

Adult Ministries are Heating Up!

- Support St. Mark's **Youth/Adult Mission** to Henderson Settlement
- **College Class** becomes **The Orchard**
- **Save these Important June and July Dates**
- **Goodbyes and Hellos – How You can Help!** A Word from Josh Brown

The Orchard



Younger Adults, including current and recently graduated undergraduate and graduate students and early career folks, gather to explore current issues of faith and life, and grow together. The Orchard is a place to be nurtured, to grow in faith, and to bear fruit; all are welcome! This class is led by Trish Clark and meets in Room 502. Contact David Cowan (615) 893-3455 for more information.

ST. MARK'S YOUTH & ADULT MISSION TRIP

Henderson Settlement, Frakes, KY



July 5 – 10, 2026

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY IN THESE AREAS:

Thrift Store, Greenhouse, Infant Supply House,
Food Pantry, Home Repair, and Quilting Class

For more info, see David Cowan

or Rev. Martha Touchton

\$350/Person, \$50 Deposit Due NOW!!!



- ✓ Give financial assistance for our missionaries and projects
- ✓ Donate new packs of disposable diapers, baby food, sewing machines; and gently used fabric, children books, and shoes for all ages, all for distribution at Henderson Settlement. These donations are due Wednesday, July 1st and should be placed in the Narthex donation bins.
- ✓ Pray for these people as they prepare to be in mission:

YOUTH

Kyle Anderson
Sylvia Anderson
Connor Cahill
Bristol Christopher
Rachel Jones
Zoe Wright

ADULTS

Trish Clark
Cathy Cowan
David Cowan
Debb Hobbs
Butler Touchton
Martha Touchton
Hannah Underwood

MILESTONES AND TRANSITIONS

In the coming months, many milestones and changes are happening in the life of the St. Mark's family, and the staff wants you to be prepared and participating as we celebrate each one together. Be sure and mark your calendar with the dates given below, and watch St. Mark's various media so you can be fully engaged in all that is ahead. In the meantime, please be in prayer for each person and situation involved, as well as our church as a whole.



As we prepare for each of these special events, helping hands are needed. If you are willing to assist with any of the celebrations listed below, please volunteer to me at martha@stmarkstn.org.

May God bless St. Mark's UMC in the days and weeks ahead!

SAVE THESE DATES:

Tuesday, June 9th — Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference Service of Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination, including the Commissioning of Hannah Underwood, **7:00 PM** at First United Methodist, Murfreesboro (*nursery available by reservation*).

Sunday, June 14th — 11:30 a.m. Ministry Celebration Reception and Send-Off for Rev. Tommy Ward, Hillary and Liliana

Sunday, June 21st — Rev. Ward's final Sunday at St. Mark's UMC

Sunday, June 28th — Reception and Celebration in honor of the commissioning of Hannah Underwood

Sunday, July 5th — Churchwide Potluck Brunch, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. in lieu of Christian Education

Sunday, July 12th — Rev. Rickey Wade's first Sunday preaching at St. Mark's UMC, Reception following.

GOODBYES AND HELLOS - HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Experiencing a change in lead pastors is a significant event in the life of any congregation, and saying goodbye to Rev. Ward will be emotionally challenging for us as a church family. While it may feel like everything in our church is about to change, that is not the case! St. Mark's will continue to be a vibrant congregation actively seeking to know, love, and serve God in a myriad of ways within our church walls and beyond, to our community and world.



Josh Brown

The Staff/Parish Team and church staff are working together to make this pastoral transition as smooth as possible. You are invited to join us as say farewell to Tommy, Hillary, and Liliana, and welcome Rev. Wade and his family into our church family. Here are a few things you can do in the coming weeks to be an instrument of God's grace in this time:

- 1) **Pray.** Pray for Tommy, Hillary, and Liliana as they prepare for ministry in a new setting and pray that their house will sell soon. Pray for Rev. Rickey Wade, his wife Becky and their family as they prepare to come to St. Mark's. Please also pray for and encourage our staff as they go through this time of change. Together, we can trust that God will work through the decisions and processes of this transition in the best way possible.
- 2) **Lend a hand.** Look and ask for ways you can be helpful to both pastors as they are saying goodbyes and hellos, moving to new homes, and getting used to new places and faces. If you are willing to lend a hand at one of the special events happening in the coming weeks, please volunteer to Rev. Touchton.
- 3) **Give a gift.** We would like to send Tommy and Hillary off with a monetary gift that will make this move a little easier and express our appreciation for all they have done in their 8 years with us. You can place a check in the offering plate or give electronically through our [website](#).
- 4) **Plan to attend the farewell reception** for Tommy and Hillary next Sunday after worship. We'll be serving heavy hors d'oeuvres and dessert, along with special treats for the kids, so you don't have to worry about going out to lunch after church! We will celebrate this season we have enjoyed with Tommy and give thanks for his pastoral leadership, especially through the pandemic and our denominational challenges. This will be a special time you won't want to miss!
- 5) **Finally, be sure to say your personal goodbyes.** Most of us have received one of Tommy's awesome notes, so this would be a perfect time to write a note back, telling him, plus Hillary and Liliana, what they have meant to you, and encouraging Tommy in his new appointment. We will have a basket at next week's reception to collect your cards and notes.

Thank you for all you have already done to give your love and support to our pastors and staff. Let's make the coming weeks of transition a meaningful time full of love and grace.

Josh Brown, Chair
St. Mark's UMC Pastor/Parish Relations Team



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S NEW VISION STATEMENT

The United Methodist Church is a worldwide family of faith, united by one mission: making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We live out this mission through a covenant of connection that binds us together—across communities, cultures, and continents. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs. Our connection gives us strength, resources, and the ability to accomplish more together than any single congregation could do alone.

THE MISSION

The United Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

OUR VISION

The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

LOVE BOLDLY We passionately love God and, like Jesus, embrace and include people of every age, nation, race, gender, and walk of life. [Matthew 22:37-39 | John 13:34-35]

SERVE JOYFULLY With the heart of Christ, we journey alongside the most vulnerable among us, offering care and compassion with joy. [Psalm 100:1 | Nehemiah 8:10 | John 13:14-15 | 1 Peter 4:10]

LEAD COURAGEOUSLY Following Jesus' example, we seek to resist and dismantle all systems of evil, injustice, and oppression, striving for peace, justice, and reconciliation. [Joshua 1:9 | Ephesians 6:10]

THE CALL TO ACTION

This vision is more than words—it is an invitation to embrace joy and hope as we live God's mission. It provides a clear, Christ-centered framework for missional unity and collaboration across our worldwide connection. The Mission of the denomination is our driving purpose, our why. The Vision tells us where we are going and how we will continue to live into and accomplish our mission. In this season, God is calling United Methodists to embody this vision as we

- Grow and form disciples
- Develop Christ-like leaders
- Stand in solidarity with the poor and the vulnerable
- Seek health and wholeness for all people and creation

You will be hearing more about this vision in the coming months. Want to know more today? Visit www.ResourceUMC.org/Vision.