. Currently there are 8 locations. The closest to our Roanoke area are in Stuarts Draft and Lynchburg. **MORE INFORMATION** is located in the narthex.

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026 - 11 am
Fellowship Hall**



We will begin with our annual **A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Program** and follow with lunch (*bring your own*) and time to catch-up. We will conclude with our business meeting and prayer concerns. **ALL Ladies are invited to join us.**

JOYFUL JOURNEYS

Flyers and registration forms are on the homepage of St. Mark's United Methodist Church stmarksmethodist.com Contact Julia Greer at 540-330-7933 and leave your name and number and she will get right back to you. No texts please. You may also email her at julia.short.greer@gmail.com.

- It is not too late to catch the bus to Baltimore/ Annapolis, MD. but you must hurry as the bus leaves April 13 and returns April 15. \$505 per person double occupancy \$664 per person single occupancy. Included are 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, including Phillips Restaurant, guided tour of historic Baltimore, Harborplace, tour of Annapolis & the Naval Academy, Annapolis Harbor Cruise, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes and meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation and driver's tip.
- Sights & Sounds of Lancaster, PA June 15-17. \$585 per person double occupancy, \$784 per person single occupancy. The featured event will be JOSHUA which is brand new, never been shown before with preferred seating. The package also includes 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners including a meal at an Amish home and a Smorgasbord dinner. President James Buchanan's *Wheatland*, Kitchen Kettle Village, Li'l Country Store & Miniature Horse Farm, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes & meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation and driver's tip. Contact information is the same as above.
- Wheeling, W. VA., *Festival of Lights*, Nov. 9-11. \$554 per person double occupancy, \$743 per person single occupancy. Included are 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, including a Holiday Dinner Show, Colonel Oglebay's Mansion Museum, Winter Fantasy Displays, the Glass Museum & Artisan Center, Tour of West Virginia Independence Hall, Kruger Street Toy & Train Museum, souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes & meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation & driver's tip. The Festival of Lights features over half a million lights, covering more than 300 acres of Christmas themes, lighted trees, light enhanced historic buildings, and more.

We hope you will join us to become a Joyful Journey Traveler soon. Blessings, Julia Greer



DOWN AT THE POND

Children's Ministries

FROGS and Tadpoles will meet on Sunday, March 8th from 4-6 pm! We will be learning about T.A.M.E. and making collection cans for our Lenten Missions Project to support this feeding ministry at St. Mark's! Our Lenten Mission project for Children's Ministries this year will be these Change Collection Cans to support T.A.M.E.! Please turn in your filled Collection Can by Easter Sunday, April 5th.

Our second meeting in March will be on the 22nd from 4-6 pm. We will be learning about Jesus' Journey to the Cross. Please dress to make a mess! The FROG Store will be open that night, so remember to bring your FROG dollars!

Children's Worship Update

We will have Children's Worship on March 8th, 15th and 22nd. We will not have Children's Worship on Palm Sunday, March 29th, due to the Choir Cantata.



Breakfast with the Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt

Mark your calendars now for Breakfast with the Bunny (see T.A.M.E. article) and Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4th! Breakfast will begin at 9 am and the Easter Egg Hunt will begin promptly at 10:30 am!! Don't forget to make your reservation for breakfast online or by signing up in the Narthex. This is a fun event for people of all ages, not just children! Bring your own basket and your neighbors and friends!

Please help with Easter eggs!!

We need candy/treat filled plastic Easter eggs, or bags of individually wrapped candies for our Egg Hunt! You may leave your donations under the bulletin board in the Narthex in the designated container during the month of March. Please consider stuffing your plastic eggs with individually wrapped candy (peanut-free, please) or small toys. If you have any questions, please contact Lee Ann Critz.



Helpers needed for Breakfast with the Bunny!

Adults and Youth are asked to serve as Game and Craft Leaders and Egg Hiders the morning of Breakfast with the Bunny. Please consider serving for this important outreach to the community! Contact Lee Ann Critz at 540-580-3905 or leeanncritz@yahoo.com, if you feel called to serve.



March is another busy month for our youth!

March 8 - Youth Meeting 4-6pm

March 15 - Serve dinner at the Rescue Mission 4:15-6:15pm

March 20 - The Stress Factory (time TBD)

March 29 - Spaghetti Fundraiser after Sunday School 12-1pm



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 9:00-12:00. 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)</p>

March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am</p> <p>2nd Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pickleball 5pm - 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Lenten Lunch @ Fincastle UMC 12:00 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>GriefShare 10 am Grief Share 6:30pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Boy Scouts Pinewood Derby</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Al-Anon 1pm</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am</p> <p>Tame Souper Bowl Lunch 12pm</p> <p>FROGs/Tadpoles 4-6 Youth 4-6</p> <p>3rd Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm UWF 11:00 am NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7pm St. Mark's Men 7pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 11 am Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Lenten Lunch @ Fincastle UMC 12:00 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm Boy Scouts 7pm AA Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>GriefShare 10 am Grief Share 6:30pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Al-Anon 1 pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am</p> <p>Youth to Rescue Mission 3:45</p> <p>4th Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 11 am Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Lenten Lunch @ Fincastle UMC 12:00 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>GriefShare 10 am Grief Share 6:30pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Youth to Stress Factory, time TBD</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Al-Anon 1 pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am</p> <p>FROGs/Tadpoles 4-6</p> <p>5th Sunday in Lent</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pickleball 5pm - 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 11 am Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Lenten Lunch @ Fincastle UMC 12:00 pm</p> <p>AA Meeting 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>GriefShare 10 am Prayer Shawl 1pm Grief Share 6:30pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Al-Anon 1 pm</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am</p> <p>Youth Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser 12pm</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pickleball 5pm - 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 11 am Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm</p>				