

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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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Witness



Bypass Campus (BPC)



Rivers Street Campus (RSC)

St. Mark United Methodist Church

www.stmarkgreenwood.com

Volume 20 Issue 1

February 2026


CrossRoads
pregnancy center

Baby Bottle Campaign

Your Change can Change a life!

Join us in supporting Crossroads Pregnancy Center by putting your loose cash and change in the provided baby bottles!



SENDING FORTH



Cares and Shares
St. Mark

St. Mark Cares and Shares - February 2026

Imposition of Ashes

Worship Service

Wednesday, February 18
7:00 pm
Bypass Campus

Livestream at www.youtube.com/c/StMarkUMCGreenwood



Jason's Journal

"In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy....Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Acts 2:17-18, 21

February 15, 2026, the Forward Focus team will have their first meeting as the leadership of St. Mark UMC gathers to begin the process of Forward Focus. Some of you may be wondering, what is Forward Focus? Forward Focus is an initiative and process to help churches gain a clearer understanding for missional opportunities in our community. Forward Focus is laity driven, and the team is held accountable by the congregation. There will be congregational meetings so that the team can share with you all how their work is going. Forward Focus allows for the team of people to reflect on the history of St. Mark UMC, our current reality, and through demographic studies, the possibility of discovering where God is leading us in the future.

As we embark on this journey of discovery through Forward Focus, I have been reminded of the above passage of Scripture from Acts 2. If you will remember, Acts tells us the story of the beginnings of the early church. Specifically, Acts 2 is the story of Pentecost, the promised Holy Spirit descending upon God's people to empower them to be the church. The Scripture above is a portion of Peter's sermon, and Peter is quoting from the Old Testament prophet, Joel. Why have I been thinking about this passage in light of St. Mark beginning this missional initiative and process? This team can do all sorts of planning, sharing of ideas, setting goals, and working the process itself; yet, if we do not seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this process, then it will be for naught. The Holy Spirit is the power God gives the church to live out what God has called us to do. Holy Spirit, fall upon the people of St. Mark UMC. Give us vision and clarity as we desire to be and do as you have called us to.

St. Mark UMC, here is how you can help our Forward Focus team in their work and process. Not only do we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we need prayer. If the Holy Spirit is the power of the church, prayer is the engine. In all things, prayer is the most that we can do. Here is what I am asking of you, St. Mark. While we are in this process of Forward Focus, I am asking for you to pray a specific prayer every day. The prayer is as follows: *Almighty God, today I am praying for the Forward Focus process and Forward Focus team members, St. Mark United Methodist Church, and the Greenwood community. Today, I am praying specifically for your Holy Spirit to lead the minds, hearts, and conversations of the team members throughout this process so that St. Mark will continue to plant seeds of God's Kingdom in this world so that disciples of Jesus Christ are made. In your mercy, hear the prayers of your church. Amen*

I look forward to seeing what God is going to do through this initiative as St. Mark UMC continues to move forward in mission with energy, excitement, momentum, and passion.



Worship Attendance Year to Date Average

As of January 18, 2026

Table with 2 columns: Service Type and Attendance Count. Rows include 8:45 AM - BPC (71), 8:45 AM - RSC (54), 11:00 AM - BPC (85), 11:15 AM - RSC (93), 8:45 Stream - BPC (46), 11:15 Stream - RSC (75), 10:30 AM - One Church (206), 10:30 Stream - One Church (46), Worship Attendance (366), and Sunday School Attendance (21).

KREW and EPIC Attendance School Year Average

As of November 16, 2025

Table with 2 columns: Group and Attendance Count. Rows include KREW (58), EPIC (75), and HSX (12).

The next copy of The Witness, the church's monthly newsletter, will be emailed out Thursday, February 26th. **Deadline to submit information to the church office for the newsletter is Monday, February 16th.**

Copies of the February Birthdays list, February Anniversaries list, and Upper Rooms for January/February are located at the narthex/welcome area at each campus.

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

- Matthew Miller on the death of his grandmother, Elinor Miller, on January 10th.
Robin Wright on the death of her mother, Dot Bowie, on January 13th.

Advertisement for St. Mark UMC Men's Community Prayer Breakfast on Friday, February 27 at 6:30am at Rivers Street Campus. Includes a logo with a cross and text: 'Join us, and bring a friend! All men are welcome!' and 'Need to update with February'.



February 2026 Meetings

February 8th
Worship Committee 12:45 pm Room 104
Trustees Committee 2:00 pm Room 104
Bypass Campus

February 10th
Kids' World Committee 4:30 pm Room 104
Bypass Campus

February 15th
Growth Team 12:45 pm Room 104
Forward Focus 2:00 PM Room 105/107
Bypass Campus

Coummunity Care Day
February 22nd
10:00 am
Sanctuary - Bypass Campus
Wayne Goff Hall - Rivers Street Campus



Greenwood Community

February 25: Immanuel Lutheran Church
 March 4: First Presbyterian Church
 March 11: St. Mark United Methodist Church
 March 18: First Baptist Church
 March 25: Main Street United Methodist Church
 April 1: Morris Chapel Baptist Church

12:00 pm - First Seating for Lunch
 12:30 pm - Service
 1:00 pm - Second Seating for Lunch

\$2.00 Donation to help cover the cost of lunch
 Offering- Greater Greenwood United Ministries

Lenten Pilgrimage



Hello St. Mark Family!

Over the past month, I have found myself thinking a lot about conversations; real conversations, honest ones, meaningful ones. That probably does not surprise anyone who knows me well. Our podcast, Two Pastors: Conversations About Everything, has now been out for over a month, and one of the most meaningful parts of that experience has been the space it creates. It is not about being right. It is not about winning an argument. It is about opening the door to honest dialogue, reflection, wrestling with faith, and learning together. What has been especially powerful is knowing that listeners are not just hearing us talk; they are joining the conversation themselves, thinking, questioning, and engaging.

Even the small group I attend on Sunday mornings at our Rivers Street Campus is called the Conversations small group. That name was intentional. It reflects a desire to create space where people can talk openly about faith, parenting, marriage, struggles, doubts, and everyday life. No pretending. No masks. Just people walking together and learning from one another. And honestly, I think this is something our world is desperately lacking.

We live in a culture that thrives on arguments, not conversations. We listen to respond, not to understand. We assume motives. We draw lines. We label people. We struggle to sit across from someone who sees things differently and simply say, "Help me understand where you are coming from." Yet, that is exactly where growth happens. That is where humility is formed. That is where transformation begins. Scripture reminds us of this often. James writes, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger" (James 1:19). That verse alone could reshape our homes, our friendships, our churches, and our communities if we truly lived it out. Quick to listen. Slow to speak. Slow to anger. That is the posture of genuine conversation.

I often think about Jesus and the many encounters He had with religious leaders, especially the lawyers and the Pharisees. They approached Him with questions, but not with open hearts. Their goal was not understanding; it was entrapment. They wanted to prove themselves right and discredit Him. In passages like Luke 10, when the lawyer asks Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" the text tells us plainly that he was testing Jesus, not seeking truth. That is not conversation; that is manipulation.

If we are honest, we often behave the same way. We claim we want to live like Jesus, but we approach conversations like the Pharisees. We enter them armed with talking points instead of humility. We are more concerned with being right than being loving. We are more focused on winning than on understanding. That is not the way of Christ. Jesus modeled something entirely different. He asked questions. He listened. He engaged people where they were. He sat with sinners, doubters, skeptics, and outsiders. He created space for people to be seen, heard, and valued. Real ministry happened in conversations around tables, on dusty roads, by wells, and in crowded homes.

So, here is the question I want to leave you with: Who have you had a real conversation with lately? Not a debate. Not a comment thread. Not a rushed exchange. A real conversation. The kind where you listen deeply. The kind where you seek to understand. The kind where you grow, even if you walk away still disagreeing. My prayer is that our church continues to be a place of conversation; holy, grace-filled, honest conversations that point us toward Christ and toward one another. Because when we commit to truly listening, we do not just grow in knowledge; we grow in love. And love, after all, is the mark of those who follow Jesus (John 13:35).

I pray you have a wonderful, conversation filled February and I hope to see YOU at CHURCH! BRING A FRIEND!!!

Robby

FEBRUARY PREACHING SCHEDULE AND SCRIPTURE

February 1 - Matthew 4:12-23

- 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.

February 8 - Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

- 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.

February 15 - Exodus 24:12-18

- 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.

February 18 - Ash Wednesday - 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:1

- Rev. Jason Wilson and Rev. Robby Lybrand at the Bypass Campus 7:00 PM.

February 22 - 1st Sunday of Lent - Matthew 4:1-11

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



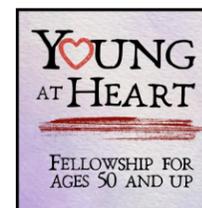
TWO PASTORS PODCAST

Conversations About Everything

Every Wednesday at Noon

*An all-new podcast
from Pastor Jason
and Pastor Robby!
New episodes drop
every Wednesday at
noon!*

*Ideas for an episode?
Let us know!*



• Young At Heart will have its first get together of 2026 at on Monday February 9, at 11:30 AM in Founders Hall at the BPC. Hope you can join us for a soup and sandwich lunch. Please contact Fran Brown at 864.341.4092 or franbrown112@gmail.com if you are able to bring soup (specify what kind), sandwiches (what kind), cornbread or dessert. Looking forward to getting together.

ALL NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Gospel of John

Tuesdays, February 10 - March 3
10:00 am - 11:00 am
Bypass Campus, Room 104

Facilitated by Jacob Campbell.
Contact campbell112304@gmail.com to register.

WESLEY COMMONS

St. Mark/Wesley Commons
Fellowship

Thursday, February 5
10:30 AM

Wesley Commons Asbury Hall
1110 Marshall Road



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.



THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL 2025 SALE!

Many thanks for your support of the 2025 Sale! We are still celebrating the success—profits doubled in just our second year, with total net proceeds of over \$6,000. Watch for updates on how these funds will be used to support the ministry and mission of St. Mark.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER 2026

Plans are already underway for a bigger and better sale in November 2026! We've outgrown Founders Hall and will be moving to the Rivers Street Campus. With more space, we will be expanding what we offer and will need donations of:

- Inside and outside holiday décor and accessories
- Vintage treasures: kitchenware, tableware, pottery, china, linens, lamps/lighting, advertising items, baskets, artwork, toys, and jewelry
- Furniture
- Holiday clothing, shoes, and accessories for our Festive Fashion Boutique

NEW & EXCITING ADDITIONS

- The Tinsel Tea Room, featuring lunch and holiday treats
- A Silent Auction with themed baskets and community-donated goodies, ending with a festive evening event

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Pray for energy, creativity, and hospitality as we prepare an event for the entire Greenwood community
- Donate items—schedule a drop-off or arrange pick-up for large items
 - Fran Brown: 864-341-4092
 - Cyndi Cioffi: 404-683-0222
- Volunteer to help with set-up, clean-up, or during sale hours
- Bake a cake or make soup for the Tinsel Tea Room
- Help host the Silent Auction evening event

Please stay tuned for upcoming details and opportunities to get involved. Thank you for helping make this ministry such a joyful success!

ST. MARK



BRIDGE KIDS

FEBRUARY 1 WEAR YOUR KREW SHIRT MASHED POTATO BAR	FEBRUARY 8 SUPER BOWL SUNDAY NO KREW ENJOY YOUR FAMILY TIME	FEBRUARY 15 BFF NIGHT BRING A FRIEND PIZZA AND ICE CREAM	FEBRUARY 22 PIRATE NIGHT TACOS AND CHURROS
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Our children's ministry mission is to make disciples by drawing children into the presence of God through dynamic worship. We provide a safe, nurturing environment full of fun, fellowship, study, and worship. Your children will have leaders who are invested in their lives and who will lead them in their relationship with Jesus with kindness, love, and through a demonstration of their own faith.

We want preschoolers to grow up making wiser choices, building stronger relationships, and developing a deeper faith. Our preschool curriculum combines child development and theology to create a comprehensive children's ministry curriculum and strategy. In the preschool years, a child will form their first impression of God's love: God made me. God loves me. Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

We want your kids to grow up making wiser choices, building stronger relationships, and developing a deeper faith. Our children's curriculum combines child development and theology to create a comprehensive children's ministry curriculum and strategy. In the elementary school years, kids will grow in wisdom, faith, and friendship: I need to make the wise choice. I can trust God no matter what. I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

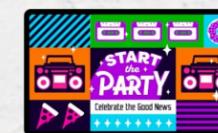


Food Trucks teaches preschoolers that God gives us what we need and uses people to help take care of one another.



KREW SPRING 2026

God is the source of our joy, and we can choose joy by focusing on a relationship with Him.



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 K2-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! Ages K2-5th grade. Sundays, 4:30-6:00.

Register today at www.stmarkbridgekids.com

June 15-19 **9:00 - noon**

RAINFOREST FALLS

Exploring the Nature of God

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!



Have you ever thought about what's needed for you to demonstrate resilience? Maybe some grit, hustle, determination? I don't know about you but those seem exhausting. But that's often what students hear when it comes to living life with resilience. If you keep going, pull the all-nighter, work the extra hours, or push down any sort of perceived negativity, you'll figure it out and succeed. Truth be told, all of that doesn't usually lead to resilience, it leads to burn out. As we try to follow the way of Jesus, the essentials for resilience might actually look more like rest than hustle. That's why we're taking this series to shine a light on some lesser talked about aspect of resilience. We hope this entire series offers some practical ways to help students trust God to help them face their failures and get back up again with resilience! We'll talk about resilience like this: the willingness to get back up and grow stronger from challenges and setbacks. And we have four incredible passages from the Old Testament Wisdom books to help us see what God has to say about that. Let's jump in!

We start our series with Psalm 13, a psalm of David where he cried out to God and asked God how long he'd have to continue experiencing difficult situations. What's incredible is that David came around and finished the psalm with this thought "But I trust in your unfailing love. I will rejoice because you have rescued me. I will sing to the Lord because he is good to me." David might have started in despair, but he ended with hope. We want high schoolers to know that they can too. All of us can have hope because of Jesus. Jesus experienced what we did and is with us in our difficulties and failures. Jesus can help us get back up again with resilience.

Then in week 2, we look at a proverb from King Solomon: In proverbs 24:16 we read, The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked. We'll help middle and high schoolers start to understand how wise people get up and try again—even when they face a challenge or hit rock bottom, they find the resilience to bounce back. But an unwise person can get taken down for good by difficult circumstances or failure. Thankfully, we don't do this alone. Because of Jesus, no setback can stop us. No challenge can keep us down. No frustration can hold us back. Not because our lives will magically get easier or difficulties will never come, but because Jesus is with us through anything and everything we face. He's there to give us wisdom, love, and strength to try again.

Next up we head to the book of Ecclesiastes to help our youth discover the power of friendship and community. Sometimes it's too easy to think we need to handle life on our own without any help from others. But that's not how God meant for us to live. Instead, like a cord of three strands, we are made stronger by leaning on and working with the people God has put in our lives. Jesus showed us how important this is by choosing a group of disciples to help him during all sorts of ups and downs. We can follow His example and do the same. Help your students know and live from the truth that because of Jesus, we can ask for help.

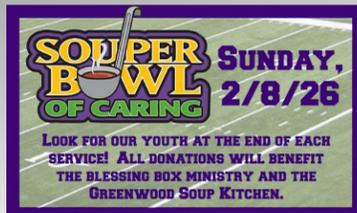
We close out the Essentials with a familiar passage that's all about God our Shepherd leading us to rest: Psalm 23... This psalm of David is such an important reminder that from time to time, we need to stop, take a break, and rest because God has given us what we need to make it through whatever season we face with resilience. We can trust God no matter what. We CAN REST knowing God is in control.

We're excited for our students to experience this series. Learning when to keep going and when to be still is such an important way of becoming more like Jesus and more resilient. We pray this will be a powerful series for our students as we help them learn the essentials of resilience that will help them practice an everyday faith.



EPIC LOCK IN		FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 2026	WE WILL HAVE A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT, AND JAKE MOORE, EPIC PRESIDENT, WILL GIVE OUR MESSAGE!	WORSHIP FOOD FELLOWSHIP FUN GAMES FRIENDSHIP	6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS WELCOME
		8:00 PM			
		7:00 AM			

Epic Students Tackle Hunger on Super Bowl Sunday!



This Super Bowl Sunday, our Epic Students are teaming up to make a difference! During the big game, they will be collecting money as part of the "Souper Bowl" effort. All funds raised will support the Blessing Box Ministry and the Greenwood Soup Kitchen, providing food and resources to those in need in our community.

Every dollar collected helps feed the hungry and share love where it's needed most. Thank you for your support!

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

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
Betty Moss McGuirt
Lorene Waldrep
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

Tom and Beth Dowtin
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

Bob and Jean Lax
801 Musgrove St
Unit 84
Clinton, SC 29325

Shut-In/Homebound Cont'd

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

Mom
Ed Hood
Jim Conley
Dodie Conley
Betty Moss McGuirt

MEMBERS' FAMILY
Meghan Philcox
Alyssa Fender
Whitney Stennett

MEMBERS' FRIENDS
John-Mark Scruggs
Kristen
Dee Dee Setzler
Gracy Justice
Kim Jones
Will Coleman
Rebecca Hall
Valerie Hazlett

MILITARY

Sgt. Jack Boyd - Army
Christian Furman - Army
Audrey Garver - Army
Ethan Garver - 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

Citadel:
Olivia Murray and Owen Whittington

COLLEGE STUDENTS Cont'd

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,
Noah Perrin, 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

Wofford College
Hannah Crooks and Mary Peden
Light



**Six Week
Grief and Loss
Group**

The group will be offered by **Margaret Wanning** during the season of Lent, beginning **Thursday, February 19.**

**Bypass Campus
Room 130
10:00 am - 11:30 am**

Please email Margaret at phareswanning@gmail.com if you would like to be a part of this group.




St. Mark gratefully acknowledges the following gifts:
To *The Choir Fund* in loving memory of **Elinor Miller** by Derrell and Kay Gregory.

Year-End Giving Statements
Year-end giving statements have been mailed or emailed. Please take a moment to review your statement, and let Paige know if you notice any discrepancies or have any questions. You may contact her at **864-229-5416** or office@stmarkgreenwood.com.



Feb. 1st

Food Bank Sunday

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



Greetings, St. Mark!

It is hard to believe that I am now in my 14th year with you as your pianist and organist. It has truly been a wonderful experience leading music in worship alongside Carol and the Chancel Choir, and I look forward to many more years as part of the St. Mark family.

Before coming to St. Mark, during my time as a student at Lander University, I had the privilege of participating in the *Soli Deo Gloria* program at First Presbyterian Church here in Greenwood. This program provides music students from area colleges—Lander, Erskine, and Presbyterian—with hands-on experience leading church music and worship, while also earning income to help support them through school.

During my time in the program, under the direction of Amy Fennell, I joined the Chancel Choir and Handbell Ensembles and assisted with children’s and youth music. The experience I gained through those years at First Presbyterian truly set me up for success in music ministry here at St. Mark and gave me a network of support that I remain connected with today. First Presbyterian Church and several other area churches offer similar programs that support music students through employment or scholarships.

While we have never had a formal music scholarship program here at St. Mark, we have over the years welcomed many college singers and instrumentalists to add to our worship services. Beginning this year, we are planning to begin recruiting new music scholars to join our music program in traditional worship. To begin and sustain this effort, we will be looking to the membership of St. Mark for support through both prayer and gifts to the Choir Fund.

Perhaps it was kismet—or what I would call a “Godwink”—that Pastor Jason and I had similar ideas after our services a few weeks ago. He asked me what many members and staff have asked me over the years, “can I just come by your house and listen to you play piano?” Just that week I had been brainstorming ways we could help support our choir fund and music scholars.

So... as a kickoff fundraiser for our music scholars program, we will be hosting a Lenten Listening Session in the Bypass Campus Sanctuary on **Sunday, March 1, at 4:00 p.m.** I invite you to join me as I play some of my favorite Lenten hymn arrangements. Light refreshments will be provided. This event will be the first of several opportunities this year to enjoy music while supporting the music ministry here at St. Mark. While donations of any amount are welcome, a suggested donation of \$20 is appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support of our music program. I look forward to seeing many of you on March 1!

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 12:30 Founders Hall in use 4:30 KREW 6:15 EPIC 8:00 HSX	2 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	3 5:00 Volleyball in WGH 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	4 6:30 Men's Bible Study 5:00 Volleyball in WGH 6:30 Blend Band Rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice	5 5:15 Daisy Troop 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA 6:30 Cadette Troop	6 8:00 PM EPIC Lock -in begins at RSC	7 7:00 AM EPIC Lock-in ends at RSC 2:00 Wayne Goff Hall, picnic area and playground in use
8 12:45 Worship committee meeting 2:00 Trustees committee meeting	9 11:30 Young at Heart 12:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	10 10:00 Bible Study 4:30 Kids' World committee meeting 5:00 Volleyball in WGH 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	11 6:30 Men's Bible Study 5:00 Volleyball in WGH 6:30 Blend Band Rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice	12 9:30 Founders Hall in use 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA	13	14 Kairos (McCormick group) training at RSC
15 12:45 Growth committee meeting 2:00 Forward Focus committee meeting 4:30 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	16 Information due for the church newsletter 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	17 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Women on My Journey AA 6:30 Blend Band Rehearsal	18 6:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service BPC	19 10:00 Grief Support 5:15 Daisy Troop 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA 6:30 Cadette Troop	20	21
22 10:00 Community Care Day Informational meeting BPC Sanctuary and RSC Wayne Goff Hall 12:30 Rise Against Hunger 4:30 KREW 6:15 EPIC 8:00 HSX	23 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	24 10:00 Bible Study 5:00 Volleyball in WGH 5:30 Worship Center is in use 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	25 6:30 Men's Bible Study 5:00 Volleyball in WGH 12:30 Lenten Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church 6:30 Blend Band Rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice	26 10:00 Grief Support 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA	27 6:30 Men's Prayer Breakfast	28 8:30 Kairos (Leath group) training at RSC
						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