

St. Mark United Methodist Church
550 Hwy. 72 By-Pass NW
Greenwood, SC 29649
<http://www.stmarkgreenwood.com>
Church Phone: 864.229.5416
Kids' World Phone: 864.227.2776

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The Witness



Bypass Campus (BPC)



Rivers Street Campus (RSC)

St. Mark United Methodist Church

www.stmarkgreenwood.com
Volume 19 Issue 8
September 2025





Heritage • Theology • Faith in Action

UNITED METHODISM 101

with Rev. Jason Wilson, Senior Pastor

Sundays in September
During the Sunday School Hour
Founders Hall, Bypass Campus





Jason's Journal

"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25

Friday, August 15th, Amber and I moved Brady to Clemson as he prepared to begin his freshman year of college. The trucks were loaded, Brady and I were talking, and I was offering him some fatherly advice before we left home. I looked at Brady and said, "Son, here are a few things I want you to remember when you get to Clemson. Every day, ask God to give you wisdom in everything you do. Get involved with a church and a small group. Be careful what parties you go to and who you hang out with. Finally, stay away from crazy women. Those last two things, parties and crazy women can lead you down a wrong path quickly."

As I have thought about my farewell address to Brady on that day, I have spent time reflecting on the first two 'nuggets' of advice I gave to him. *Ask God to give you wisdom in everything you do, and get involved with a church and small group.* I think those two are good advice for anyone, no matter your age. The Scriptures remind us that we are to ask God for wisdom and God will graciously give it. I am also reminded of the wisdom I have gained in continuing to show up in worship and in connecting with other believers in Sunday school, Bible study, and small groups. I think that is why it is important for followers of Jesus to not neglect meeting together, because we all need the encouragement of our church family in this world in which we live. In addition, while I believe it is of utmost importance to gather together for worship, I believe one of the ways we grow deeper in our faith is through opportunities like Sunday school, Bible Study, and small groups. Andy Stanley once said, "You grow deeper in your faith sitting in circles, not rows." What he meant by those words was that while sitting in rows during worship is important, true spiritual growth comes when you are able to sit with other believers, talk, listen, and learn together from the Scriptures.

I wonder, if you are not involved in a class or small group, what is stopping you? I would encourage you to consider one of our existing classes or possibly even start your own. Let me know if I can help you find your place in a class or study at St. Mark UMC.



Worship Attendance Year to Date Average

As of August 24, 2025

8:45 AM - BPC	81
8:45 AM - RSC	58
11:00 AM - BPC	88
11:15 AM - RSC	83
8:45 Stream - BPC	53
11:15 Stream - RSC	37
10:30 AM - One Church	274
10:30 Stream - One Church	84
Worship Attendance	389
Sunday School Attendance	60

The next copy of *The Witness*, the church's monthly newsletter, will be emailed out Thursday, September 25. **Deadline to submit information to the church office for the newsletter is Monday, September 15.**

Copies of the September Birthdays list, September Anniversaries list, and Upper Rooms for September/October are located at the narthex/welcome area at each

The Pastors and congregation extend Christian sympathy to the following members of our church family.

- Al West and his family on the death of his brother in-law, Linton Mann, on August 18th.

Welcome to the St. Mark Family

Join the staff of St. Mark in welcoming our new church members: Margaret Wanning, Jason and Adri Jordan, Todd and Sara Waldrep.



Jason and Adri Jordan
Sadie and Hobson



Todd and Sara Waldrep
Savanna and Nyles



September 7th
12:45 pm



ROOM 104
BYPASS CAMPUS

Growth




WINGS St. Mark UMC








Hello St. Mark Family!

Do you ever get a question in your head and wrestle with it? Like one of those life-changing, mindset-changing type questions? That happened to me last year, and it led me through an interesting journey. The question was simple, and yet the answer was far from it. The question was, if you woke up tomorrow morning and heard God audibly say "Yes," how would you respond? I don't mean a vague yes, but a direct, clear voice saying, *"I'm saying yes to everything you prayed for last week."*

Would the world around you look different? Would your neighbors, your workplace, your family feel the impact of those prayers? Would there be stories of transformation, or would things look mostly the same because our prayers

were, if we're honest, a little timid?

Sometimes we pray like we're testing the waters, asking for things so small that, if they happened, no one would even notice. We pray for comfort instead of change. We pray safe prayers, because bold prayers feel risky. After all, what if God doesn't answer the way we hoped?

But Scripture shows us a God who responds to bold, faith-filled prayers. Elijah prayed for the rain to stop, and it did. Bartimaeus cried out for sight, and he saw. The early church prayed for Peter's release from prison, and the doors swung open. These weren't casual, *"if You get a chance"* prayers. They were specific, confident requests to a God who holds all power.

The truth is that timid prayers teach our hearts to expect little. But bold prayers, prayers that risk something, remind us that God still moves mountains. They shift our perspective from what's possible in our strength to what's possible in His. And here's the thing, bold prayer is not about arrogance or presumption. It's not about getting God to sign off on our wish list. Bold prayer is about trusting His heart enough to bring Him our deepest hopes and biggest fears and then resting in the truth that however He answers, it will be good. When we pray boldly, we're saying, *"God, I believe You can, I trust that You will, and I'll follow You even if the answer looks different than I imagined."*

So here's the challenge - what if we prayed this week as if God's answer would be yes? What if we believed that His love is bigger than our fear, that His plans are better than our own, and that His power is not limited by our circumstances? I believe we'd see more than just answered prayers. We'd see lives changed, faith strengthened, and God glorified. And maybe, just maybe, we'd start to realize that the greatest gift in prayer isn't just God's "yes" but the deeper relationship we build with Him when we dare to ask.

So, if you heard God say yes... what would you dare to pray for?

I hope you have an amazing September, and I look forward to seeing YOU at CHURCH! BRING A FRIEND!!

Robby

SEPTEMBER PREACHING SCHEDULE AND SCRIPTURE

September 7 - Philemon 1-21

- Rev. Jason Wilson at the Bypass Campus 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM.
- Rev. Robby Lybrand at the Rivers Street Campus 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM.

September 14 - 1 Timothy 1:12-17

- Rev. Robby Lybrand at the Bypass Campus 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM.
- Rev. Jason Wilson at the Rivers Street Campus 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM.

September 21 - 1 Timothy 2:1-7

- Rev. Jason Wilson at the Bypass Campus 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM.
- Rev. Robby Lybrand at the Rivers Street Campus 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM.

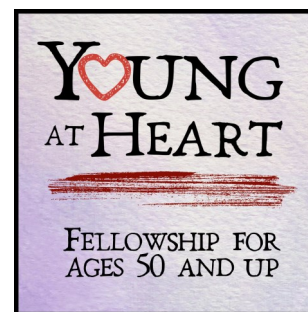
September 28 - 1 Timothy 6:6-19

- Rev. Jason Wilson at the Bypass Campus 8:45 AM and 11:00 AM.
- Mr. Eric Philcox at the Rivers Street Campus at 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM.

WESLEY COMMONS

St. Mark/Wesley Commons
Fellowship
Thursday, September 4
10:30 AM

Wesley Commons
Library
1110 Marshall Road



- September 18, 8:30 a.m. **Heroes and Villains Exhibit and Lunch** SC Museum in Columbia, SC. Cost: \$35.00 (Will be taking the Kids' World bus). This critically acclaimed exhibition features more than 70 costumes, from characters such as Cinderella to Maleficent and more. Created by Walt Disney Archives. Includes costumes worn by Bette Davis, Glenn Close, Angelina Jolie, and Disney Legend Julie Andrews. Over 60 years worth of costumes. Of course, what would a trip be without lunch? For the men, if you aren't interested in the costume exhibit then you can tour through the military museum with the same ticket. Come on board and join us on this fun trip! Deadline to sign up is September 12. Contact Debra Robinson at debcol0609@gmail.com or 864.993.2957.
- September 22, **Mig's for Lunch** 11:30 a.m. Will meet there. Join us for lunch at Mig's. They have a wide variety on their menu so you don't have to get pasta. Contact Elaine Moore at elainejmoore3239@gmail.com or 864.992.9668.
- October 6, **Monthly Luncheon** 11:30 a.m. Founders Hall. Entrée will be chicken casserole. Bring a side dish to share. Contact Elaine Moore at elainejmoore3239@gmail.com or 864.992.9668.
- November 2, **Hairspray** Greenwood Community Theatre. Tickets \$20.00. Join us as we meet at the Greenwood Community Theatre for a wonderful production of Hairspray. If you haven't seen the movie, you are going to love it! Deadline to register is September 30. Contact Debra Robinson at debcol0609@gmail.com or 864-993-2057 to secure your ticket.
- November 3, **Southern Soul Luncheon** in McCormick 11:30 a.m. Kids' World bus will take group. Contact Elaine Moore at elainejmoore3239@gmail.com or 864.992.9668.
- December 1, **Christmas Party** 11:30 a.m. Founders Hall. Join us as we kick off the holiday season and end our year with a Christmas party. Bring an appetizer to share and also a wrapped Christmas ornament to exchange. Contact Elaine Moore at elainejmoore3239@gmail.com or 864.992.9968.



If you can sew, volunteer to help make the quilts. If you can't sew, donations are always needed. If you hear of someone who might need a quilt, please make sure they want it, and then contact Kay Gregory at 864-554-4740 or Patricia Rickenbaker at 864-980-4293 or email Stmarkprayerquilts@gmail.com. As of August 31, we have given out 194 prayer quilts.

Retro Lava Ceramic Christmas Tree Class

Join local artist, Adri Jordan, and the Women's Ministry and make a Retro Lava Ceramic Christmas Tree.

October 25, 2025, 10:00 am - noon
\$40.00 per person
Wayne Goff Hall, Rivers Street Campus

Register by September 21!
Contact Debra at (864)993-2957 or debcol0609@gmail.com.



♦ **IN SEARCH OF:** We are searching for a woman of St. Mark who would be interested in leading the Women's Ministries. This involves scheduling activities throughout the year, working with staff to send out emails to the women of the church, and sending information to staff so that slides can be made for announcements. This is a very rewarding mission! Contact Debra Robinson for more information at 864.993.2957.



ST. MARK



BRIDGE KIDS

KREW
SEPTEMBER

It's not too late to be a part of KREW! KREW is our Sunday afternoon children's ministry, and it really lives up to it's name - **Kids Really Excited about Worship!** Our KREW children are divided into two groups. KREWKATEERS are age 2-K5, and KREW KIDS are 1st-5th graders. Both groups start out together for worship, and then we break into two groups, allowing children to learn and experience Biblical truths in an age-appropriate setting! Sundays, 4:30-6:00.

Register today at www.stmarkbridgekids.com

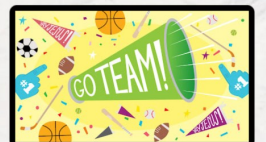


The immoral woman who had been kicked out of the friend group. The greedy man who stole from his family. The uneducated. The poor. The sick. The outcast. Jesus called them all friends while He was on Earth. And Jesus still calls everyone who follows Him "friends," today and forever.



When Jesus was a boy, He grew in wisdom. God wants us to discover wisdom too. When we make the wise choice, we reflect the character of Jesus to people around us. Wisdom is worth searching for. When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice. Hang out with wise people. Never stop growing in wisdom. We will DIVE DEEP to explore all about WISDOM!

SEPTEMBER 7 PIZZA AND ICE CREAM! WEAR A SHIRT THAT REPS YOUR SCHOOL!	SEPTEMBER 14 Disney Day! Cereal
SEPTEMBER 21 WEAR YOUR KREW Shirt!	SEPTEMBER 28 OCTOBER 5 INTERSESSION (no KREW)



SAVE
the
DATE

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Dates: Nov. 18, Nov. 20, Nov. 23, Dec. 2, Dec. 5

Christmas Pageant Performances: Dec. 6

The Christmas Pageant is for all children ages K2-5th grade!



SPARK Sunday School meets each Sunday from 10:00-10:45 at the Rivers Street Campus. All children K2-5th Grade are encouraged to attend! Digging Into Foundations of Faith lays the groundwork for what it means to be a Christian. Kids explore what the Bible reveals about who God is and how God sees us, how we fit in God's family, and how we live the Christian life. As kids understand core concepts of Christianity, they'll gain a solid framework for their own relationship with Jesus.

www.stmarkbridgekids.com



EPIC
STUDENT MINISTRY
WWW.STMARKEPIC.COM



EPIC IS A CHRIST-CENTERED MINISTRY FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12. EPIC MEETS FROM 6:30-8:00. ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED! BRING A FRIEND! WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AT EPIC!

This September, our EPIC students dive into a deep study of the Fruits of the Spirit.

We tell students that God is at work in the world, because we know what that means. But to students, it might seem like God is nowhere to be found. Maybe God didn't answer their prayers in the way they wanted or expected. Maybe they started to have doubt that God was even there to answer those prayers. They may wonder if they'll ever really have proof to be sure that God is really there, loves them, and wants to make something amazing from their life.

That's the tension that frames the entire series. We believe that God is still working in the world, AND that we can see God in the process. . . but it might look and feel a bit different that actually seeing God standing in front of us. To help students unpack how they can learn to see God in their everyday lives, we have four amazing truths from the Bible we don't want them to miss.



HSX
High School Extra

Juniors/Seniors
High School Room

Freshmen/
Sophomores
The Attic

HSX, our High School Extra Bible study, meets after EPIC. 9th-10th Graders are led by Rev. Robby Lybrand in the Attic. 11th-12th graders are led by Julie McLaughlin in the High School Room. These studies do not incorporate a curriculum. The study is straight from the Bible and encourages healthy discussion. All high schoolers are invited to attend HSX, 8:00-8:45 after EPIC.

THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!

We need everyone's help unloading! Students - stay after unloading for a game of water kickball and snacks!

LOOK FOR SIGN UPS TO SELL AT WWW.STMARKEPIC.COM



IGNITE
COLOSSIANS 1:10

Ignite Sunday School for Students (6th–12th Grade)

Students, you're invited to join us for Ignite Sunday School, led by Glenn and Alyson Perrin. This is more than just a class—it's the core Bible curriculum that lays the foundation for your faith.

Sunday nights at EPIC build on that foundation, but it all starts here in small group study. Come grow deeper in God's Word, ask questions, and strengthen your walk with Jesus alongside friends.

Don't miss this chance to build your faith from the ground up!



Prayers of the Church

Prayer requests will remain on this list for three weeks unless we are notified differently.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING

Ansley Glen
(1408 Parkway, Greenwood, SC)
Faye Adams

Emerald Gardens
(201 Overland Drive, Greenwood, SC)
Lorene Waldrep

Magnolia Bridge
(1056 TPC Blvd, Unit 155, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576)
Susan Hood

Wesley Commons
(1110 Marshall Road, Greenwood, SC)
Ruth Clark
Jim and Dodie Conley
George and Betty Crane
Skip Heintzelman
Lee Kruzan
Betty Moss McGuirt
Sam and Gene Zittrouer

Shut-In/Homebound
Mary Ellen Anderson
(864.223.5275)
1830 Alexander Road W
Greenwood, SC 29649

Jean Bedenbaugh
Lexington Medical Center
Extended Care
815 Old Cherokee Road
Lexington, SC 29072

Joyce Campbell
101 Shannon Street
Greenwood, SC 29646

Tom and Beth Downtin
122 Hemlock Ct
Greenwood, SC 29649

Mary Anna Evans
5800 Old Providence Road
Apt 4310
Charlotte, NC 28226

Evelyn Fennell
308 Marietta Drive
Greenwood, SC 29646

Charlie Helms (704.535.7848)
c/o Teena Williams
4600 Crofton Ct.
Charlotte, NC 28205

Miriam Laswell
122 Leslie Drive
Greenwood, SC 29649

Shut-In/Homebound Cont'd
Bob and Jean Lax
801 Musgrove St
Unit 84
Clinton, SC 29325

Julie McCaffrey
101 Wendover Road
Greenwood, SC 29649

Wilma McCall
106 Cessna Avenue
Greenwood, SC 29646

Jackie Menaker
104 Hunters Village Drive
Greenwood, SC 29649

MEMBERS AND REGULAR ATTENDEES
Julie McCaffrey
Al West
Ed Hood
Jim Conley
Dodie Conley
Betty Moss McGuirt

MEMBERS' FAMILY
The Family of Linton Mann
Mary Kate McCaffrey
Bob and Juanita English
Pinky Dukes
Alyssa Fender
Whitney Stennett

MEMBERS' FRIENDS
McKayla Dye
Gary Brissie
Shannon Moss
Pat Wilbanks
Rev. Jim Johnston
Will Coleman
Rebecca Hall
Valerie Hazlett

MILITARY
Sgt. Jack Boyd - Army
Christian Furman - Army
Randall Geddings
Joshua Goff - Marines
Kos Kerhoulas - Navy
Mackenzie Latham - Air Force
Will Peeler - Army National Guard
Banner Peksa - Army

COLLEGE STUDENTS
Anderson University:
Luke Godwin and Eric Philcox

Chowan University:
Cameron Addis

COLLEGE STUDENTS Cont'd
Citadel:
Olivia Murray and Owen Whittington

Clemson:
Adam Prince, Bentley Setzler, Brady Wilson, Caroline Addis, Charlee Layland, Chloe Ison, Dawson Hudson, Emma Arnold, Jackson Hamm, Josh Godwin, Julia Creswell, Lexi Layland, Liam Tompkins, Lily Lambert, Liza Justesen, Matthew Dalton, and Thomas Goff

Erskine College:
Hampton Ashley

Guilford College:
Jillian Mapes

Kenneth Shuler:
Rylee McManus

Lander:
Jordan Mapes, Kylie Camp, and Rhianna Philcox

MUSC Charleston:
Wyatt Prince

Mississippi State University:
Walker Self

North Georgia Technical College:
Thomas Hudson

Piedmont Technical College:
McCutchen Geoly and Savannah Mallon

Presbyterian College:
Beatty Murray

Tri County Technical College:
Luke Hannah

University of Georgia:
Haley McLaughlin

University of North Carolina - Charlotte:
Zach Robinson

University of South Carolina:
Caroline Bell Grace Lollis, and Meg McGovern

University of Virginia - Wise
Noah Perrin

Wofford College
Hannah Crooks and Mary Peden Light



St. Mark gratefully acknowledges the following gifts:

- To *The General Fund* in loving memory of **Fred Latham** by Tom and Betsy Watkins, Sam and Margo Tolbert, Richard and Beth Stegall, Larry and Susie Barker, Miriam Bickerton.
- To *The Back Pack Meal Fund* in loving memory of **Fred Latham** by Dubie and Fran Brown.
- To *The Choir Fund* in loving memory of **Fred Latham** by Libby Oates.



Healthy snacks (granola bars, nuts, dried fruit).

Items needed at the Food Bank:

Canned tuna, chicken, or salmon, Peanut butter and jelly, Meals in a can (chunky soups, stew, chili), Canned fruits in its own juice or water, Canned food with pop-top lids, Dried beans (pinto, blackeyed, kidney, lima, etc), Pasta (including whole grain), Rice (brown, white, yellow), Low-sugar whole grain cereals, Grits and Oatmeal (bag or box), Powder or shelf-stable milk, Bottled water and fruit drinks,



Kids' Talk

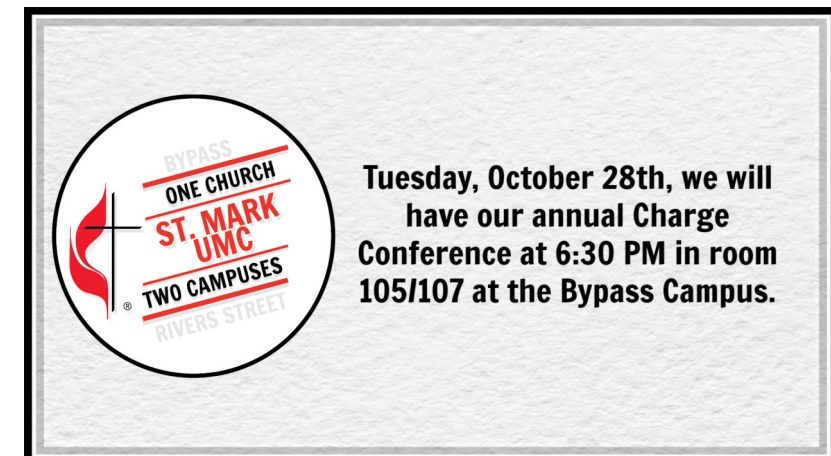


Kids' World is off to a great start for our 2025/2026 school year! We have been praying for weeks that God would send us some qualified teachers to add to our staff, and we are happy to report that He has done just that! We have two new staff members beginning training on 8/25/25. Please join us in praying over them as they begin their exciting journey with us. We have a staff board in our main hallway; we invite you to stop by and read a little information about our teachers and pray over them!

We are looking forward to some new upcoming events this year! This September, we are hosting a "Grits with Grands" breakfast -in honor of all our grandparents here at the school. This will be an unforgettable sweet time of fellowship. We are also in the planning phase of a fall festival for our families to come out and have some fun fellowship together. Last, but not least, we are celebrating birthdays at Kids' World a little differently this year! We are setting up a birthday table once monthly to celebrate everyone born during the month. This table will feature a birthday photo of each kiddo being celebrated, materials to leave them a birthday message, and a sweet treat for all our KW family!

Please be sure to take a few minutes while walking through the facility to take a peek at the things displayed on our many bulletin boards. Our children work very hard and are eager to share the things they have learned with everyone at St. Mark!

Blessings,
Amanda Wideman



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office is closed Kids' World is closed 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	2 12:00 Staff Meeting at RSC 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	3 6:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Blend Band Rehearsal	4 7:00 Men's Bible Study 5:15 Daisy Troop 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA 6:30 Cadette Troop	5 6:00 Founders Hall in use	6 12:00 Founders Hall in use
7 12:45 Growth meeting 4:30 KREW 6:30 EPIC	8 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	9 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	10 6:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Blend Band Rehearsal	11 7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Founders Hall in use 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA	12 6:00 Founders Hall in use	13
14 4:30 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	15 Information due for the church newsletter Kairos using RSC 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	16 Kairos using RSC 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	17 Kairos using RSC 6:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Blend Band Rehearsal	18 Kairos using RSC 7:00 Men's Bible Study 5:15 Daisy Troop 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA 6:30 Cadette Troop	19 Kairos using RSC	20
21 4:30 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	22 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	23 9:30 Puppet Theatre in use 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	24 6:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Blend Band Rehearsal	25 7:00 Men's Bible Study 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA	26 6:30 Men's Prayer Breakfast	27
28 12:30 Pumpkin Unloading	29 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	30 6:00 Women on My Journey AA				Worship Services are: Bypass Campus:8:45 am & 11:00 am Rivers Street Campus: 8:45 am & 11:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am