

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2025 • VOL. 23, NO. 10



Family of St. Mark's,

October is a very special time for the church, and I would like to share with you what is happening and why!

October 5th: World Communion Sunday: A new-ish church holiday started in 1933 by the Presbyterian Church to both lift the importance of the sacrament and to remind Christians of our shared story through The Last Supper. This service looks similar to our normal services, but with an emphasis on Communion, involving special liturgy and singing.

October 19th: Laity Sunday: A Special Sunday for the United Methodist Church, it is a celebration of the people of the church, sometimes referred to as laity, and all the things we do for our community! The word, "laity," comes from the Greek word, "λαϊκός," (laikos) meaning, "of the people."

October 26th: Reformation Sunday: You've definitely heard of Martin Luther before, but where did the revolutionary during the Civil Rights Movement get his name? From a German lawyer to a changer of the course of history, Martin Luther radicalized the church in 1517 and began the Protestant Reformation. Want to learn more? Come and join us, and like Pentecost, we join with our Lutheran siblings and wear red!

October 26th: The Blessing of the Animals, 3:30 PM: October is known as Francis of Assisi Month, an Italian monk who founded the Franciscan Order based on his vow to poverty, his generosity towards others, and his love for all of God's creatures, big and small. To commemorate this, we have started an annual tradition of bringing our furry, scaly, and winged friends together for a blessing before FROGS and Tadpoles!

Aside from these extraordinary events, other notable occasions occur in October, including Pastor Appreciation Month, as well as Nikki and I's anniversary. This year we celebrate 10 years together, we cannot thank St Mark's enough for their warmth, love, and hospitality they have shared for a third of our marriage together.

I look over our member's list often and pray for each of you. My spiritual journey has had my heart overflowing with joy and courage walking beside the people of St. Mark's, and I look forward to another blessed Adventide together (when the time comes!)

Merry Kingdomtide,

Rev. Samuel R. Plymale,

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LAITY

CORNER

1 Corinthians 10:31 “So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.”

I am not sure about any of you, but I don't know when October got here... I was still in August! Either way, here we are. Ready (or not) to gear up for *the Holiday season*. It seems to me our culture has made this season about extravagance; and while I have cherished traditions that I have passed along to my family—I think it is a good time for us to center ourselves. Let's remember the ordinary. Mother Teresa is quoted as saying, “Do ordinary things with extraordinary love.” As we go into this season let us be reminded of the simple gifts God has given, the ordinary can also be extraordinary if we allow it to be.
I pray that the peace of the Lord be with each of you, today and always.

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.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The next blood drive will be Saturday, November 1st 8 AM to 1 PM @ St. Mark's
For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

ST. MARK'S MEN

The St. Marks Men's Fellowship will not meet in October. Regular schedule will resume in November!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next Prayer Shawl meeting will be Thursday, October 30 at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

JOYFUL JOURNEYS

The bus to Nashville in Dec. is so full we cannot accept anyone else. To accept anyone from the waiting list multiple people would have to drop out.
Our 2026 trip plans will be finalized by December and the flyers will be on the church website (stmarksmethodist.com) by January 1. You may always call Julia Greer on her cell phone 540-330-7933 for information. Please leave your name and phone number and I will call you right back. NO TEXTS PLEASE.
Blessings, Julia Greer

VISITING OUR VISITORS

We are looking for Volunteers to visit first-time visitors to our church. This is a front door visit to welcome the visitor, present a token gift and information about our church. If you could do this once a month or so, please email Susan Wagner . Susanbwagner59@gmail.com

BACKPACK BUDDIES

As part of our Backpack Buddies mission, St Mark's will again be teaming with other local churches to provide weekend meals for 22 students at Greenfield Elementary School. Over 14 million children in the United States live in food insecure households, many relying on school lunch as their sole stable source of nutrition, which they won't be receiving on the weekend. This semester our church will be packing meals during the weeks of October 12, 19, and 26. Please consider taking one or more tabs from the board in the Narthex and returning the items by Sunday, October 12. Please keep these local children enrolled in Backpack Buddies in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you!

TUNA BOAT

The people who are in charge of the food pantry, which the Tuna Boat donations go to, have asked that for October and November we consider donating the following items: stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, and the other sides that you would serve for a Thanksgiving dinner (such as green beans, sweet potatoes etc) However, any donations are appreciated.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

St. Mark's annual community Thanksgiving meal will be held at 2 pm on Thanksgiving day (11/27) in the family life center. Phil McManus will be cooking turkey and dressing, those attending will be asked to bring side dishes or desserts. Please reach out to those in the community who will be alone and invite them as your guests. Look for sign up sheets the end of October.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS



It's almost time to plan for the 2025 Christmas lights! Look for announcements in the bulletin in mid to late October about set up and decoration times. Be a part of this amazing ministry in our community! If you have any questions contact Susie Francis (540 816 8507) or Todd Francis (540 400 5364). Stay tuned!!!

KROGER COMMUNITY CARES PROGRAM

St. Mark's latest Kroger check has arrived. The total amount of **\$229.06** has been deposited into our Building Fund. We have **63 households** enrolled in the Community Rewards program. Thank you all for signing up! Please consider enrolling and making St. Mark's United Methodist Church (TE560) your organization of choice. Google the Kroger Community Cares Program and follow the instructions on how to link your Kroger account to St. Mark's UMC.

PICKLEBALL

Pickleball will now also meet on the 5th Monday of the month in the FLC at St. Mark's. The pickle ball schedule is:

1st Mondays @ 5-7pm
2nd Mondays @ 10am-12pm
3rd Mondays @ 10am-12pm
4th Mondays @ 5-7pm
5th Mondays @ 5-7pm

PRISON MINISTRY

United Women in Faith will be supporting VA Kingsway Prison and Family Out Reach prison ministry by collecting toothpaste for inmates until October 21, 2025. Toothpaste has to be alcohol free, 3-6 ounce tubes, in a box. Single tubes only. Collection is for inmates Kingsway Christmas Program. The Goal is 8,600 tubes of toothpaste. A Basket is in the Narthex for collection. All are invited to participate by October 21, 2025.



United
Women
in Faith

UWF NEWS



FALL IS HERE!

On **MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, at 11 am**, we will have our Annual **WORLD THANK OFFERING** program in the Fellowship Hall. This special offering allows United Women in Faith to act for social justice and support communities through spiritual growth, leadership development, economic empowerment and skills development. We will reflect on the people and experiences that shape our Faith. We come from a Legacy of Women who lead with joy and sisterhood. Giving is an integral part of participating in the mission of our United Women in Faith. After the program, we will join together for lunch (*bring your own*) and conclude with our Business Meeting and discuss activities for the remainder of the year. **All Ladies Are Invited!**

Valley Ridge Annual UWF District Meeting

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Calvary United Methodist Church
Stuarts Draft, Virginia

10:00 AM - Registration, Refreshments

10:30 AM - Annual Meeting

Our Women will carpool to Stuarts Draft for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 4. At the meeting, we will recognize the work of our units and individual members. These will include those participating in the Reading Program, Living Into Our Purpose, Memorials, Rainbow Givers, 5 & 6 Star Units and Legacy Fund donors. We will vote on our 2026 Officers and recognize our Retiring Officers. We will also vote on our 2026 Budget. WE will provide supplies for the **New River Valley Women's Resources Center** which since 1977 has provided Hope and Help to those in need.

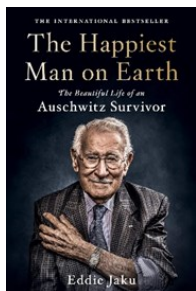
BIRTHDAY PARTY at The Hermitage Tuesday, October 7, 2025

1:30 pm

Join us at The Hermitage on Tuesday, October 7 as we celebrate with the residents having an October Birthday. We will provide refreshments and **Easy Pickins'** will provide the entertainments. Everyone is Welcome!

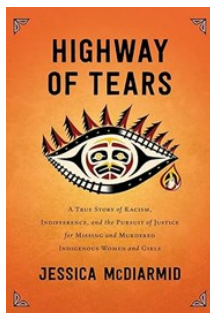
UWF READING PROGRAM

There are some **free books** located in the narthex for you to take for yourself or to share. We are making room for new books on the shelves and whether you are a member of UWF or not, you are welcome to browse and take a book to read! Someone donated some DVD movies to share. These are **not** a part of the Reading Program, but can be found in the same room on a separate bookshelf. Just take, watch and return for someone else to enjoy! Any questions, contact Linda Koloda 992-2744.



The Happiest Man on Earth In

this riveting New York Times bestseller, Eddie Jaku shares his powerful memoir as a Holocaust survivor, paying tribute to those lost as he offers inspiring wisdom on living one's best possible life despite the most horrible circumstances. Jaku was a teenager when Nazi soldiers sent him to a concentration camp with thousands of other Jews across Germany. He spent seven years in Buchenwald and then Auschwitz, finally enduring a forced death march during the Third Reich's final days. Somehow, he found the will to survive and made himself a promise to smile every day in gratitude and to honor the six million Jews murdered by Hitler. (V) *Education for Mission* Hard Copy and CD



Highway of Tears: A True Story of Racism, Indifference, and the Pursuit of Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

For decades, Indigenous women and girls have gone missing or been found murdered along an isolated stretch of highway in northwestern British Columbia.

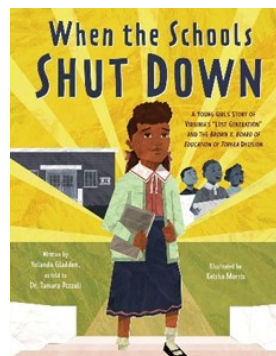
The corridor is known as the Highway of Tears, and it has come to symbolize a national crisis. In this book, journalist Jessica McDiarmid meticulously investigates the devastating effect these tragedies have had on the families of the victims and their communities, and how systemic racism and indifference have created a climate in which Indigenous women and girls are overpoliced yet

under-protected. McDiarmid interviews those closest to the victims and provides an intimate firsthand account of their loss and unflagging fight for justice. (V) *Social Action* Hard Copy and CD



The In-Between

This middle-grade memoir details the experiences of a young girl and her family who must start over after losing their home. In the early 2000s, 13-year-old Katie Van Heidrich has moved more times than she can count. When Katie and her family come back from an out-of-town funeral, they discover their landlord has unceremoniously evicted them, forcing them to pack lightly and move quickly. They make their way to an Extended Stay America Motel, with Katie's mother promising it's temporary. There, they try to live a normal life amid the complexities of "the in-between," all while remaining hopeful for the future. *Nurturing* Hard Copy and CD



When the Schools Shut Down: A Young Girl's Story of Virginia's "Lost Generation" and the Brown V. Board of Education of Topeka Decision

Most people think that the Brown vs. Board of Education decision of 1954 meant that schools were integrated with deliberate speed. But the children of Prince Edward

County located in Farmville, Virginia, who were prohibited from attending formal schools for five years knew differently, including Yolanda. Told by Yolanda Gladden herself, cowritten by Dr. Tamara Pizzoli and with illustrations by Keisha Morris, *When the Schools Shut Down* is a true account of the unconstitutional effort by white lawmakers of this small Virginia town to circumvent racial justice by denying an entire generation of children an education. Most importantly, it is a story of how one community triumphed together, despite the shutdown. *Social Action* Hard Copy Children's Section



DOWN AT THE POND

Children's Ministries

FROGs and Tadpoles are off to a great start this year! We will meet in October on the 12th and the 26th! Please wear your Halloween costume on October 26th! The FROG store will also be open that night. Dinner, music and a lesson/mission project are included! Last month, we made frog crafts and learned about fully relying on God. We also learned about how the Bible came to be. This month we will be learning about Creation and making fall crafts for the Shepherding Ministry.

We are learning even more about the Bible in Sunday School, every Sunday! Please join us on Sunday mornings at 11 am, too! Preschoolers meet in room 206 and elementary aged children meet in room 102, downstairs. The Nursery class is available for children not yet toilet trained and under age 3, in room 205.



Blessing of the Animals

Join us for a celebration of St. Francis of Assisi Sunday on Sunday, October 26th. That afternoon, before FROGs and Tadpoles meet, we will have a Blessing of the Animals service at 3:30 pm. Please bring your pets to be blessed! You may leave your child(ren) at 4 pm for FROGs and Tadpoles, but please, take your pets home!!



Trunk-or-Treat!

Mark your calendars now for Trunk-or-Treat on Saturday, October 25th from 4:00 to 5:30. Bring your child in costume (you can dress up too) and don't forget something to carry all that candy! Please come and bring your friends!

We need trunks too! Please sign up your trunk on the sign-up sheet on the Narthex table! Trunks need to arrive by 3:30. Last year we had a great many children come to our Trunk-or-Treat, so please bring plenty of candy, if you bring your trunk!!! In case of rain, we will Trunk-or-Treat in the Family Life Center! For the safety of all children, we ask that all trunks remain in the parking lot until our last Trunk-or-Treat guest leaves!! If you bring a trunk, please plan to stay until after 5:30!! There will be fun and useless prizes for the top 3 trunks, as well as the top 3 costumes!!!

If you do not want to host a trunk, please consider making a donation of candy! **We do ask that you NOT donate candy with peanuts, due to allergies.** You may leave your candy donations in the basket under the bulletin board in the Narthex. Trunk-or-Treat is a HUGE outreach to the children of our community! Thank you for your donations!



Happy Fall! I am so excited to get our group together for some fun activities and a new Bible Study series this month. We will meet on October 12th and 26th from 4-6pm in the youth room to continue our study called The Power of Words. In this series, we are learning that what we say matters and the Bible has a lot to say about it. Our topics will include gossip, encouragement, crude language, and evangelism. On Friday, October 10th we will meet at church at 5:30 to grab a quick BoJangles dinner before traveling to

Lynchburg for Scaremare. The church will buy tickets, youth and chaperones will be responsible for their own dinner. We will also be hosting a trunk for Trunk or Treat on October 25th! Get those super hero costumes (or tshirts) ready and come out at 3:30 to help set up our trunk and hand out candy.

Looking ahead to the rest of the year, we have planned a campfire sing along, a new Advent Bible Study, and a New Year's Eve lock in. As always, we are looking for 1-2 adults to volunteer with this great group of youth! Thank you for all of your support in helping our youth grow in their faith and church relationships.



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 will take appointments. He is regularly available by text (434-218-2688) and email (samuelplymale@vaumc.org)

October 2025

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