

Adult Ministries are Heating Up!

- **The Orchard** welcomes college and early career young adults
- **Wednesday Night Together (WNT)** offers community and growth
- **Thursday Women's Bible Study** now in Session
- **Adult Day Trip for Missions** offered Thursday, October 22nd
- **Parkinson's Support Group** meets next week
- **St. Mark's Preschool** performs well, offers fundraiser
- **The Sweet Addiction (next Newsletter)**

The Orchard

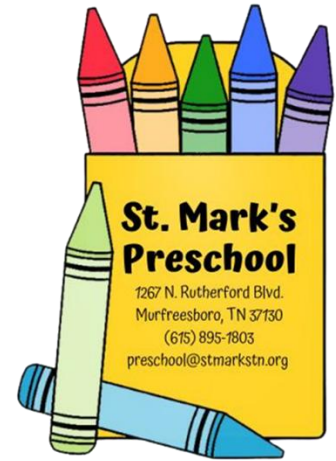


COLLEGE STUDENTS AND BEYOND INVITED!

People attending or recently graduated from college and graduate school gather to explore current issues of faith and life and grow together in The Orchard, a place to be loved, nurtured, grow in faith, and to bear fruit.

This class is led by Trish Clark and meets in Room 406. Contact David Cowan (615) 893-3455 for more information.

St. Mark's UMC Announces Job Opening: Preschool Director



Dear St. Mark's,

With gratitude for the leadership in place during this season of transition with Interim Director Sarah Butler, and in accordance with state childcare licensing policies which require that an Interim Director may only serve for 60 days, St. Mark's is opening a search process to discern the next permanent Preschool Director who will help us build on our strengths and continue long tradition of providing the highest quality, nurturing care available for young children and their families. We are also exploring ways to expand our program to better serve our neighborhood and community in the future.

Applicants must meet the requirements of the State of Tennessee Licensure Rules for Child Care Agencies. A Bachelor's degree or higher in a relevant field is preferred, along with experience in childcare administration appropriate business acumen, and familiarity with management software.

Application materials and job description for this position are available at <https://www.stmarkstn.org/resources>. All applications, resumes, and cover letters should be submitted to preschool@stmarkstn.org and jobs@stmarkstn.org by Friday, October 9, 2026.

Please keep St. Mark's Preschool Ministry Board in your prayers as we move through this important process.

Peace,

Rev. Martha Touchton



Food, Fellowship, Faith, and Fun for All Ages!

Featuring food preparation and service by
THE SWEET ADDICTION catering and
St. Mark's United Methodist Men.

Next Week's Menu, 9/30:

*Baked Lemon Chicken with Orzo Pasta,
Buttered Peas, Salad Bar,
Dinner Roll, and Black Forest Cake*

Adult Courses in October

HONORING YOUR LIFE: Obituaries, Funerals, and Body Disposition

led by Rev. Martha Touchton with Josh Brown, October 14, 21, & 28

Amidst all that occurs leading up to one's death, often the last thing given careful thought and planning is how your life will be remembered and celebrated. We can do better! Join the conversation as we prepare for one of life's ultimate moments and give your family the best gift.

NOT IN MY BACKYARD: Data Centers and Landfills

led by Greg Denton, October 4 and 21 in Room 407/409

Retired environmental scientist Greg Denton will explore the environmental issues associated with two current hot-button topics that have captured the public's attention, data centers and landfills. If you are interested in these topics and would like to learn more, please plan to attend!

COFFEE TALK: Current Events, Music, Culture and Faith!

led by Butler Touchton, October 28 in the Narthex

Join Butler Touchton in a lively discussion about what is happening in the larger community around us and how it intersects with our daily discipleship.

FUN AND GAMES with David and Hannah

October 14, 21, & 28 in Room 502

All ages are invited to share, learn, and practice the best family friendly card games around! Bring your competitive spirit and your own games to share, and we'll bring some new favorites as well.

At Wednesday Night Together, we gather beyond the confines of our pews and classes and across generational boundaries to go deeper in our discipleship of Jesus Christ and our relationships with one another, our community, and the world around us.

PAY FOR WNT ONLINE!



**Adults \$10/person,
Children, Youth, & College Eat Free!**

Pay in person using check or cash, or
online any time using the QR Code.

*Please Note: Reservations must still
be made via the attendance pads or
by calling the church office.*



Thursday Women's Bible Study

We're getting a jump on
Christmas with

***Joy of Every Longing Heart:
An Advent Study***

Thursdays, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

October 15 – November 12

Led by Patti Daws, Room 1203

Please Purchase your own Book!



**Join with others from St. Mark's for a day trip to Decatur, AL
for hands-on mission work, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.!**

*Most volunteer tasks do require a good deal of physical activity
and for volunteers to be on their feet most of the time.*

Some tasks are available for persons with limited mobility. *Current needs are:*

- Building or verifying UMCOR cleaning buckets, UMCOR kits, or Tornado buckets
- Sorting, bundling and boxing supplies
- Cleaning: including sweeping, vacuuming and cleaning the restroom.
- As needed, labeling and loading supplies on pallets or in trailers.
- Boxing Christmas Shoe Boxes in cases, placing cases on pallets, building pallets with the appropriate # of girl and boy cases for missionary shipments. Packing requested school supplies for missionaries participating in the Shoe Box Ministry.
- Building pallets of supplies, which includes moving and stacking boxes, shrink wrap and stretch wrapping operations.

Transportation will be by St. Mark's bus.

Cost per Person: Lunch on your own at a local eatery



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

7:00 a.m. Departure from

St. Mark's UMC

4:00 p.m. Return to

St. Mark's UMC

Minimum: 5 persons

Maximum: 15 persons

For more information or to register,

Email martha@stmarkstn.org

**ST. MARK'S CELEBRATES
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
AND SPECIAL OFFERING
THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH**

"Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf." 1 Corinthians 10:17



Holy Communion is more than a meal we share—it is a visible sign of our belonging to God and to one another in Christ. Though we come from different cultures, countries, traditions, and circumstances, we gather around one bread and one cup as one body. This coming Sunday, October 4th, we will join with other United Methodists and Christians to celebrate Holy Communion at a worldwide table, a place where divisions give way to connection, where diversity is celebrated, and where the global church is united in Christ. As the hymn “We are the Church” states, “All who follow Jesus, All around the world, Yes we’re the Church Together!”

As we share in the bread and cup, we also share in a global mission: supporting diverse leaders through scholarships and training as we receive a communion rail offering for United Methodist Special Sundays. Your gift empowers students from underrepresented communities to serve and lead the church into the future. Half of all donations to our World Communion Sunday communion rail offering will fund scholarships for students of color pursuing ordained ministry, while the rest support leadership development and training that advance inclusion, diversity, equity, and access worldwide.

WE ARE FED that we might FEED OTHERS



As part of our mutual preparation for the sacrament of Holy Communion, you are invited to donate canned and dry foods to St. Mark's Food Bank every 1st Sunday.

Sunday, October 4th is World Communion Sunday!

Please bring boxes of Saltine Crackers

“For I was hungry, and you gave me food...” Matthew 25:35