

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER ♦ MAY 2026 ♦ VOL. 24, NO. 5



Family of St. Mark's,

As Botetourt County schools prepare to begin summer break, I wanted to take a moment and personally thank everyone who is involved in the education of our community's children. Not just teachers and aides, but our administrators, bus drivers, custodians, food crews, chaperones, parents, and the students! Because of this, I would like to offer a small prayer as the season of school comes to a close:

Merciful Sovereign and Almighty King,

We praise You and thank You for all of the hands and hearts You have placed into our education system, and ask that You bless them in a special way during this time of respite. Give them rest and the opportunity to slow down, even if just for a moment, to refresh their hearts without worrying about the next school year. Be with our parents and students as the gift of summer is a new opportunity to be present with one another, and to share in the bounty of Your Creation!

Mighty Lord, lift up and pray to You for the families who are not as fortunate during the summer. For those who lose fellowship, who lose benefits, and those who wonder where their daily bread will come from. Break our hearts for what breaks Yours, and allow our eyes, ears, and hands to be ready to serve, to listen, and to offer comfort. Be with our community this summer, Gracious Lord, and remind us not to take a single day for granted. We ask this in the name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. Amen.

In His Service,

Rev. Samuel R. Plymale, Senior Pastor

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FIVE PRACTICES OF FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS

Beginning in January we began to look at these “Five Practices” with “**Radical Hospitality**”. You were encouraged to speak to someone you do not know when we pass the peace or at the closing of worship. You were also encouraged to invite people to church and to share with your family, friends and co-workers about your faith and your church.

This month, we begin to look at the second practice of “**Passionate Worship**”. Please ask yourself, “What does Passionate Worship mean to me?” Notes from the book “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” by Robert Schnase include the following: People are searching for worship that is authentic, alive, creative and comprehensible, where they experience the life-changing presence of God in the presence of others. Passionate worship draws us closer to Christ, deepens our understanding and relationship with Christ and transforms lives as disciples grow in the image of Christ.

One way to make this happen is to prepare yourself for worship through personal devotions, private prayer, meditation and reading inspirational literature. Answer the following questions:

- How do I encourage the Pastor, staff, laity and musicians who lead worship and give them adequate time to prepare sermons and music so as to enhance the worship experience?
- Do we encourage and support training for worship leaders?
- How do we encourage and include children and youth in our worship?
- How do I prepare my spirit for worship? With what attitude do I enter the Sanctuary?
- Do I share creative ideas with the Pastor, staff, laity and musicians and do I encourage creativity within them?

Think on this and may the Holy Spirit fill you to the point of “Passionate Worship” each Sunday.

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 SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 1pm.

TAME

Thanks to all who attended the Easter Bunny Breakfast and participated in the Change Can Collection. Thanks to your generosity we are about 70% of what we need for the September 19th Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing. Check out our goal thermometer in the narthex to keep up with our progress. TAME does not have anymore fundraisers planned for 2026, but you can donate on our St. Mark’s web-site or put a check in the offering with TAME written in the memo line of your check.

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. 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, July 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. Here is the schedule for Sunday:
10:00- Worship
11:00-12:00- Potluck Lunch and Clean up in the Family Life Center . Each family should share a veggie, fruit, salad or dessert and one drink. Chicken will be provided
12:30- Carvins Cove for summer fun.
Enjoy fishing, hiking, biking, canoeing or games at the picnic shelter. Families are welcome to bring bikes, watercraft and games to share. Canoes are available for rental, first come first serve and cash. Carvings Cove is a NO swim facility. Minors *must* attend with family unit.

This is a Family VBS. All are welcome. Children will attend all events with their family unit. Save the dates and talk it up with the families you know.

GRADUATES

Please send in the names of those who are graduating from high school or college this year ASAP. We'd love to list their names in our June newsletter. Please send info to the church office at stmarksumcdaleville@gmail.com.

MONICA STEVENS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship, established to remember an exemplary St. Mark's Youth, is open to any disciple pursuing academic endeavors, Christian fellowship opportunities and/or Christian development. While there are no standard qualifications for the scholarship, recipients should embody the spirit of Monica's life by demonstrating mature Christian discipleship, serving others as witness to Christ's ministry and actively participating in the Church. To apply for this memorial scholarship, please contact Claudia Goodwin, 540-309-4920 or cgoodwin273@gmail.com. Applications are available in the Narthex. Application deadline is May 31, 2026. Please return them to the Roundtable SS Class mailbox by the church offices.

SUMMER CAMP CAMP ALTA MONS JUNE 21-JULY 17, 2026

Camp Alta Mons is open this summer and campers will be able to choose from a variety of camping experiences. From rising Kindergarteners to 12th graders -- there is so much to do at Day Camps, Mini Camps and Resident Camps!! Camp is a wonderful time to make new friends, have fun, and enjoy the memories as we grow in our relationship with Christ. But Camp can also be a bit pricey. The United Women in Faith have long supported our St. Mark's campers and this year we have set aside campership funds to help supplement the cost. We will not be able to finance the entire cost of Camp, but we would like to provide some monetary assistance. The amount will depend on how many St. Mark's children choose to attend.

Check out what Camp Alta Mons Summer Camp has to offer at: www.altamons.org. Camp registration is already underway and Camps can fill up fast. If you are interested in receiving monetary assistance toward Camp, please contact Mona Tolley at 540-556-5238.

JOYFUL JOURNEYS

Join Joyful Journey Travels as we go with JOSUA to Jericho to see the "walls come tumbling down" at the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA. June 15-17. Registration and payment in full is due as soon as possible. \$ 585 per person double occupancy, \$784 single occupancy. Full details of the trip are at St. Mark's UMC, 10 Cedar Ridge Dr. Daleville, Va. 24083. The church is open Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays from 9:15 am - 11:45 am. Details can also be found on the church website stmarksmethodist.com Scroll across the top of the page on the right to MORE. Scroll down and click on Joyful Journey and scroll down and click on Sights & Sounds of Lancaster, PA. Call Julia Greer at 540-330-7933 if you are interested in going. No texts please. If she does not answer please leave your name and number and she will call you right back. JOSHUA is a brand new performance never before shown. Seating at the theatre is limited. White Star Tours has reserved a block of preferred seating for Joyful Journey Travels. Act quickly if you do not want to miss out on seeing JOSHUA.

Coming up Nov. 9-11 is the FESTIVAL of LIGHTS in Wheeling, WV. \$554 double occupancy, \$743 for a single. Deadline for registration and payment in full is due by THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3. A \$25 deposit per person (goes toward the price of the trip; non-refundable unless the trip is cancelled) MUST accompany your registration form. See the details above as to how to obtain this form. I hope everyone will enjoy a nice spring and summer and join us on a JOYFUL JOURNEY. Hoping to hear from you soon. Blessings, Julia Greer
PS ACT quickly so you will not miss out on a Joyful Journey.

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 NEWS

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

At our April meeting, we welcomed Julie Phillips, the Director of Library Services for Botetourt County. She shared with us how to navigate the new Card Catalog, how to use the Lending Libraries from other Districts like Roanoke County and City, and about other services the Botetourt Libraries offer.



MAY MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026 -
11 am

Fellowship Hall

We will begin with our MAY program. Our speaker will

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

UWF READING PROGRAM

READING CHALLENGE



We have some books in the UWF library that have never been checked out – I challenge you to be the first to read one and give us a review!!

HC= Hard Copy **CD & MP3**=

Audio **NFC**=Nurturing

SG=Spiritual Growth

EFM=Education

SA=Social Action

LD=Leadership

Contact Linda Koloda 540-992-2744 with any questions about the Reading Program.

- Abuelita Faith: What Women on the Margins Teach Us About Wisdom, Persistence and Strength/SG/2024 [HC](#)
- Blessed Youth: Survival Guide/SG/2024 HC
- Blessed Youth: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness with Children and Teens/NFC/2024 HC

- Defiant: What the Women of Exodus Teach Us About Their Freedom/EFM/2024 HC
- High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out/LD/2024 HC CD
- How to be an Antiracist/EFM/2022 HC & CD
- I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in A World Made for Whiteness/SG/2023 HC
- Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival and Hope in An American City/EFM/2024 HC
- Love Is the Way/SG/2022 HC
- No Justice/SA/2021 HC
- On the Come Up/LD/2023 HC
- Prey Tell: Why We Silence Women Who Tell the Truth and How Everyone Can Speak Up/NFC/2024 HC
- Raise Your Voice: Why We Stay Silent and How to Speak Up/LD/2025 HC CD
- Sanctuary/EFM/2026 HC
- The Big Deal of Taking Small Steps to Move Closer to God/SG/2023 HC
- The Color of Compromise: The Truth About the American Church's Complicity in Racism/SA/2024 MP3
- The Ever-Expansive Spirit of God for All Who Feel Left Out/SG/2026 HC
- The Loneliness Epidemic: Why So Many of Us Feel Alone and How Leaders Can Respond/NFC/2024 HC
- The Making of Biblical Womanhood: Ho the Subjugation of Women Became Gospel Truth/LD/2025 HC CD
- The Matter of Little Losses: Finding Grace to Grieve the Big (and Small) Things/SG/2026 HC
- The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart/LD/2024 HC
- The Three Mothers/NFC/2024 HC
- Time: The Untold Story of the Love That Held Us Together When We Fall Apart/LD/2025 HC
- Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Destroyed Our Most Alluring Fruit/SA/2022 HC
- We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders: A Memoir of Love and Resistance/LD/2025 HC CD
- Why Do I Feel Like This? Understanding Your Difficult Emotions and Find Grace to Move Through/SG/2024 HC & CD

UMCOR RELIEF KITS : VALLEY RIDGE DISTRICT

UMCOR RELIEF KITS :

Please bring any of the listed KITS to the Church and place in the large Collection Box by Sunday, May 31, in order for us to get them to the collection site on June 6. THANK YOU for your support!

Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits unless otherwise noted.

Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

HYGIENE KITS: Value: \$12 per Kit

All items must be new. Do NOT wash. NO personal notes.

- ◆ One Hand Towel (15 X 25 up to 17 X 27 inches) (No kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels)
- ◆ One Washcloth (No kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels)
- ◆ One Comb (sturdy, at least 6 inches of teeth, no pocket combs or picks, Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth)
- ◆ One toenail or fingernail clipper (No emery boards or metal nail files)
- ◆ Bath-size Soap (3 oz. bar or larger - NO Ivory or Jergen's soap, do not remove from package)
- ◆ One Adult Toothbrush (Do not remove from package, personal advertising not acceptable)
- ◆ 10 Adhesive Band-Aids (3/4 X 3 inches)
- ◆ One one-gallon size re-sealable bag

Assembly: Lay Hand towel flat on table; Lay the Washcloth in center of Hand Towel. Place all remaining items on top of the Washcloth. Fold the sides of the Hand Towel to cover the items. Grasp the bundle tightly and roll

over the remainder of the towel. **Place the tightly rolled bundle in a one-gallon re-sealable Zip-lock bag, remove air, and seal.**

\$2 is requested per kit for the cost of toothpaste and shipping. Place visibly in plastic bag so we may retrieve it.

CLEANING KITS: Value: \$75 per Kit

All items must be new. Bucket and lid may be used but must be free from all residual product. Outside Advertisement is acceptable.

NO SCREW LIDS. NO personal notes.

- ◆ One 5-gallon round bucket with lid (14.35 height X12.19" width X 12.19" Depth)
- ◆ One 32-64 oz. bottle LIQUID laundry detergent
- ◆ One 16-40 oz. bottle LIQUID concentrate household cleaner - no spray bottles
- ◆ One 16-34 oz. bottle LIQUID dish soap
- ◆ One 4-8 oz. PUMP spray air freshener
- ◆ One 6-14 oz. PUMP spray OR pack of 10-20 wipes - Insect repellent
- ◆ One scrub brush
- ◆ 18 re-usable cleaning wipes (No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels) REMOVE from packaging
- ◆ Five scouring pads (No stainless steel or pads with soap in them. REMOVE from packaging)
- ◆ 36-50 clothespins (Place in a small re-sealable bag)
- ◆ One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line)
- ◆ 24 roll of heavy duty trash bags (33-45 gallon size) REMOVE from packaging
- ◆ Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness) NO surgical masks
- ◆ Two pairs durable kitchen gloves. REMOVE from packaging.
- ◆ One pair work gloves (cotton with leather palm or all leather)

Assembly: Place all liquid items on the bottom of bucket. Place remaining items around and between liquid items. Scouring pads and trash bags may be separated in order to fit. **Secure the lid on the filled bucket.**

\$3 is requested for the cost of non-cellulose sponges and shipping. Place visibly in plastic bag on top of bucket.

FEMININE HYGIENE KIT ("PERIOD PACK")

All items must be new.

Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.

***Please include \$2 for shipping.**

- ◆ One one-gallon size re-sealable bag
 - ◆ Two 2 oz. bottle hand sanitizer
 - ◆ Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags
 - ◆ One travel pack of wet ones
 - ◆ 10 Tampons (5 regular and 5 super absorbency)
 - ◆ Unscented
 - ◆ 10 Sanitary Napkins
 - ◆ Unscented
 - ◆ Long super ultra-thin
 - ◆ Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)
 - ◆ No Ivory or Jergen's soap
 - ◆ Do not remove from packaging
 - ◆ One pack of flushable wipes (42 count)
 - ◆ Unscented
 - ◆ Six laundry detergent sheets
- The cost of the Menstrual Hygiene Kit has increased from \$14.00 to \$24.00.

Assembly: Start with a one-gallon resealable bag. Place one pack of the flushable wipes and wet wipes in the bag. Place three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags and the 10 sanitary napkins in the bag. Then, add the smaller items in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

Non-perishable food items as well as cat and dog food are also being collected to take to the Roanoke Rescue Mission.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Breakfast with the Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt

THANK YOU to all those people who made Breakfast with the Bunny and the Easter Egg Hunt possible!! What a wonderful, successful collaborative effort it was for the church and for the children of our church and community! Thank you to everyone who filled Easter Eggs, donated candy and eggs, ran games and crafts, made breakfast, hid eggs and shared God's love!

Children's Ministries Lenten Collection Cans for T.A.M.E.

We had a wonderful response from YOU for our Children's Ministries Lenten Collection Cans for T.A.M.E.! Thanks to you, we collected \$667 for T.A.M.E.!! Thank you for your generous support of our mission project!

Safer Sanctuaries Training

There will be a Safer Sanctuaries Training on Sunday, May 3rd after Sunday School is over at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the last training session available before the summer! Please let Lee Ann know that you will attend by text or calling her at 540-580-3905 or by email: leeanncritz@yahoo.com.

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 during Worship Services. Children, age 3 and younger, may attend the Nursery.

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. Mark your calendars now! 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. Please see the article in this newsletter regarding this event for more information.

Children's Sermon Leaders Needed this Summer! During the months of June and July, we need volunteers to share Children's Sermons during Worship Services. If you would like to share the word with our youngest disciples, please sign up on the sheet on the Narthex table. Amanda will send you the text for the Sunday you will be sharing the Children's Sermon during Worship. Thank you for helping with this important ministry to the children of our church!!



Our room transformation is finally complete! We have new floors, rug, tables, paint, and curtains. A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped install our floor, we are very grateful for your time to help us update our room. Feel free to pop your head in and take a look anytime!

We had our last regular youth meeting on April 26th, though we will have a few fellowship opportunities throughout the summer. During Sunday School, we will continue through our book What Does God Want? and should finish up by August.

Our spaghetti lunch fundraiser in March was so well received, we have scheduled another one at the end of May and every 5th Sunday moving forward. We have increased our meal prep to accommodate the wonderful crowd from last time and hope to welcome new diners this month.



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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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)

May 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Red Cross Blood Drive 8-1 pm Al-Anon 1pm
3 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am Safer Sanctuaries Training 12pm <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i>	4 Pickleball 5-7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7pm	5 Women's Bible Study 10am Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	6 Pastor's Bible Study 11am AA Meeting 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm Boy Scouts 7pm AA Meeting 7 pm	7 GriefShare 10 am Girl Scouts 6pm Grief Share 6:30pm	8	9 Al-Anon 1 pm
10 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am <i>Mother's Day</i> <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>	11 Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm UWF 11 am NarAnon 6:30 pm St. Mark's Men 7pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm	12 Women's Bible Study 10am Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	13 Pastor's Bible Study 11am AA Meeting 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	14 GriefShare 10 am Grief Share 6:30pm Trustees 6:30pm	15	16 Al-Anon 1 pm
17 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am <i>Ascension Sunday</i>	18 Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm	19 Women's Bible Study 10am Pack 211 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	20 Pastor's Bible Study 11 am AA Meeting 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	21 GriefShare 10 am Girl Scouts 6pm Grief Share 6:30pm	22	23 Al-Anon 1 pm
24 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	25 Pickleball 5pm - 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm Office Closed	26 Boy Scouts 7pm	27 Pastor's Bible Study 11 am AA Meeting 3 pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	28 GriefShare 10 am Prayer Shawl 1pm Grief Share 6:30pm	29	30
31 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am <i>Trinity Sunday</i>						