

ST MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 2026 • VOL. 24, NO. 9



From Pastor Samuel Family of St. Mark's,

With school in session, we can't leave learning only to our students! Reading, studying, and discussing the Bible is an excellent way to deepen your faith and understanding of how incredible our God is, and we have plenty of opportunities for you.

Sunday: On our regular worship day, we have several studies that meet directly after service for all ages! From three-years-old and upward, our children's, youth, intergenerational, or round table study are always looking for new members.

Wednesday: at 11AM at Mill Mountain Coffee, Pastor Samuel leads a Bible study! Over the past few months, the study has transformed to be a book-by-book system, where we have just completed the Gospel of Matthew, and by popular demand, the Book of Revelation is our next text. First coffee is on me!

While those are our cemented studies, I have two more ideas I would like to share with you. If you are reading this and interested, please let me know!

++ Wednesday EVENING ++: A similar format to our Wednesday morning study, but for our working folks! Proposed time from 7PM - 8PM.

++ Sunday AFTERNOON! ++: Every so often during our Youth and FROGS programs, we have book or topical studies. This would be a project I have worked on called "Broad Brush Bible" where we go through an entire book of the Bible in under an hour! It is a PowerPoint format, and can have the slides either sent to your email or printed out for you to take notes along the way.

As mentioned before, studying the Bible is an important aspect to our Christian heritage, and studying together makes it much better. I look forward to seeing some new faces!

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

September in Methodist History:

The Birth of American Methodism

September holds a special place in Methodist history. In September 1784, John Wesley took two historic steps that helped establish Methodism as an independent church in America. Following the American Revolution, many Methodist societies in the new United States were left without ordained ministers to administer the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. Recognizing this need, Wesley took action. On **September 1, 1784**, in Bristol, England, he ordained **Richard Whatcoat and Thomas Vasey** as ministers for service in America. The following day, Wesley also set apart **Thomas Coke** as superintendent of the Methodist societies in America. Coke would soon travel to America with Whatcoat and Vasey to help organize the growing movement. Wesley also prepared a new worship book, **The Sunday Service of the Methodists in North America**, adapting the Church of England's liturgy for the American Methodist societies. Together, these actions provided American Methodists with both ordained leadership and an organized form of worship.

As we continue our own journey of preserving our church's history, I invite you to join the **Church History Team for our first meeting on Sunday, September 13, immediately following Sunday School in the Parlor/Bride's Room**. We'll get acquainted, discuss our goals, and begin planning how we can preserve and share the story of our church for generations to come. **I hope you'll join us!**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Meetings resume on September 24 at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The St. Mark's Men's Fellowship will meet Monday, September 14 at 7 pm for fellowship and Bible Study.

BUCHANAN FOOD PANTRY

St. Marks works at the Buchanan food pantry on September 12. Please let Nancy Womack know if you can work. As always, we meet at St. Mark's at 8 am to carpool. Nancy's phone numbers are (540)798-5706 and (540)992-1747.

TRUSTEE UPDATES

There's an old song called *Up on the Roof*, and there's a line in it about finding a paradise that's trouble-proof. Well, I think we've found a little paradise right here at St. Mark's... but unfortunately, **we need a new roof!** And that's why the Trustees are launching our **Raise the Roof campaign**. We need to raise \$90,000. Now, \$90,000 sounds like a pretty big obstacle. But we've decided not to look at it as an obstacle. We're going to look at it as an **opportunity**. An opportunity to **Raise some FUN. Raise Awareness. Raise our time together in Fellowship. And, together, RAISE THE ROOF.**

You're going to see lots of FUNdraisers and fellowship activities over the coming months. Some will be big, some will be small, but we want them to be things that bring us together and hopefully bring other people into St. Mark's as well.

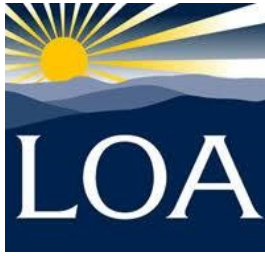
We have divided the roof into 200 squares, and each square represents \$450. Our FUNdraisers will fill some of those squares, and individuals, families, Sunday School classes and church groups can sponsor squares too—in honor of someone, in memory of someone, or simply in love of St. Mark's.

We're already filled 10 squares from our Yard Sale, and next we are working on our **Pansy Sale**, with orders due September 13, and then on November 7 we'll have our **Silent Auction and Fellowship Night**. We need auction donations, and we need volunteers. If you can help with either, please put your information in the Trustee mailbox.

So keep an eye on our Raise the Roof board and watch those squares fill in. I really believe that if we make this about more than money—if we make it about fellowship, service and having some fun together—**we can Raise the Roof.**

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

The Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing will be Saturday, September 19th from 10:00-12:00. We will also need about ten volunteers to help set up from 8:30 to 10:00. All ages from elementary aged children to 95 are invited to volunteer. We will need about 100 volunteers, so bring family and friends and spread the word. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex or you can email Susan Wagner to let TAME know of your interest in helping.



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 1:00 to 3:00 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

There is still time to catch the bus for the "Festival of Lights" in Wheeling, W. Va. Nov. 9-11 2026. This package includes: 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners - including a Holiday Dinner Show - Oglebay Park Festival of Lights Tour, Colonel Ogelbay's Mansion Museum, Winter Fantasy Displays, the Glass Museum & Artisan Center, tour of W. Va. Independence Hall, Kruger Street Toy & Train Museum, Souvenir gift, luggage handling, taxes & meal gratuities, Motorcoach transportation, & Driver's tip.

DEADLINE for payment in full is Sept. 3rd.

Make checks payable to Joyful Journey Travels and send to Julia Greer, St. Mark's UMC, 19 Cedar Ridge Dr., Daleville, Va. 24083. Questions? Call Julia Greer at 540-330-7933 and leave your name and phone number and she will return your call. NO TEXTS PLEASE. Registration forms and additional information can be found at the church (open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9:30 am - noon. Call before you go 540- 992- 3030. Registration forms also are on the church website. We hope you will join us for this FESTIVAL to set the tone for you to Celebrate Christmas.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

If you're having trouble connecting your Kroger Shopper's Card to the Kroger Community Rewards program with **St. Mark's UMC** as your selected organization, Kroger Customer Service can help. Simply call **1-800-KROGERS (1-800-576-4377)**, have your Kroger Shopper's Card number ready, and provide **St. Mark's Community Rewards organization number: TE560**. Thank you for supporting St. Mark's every time you shop!

UWF NEWS



United
Women
in Faith

In August, we joined together at *Olive Garden* for our *Annual August Lunch Out*. No business, just

laughter and a great Italian meal.

Monday, September 14 -- 11 am -- Bring your own lunch

We will be planning our **United Women in Faith Sunday** for Sunday, September 20. We will also be looking at programs and projects for 2027.

Sunday, September 20

United Women in Faith Sunday

This Special Sunday Service will be led by our own St. Mark's United Women in Faith. Our speaker, **Jean Alfano**, has been attending and participating in St. Mark's for several months. She also participates in our Choir and our United Women in Faith. She will be sharing a message on Children.

Also, on this Sunday, we will celebrate our Reading Program, Candle Burning, Special Mission Recognitions -- and more.

If you would like to make a donation to **UWF Candle Burning in Honor or Memory of Someone Special**, envelopes are on the narthex table. The names you are remembering will be printed in the bulletin that Sunday.

ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR ALL EVENTS !

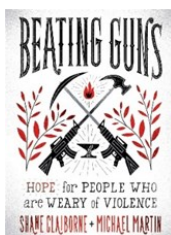
UWF READING PROGRAM

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 540-353-7117.



GRIT IN JUAREZ: BEYOND THE WALL How do children live just a few feet across the wall at our southern border? Cristal and Fina struggle to find enough to eat as they raise themselves on the streets of a poverty-level neighborhood in Juarez, Mexico. Daniel worries about

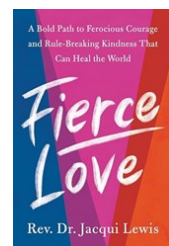
his little brother Memo who has serious respiratory attacks from the pollution and desert climate. Pastors Miguel and Pati want to lead a different kind of church, one responsive to the needs of their community. Life is hard in this newly-formed neighborhood on the border. Can the local church help the families learn to work together as Christ's family to ease each other's burdens? *Nurturing* Hard Copy



BEATING GUNS: HOPE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE WEARY OF VIOLENCE Bestselling author and activist Shane Claiborne and Michael Martin show why Christians should be concerned about gun violence and how they can be part of the solution. The authors transcend

stale rhetoric about gun control to offer a creative and productive response. Full-color images show how guns are being turned into tools and musical instruments across the nation. Charts, tables, and facts convey the realities of gun violence in America, but as the authors make clear, there is a story behind every statistic.

Social Action Hard Copy



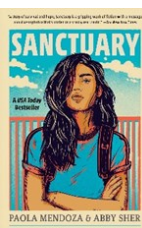
FIERCE LOVE: A BOLD PATH TO FEROCIOUS COURAGE AND RULE-BREAKING KINDNESS THAT CAN HEAL THE WORLD In this book, the author addresses how embracing the tenets of ubuntu can help bring about the

change we seek in a divided world. Race and ethnicity, caste and color, gender and sexuality, class and education, and religion and political party have become demographic labels that reduce differences to simplistic categories in which “we” are vehemently against “them.” But Lewis’s own experience—of being the first female and first Black minister in her church’s history, of being in an interracial marriage, and of making peace with childhood abuse—illustrates how empathy and forgiveness are the key to reversing these ugly trends. *Leadership* Hard Copy



PENNY PREACHES Penny loves Sundays, especially the sermons. Captivated by the idea of speaking God’s words, Penny becomes inspired to preach

herself. But when preaching from the front porch to her friends doesn’t turn out quite as she expected, Penny wonders if she was wrong to want to teach others about God. In this picture book, Penny receives a heartwarming reminder that God’s gifts are for everyone, and she learns valuable lessons about sharing God’s message—and what it means to use the gifts God has given her. *Spiritual Growth* Children’s Section



SANCTUARY In this near-future dystopian novel set in 2032 America, a young girl and her brother must escape a xenophobic government to find sanctuary. Sixteen-year-old Vali and her family have carved out a stable, happy life in small-town

Vermont. When Deportation Forces raid their town, they are forced to flee across the country to her Tia Luna in California, a sanctuary state that is currently being walled off from the rest of the country. But when Vali’s mother is detained before their journey even begins, Vali must carry on with her younger brother across the country to make it to safety before it’s too late. (V) *Education* Hard Copy



DOWN AT THE POND

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

FROGs and Tadpoles will begin a new year on Sunday, September 13th from 4 to 6 pm with a FAMILY Movie/Pizza event! Parents will accompany their child(ren) to this event; complete with pizza, popcorn and ice cream sundaes! A LOVE offering will be accepted for food. We will watch "The Prince of Egypt". Bring your blanket, pillow or stuffy! You are encouraged to wear your favorite pajamas, slippers and robe too! Please join us for a fun family time and bring a friend! **Please let Lee Ann know by 9/10, how many in your family will be coming to the event, so enough food can be purchased. You may text her at 540-580-3905.**

Registration Forms for this school year will be given out for parents to fill out at the Family night event. A new form is required each school year BEFORE the child attends. Parental signature is required. Registration forms are also available in the Narthex and on the church website. Anyone interested in helping with this exciting discipleship ministry or any other children's ministry, please contact Lee Ann!

FROG and Tadpole Leaders: Information packets will be handed out that day at church and during the Family event. If you have agreed to help with FROGs and Tadpoles and cannot attend, please let Lee Ann know in advance of this first meeting.

The FROG Store

The FROG Store needs canned food donations! The children use their FROG dollars to "purchase" this food and 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. If you have very gently used items, they can be accepted. Thank you!!

Children's Sunday School

A new year of Sunday School for children will begin on Sunday, September 6th! That Sunday, all children, ages 3 and 4, who are toilet trained, will be promoted to Preschool Sunday School! **The Preschool Sunday School class will be held in room 101, downstairs this year!** Please bring your 3-year-old to that room after Nursery/Worship Service is over. Those turning 4 years old this fall may attend Children's Worship after the Children's Sermon and then stay for Preschool Sunday School class in room 101. All preschoolers may be picked up in room 101 when the Sunday School dismissal bell rings. Occasionally, we may meet with the elementary class in room 102. If you have questions, please contact Lee Ann!

Safer Sanctuaries Training

There will be a Safer Sanctuaries Training on Sunday, September 27th after the Sunday School hour at 12 noon. Please meet in the Conference room, across from the Choir room. This training will last approximately one hour. Please let Lee Ann know if you are able to attend.

FROGS/Tadpoles Fall 2026 Schedule

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

September 13: Family Pizza/Movie event with parents 4-6 pm**

September 19: T.A.M.E. Meal Packing event 10 am**

September 27: FROGs/Tadpoles 4-6 pm (FROG Store OPEN)

October 11: FROGs/Tadpoles 4-6 pm

October 25: FROGs/Tadpoles 4-6 pm (FROG Store OPEN)

October 30: Trunk-or-Treat 5:30-7 pm **

November 8: FROGs/Tadpoles 4-6 pm

November 22: FROGs/Tadpoles 4-6 pm (FROG Store OPEN)

December 6: FROGs/Tadpoles Dress Rehearsal 4-5pm, NO Dinner served that day

December 13: FROGs/Tadpoles Christmas Pageant 10 am Worship Service. Children arrive at 9:30 am

December 27: NO meeting



Our youth ministry is staying active this fall! We will begin gathering for our Fall sessions on the second and fourth Sundays beginning **September 13th** where we'll be watching and discussing ***The Chosen*** together. We will focus on one episode per session.

A heartfelt **thank you to everyone who supported our recent Spaghetti Lunch!** Your generosity and encouragement mean so much to our youth. Mark your calendars for our next Spaghetti Lunch on **November 29**.

Looking ahead, we are also planning a **mission trip to Charleston, South Carolina next year**, with dates to be announced soon. We look forward to serving together and seeing where God leads us!

We hope you'll continue to support and encourage our youth as they grow in faith, fellowship, and service.



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]