

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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GREENWOOD, SC  
Permit # 190

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# The Witness



Bypass Campus (BPC)



Rivers Street Campus (RSC)

St. Mark United Methodist Church

[www.stmarkgreenwood.com](http://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!



**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](http://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

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
Sunday School Attendance	21

#### KREW and EPIC Attendance School Year Average

As of November 16, 2025

KREW	58
EPIC	75
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.

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



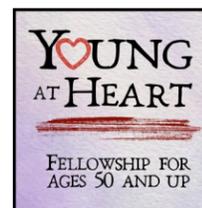
**Conversations About Everything**

**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](mailto: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

<b>FEBRUARY 1</b> <b>WEAR YOUR KREW SHIRT</b> MASHED POTATO BAR 	<b>FEBRUARY 8</b> <b>SUPER BOWL SUNDAY</b> <b>NO KREW</b> ENJOY YOUR FAMILY TIME 	<b>FEBRUARY 15</b> <b>BFF NIGHT</b> BRING A FRIEND PIZZA AND ICE CREAM 	<b>FEBRUARY 22</b> <b>PIRATE NIGHT</b> 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. Our children's ministries will again, as in the past two decades, use a combination of First Look, 252 Basics, and various Group curriculums, rooted deep in the word of God. Whether it's KREW, Spark Sunday school, VBS, or more, your child will grow, learn, and worship while building a lasting and transformational relationship with Jesus.

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. KREW KATEERS 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](http://www.stmarkbridgekids.com)

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

**RAINFOREST FALLS**

Exploring the Nature of God

[www.stmarkbridgekids.com](http://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.



<b>EPIC LOCK IN</b>	 <b>FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 2026 8:00 PM - 7:00 AM</b>	<b>WE WILL HAVE A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT, AND JAKE MOORE, EPIC PRESIDENT, WILL GIVE OUR MESSAGE!</b>	<b>WORSHIP FOOD FELLOWSHIP FUN GAMES FRIENDSHIP</b>	<b>6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS WELCOME</b>
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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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
<b>1</b> 12:30 Founders Hall in use 4:30 KREW 6:15 EPIC 8:00 HSX	<b>2</b> 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	<b>3</b> 5:00 Volleyball in WGH 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	<b>4</b> 6:30 Men's Bible Study 5:00 Volleyball in WGH 6:30 Blend Band Rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice	<b>5</b> 5:15 Daisy Troop 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA 6:30 Cadette Troop	<b>6</b> 8:00 PM EPIC Lock -in begins at RSC	<b>7</b> 7:00 AM EPIC Lock-in ends at RSC 2:00 Wayne Goff Hall, picnic area and playground in use
<b>8</b> 12:45 Worship committee meeting 2:00 Trustees committee meeting	<b>9</b> 11:30 Young at Heart 12:00 Staff Meeting 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	<b>10</b> 10:00 Bible Study 4:30 Kids' World committee meeting 5:00 Volleyball in WGH 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	<b>11</b> 6:30 Men's Bible Study 5:00 Volleyball in WGH 6:30 Blend Band Rehearsal 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice	<b>12</b> 9:30 Founders Hall in use 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Kairos (McCormick group) training at RSC
<b>15</b> 12:45 Growth committee meeting 2:00 Forward Focus committee meeting 4:30 KREW 6:30 EPIC 8:00 HSX	<b>16</b> Information due for the church newsletter 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	<b>17</b> 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Women on My Journey AA 6:30 Blend Band Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 6:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Chancel Choir Practice 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service BPC	<b>19</b> 10:00 Grief Support 5:15 Daisy Troop 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA 6:30 Cadette Troop	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 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	<b>23</b> 5:30 Teen Journey 5:30 West Side AA	<b>24</b> 10:00 Bible Study 5:00 Volleyball in WGH 5:30 Worship Center is in use 6:00 Women on My Journey AA	<b>25</b> 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	<b>26</b> 10:00 Grief Support 5:30 Al-Anon Meeting 5:30 West Side AA	<b>27</b> 6:30 Men's Prayer Breakfast	<b>28</b> 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