

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2026 • VOL. 24, NO. 10



Family of St. Mark's,

As the days get shorter, the leaves change colors, and we fully embrace the pumpkin spice season, October has many important Sundays in the United Methodist Church! While we are not celebrating all of them this year, remember that Christians have a vast and beautiful tapestry of holidays and celebrations that we have gathered throughout the millenia.

October 4th, World Communion Sunday: Originally founded in the 1940's, this newer church holiday is a celebration of the sacrament. Whether we call it the Eucharist, The Great Thanksgiving, or simply The Lord's Supper, the importance of this Sunday is to celebrate our similarities in an ever-dividing world, rather than our differences as disciples.

October 4th, Feast of Francis of Assisi: Even if you don't know this saint, you have heard of their name through the local animal foundation Angels of Assisi. Celebrating a radical Italian monk from the 12th century, Francis' legacy of a vow to poverty, assisting others, and his itinerant nature gained incredible support in his life, and eventually began the Order of Franciscans, which is still thriving today. John Wesley was heavily influenced by Assisi, and aspects of his ministry are reflected in the United Methodist theology, such as itinerant ministers and a vow to community aid and social justice.

October 18th, Laity Sunday: A Methodist holiday earlier than United Methodism itself, Laity Sunday began in the 1920's in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The church is more than a building, a preacher, and a service, as the laity are the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus Christ both inside and outside of the church walls. In this special Sunday, we celebrate all that we do as a church, our missions, and everyone who makes us who we are!

October 25th: Reformation Sunday: Coffee was introduced to Europe in 1515, and Martin Luther began the Protestant Reformation in 1517– beware a caffeinated pastor! Every year, we join our Lutheran brothers and sisters to celebrate the foundations of how and why we worship the way we do in 2026. Remember to wear red!

Newcomers Class: Want to learn more about these special days and even more? Consider joining us during our Sunday School hour in the fellowship hall on October 4th, 11th, and 18th! We will go through the broad-brush staples of what make us Christians, United Methodists, and what we do as the people of St. Mark's!

Merry Kingdomtide,

Rev. Samuel R. Plymale, Senior Pastor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS	2 –4
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	5
YOUTH MINISTRY	6
BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES	6



HISTORY CORNER

October in Methodist History:

The Wesley Brothers' Journey to Georgia, 1735. On **October 14, 1735**, brothers **John and Charles Wesley** set sail from England for the colony of Georgia, joining a mission to serve the settlers and Native American communities. John, an Anglican priest, hoped to strengthen his faith and live out his Christian convictions through missionary work. Charles served as secretary to Georgia's founder, James Oglethorpe. During the Atlantic crossing, the brothers encountered a group of **Moravian Christians** whose calm faith amid a frightening storm deeply impressed John. Their example would later influence his spiritual journey. In Georgia, John served as a parish minister in Savannah, while Charles worked as Oglethorpe's secretary and briefly served as a chaplain. Their experiences were challenging. John's strict religious practices and difficult relationships strained his ministry, and Charles's time in the colony was short. Both brothers eventually returned to England, but their Georgia mission became an **important chapter** in the story of Methodism. The journey exposed them to new models of Christian devotion and helped shape the spiritual questions that would define their later lives and ministry. As we continue our own journey of preserving our church's history, I invite you to join the **Church History Team for our next meeting on Sunday, October 18th, immediately following Sunday School in the Parlor/Bride's Room.** I hope you'll join us!

TRUSTEE UPDATES

WHO'S THAT BABY?

Raise the Roof Baby Picture Contest
If you are 65 or older, we would love for you to be part of our "Who's That Baby?" contest! If you are 65 or older, please submit one baby picture of yourself by **Sunday, October 11**. Copies or reprints are welcome if you prefer to keep your original. Plastic sleeves and information slips will be available in the Trustee Box. Write your name on the back of your photo (and the year, if you know it), then place the photo and completed slip in a sleeve. Return the sleeve to the Trustee Box.

SMILE FOR THE DIRECTORY!

Saturday, October 24 St. Mark's is creating a new church photo directory, and we want you to be part of it! There is no cost to participate and no obligation to purchase anything. Families, couples, individuals, children, grandchildren, significant others, and even pets are welcome. To participate, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. After sign-ups are complete, we will call you to schedule your 15-minute photo appointment for Saturday, October 24. Professional photographs will be taken by Rick Myers Photography. Your photo will be included in the St. Mark's UMC photo directory at no charge. An optional digital JPEG of your photograph will be available for \$10, with proceeds supporting our Raise the Roof campaign. Sign up today and help us put the faces of St. Mark's in our new directory!

PANSY SALE UPDATE

A big thank you to everyone who ordered pansies for our Raise the Roof fundraiser! We sold 115 pots, which should raise approximately \$230 for the roof fund. The pansies are expected to arrive the first week of October. Everyone who placed an order will be called when the pansies are ready for pickup at the church. Thank you again for supporting St. Mark's and helping us Raise the Roof!

SILENT AUCTION & FELLOWSHIP NIGHT — HELP NEEDED!

Our Raise the Roof Silent Auction & Fellowship Night is coming up on Saturday, November 7. We need volunteers to help with the event and to help us collect auction donations. Please sign up to help by leaving your name and phone number in the Trustee mailbox and/or ask local businesses, friends, and family if they would be willing to donate an item, gift certificate, service, or other auction item. For every donation collected, please complete a donation sheet and place the sheet in the Trustee Box. Gift cards and small donated items may also be left in the Trustee Box. Larger donated items should be taken to the stage for storage. Thank you for helping us make this a successful Raise the Roof fundraiser!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl group will meet Thursday, October 29 at 1pm.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The St. Mark's men's fellowship will not meet in October. We will resume our normal schedule in November.

LOA BALANCE CLASS

The LOA (Local Office on Aging) is returning to St. Mark's this fall with their very popular Balance Class. **It is a free 8 week program every Wednesday from October 7 to November 25, from 1:30 to 3:30 (Please note the time change) in the Fellowship Hall.** Participants will use a workbook with video, group discussions and easy exercises focusing on keeping us safe by helping us prevent falls. Those of us who attended the last class believe it was very worthwhile. If you have any questions or want to sign up, call Peggy Lootens (276-759-1485).

JOYFUL JOURNEYS

Our trip to Wheeling, W. Va. Nov. 9-11 is all go. We can still accept a few more people. This is our last trip for 2026. The cost is \$554 per person double occupancy and \$743 per person single occupancy. Included are 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, including a Holiday Dinner Show, Ogelbay Park Festival of Lights Tour, Colonel Oglebay's Mansion Museum, Winter Fantasy Displays, The Glass Museum and Artisan Center, Tour of West Va. Independence Hall, Kruger St. Toy & Train Museum, Souvenir Gift, Luggage Handling, Taxes & Meal Gratuities, Motorcoach Transportation and Driver's Tip. If interested contact Julia Greer at [540-330-7933](tel:540-330-7933) (NO texts please). If she does not answer please leave your name and number and she will return your call. The trips for 2027 are already planned. The destinations, dates, and costs will be available by November 1st. The flyers will be handed out to the people on the bus going to Wheeling this November. Trip information will also be available on the Joyful Journey Travels bulletin board at the church and also on St. Mark's website www.stmarksmethodist.com. You also may contact Julia Greer [540-330-7933](tel:540-330-7933) (remember no texts). Wishing everyone a beautiful and healthy and safe fall. Blessings, Julia Greer.

THANKSGIVING DINNER

St. Mark's annual community Thanksgiving meal will be held at 2 pm on Thanksgiving day (11/26) 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.

UWF NEWS



United
Women
in Faith

We celebrated United Women in Faith Sunday on September 20. Our St.

Mark's United Women in Faith led this special worship service, with Jean Alfano sharing the message, **Children's Hour**. Special Mission Recognitions were presented to Ashley Battaile Fred Mattern and Terry Tolley for their work in Missions of the Church. We recognized Children participating in the Reading Program and presented Certificates to Florence Ashby, Elouise Battaile, Remle Battaile, Wren Garcia, Adelaide Moon, Skye Peterson, Grace Plymale, Lucy Plymale and Eirik White. We received mission donations in the amount of \$575 and lit a Candle in Memory and Honor of United Women in Faith and Others. This Sunday is a Special Day we set aside to share in the Mission Work of United Women in Faith.

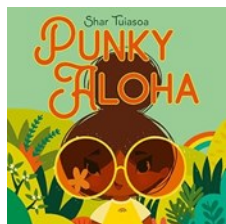
In the Fellowship Hall on MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, at 11 am, we will share our Annual World Thank Offering Program, "THANKS FOR EVERY PART."

This special program and 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 ask for God's guidance as we read, discuss, imagine, and map our way forward. Some things may be unknown, but what we do know is God is with us always. and we always have each other. 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!

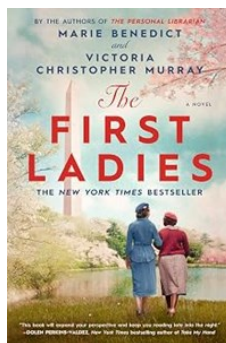
UWF READING PROGRAM

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! Contact Linda Koloda (540-353-7117) if you are interested in more information about the Reading Program. Here are some recommendations for you to review.



PUNKY ALOHA From Polynesian author-illustrator Shar Tuiasoa comes this story of Punky Aloha, a girl who uses the power of saying “aloha” to experience exciting and unexpected adventures. Punky

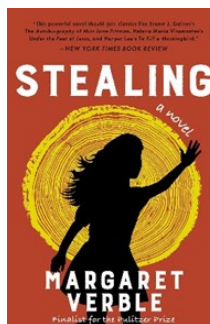
loves to do a lot of things—except meeting new friends. She doesn’t feel brave enough. So, when her grandmother asks her to get butter for her famous banana bread, Punky hesitates. But with the help of her grandmother’s magical sunglasses and a lot of alohas in her heart, Punky sets off on a big adventure across O’ahu for the very first time. Will she be able to get the butter for Grandma? *Nurturing* Hard Copy Children’s Section



THE FIRST LADIES: A NOVEL

This novel explores the extraordinary friendship between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune that changed the world. The daughter of formerly enslaved parents, Bethune refuses to back down to White

supremacists, marching on as an activist and an educator. Awestruck, Roosevelt is eager to make her acquaintance. They become fast friends, confiding in their secrets, hopes, and dreams and holding each other’s hands through tragedy and triumph. This is the story of two different, yet equally formidable, passionate, and committed women, and the way in which their singular friendship helped form the foundation for the modern civil rights movement. (V) *Leadership* Hard Copy



STEALING; A NOVEL Pulitzer Prize finalist Margaret Verble offers a gripping novel about a Cherokee child removed from her family and sent to a Christian boarding school in the 1950s. Kit Crockett lives on a farm with her widowed father, tending the garden, fishing, and reading mysteries from the library

bookmobile. But a malicious neighbor lands Kit at the center of a tragic, fatal crime, and she becomes a ward of the court. Her Cherokee family wants to raise her, but the righteous Christians in town instead send her to a religious boarding school where she’s subjected to religious indoctrination and other forms of abuse. (V) (S) *Education for Mission* Hard Copy



SAFE HARBOR When Geetha and her mom move from India after her parents’ divorce, they leave everything Geetha loves behind. Geetha is bullied at her new school for her clothes, her food, and her English. She finds some solace in her new friend Miguel, and they help rescue an injured harp seal stranded on the beach. But Geetha can feel her

anger building. She sees many of her fears mirrored in the injured seal when she visits it at the Marine Mammal Rehabilitation Center. But when she and Miguel start a beach-clean-up venture, she’s surprised to find how many kind kids are out there. Fiction *Social Action* Hard Copy

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE UPDATE

Because of donors like YOU some children in the Roanoke Valley will go to sleep tonight, not on a cold floor, but in their own warm, safe, and comfortable bed. Lowe’s on Rt. 220 sponsored a bed build on Sept 12 and 100 volunteers built 50 beds. Our church participated with 2 other churches (Mt. Pleasant UMC, Roanoke and Rockingham Court UMC) by donating 49 beds in a bag for the event. There is a poster in the narthex with photos of that day – thanks to all! These events are held all year through VA Roanoke Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Inc. which is a non-profit organization. The contact info is: Jimmy Butler, Chairperson (540-761-1137 jimmy.butler@shpbeds.org).



DOWN AT THE POND

FROGS and Tadpoles are off to a great start this year! We will meet in October on the 11th and the 25th! The FROG store will also be open the night of the 25th. Dinner, music and a lesson/mission project are included! Last month, we made frog crafts and learned about Moses and the Pharaoh. This month we will be learning about God providing manna and quail for the Israelites and we will be making Spookley crafts and reading "Spookley, the Square Pumpkin". We are learning even more about the Bible in Sunday School, every Sunday! Please join us on Sunday mornings at 10 am, too! Preschoolers meet in room 101 and elementary aged children meet in room 102, downstairs. The Nursery class is available for children not yet toilet trained and age 3 and under, in room 205.



Trunk-or-Treat!

Mark your calendars now for Trunk-or-Treat on Friday, October 30th from 5:30 to 7 pm. 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 5:00, if possible. 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 7:00!! Prizes will be awarded for the best trunks and best 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!

Operation Christmas Child

Our Children's Ministries Mission Project for Advent is Operation Christmas Child once again, but a little differently! EVERYONE in the church is invited to participate, not just the children!

Please prayerfully consider joining us in this exciting ministry in a new way! We are having a Packing Party for our FROG and Tadpole meeting on November 8th this year!!



We have never done this before, so we appreciate your support in this new adventure! Our goal for this event is to pack 30 shoeboxes, so your donations are needed! Please consider donating items for our packing party!! A list of items can be found below and the items are also posted on the Narthex Bulletin Board. Please take the note with the item(s) you wish to donate off the bulletin board and bring the item(s) to room 206 by November 1st with the note attached to your donation. Walmart, Amazon, Dollar Tree and Five Below are great places to find these items! The shipping of the 30 FROG and Tadpole boxes at our Packing Party has already been donated!! Please remember to bring your donated items to room 206 (across from the Fellowship Hall Kitchen) **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1!** Our Packing Party will be held during our FROG and Tadpole meeting the following Sunday, November 8th, so any items not donated will need to be brought the week in between. **YOU MAY STILL PACK YOUR OWN BOX AT HOME, IF YOU WISH!!** Shoeboxes and brochures with shipping labels are available on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please do not forget to pay the \$10 shipping fee per box. Your gift-filled box must be turned into the Sanctuary **NO LATER THAN Sunday, November 15th!** Please READ the list of items not allowed in shoeboxes! You may also pack a shoebox online by visiting: samaritanaspurse.org/occ. FROGS and Tadpoles need these items to be donated for our Packing Party to be a success: 8 stuffed animals, 5 small baby dolls, 10 deflated soccer balls with pumps, 7 small building sets (such as LEGO or Magna-Tiles), 25 small sensory toys (such as Slinkys, Rubik's Cubes, mini Etch A Sketches, yo-yos, harmonicas, or recorders), 20 small plush or plastic toys (such as sets of dinosaurs or animals), 20 small toys (such as cars, balls, jump ropes, card games, marbles, or jacks), 30 small boxes of crayons (8-12 count), 14 dozen sharpened pencils, 30 pencil sharpeners, 10 small coloring books, 20 notebooks or pads of paper, 20 watercolor sets with brushes, 20 boxes of colored pencils (8-10 count), 20 small rolls of Scotch tape, 5 boxes of children's character Band-Aids, 30 sets of girls' hair accessories, 20 nail clippers, 5 small craft kits, and 5 small flashlights with extra batteries. *Washcloths, toothbrushes, combs, and brushes have already been donated. All items must fit inside a shoebox.*

Most importantly, please pray as you shop and pack, that your donation(s) will reach a child in need and that their heart will be ready to hear the good news that Jesus Christ loves them and came to earth for their salvation! If you have any questions regarding Operation Christmas Child or our Packing Party, please contact Lee Ann Critz at leeanncritz@yahoo.com or 540-580-3905. Thank you in advance for your support!!



Youth Meeting Updates: Since our attendance is hard to predict, we are going to start providing snacks instead of dinner at our meetings. I will get with the kids to stock up our "pantry" and fridge with stuff they like. We are continuing our study of *The Chosen* throughout this semester: 10/11, 10/25, 11/8, and 11/22. I'd like to plan a small Christmas party for December 13th, more details to come!

Mission Trip: I know it's early, but I want to get planning on our mission trip for summer 2027. The kids have decided on Charleston, SC and we will leave Sunday 6/27 and return Friday 7/2. I will need a final headcount of youth and volunteers as well as a \$100 deposit in January. This will give us plenty of time to make sure we aren't scrambling at the last minute for chaperones.

Sunday School: Don't forget we have Sunday School every week after service! We are starting with some Bible basics and building habits to deepen our relationship with Jesus. Please join us!



TO ALL WHO CELEBRATE THIS MONTH

Newsletter Deadline is 9 am the 20th of each month Bulletin Deadline: Thurs. 9 AM St. Mark's United Methodist Church 19 Cedar Ridge Drive Daleville, VA 24083 Phone: 540-992-3030	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
--	---

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)
--

[illegible]