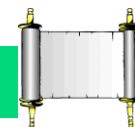




St. Mark Bell



Pastor's Ponderings

"For God so loved
the world
that he gave his only Son."
– John 3:16a

Dear Loving People of God:

February is noted as the month with the "love" holiday right dab in the middle of it. According to one legend, February 14th marks the date that a priest named Valentine was martyred for defying an imperial decree against marriage. According to this story, the Roman Emperor Claudis II, in about 270 A.D., instituted a decree banning all men from marrying. His thought was that if men remained single, they would be ready to do battle in times of war without worry of marital relationships and family obligations. Despite this law, love continued to bloom between young couples, and they sought to commit to that love in the vows of marriage. So, this priest in Rome named Valentine risked his very life solemnizing marriages secretly for these couples. He did this until the day he was arrested and killed for defying the emperor, all for the sake of love. Now, centuries later, we still honor him in the middle of February by celebrating St. Valentine's Day.

Couples all over will celebrate this day. You already see the evidence in restaurants, department stores, and even grocery stores: the little red hearts, the cupids, and the messages of love targeting couples who are married or dating, reminding them of this day that is coming. And yet, St. Valentine's Day is more than just for couples. It is a holiday to remember the love that we all share. That one particular priest that legend so long ago remembers offered his life out of love for his neighbors and community, because he saw the joy and peace it gave people when he officiated at their weddings. He risked imprisonment, torture, and death itself so that love could be shared.

That is the very gift that Jesus came to fulfill. He was sent into this creation by God to bring us that joy and peace of knowing the Father's love; to be joined with God forever. He came to be imprisoned, suffer, and die in our place for our sins. He came to rise again from that death so that we may know that even through the grave we cannot be separated from the love of God, the Father. In that love of Christ, given to us, we can lift it up to share with others the love of God every day of the year.

St. Valentine remembered he served a greater Lord than the emperor. He served a Lord that wanted love shared among all his people. This February, no matter if you're married, single, or widowed, seek to share in the love God has first shown to us by Jesus our Redeemer, that St. Valentine risked so much to share with others – that love that we share as God's people always.

In the peace and grace of God, Pastor Kirk Griffin

St. Mark Lutheran

129 Charles Street
Hanover PA 17331
717-637-8904 stmarkhanover.org

Worship

Saturday 5:30pm
Sunday 9:00am
Sunday School Following Worship

Church Office Hours

Mon-Fri 9:00am-12noon

Bible Study

Fridays 11:00am-12noon

Bells Rehearsal

Most Sundays Following Worship

Quilting Group

Thursdays 9:00am-12noon

Preschool

M/W/F (4's) 9:00-11:45am &
12:30-3:15pm
M/W & T/Th (3's) 9:00-11:15am

Meetings & Activities

- Feb 2** - Groundhog Day
- 8:15am Choir Practice
- Fellowship Time Following Worship
- Congregational Meeting
- Worship & Music Meeting
- Feb 3** - 6pm Preschool Open House
- Feb 4** - 1pm St. Mark Eats @ Starlight Diner
- Feb 6** - 3pm Evangelism Mtg
- 6pm Choir Practice
- Feb 9** - Congregational Meeting
- Makeup Date
- Confirmation Class
- Souper Bowl Food Drive
- Feb 13** - 7am-7pm Blood Drive
- 6pm Choir Practice
- Feb 14** - Happy Valentine's Day!
- Feb 16** - Special Cupcakes with Love
- Fellowship Following Worship
- Feb 17** - Presidents' Day
- Feb 18** - 1pm Garden Club Mtg
- Feb 20** - 6pm Fellowship Mtg @ Starlight Diner
- 6pm Choir Practice
- Feb 23** - Confirmation Class
- PAL Team B
- Feb 25** - 4pm Council Mtg
- Feb 27** - 6pm Choir Practice



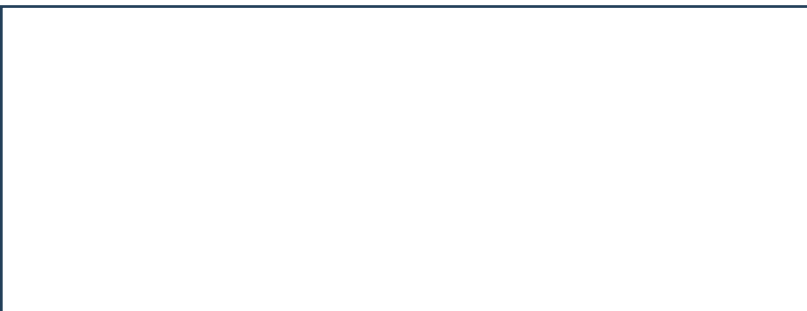
HAPPENINGS AND NEWS IN OUR CONGREGATION

Congregational Council Happenings – January 28th

- Council met on Tuesday, January 28th, at 4:00pm, beginning with installation of the 2025 Council and prayer.
- 2025 Council Officers were elected: President, Mike Merlo; Vice-President, Hunter Shaw; Secretary, Martha Lippy; Treasurer, Kathy Gates. Gratitude was expressed for their willingness to serve.
- Council shared recent blessings of news: As a gift from UPMC Hospital, their contractors will remove snow from our steps and entranceways in addition to their usual parking lot snow removal plan. Council raised the question of what other tasks may need to be addressed now that the member volunteer who shoveled snow, among many other tasks, has moved away.
- Council reviewed thank you notes received from the YWCA, HACC (PAL and Ruth's Harvest), Roots for Boots, and Habitat for Humanity.
- Council reviewed and approved the November Council Minutes and reviewed the December Congregational minutes and the attendance averages.
- Council President Mike Merlo gave his report, noting the wonderful outreach and contributions our members make throughout the year.
- Pastor gave his statistical report. He also reminded our council of our Sexton's upcoming medical absence and the need to fulfill his duties.
- Committee reports were reviewed, and Council members selected committee liaison postings for the new year:
 - Christian Ed: Hollis Long
 - Evangelism: Martha Lippy
 - Fellowship: Hunter Shaw
 - Finance: Kathy Gates & Gail Merlo
 - Preschool: Kate Klunk
 - Property: Tom Long & Gail Merlo
 - Social Ministry: Vacant
 - Worship and Music: Alex Spalding
- Council discussed ongoing news and issues Hanover Area Council of Churches is dealing with at its meetings.
- Council reviewed and accepted the monthly designated funds for 2025:
 - January: Lutheran Disaster Relief
 - February: HACC Changing Lives Shelter
 - March: Olivia's House
 - April: Itete Hospital in Konde Diocese
 - May: HACC Provide-A-Lunch (PAL)
 - June: VNA of Hanover & Spring Grove
 - July: Medical Ministry International/
Gary's Mission Trips
 - August: HACC Ruth's Harvest
 - September: Habitat for Humanity
 - October: YWCA Safe Home
 - November: Roots for Boots
 - December: Alzheimer's Fund of PA

Council agreed to meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:00pm. The next meeting is **February 25th** at 4:00pm. All are welcome.

December Treasurer's Report



Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **February 2nd** (with a makeup date of **February 9th**).





Prayer List for February

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| • Dora | • Tarek Elnaggar | • Mary Hnatkowisz | • Ed Moran | • JoAnn Smith |
| • Grayson | • Jean Eshbach | • Michael Humes | • Emily Moul | • Sarah Smith |
| • Daniel Ard | • Carol Fadenrecht & | • Martha Howells | • Leah Moul | • Family & Friends |
| • Gary Arruda | Family | • Donna Jones | • Merle Mummert | of Beverly Snyder |
| • Jessica (Feeser) | • Dennis Fahey | • Debbie Kellenbenz | • Pam Mummert | • Jody Spellman |
| Boone | • Nancy Fridinger | • Craig King | • Carolyn Neumyer | • Phyllis Tasto |
| • Katherine Borsella | • Nancy Gill | • Shawn Klunk | • Marian Noble | • Jennie Tome |
| • Patrick Brady | • Vickie Gouker | • Kelly Koontz | • Susan O'Brien | • George Tracy |
| • Family & Friends | • Dane Graham | • Norma Kreidler | • Kelly Perdue | • Allison Trump |
| of Delores Brillhart | • Tom Greenholt | • Family & Friends | • Rose Poist | • Ed Wagaman |
| • Susan Bucher- | • Bob Groft | of Mary Lou | • Mary Riley | • Gloria Wagaman |
| Laughman | • John Hagerman | Krummeck | • Wally Rodenhaver | • Jody Walter |
| • Frances Claybaugh | • Family & Friends | • Allen Kuhns | • Carl Sandruck | • Naomi Warren |
| • Tom Cowan | of Richard | • Jo Kuhns | • David Sandruck | • Barb Watson |
| • Oscar Crow | Hagarman | • David Kunkel | • Lucus Schneider | • Ron Wentz |
| • Pastor David | • Carol Ann Haines | • Jean Lawrence | • Jim Schuman | • Family & Friends |
| DeLong | • Chase Henry & | • Tom Lawrence | • Bob and Cecelia | of Brad Weiss |
| • Lisa Dickensheets | Family | • Ronnie Lippy | • Sell | • Kathy Wildasin |
| • Diane Duffy | • Carrie Hernden | • Naura Luqman | • Julie Sell-Smith | • Edward Wiltrout |
| • Robin Eline | • Peg Hippensteel | • Dave & Denise | • Bob Shue | • Family & Friends |
| | | Martin | • Family & Friends | of Scott Wisner |
| | | • Carol McDermitt- | of Dawn Slate | • Rebecca Wisotzkey |
| | | Humes | • Luanne Slusser | |
| | | • Carol Miller | • Denise Smith | |
| | | • Merita Moore | • Pr. Jerry Smith | |

We ask that you keep all our shut-ins and those needing special help in your daily prayers. If you know of someone in need of prayer, please contact the church office or add them to the prayer list located on the brass stand in the narthex

St. Mark's Designated Fund

*St. Mark's **Monthly Offering for Designated Needs** gives us an opportunity as a congregation to support specific domestic and international needs.*



February's offering benefits the Hanover Area Council of Churches Changing Lives Shelter — a year-round facility providing for the needs of singles and families in desperate need of housing. They provide

housing, structure, life skills, case management, and other assistance in developing a successful, productive transition to an independent lifestyle.

To contribute to this month's designated need, please mail in your donations or place them in our collection plates, specifying "Changing Lives" or "February Designated Giving" on your check or the *Other* line of your offering envelope. Donations made on the *Other* line that have no written designation will automatically be given to that month's ministry fund. Thanks for your support.

Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless.

- Isaiah 58:7

Piggy Bank Project

Time to take home a cardboard piggy and fill his tummy with loose change from now until Easter. Then the Sunday School will use what we collect to choose animals and other necessary household items to help families in underprivileged communities help themselves. Your gift can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty. Please help with this project so we can help others! THANK YOU!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FEBRUARY BABIES!

- Feb. 6** Jason Brady
William Leppo
- Feb. 7** Sarah Kindschuh
- Feb. 10** Morgana Lobaugh
- Feb. 12** Jeremy Long
Nicholas Shaw



- Feb. 20** Merle Mummert
- Feb. 23** Tom Becker
Kaila Smeach
- Feb. 24** Jennifer Carter

TUESDAY, February 4th
Lunch at **Starlight Diner** at **1:00pm**

TUESDAY, March 4th
Lunch at **Divino's** at **1:00pm**

St. Mark Eats



Acts of Glory Continue

In December, we received 10 Acts of Glory cards, bringing our total for 2024 to **281** cards! Many found this an uplifting project that reminds us to look for glimpses of God and His Glory in our everyday life. Therefore, we're continuing the project for 2025. Please continue to look for ways to experience and/or perform acts of kindness, prayer, etc. over the course of this year, and then share them with the rest of us.



Updated Directory



The latest update to St. Mark's Directory is available for pickup in the bell tower room. If you'd like a digital or hard copy sent to you, please contact Joni at offcoor129@gmail.com or 717-637-8904.

Inspiration Packets

February is here, which means new inspiration packets are now available. Be sure to pick up a packet of cards, not just for yourself, but also one or more to share! And don't forget, as mentioned last month, forms are now available to order back issues!

inspiration

Did You Know...

????????????????

...that there is a growing fund dedicated to necessary sanctuary AC repairs? At the end of 2024, this fund stood at \$17,100. That is an amazing start to our final goal of \$26,000. Our AC fabricator, Walton & Co., assures us the materials and parts have been ordered and received in preparation for them to complete the work before the hotter days of Summer. Thank you to all who have contributed and continue to support this project. By the summer, we're looking to have wonderfully cool worship in the sanctuary once again.

????????????????

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Tree Collection



Due to your generosity, we were able to take **53** hats, gloves, and other pieces of warm clothing to HACC to distribute to those in need. Thank you!

Sharing Cupcakes with Love

On **February 16th** following worship we will enjoy the gift of Godly love through a special fellowship time. We invite you to bake (or buy) a half dozen or so decorative, tasty, heartfelt cupcakes to share with others out of love. This “Cupcakes with Love Sunday” cupcake smorgasbord of love will be a wonderful time of fellowship and tasty treats we can all enjoy together, celebrating the gift of Godly love.



Souper Bowl of Caring

From now until **February 9th**, St. Mark is collecting non-perishable food to turn Super Bowl Sunday into the Souper Bowl of Caring. That Monday we will deliver everything collected to help stock the HACC food bank. This is a trying time for many, and your donations mean our neighbors in need won't have to go to bed hungry. Thank you in advance for your help!



Slagle Scholarship

Once again, the Slagle Scholarship Committee will award \$1,000 to a graduating senior of Hanover or SWHS who plans to enter the nursing profession, the ministry or other religious work, or attend a vocational school. Please contact Martha Lippy at 717-637-8891 or the church office for an application. Completed applications must be **received by the church office on or before noon on April 4th**.



Easter Flowers

Despite the recent freeze, Easter is closer than you think! Eventually, spring flowers will emerge, and it will be time to place our orders for tulips, lilies, and hyacinths.

Once we hear from our supplier, **we'll announce ordering information in the midweek mailing and bulletin**, place order forms in the narthex, and email forms to everyone on our regular email list.

If you receive your newsletter in print and don't attend worship, please contact Joni at 637-8904 in **mid-February** to get more information and/or order over the phone. We should have a final price list and ordering deadline by then (fingers crossed)!

In Case We're All Frozen**



If snow, ice, or other weather causes services to be canceled, we will do our best to get the word out via WGAL and WGAL.com. We'll also get a message on the church website (stmarkhanover.org) and send emails if at all possible. **PLEASE NOTE:** Due to technical difficulties, the church's voicemail message may not reflect closings.

Epiphany Helpers:

Thank you to all who helped take down our Christmas decorations after Epiphany. Your willingness to pitch in is appreciated!



Friends:

Your generous donation of \$227.00...will help us continue our mission in 2025...[as we] begin 2025 by focusing on a single family home on Pine Street in the City of York.

Thank you for your generous donation. We are celebrating 40 years of building safe and affordable housing in 2025, and it's because of the generous support of donors like you that we have been able to serve throughout York County all these years. Thank you!

*Natasha Kukorlo, Executive Director,
York Habitat for Humanity*

Friends at St. Mark:

We gratefully acknowledge receiving your generous donation in the amount of \$374...Your generosity will help Roots for Boots to provide support for the current needs of our military heroes and their families. God bless ~ With much gratitude...

Christy Lucas, CEO, Roots for Boots

Upcoming Blood Drives

St. Mark will be hosting more Central Penn Blood Bank drives in 2025:

February 13th

April 24th

June 19th

August 21st

October 23rd

December 30th



As each drive gets close, check out our weekly announcements for information on how to give blood.

Temporary Help Needed

While Wally, our Sexton, is on medical leave in February and March (possibly longer), we could use help with completing some of his tasks. Among other things, we will need help with yard maintenance and changing our weekly church sign.

If you're able to volunteer, please contact the church office. Watch our regular announcements for more information on specific needs. Thank you!



Lent Is on the Horizon

Ash Wednesday is **March 5th** this year. We are starting to prepare for our Lenten Bible Study, as well as the Soup & Bread Dinners that accompany it. March's newsletter will have more information – in the meantime, a sign up for soup makers and bread bakers is in the church hallway.

Help Feed Kids on Weekends!

HACC's Ruth's Harvest program was established to make sure kids on the free-lunch program at school are also fed on weekends and holidays. To keep this program going and make sure kids don't go hungry when schools are closed, they need single-serve packages of nutritious food to hand out to kids on Fridays. Please place donations in the HACC shelter bin near the Church Office.



FEBRUARY & MARCH ALTAR VASES

Given in Loving Memory of Annabelle Bortner

By the Robert Bish Family

Given in Hope of Peace During this Troubled Time

By Dave and Kathy Gates

**Both Vases Given in Loving Honor of Our Children,
Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren, and Their
Spouses**

By Robert and Grace Groft

Both Vases Available for Dedication

Both Vases Available for Dedication

Both Vases Available for Dedication

**Please contact the Church Office to sponsor a vase at \$17.00 each*



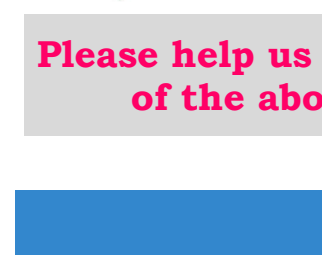
February 2nd



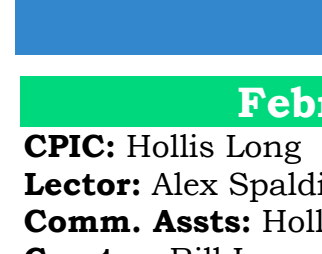
February 9th



February 16th



February 23rd



March 2nd

Please help us keep fresh flowers on our altar by sponsoring one or more of the above vases from now until Lent. Thank you in advance!

FEBRUARY Sunday Worship Helpers

February 2nd

CPIC: Hollis Long
Lector: Alex Spalding
Comm. Assts: Hollis Long | Gail Merlo
Greeter: Bill Leppo

February 9th

CPIC: Martha Lippy
Lector: Karen Feeser
Comm. Assts: Martha Lippy | *Need Volunteer*
Greeter: Bill Leppo

February 16th

CPIC: Gail Merlo
Lector: Pennie Highlands
Comm. Assts: Gail Merlo | *Need Volunteer*
Greeter: Bill Leppo

February 23rd

CPIC: Kathy Gates
Lector: Alex Spalding
Comm. Assts: Kathy Gates | *Need Volunteer*
Greeter: Bill Leppo



NEWS AND HAPPENINGS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Provide-A-Lunch at Hanover Area Council of Churches

Provide-A-Lunch Team B will be serving at HACC on February 23rd. Our primary team members include: **JoAnn Berwager, David DeLong, Stacey DeLong, Shellene Griffin, Lynn Gross, and Liz Robinson.**

PAL is an important program hosted by HACC to make sure local people in need get at least one hot meal per day, 365 days a year. To maintain our teams, we can use more PAL volunteers. Teams alternate monthly. Any help is appreciated. Call or just come to one of our serving events at HACC on Carlisle Street.



HACC News and Special Needs

PAL (Provide-a-Lunch) Program: Canned Vegetables, Sugar, Ziploc Bags (Sandwich- and Gallon-Sizes), Grocery Bags, Shopping Bags

Ruth's Harvest: Single-Serve Fruit Cups, Single-Serve Cereals, Macaroni & Cheese Cups, Canned Vegetables

Meals On Wheels: Thermal Socks, No-Slip Slippers, Sugar-Free Candy / Snacks, Journal Books, Colored Pencils, Throw Blankets

Clothing Bank: Men's Jeans Waist Sizes 30-34, Shoes / Sneakers (All Sizes), Grocery Bags, Shopping Bags, Reuseable Bags, Dryer Sheets, Baggies (Snack-Size), Winter Wear Items

Shelter: Shampoo, Conditioner, Bar Soap or Body Wash, Toothbrushes, New Twin-Size Sheets Sets, Twin Blankets, New Pillows, Scent-Free / Bleach-Free Laundry Pods, Women's Underwear (M/L/XL), Men's Underwear – Boxers (M/L/XL)

Please place donations in the bins by the office on the corner table at end of hall.



NEWS FROM ST. MARK PRESCHOOL

Preschool Registration & Open House

As of **February 1st**, St. Mark Preschool is now accepting 2025-2026 registrations for the upcoming school year. If you or anyone you know is interested in the program, we're having an **Open House on February**

3rd from 6:00pm to 8:00pm with classroom tours, artwork displays, and a meet-and-greet.

For more information about our preschool program and registration form please visit:

stmarkpreschoolhanover.weebly.com (St. Mark Preschool's website)

stmarkhanover.org (St. Mark Church's website)







Registration form and \$45 fee may be mailed in or dropped off to the church office between 9:00am and 12:00pm Monday through Friday, or you can drop them off anytime in the church mailbox by the Willow Street office entrance.

Registrations will be processed in the order they arrive. You will be notified once we receive your form and informed whether your child will be in the class you requested.

If you are interested in signing up your child for the upcoming preschool year, please register ASAP as spots fill up quickly!

For questions about 2025-2026 registration, or if you would like to set up a tour of our preschool, please contact Idonia Klunk at 717-451-4803.

– Idonia Klunk and Allison Wentz, Preschool Co-Directors

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
1 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word						
2 Presentation of Our Lord 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 8:15am Choir Practice  Fellowship Time Following Worship Congregational Meeting Worship & Music Mtg Bells Rehearsal <small>GROUNDHOG DAY</small> 	3 9:00am-12noon Office Open 6pm Preschool Open House	4 9:00am-12noon Office Open 1pm St. Mark Eats @ Starlight Diner	5 9:00am-12noon Office Open	6 9:00am-12noon Office Open 9:00am-12noon Quilting Group 3pm Evangelism Mtg 6pm Choir Practice	7 9:00am-12noon Office Open 11:00am Bible Study	8 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word
9 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School Congregational Meeting Makeup Date Confirmation Class Souper Bowl Food Drive  Bells Rehearsal	10 9:00am-12noon Office Open	11 9:00am-12noon Office Open	12 9:00am-12noon Office Open	13 9:00am-12noon Office Open 9:00am-12noon Quilting Group 7am-7pm Blood Drive 6pm Choir Practice	14 9:00am-12noon Office Open 11:00am Bible Study 	15 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word
16 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School Special Cupcakes with Love Fellowship Following Worship Bells Rehearsal	17 9:00am-12noon Office Open 	18 9:00am-12noon Office Open 1pm Garden Club Mtg 	19 9:00am-12noon Office Open	20 9:00am-12noon Office Open 9:00am-12noon Quilting Group 6pm Fellowship Mtg @ Starlight Diner 6pm Choir Practice	21 9:00am-12noon Office Open 11:00am Bible Study	22 5:30pm Spoken Liturgy of Word
23 7th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School Confirmation Class PAL Team B Bells Rehearsal	24 9:00am-12noon Office Open	25 9:00am-12noon Office Open 4pm Council Mtg	26 9:00am-12noon Office Open	27 9:00am-12noon Office Open 9:00am-12noon Quilting Group 6pm Choir Practice	28 9:00am-12noon Office Open 11:00am Bible Study 	

*NOTE: St. Mark Preschool classes are in regular session MONDAY through FRIDAY each week between the hours of 8:30am and 4:00pm. Please see the preschool calendar for more information.

St. Mark Lutheran Church

129 Charles Street
Hanover, PA 17331

Visit us online at stmarkhanover.org

*St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church's
Purpose is to be
Growing in Grace, Impacting the World*

February 2025

ST. MARK BELL NEWSLETTER

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
129 Charles Street, Hanover, PA 17331
Office – 717-637-8904

Website: stmarkhanover.org

Office Email: offcoor129@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

Church Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Kirk Griffin 717-808-1986; prkirk129@gmail.com

Office Coordinator: Joni Gonzales 717-637-8904

Director of Music: Melinda Elnaggar

Organist: Martha Lobaugh

Sexton: Wally Rodenhaver

Housekeeper: Danielle Miskimon

Preschool Co-Directors: Allison Wentz / Idonia Klunk

2025 Congregation Council: Kathy Gates, Kate Klunk, Martha Lippy, Hollis Long, Tom Long, Gail Merlo, Michael Merlo, Hunter Shaw, Alexander Spalding