

Adult Ministries are Heating Up!

- Register now for **Youth/Adult Mission** to Henderson Settlement, Kentucky
- **College Class** becomes **The Orchard**
- **St. Mark's Preschool Summer Fun** open to preschool children
- **Save these Important June and July Dates**
- Volunteer to serve at **Annual Conference**
- Evening Meals needed at **The Journey Home** for Family Room Residents

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.



A new support group for persons dealing with Parkinson's Disease, including persons suffering the effects of Parkinson's as well as spouses, family members, and caregivers, is forming at St. Mark's UMC. This group will provide emotional and spiritual encouragement, share helpful resources, and celebrate victories together.

The next gathering will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 27th, in Room 503/505, with lunch following at a local restaurant. Guests are always welcome! For more information, contact Rev. Jim Clardy or Rev. Martha Touchton at (615) 893-3455.

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

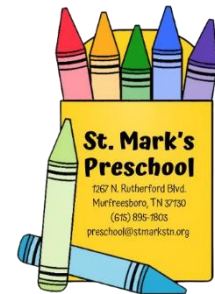
or Rev. Martha Touchton

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



St. Mark's Preschool Summer Fun Enrollment Open

St. Mark's Preschool is taking registrations for its Summer Fun program; preschool children ages 2 – 5 may attend, and they do not have to be currently enrolled in St. Mark's Preschool.



The program will include 6 Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 2 – 18. We have a lot of fun things planned; we would love to have your child be a part of this special summer experience! Please call to Lani either by phone, (615) 895-1803 for more information, stop by to pick up a registration form, or email perschool@stmarkstn.org.



TENNESSEE-WESTERN KENTUCKY
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

SERVANTS NEEDED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2026 Annual Conference of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference will be held June 7 – 10 at First UMC in Murfreesboro, with St. Mark's providing a supportive role.

Volunteers are requested to serve as Acolytes, Ushers, and Communion Servers at the Ordination Service the evening of Tuesday, June 9th, which will include the commissioning as Deacon of our own Hannah Underwood, as well as other services. If you are willing to serve in this way, please contact Rev. Martha Touchton at (615) 893-3455 or martha@stmarkstn.org.



THE JOURNEY HOME SEEKING EVENING MEALS FOR FAMILY ROOM RESIDENTS

The Journey Home has opened its new Family Rooms – one of which is sponsored by St. Mark's UMC – and is seeking families or small groups who would be willing to prepare an evening meal once a month for those residents. The meals do not have to be elaborate, but they do need to be cooked either at The Journey Home or another commercial kitchen or purchased as take-out from a local restaurant. Due to Health Department regulations, we are unable to utilize food cooked in home kitchens.

This simple act of kindness can bring comfort, stability and a sense of care and ease the burden for a family who is working toward a fresh start. There are currently just a few families in residence at The Journey Home, but there is potential for 10 families and up to 46 people. This would be a wonderful service ministry for an adult Sunday school class, family, or other group from St. Mark's!

For more information, contact Rev. Martha Touchton at martha@stmarkstn.org, or volunteer directly to Cherie Jobe, volunteer coordinator at The Journey Home, at cjobe@lovegodservepeople.org or (931) 607-5828.

Thank you for being the hands, feet and heart of Christ in our community, and for considering this important mission and ministry to our neighbors! Your service and generosity makes a difference in so many lives!

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, 6:30 PM at First United Methodist, Murfreesboro (*nursery available by reservation*).

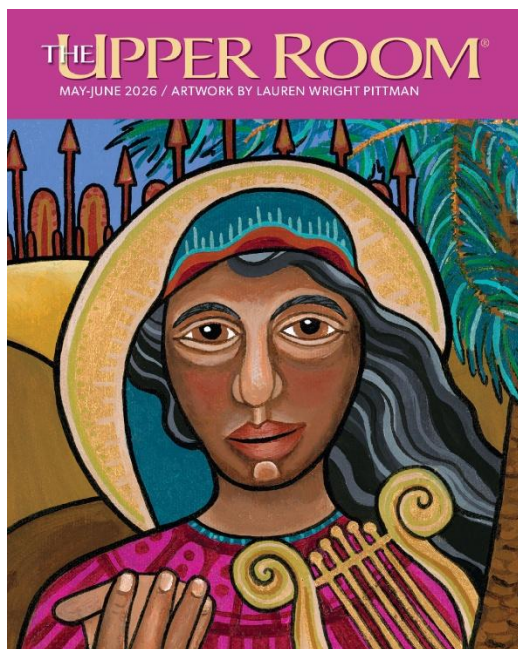
Sunday, June 14th – 11:30 a.m. Ministry Celebration Reception and Send-Off for Rev. Tommy Ward, Hillary and Liliana

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.



Upper Room Artwork Has Connection to St. Mark's

The May/June 2026 issue of The Upper Room features artwork titled "In Tune," created by contemporary artist Lauren Wright Pittman, granddaughter of St. Mark's member Ann Love. The artwork highlights the story of the prophet and leader Deborah and invites readers into a practice of visio divina (divine seeing) to explore the image and its spiritual significance.

Lauren's parents, Lisa Love Wright and Brian Wright had her and her twin sister, Lindsay, baptized at St. Mark's UMC when it was on Main Street. Lauren is a graduate of MTSU and Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, is an ordained elder in the

Presbyterian Church USA, and is a founding partner of "A Sanctified Art," a creative ministry which produces resources for local churches. She uses paint, metallic inks, linoleum carving tools, and her trusty Apple pencil to image the layered complexity she experiences in scripture texts.

Ann states, "My granddaughter Lauren prays that her symbolic art will help people see the Bible Stories in a new and different light. She invites the viewer to connect and find personal meanings in their walk with our Lord."

Lauren is married to Rev. Chad Wright, who pastors at Lake Presbyterian in Knoxville, and together they have a son named Hopper. Her grandmother Ann is also an artist and participates in St. Mark's watercolor classes.



*Ann Love with her granddaughter
Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman*