

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER ♦ SEPTEMBER 2025 ♦ VOL. 23, NO. 9



From Pastor Samuel

Family of St. Mark's,

I would like to invite you to our RISE Against Hunger food-packing mission on September 20th at 10:00 AM in the FLC. Last year, we celebrated a milestone of sending over 300,000 meals to the hungry, and we hope to continue increasing that number annually! Sponsored by TAME, this long-standing mission is fun for all ages, whether carrying supplies, weighing food bags, sealing bags, or packing into boxes. This fast-paced experience is one not to be missed if you've never done it before! The importance of feeding the hungry is an essential hallmark of the Bible, having hundreds, if not over a thousand, verses proclaiming the act of charity.

The more hands we have, the faster we can pack meals for communities that need nutritious food. Will you join us?

Merry Kingdomtide,

Rev. Samuel R. Plymale, Senior Pastor

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For the month of September, I wanted to highlight the TAME meal packing, which is scheduled for September 20th. Last year was the first year that I had the privilege to volunteer at the event, and I was amazed at the number of meals, hard work, and determination I witnessed that day. It was truly faith put into action.

I was fortunate to grow up in developing countries, where my eyes were opened to what poverty looks like. One of my regrets in life is not being more open to sharing God's love with the people I came across, specifically in Bangladesh. As a teenager trying to navigate my own growth I tended to be stuck in my own head and life. Now as an adult I see what a gift that time was but could have been used differently. However, as we all know there is no sense of dwelling in the past or playing over in our heads what we could have done differently. It is how we use those learning experiences to change our hearts and motivations for the now. I hope you will all join us this year in serving others to pack meals, to pack smiles, to pack life and love in those boxes on September 20th.

Brian and I continue to pray for each of you and for our congregation.

Peace be with you, Ashley Battaile

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

Our next meeting will be Monday, September 15 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend to learn what the ministry of St. Mark's is doing. Look for "Ministry Moments" in our service during the months of July and August. Our ministries will be highlighting the work their teams are doing as Jesus' hands and feet in our community.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The next blood drive will be Saturday, September 6 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).

BUCHANAN FOOD PANTRY

St. Mark's will serve at the Buchanan Food Pantry on September 13th. If you are interested in joining our team, or you just want to give this outreach a try, please call Nancy Womack at (540)992-1747 or text to (540)798-5706.

TAME MEAL PACKING

The Rise Against Hunger meal packing event will be Saturday, September 20th 10 am-12 noon. We need 100 volunteers for this event.

ST. MARK'S MEN



The St. Marks Men's Fellowship will meet Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7pm in the fellowship hall. We will have a discussion and review a Ray Vander Laan video. All men are welcome to join!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next Prayer Shawl meeting will be Thursday, September 25 at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

JOYFUL JOURNEYS

Greetings Joyful Journey Travelers:

Reminder that the payment in full for the Nashville Opryland Christmas Trip December 15-17, 2025, IS DUE BEFORE OCTOBER 1. That means it MUST BE RECEIVED by St. Mark's Church before OCT. 1st. To make it easier so that you do not have to pay a large sum all at once you may make payments in increments, any amount, any time you want. If you transferred your money from the Ark Encounter to Nashville please make sure you sent in a registration form for Nashville.

THE TRIPS FOR 2026 have already been planned and all of the information and flyers will be available by the end of November this year. They will be on the church homepage website stmarksmethodist.com, at the church, or by calling Julia Greer at 540-330-7933. NO TEXTS PLEASE! When you call leave your name and phone number and I will call you right back. May everyone have a blessed fall. Keep safe and healthy. Julia Greer, St. Mark's UMC, Daleville, Va.

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



United
Women
in Faith

UWF NEWS

Monday, September 8 - 11 am -- Bring your own lunch

We are pleased that our special September program is a speaker from **Good Samaritan Hospice. Emily Witt**, the Director of Community Relations for Good Sam, will share information about how they foster partnerships and promote compassionate end-of-life care education throughout the communities they serve. She is also passionate about raising awareness and advocating for individuals and families affected by dementia.

Sunday, September 14

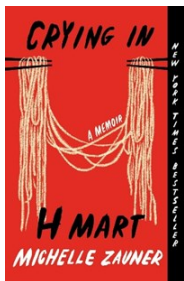
United Women in Faith Sunday

This **Special Sunday Service** will be led by our own St. Mark's United Women in Faith. Our speaker will be **Phyllis Geoghegan** from Blacksburg United Methodist Church. Phyllis is a Local and District Officer in our UWF and a very interesting speaker. Her husband, Rick, is a retired United Methodist minister. On this Sunday, We will celebrate our Reading Program, Candle Burning, Special Mission Recognitions -- and more.

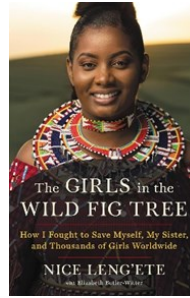
ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR ALL EVENTS!

UWF READING PROGRAM

Check out these books for some fall reading material! Library located just beside the sanctuary. Any questions regarding the UWF Reading Program, contact Linda Koloda 540-992-2744

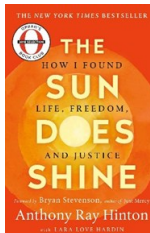


CRYING IN H MART This memoir spent more than a year on the New York Times bestseller list. Penned by Michelle Zauner, the Korean American indie rockstar behind the solo musical act Japanese Breakfast, the book explores family, food, grief, love, and growing up Korean American. Particularly, it addresses mother-daughter relationships, as it was her mother's diagnosis of terminal cancer when Michelle was 25 that forced a reckoning with her identity and brought her to reclaim the gifts of taste, language, and history her mother had given her. *Nurturing* Hard Copy



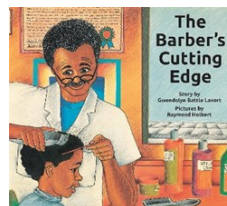
THE GIRLS IN THE WILD FIG TREE: HOW I FOUGHT TO SAVE MYSELF, MY SISTER, AND THOUSANDS OF GIRLS WORLDWIDE

This memoir from Kenyan human rights activist Nice Leng'ete shares how she went from "heartbroken child and community outcast, to leader of the Maasai." As an orphaned young girl taken in by her uncle, Nice defied cultural convention and fled from female genital cutting. She ultimately became the first in her family to attend college and, supported by Amref Health Africa, works to end female genital mutilation and replace it with alternative rites of passage. Through her work with Amref, she has helped save an estimated 15,000 girls from the cut and forced childhood marriages. *Leadership* Hard Copy and CD



THE SUN DOES SHINE: HOW I FOUND LIFE AND FREEDOM ON DEATH ROW

A powerful, revealing story of hope, love, and justice. In 1985, Anthony Ray Hinton was arrested and charged with two counts of capital murder in Alabama. Stunned, he knew it was a case of mistaken identity. But with no money and a different system of justice for a poor Black man in the South, Hinton was sentenced to death by electrocution. He spent his first three years on Death Row in agonizing despair and anger. But as Hinton realized and accepted his fate, he resolved not only to survive but find a way to live, becoming a beacon to his fellow inmates, 54 of whom were executed mere feet from his cell. Hinton won his release in 2015. *Social Action* Hard Copy and CD



THE BARBER'S CUTTING EDGE

is a touching celebration of the close relationship between a young African American boy and his community mentor. Jam-packed with little boys, big boys, dads, and neighbors, Mr. Bigalow's barbershop is a familiar place to talk, to play dominoes, to read, and in Rashaad's case, to get a little extra help with his schoolwork. Not only does Mr. Bigalow know all the latest styles, he also knows all the words on Rashaad's vocabulary list. Whether it's haircuts or words, Mr. Bigalow is the best at what he does. He is also a friend and a role model and as Rashaad puts it, "one cool dude." *Nurturing* Children's Section



DOWN AT THE POND

Children's Ministries

JUMP INTO A NEW YEAR OF F.R.O.G.s AND TADPOLES!

FROGS and Tadpoles will begin a new year on Sunday, September 14th from 4 to 6 pm! Tadpoles are preschool aged children, 3 -5 years old, who are toilet trained and have not been to Kindergarten. FROGS are elementary-aged children, Kindergarten through 5th graders. Please come and bring a friend! The program will be held the 2nd and 4th Sundays of most months during the school year and will include music, a Bible lesson or mission project and dinner will be provided.

Please fill out a Registration Form for each child attending the program and return it to Lee Ann Critz's mailbox outside the church office before the first time the child attends. A new form is required each school year BEFORE the child attends. Parental signature is required. Registration forms are available in the Narthex and on the church website. Anyone interested in helping with this exciting discipleship ministry, please contact Lee Ann!

There will be a brief organizational meeting for all Tadpole and FROG leaders on Sunday, September 7th after Sunday School at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. If you have agreed to help with FROGS and Tadpoles and cannot attend, please let Lee Ann know in advance of this meeting.

FROGS/Tadpoles Fall 2025

**** Intergenerational Fun and Fellowship Activities for the Entire Family!**

September 14: FROGS/Tadpoles 4-6 pm

September 20: Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event 10 am **

September 28: FROGS/Tadpoles 4-6 pm (FROG Store is OPEN)

October 12: FROGS/Tadpoles 4-6 pm

October 25: Trunk-or-Treat 4-5:30 pm **

October 26: FROGS/Tadpoles 4-6 pm (FROG Store is OPEN)

November 9: FROGS/Tadpoles 4-6 pm

November 23: FROGS/Tadpoles 4-6 pm (FROG Store is OPEN)

December 14: FROGS/Tadpoles 4-6 pm

December 28: NO meeting

The FROG Store

The FROG Store needs canned food donations! The children use their FROG dollars to "purchase" this food and then donate it to the Tuna Boat Ministry! Please leave any canned food donations in the large basket under the bulletin board in the Narthex hallway. As always, we welcome any donations of games or toys to the FROG store! New items are preferred, but if you have very gently used items, they can be accepted. Thank you!!





We are excited to welcome our rising 6th graders and other new youth to our first official meeting on September 14th from 4-6 pm at church. Part of this meeting will be planning and games and then we will start our new 4 session Bible Study series "The Power of Words". We will continue our series on September 28th at church from 4-6pm.

During Sunday School, we will be using the Discipleship lessons that follows the lectionary Pastor Samuel uses. This will give us time to dive deeper into the text and message each week.

I know this is a busy time with back to school and sports, but we will welcome you whenever you can make it. While the Bible Study is a series, it will be easy to jump in even if you miss a session or two!

If you haven't joined our BAND communication app, you can use this link <https://band.us/n/a2a601r7s1FdC> or scan the QR Code.



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
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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)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pickleball 5pm - 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7pm Office Closed	2 Boy Scouts 7pm	3 Pastor's Bible Study 11am LOA Balance Class 1:30-3:30pm AA Meeting 3 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	4 GriefShare 10am GriefShare 6:30pm	5	6 Red Cross Blood Drive 8-1 am Al-Anon 1pm
7 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	8 Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm UWF 11 am NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7pm St. Mark's Men 7pm	9 Boy Scout Open House 6:30 pm Boy Scouts 7pm	10 Pastor's Bible Study 11am LOA Balance Class 1:30-3:30pm AA Meeting 3 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	11 GriefShare 10am GriefShare 6:30pm	12	13 Buchanan Food Pantry 8:30 am Al-Anon 1 pm
14 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am FROGs/Tadpoles 4-6 Youth 4-6 <i>14th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	15 Pickleball 10 am - 12 pm Admin Council 6:30 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm	16 Boy Scouts 7pm	17 Pastor's Bible Study 11am LOA Balance Class 1:30-3:30pm AA Meeting 3 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	18 GriefShare 10am GriefShare 6:30pm	19	20 RISE Against Hunger Meal Packing Event 10am -12pm Al-Anon 1 pm
21 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am <i>15th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	22 Pickleball 5pm - 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm	23 Boy Scouts 7pm	24 Pastor's Bible Study 11am LOA Balance Class 1:30-3:30pm AA Meeting 3 pm Women's Hope AA 7 pm AA Meeting 7 pm	25 GriefShare 10am Prayer Shawl 1pm GriefShare 6:30pm	26	27 Al-Anon 1 pm
28 Worship 10 am Sunday Classes 11 am FROGs/Tadpoles 4-6 Youth 4-6 <i>16th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	29 Pickleball 5pm - 7 pm NarAnon 6:30 pm AA 7 pm Al Anon 7 pm	30 Boy Scouts 7pm				