



What's Happening at St. Mark's Announcements - August 23, 2026

From the Rector

1. New Building Security System

[8/2]

To improve safety and security at St. Mark's, we are installing a new building security system. In the coming weeks, you may see camera mounts and other equipment in public areas and around the exterior. The cameras are not yet active and we will notify the congregation before the system becomes operational. The new system will also include updated door locks, enabling staff to unlock and monitor the building remotely when the site is unoccupied. These upgrades support the care of our historic church and help maintain a safe, open environment for worship, ministry, and community events.

We will continue to keep you informed as the installation progresses. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Michele [michele\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:michele[at]stmarks.net)

Christian Education

2. Information Sessions about Education for Ministry

[8/9]

The Adult Christian Education program is holding three information sessions to familiarize St. Mark's parishioners with the EfM program. Over 36 weekly meetings a year, EfM participants deepen their spiritual lives through study of the Hebrew Scriptures, New Testament, church history, and Judeo-Christian philosophy. EfM participants also use a practice of Theological Reflection to examine their beliefs and experiences in relation to their culture and faith traditions. The information sessions will be on **THIS SUNDAY, August 23, after Sermon Seminar**. The sessions will describe the EfM program, answer questions, and identify chances to enroll. For more information, contact Bill Jordan at: [jordans4\[at\]verizon.net](mailto:jordans4[at]verizon.net)

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

Learn more about all our different programs at <https://bit.ly/CYFMHandbook>

3. Save the Date: Classroom Reset Day is August 30th! [7/26]

Our last day of Summer Sunday School is August 30th, and we will need to get classrooms ready for the Fall. This includes returning shelves that were moved for the summer. It also means putting together shelves for the new classrooms. We also need to re-paper bulletin boards and unbox art materials. Please join us from **11 to 12:30 pm in the undercroft on August 30th** to help out! Email [youthdirector\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:youthdirector[at]stmarks.net) to let her know you're coming!

4. Support Group for Parents of Neurodiverse Children [8/23]

The Children, Youth and Families Ministry (CYFM) Neurodiversity Working Group (NWG) has launched a support group for parents of young people who are neurodiverse or have special needs (no formal diagnosis necessary). Julie Murphy, a 40-year St. Mark's member and certified parent coach, is convening the monthly meeting. Our next meeting is via Zoom on **September 15 at 8:30 pm**. We hope that this will be a non-judgmental space where parents can share experiences and find support and strength. For questions or receive this month's calendar invitation and meeting link, email Julie at [juliaabbotmurphy\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:juliaabbotmurphy[at]gmail.com).

Parish Life & Diocesan Events

5. Seeking Confirmation Meal Coordinator [8/16]

Annie and Lisa, St. Mark's 2026-2027 youth confirmation instructors, are seeking a confirmation meal coordinator. The meal coordinator is not necessarily on the hook for providing meals but, instead, will take responsibility for **seeking volunteers from the congregation for ~8 lunches between October and May**; keeping track of plates, napkins, utensils, cups, and drinks; and ordering pizza in a pinch. We would welcome your attendance in these meals, as well! If you are willing to step into this important back-of-the-house role, please contact Annie Rorem at [annie.rorem\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:annie.rorem[at]gmail.com).

6. Lambda Lions Kickoff Planning Meeting

[8/16]

The Lambda Lions, St. Mark's LGBTQIA+ affinity group, will be holding our August kick off planning meeting on **Sunday August 30 in the Rector's room, immediately following the 11:15am service.** Any and all LGBTQIA+ parishioners are invited to join to discuss ideas and plans for the parish year ahead, including the upcoming Parish Fair and a September picnic. For more information, contact Kelly Dickinson ([kellymarie1848\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:kellymarie1848[at]gmail.com)) and/or Mitch Wood ([mitchw7959\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:mitchw7959[at]gmail.com)).

7. Nursery Coverage During Medical Leave

[8/16]

Greetings everyone, just a note to let everyone know that I'll be out after September 6th for my knee replacement surgery and the nursery will still be up and running by Ms. Katrina and Ms. Kenisha, I'll return as soon as possible ❤️ - Deborah Cunningham
[dcwaterlover\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:dcwaterlover[at]yahoo.com)

8. Newcomer Gatherings

[8/23*]

Newcomer gatherings are an opportunity for new and established members to share a meal, meet people whose paths don't often cross, and discuss what makes this community unique. If you are interested in attending one of these events this summer, please sign up here: <https://shorturl.at/dZYKr>. Reach out to Terri Poxon-Pearson with any questions ([terripoxonpearson\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:terripoxonpearson[at]gmail.com)).

Service and Social Justice

Step into SSJ. View our volunteer opportunities page at www.stmarks.net/socialjustice

9. You Too Can Be a Samaritan!

[8/23]

Ever since St. Mark's helped establish the Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington in 1986, many members of our congregation have supported its work. Some, like Michael Knipe, who will deliver the "Mission Moment" this Sunday, are able to volunteer on site, helping adults take their "next steps" toward employment, housing, and other goals. They have served as tutors helping participants develop computer skills, craft resumes, fill out applications, and practice being interviewed. Other parishioners have supported the Ministry's work by contributing items for the annual auction, participating in toiletry and gift card drives, or in other ways. **After both morning services on the 23rd, come to Baxter Hall to learn more** about Samaritan's programs, volunteer opportunities, and upcoming activities at St. Mark's. Michael and I would love to tell you more. – Peter Hawley, St. Mark's Partner Representative to SMGW, at [phawleydc\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:phawleydc[at]gmail.com)

10. Justice in Palestine Book Discussion

[8/23]

Sunday August 30, 12:30-2pm in Dozier Library. For our next book discussion we will be reading *A very short history of the Palestine-Israeli conflict (2024)* by Ilan Pappé. It's a small book and only 160 pages that provides a solid history of the Palestine-Israel conflict from an expert historian - who also happens to be Jewish Israeli. Join us whether or not you have read the book! Email Lindsey Jones-Renaud ([Ljonesrenaud\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:Ljonesrenaud@gmail.com)) with questions.

11. Understanding the Crisis in Palestine & Israel: Four Free Webinars

[8/23]

Next month St. John's Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase, will present four Zoom calls featuring Dr. Mark Braverman. As an American raised in the Jewish tradition and a psychologist specializing in trauma, he was deeply troubled by witnessing the systematic oppression of Palestinians in the Holy Land. Meeting Muslim, Jewish, and Christians working together for justice and peace inspired him to devote his life to that work. The webinars will be on **September 3, 9, 16, and 21, from 7 to 8:30 pm.** They will examine the historical context for the conflict, the dangers presented by Christian Zionism and the weaponization of anti-Semitism, and how "in the age of Gaza" people can make a faithful response. To see specific topics and register for the programs, go to bit.ly/4xxhBTd. For information on the speaker, see www.markbraverman.org. Questions? Contact Lindsey at [LJonesRenaud\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:LJonesRenaud[at]gmail.com)

12. Join St. Mark's Incarceration Justice Ministry & A Panel of Returning Citizens[8/23*]

Tuesday, September 8th, at 7:00 PM in Baxter Hall

Join St. Mark's Incarceration Justice Ministry and a panel of returning citizens to discuss the legal system and consequences for those with severe criminal charges.

Our panelists will cover an array of topics, including but not limited to the challenges of returning home after incarceration, the impact incarceration has had on how they navigate the world, and how we, as a community, can better support returning citizens. Light refreshments will be available. RSVPs appreciated. Please use the QR code or this link bit.ly/stmarks_jusice_panel. A flyer for the event is available at



<https://tinyurl.com/Sep8poster>. Contact for information: [incarcerationjustice\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:incarcerationjustice[at]stmarks.net)

Music and the Arts

13. Somewhere Over the Border

[8/23]

Mosaic Theater on H Street is doing a production of Somewhere Over the Border, a “fresh take on the Wizard of Oz which takes audiences on a musical journey from El Salvador to America featuring Cumbia, Mexican mariachi, boleros, rock, hip hop, and more.”

This musical honors the grit and resilience of the immigrant’s journey. The Lutheran Church of the Reformation’s Cares Ministry has reserved a block of tickets on **September 26 at 3 pm and 7 pm** for area churches. Suggested donation is \$49 for the ticket (this is \$30 off the regular price). Contact Karen Cowden at [karen.cowden\[at\]verizon.net](mailto:karen.cowden@verizon.net) by **Monday, August 26**, if you’d like to reserve a ticket.

14. Take a Look at Our New Show: "CLASS ACT"

[8/9]

“Class Act” showcases art from the Sunday School, Adult Classes, and the Claggett Art Workshop. I think it’s wonderful and want to thank the teachers and students for their hard work and the hanging team that put it up. We will have an Art Walk in the Nave; the date is still to be determined. Questions: [elin\[at\]WatercolorDC.com](mailto:elin@WatercolorDC.com)

(* next to the date denotes that this announcement has been updated)

Do you have an announcement for St. Mark’s?

Submit announcements of 150 words or less to [bulletin\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:bulletin@stmarks.net) by 5 pm Tuesday for inclusion that Friday. They run for three weeks unless we hear from you. Each must include a parishioner’s name and email. If using a QR code, also provide the underlying link.

To include your event: email [parishadmin\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:parishadmin@stmarks.net) for the calendar, [website\[at\]stmarks.net](mailto:website@stmarks.net) for the website, or complete the form (shorturl.at/vaXgZ) by Tuesday night for a spoken announcement.