

Triumph Newsletter

APRIL 2025

Easter In Your Heart

Friends, this is such a wonderful time of year. Spring is finally here, the birds are singing, flowers are blooming, Nathan's Diary Bar is open (yay!), the air is warmer, and the days are longer, which also means Easter is right around the corner! As you enjoy this time of year with your family and friends, I also want you to be sure to join us for Holy Week, our Easter Cantata, and of course, Easter Sunday. Believe me when I say, you will not want to miss a single thing because it is going to be spectacular! Be sure to look in this newsletter for details about Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

Here is my prayer for you: after you experience all that St. Thomas offers this Holy Week and Easter, you come away with an Easter heart that beats with new life. I pray your heart will full of love, joy, hope, happiness, and peace because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. An Easter heart that is filled with new life will help you live life as it was meant to be in a world full of challenges. When you have an Easter heart, goodness happens, miracles happen, truth happens, beauty happens, resurrection happens, and Jesus Christ is made manifest in our lives. Join us this Holy Week and easter and let your heart beat anew once again with new life, whole life, abundant life, and redeemed life in Jesus Christ.

Easter Heart Blessings to You!

Pastor Matt

FLOWERING THE CROSS EASTER SUNDAY APR 20

Bring blooms from
your garden at
home to the cross
on the Front Plaza



Remember to Pick up Your Easter Flowers

If you ordered Easter flowers don't forget to pick them up after worship on Easter Sunday.

Easter EGG HUNT

Sun, Apr 20 | 10 am

Kids will be dismissed
after the Children's
Message during Worship
for the Egg Hunt &
return to the Sanctuary
for Communion.



A banner for Easter at St. Thomas. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a landscape with three crosses on a hill. In the foreground, there are three yellow tulips. The text 'Easter AT ST. THOMAS' is written in a white, cursive font for 'Easter' and a bold, sans-serif font for 'AT ST. THOMAS'.

Easter AT ST. THOMAS

PALM SUNDAY | Sun, April 13 | 9 am & 11 am

Join us for Palm Sunday on Sunday, April 13, as we commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Our worship service will include a joyful procession of palms led by our King's Kids, powerful music, and meaningful reflection as we begin Holy Week. Come and prepare your hearts for the journey to the cross and the joy of the resurrection!

HOLY THURSDAY | Thu, April 17 | 7 pm

All are welcome to our Holy Thursday Service on Thursday, April 17, at 7 pm as we remember the Last Supper and Jesus' commandment to love and serve one another. This solemn service will include communion and reflection on Christ's journey to the cross. Join us for this meaningful time of worship and remembrance.

GOOD FRIDAY | Fri, April 18 | 7 pm

Our Good Friday Service is on Friday, April 18, at 7 pm where we will reflect on the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. This solemn service invites us to remember His love and the depth of His grace. Come and experience a powerful time of worship and contemplation.

EASTER CANTATA | Sat, April 19

DINNER | 6 pm

Join us for a dinner of tortellini soup and bread. There is no charge for this meal but a love offering is greatly appreciated. Proceeds will go towards our kitchen and music ministries.

CANTATA | 7 pm

Our Cantata "Five Mystical Songs" by Ralph Vaghn Williams will feature a full orchestra, baritone soloist and our choir. During the program, a love offering will be taken to support our music ministry.

EASTER SUNDAY | Sun, April 20

Breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the Sunrise service until the 10 am service.

FIRST LIGHT OF EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE | 7 am

Celebrate the joy of the Resurrection at our Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 20, at 7 am. Weather permitting, we'll gather around a fire (known as the First Light of Easter) and sing hymns. We will then process together into the sanctuary where we will continue our Easter Sunrise Celebration.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE | 10 am

Celebrate the Resurrection with us on Easter Sunday, April 20, with one special worship service at 10 am. Join us as we rejoice in the hope and joy of Christ's victory over the grave! Our service will include a brass ensemble, a dramatic reading of the resurrection story and more! All are welcome—come and share in the celebration!

EASTER EGG HUNT | 10 am

Join us for our 10 am service and check in for the egg hunt. Kids will dismiss after children's message to do a craft and hunt for eggs, then they will return for communion with their families in the sanctuary.



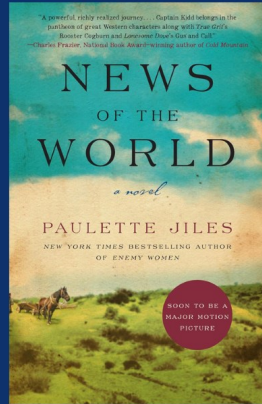
United
Women
in Faith

LADIES BOOK CLUB

Fri, Apr 4 | 10:30 am
Room 306

News of the World
By Paulette Jiles

All ladies are welcome to
attend, even if you
haven't read the book!



Book Club

Join us for our next gathering on Fri, Apr 4 (please note the date change) at 10:30 am in room 306 where we'll discuss "News of the World" by Paulette Jiles. A young girl captured and adopted by a tribe of Native Americans is being forcibly returned to her White family by a former Civil War Captain who "reads the news" to folks unable to read or afford a newspaper. Their trip to her home family is "interesting" to say the least. Join us for our discussion of this lively novel.

Walking Group

The Walking Group will meet at the Battlefield Visitor Center on Saturday, April 5 at 9 am. If the temperature is below 32 degrees we will walk in Manassas Mall. If you are in doubt since temperatures vary in areas, please call or text Marian Ludlow @ 571-315-6881.

Dorcas Circle

Our next Dorcas Circle meeting will be Tuesday, April 8 at 1 pm in Room 300/302. We invite all interested women to join us for study and fellowship. Invite a friend!



OWLS MINISTRY
OLDER WISER LIVELIER SENIOR MINISTRY

The OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors) had a great time at Hector's in February (see below) and at Long Time No Sea in March.

Our next outing will be Friday, April 25 at 1 pm at BJ's Brewhouse (13930 Promenade Commons St, Gainesville, VA 20155). Please RSVP by signing up on your Connect Card or contacting Marian Ludlow or Lynn Furlong by Tuesday, April 22. OWLS is open to everyone 55+.





THE PACK

ST. THOMAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Youth had a busy March, with confirmation classes taking place and Youth Sunday planning, prep, and practice both underway.

We are looking forward to hosting Youth Sunday and confirming some of our youth all on April 27, Youth Sunday. The youth are very committed to sharing an enjoyable experience and meaningful service with all of you. It is truly incredible the depth of thought, analysis, and maturity these young people can express. They are a great group and it has been amazing working on this service with them. I hope everyone will be there to experience the final result.

Over spring break, we will have a couple of opportunities to get together. On Monday, April 14, we will have a meetup at Haymarket Ice Plex from 4:30-6:00 pm. The cost is \$10 for each skater and \$4 for skate rental. There is also a volunteer opportunity to work at the clothing closet on Saturday, May 17 from 10 am to 12 pm to sort and organize clothes for distribution. Let's make our spring break count for fellowship and

service!

Our most recent topic talk was held on 3/30 on the topic of grace. Keep an eye out for information on another Topic Talk opportunity. We will schedule at least one more before the school year ends.

Save the dates in May for the events closing out our school year. On Thursday, May 1 we will meet at Manassas Mall for an escape room experience. On May 18 after church we will have a color party! Be sure to wear old clothing, including shoes. If you have something old and white, the colors will show up better. Prepare to be a mess! We will have a hose to rinse off if you want to bring a change of clothes. Lunch will be served. While we are wrapping up with lots of fun times together, we will cap it off with a pool party at the Thornton's on June 1 after church. Keep an eye on emails for all the details!



The children's ministry had a fantastic March! We kicked off with our Pancake Tuesday event. We had a great time together that day and even more fun making our pancakes and starting our Lenten activity kits at home.

We had lots of fun and lots of learning with our Glow in the Dark Sunday School series. Now we will move on to Throw Back. From retro toys to fashion trends, we all love a good throwback. (Especially for grown-ups because it reminds us of being young again.) There are things that remind us of a moment in time, but other things feel timeless and like they're always in style. In this four-week series, kids will travel through the decades and see that the teachings of

Jesus in the Gospels are always trending. As we hear from Jesus, we'll see it's always good to be humble, we can always forgive, Jesus is always fair, and love always needs action. Children's church will follow themes from the curriculum and children's messages.

If you haven't signed up, we hope your kids can join us for parents night out. This event will take place on April 5 from 5-8pm. A \$5 donation per child is requested at the door. Dinner will be served, but kids with allergies or specific preferences may want to bring their own food. Please bring a spill proof

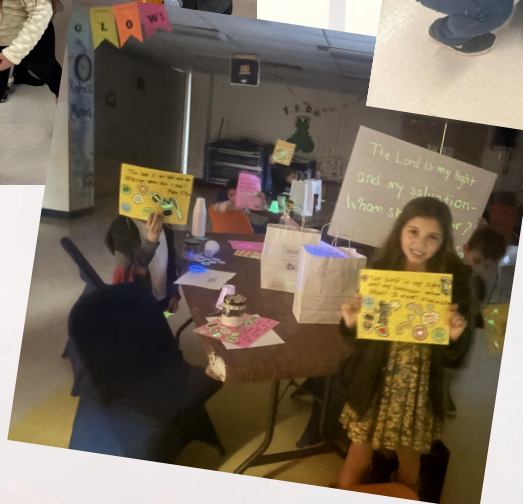
reusable water bottle labeled with your child's name. Sign up here:

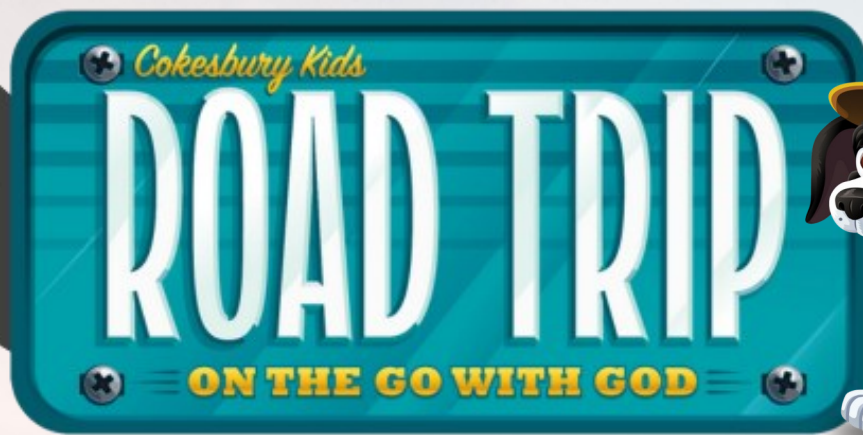
On Palm Sunday, April 13, meet in the narthex at 8:45 or 10:45 for our annual Palm processions. Our Egg hunt will be during the 10am service on Easter. Kids will be dismissed after the children's message to participate and return to their families in the sanctuary for communion.

During spring break, the Tweens have to opportunity to join The Pack for some fun. Monday, April 14th there will be a meetup at the Haymarket Ice Plex at from 4:30-6:00pm. The cost for each kid/teen is \$10 and skate rental is \$4. Younger children are welcome to attend if a parent stays with them. Please wear a King's Kids shirt if you have one!

Save the date for May 4 from 10-11 for our Mother's Day celebration - Mom's Only Spa Time! Moms are invited to gather in the fellowship hall while the kids are in Sunday school for snacks and spa activities. We will also send every mom home with a gift bag!

We are looking forward to a wonderful spring!





Vacation Bible School Mon, Jun 23 - Fri, Jun 27

Kindergartens—5th Graders join us in a fun-filled adventure on the open road, taking all the kids (Travelers) on thrilling journeys to exciting destinations. Led by the Navigator and an adventurous pup Scout, kids will learn that God is always with them. Through engaging stories from the Navigators' Guide (the Bible), Travelers will delve into timeless tales of faith from the Old and New Testaments. Get ready for twists, turns, and excitement as they face new challenges and find strength in God's presence on this unforgettable trip!

Road trips are a great way to build strong relationships and create indelible memories. This makes Road Trip VBS not only a fun experience for kids, but also an opportunity for them to strengthen their faith and bond with others in their community. With engaging activities, interactive games, and meaningful lessons, children will have a blast while they grow in their understanding of God's love and promises for everyone.

There are so many ways to be a part of VBS! Whether it's volunteering for the week of, helping to create decorations and prepare activities, or by providing supplies, there's a place for everyone. Scan the QR codes below to learn more or visit the Events page of our website.

If you're interested in helping with decorations be sure to join us on Tuesday, April 1 at 10 am in the fellowship hall. No RSVP needed, just come!

Thank you for making this year's VBS a success!



Registration



Volunteer



Amazon Wishlist



Signup Genius Wishlist



KITCHEN MINISTRY

ST. THOMAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We would like to thank everyone for their support over these past few weeks. We are doing our best to continue providing meals on Tuesdays. Please be willing to try some new foods as we ask different members of the kitchen team to take the lead on preparing our meals.

Thank you!

The Kitchen Ministry Team

April 1st Menu:

Big Kid Grilled Cheese

Tomato Soup

Salad

Dessert: April Fools Surprise

Kids: Same as adults

Be sure to check the website each week for the most recent menu and to sign up for Tuesday Night Dinner.



Safety Committee Comes to St. Thomas!

Safety at St. Thomas UMC is the responsibility of everyone! To help with this critical mission, the Church Council has created a Safety Committee. The role of the Safety Committee is to build a culture of Safety and Situational Awareness with everyone here at the Church. To achieve this goal, the Safety Committee is tasked with developing and implementing strategies that both enhance our safety and are a good fit for St. Thomas with regard to our history and available resources. For example, you may have noticed the exterior doors have been numbered to assist First Responders to quickly identify the location of an incident and the appropriate entry point. The Safety Committee takes an ALL-HAZARDS approach. This means we look at all things that put us at risk from intruders, weather, medical, fires, etc. Our responsibilities include Conducting Safety Audits, Emergency Response Preparedness, Access to Training Opportunities and Communication on these important matters to our church family. The members of the Safety Committee are: Barry Barnard - Chair, Cliff Farrar, Gary Gilham, Hunter Lenz, Don Rickerson, and Joe Steen. Feel free to contact any of us if you have questions or comments. Safety at St. Thomas is your business! Thank you and be safe!

Winner of Guitar Player Magazine's International Competition



Mark Kroos

Guitar Concert

St. Thomas United Methodist Church

Friday, April 25th
7:00 PM

Admission: Free / By Donation

St Thomas UMC is located at
8899 Sudley Rd
Manassas, VA

Scan this code with your camera to watch Mark on YouTube



Photo Courtesy of Angie Ellis

ST THOMAS HAS TALENT SHOW

Sat, April 26 | Dinner 5 pm | Show 6 pm



Auditions Sat, Apr 5 & Sat, Apr 12 | 12 - 3 pm

Signup on the board in the Narthex to reserve your audition spot!



Mark Kroos Concert

Join us on Friday, April 25, at 7 pm for an unforgettable evening of music with Mark Kroos! Known for his incredible talent on the double-neck guitar, Mark's unique playing style and heartfelt melodies create a captivating and inspiring experience.

This is a concert you won't want to miss! Invite your family and friends for a night of amazing music and fellowship.

St Thomas Has Talent

The Front Porch team is gearing up for an unforgettable evening filled with talent, excitement, and community spirit! Mark your calendars because April 26 is the night to shine! Whether you sing, dance, juggle, or have a quirky trick up your sleeve, this is your chance to showcase your skills! Auditions are Sat, April 5 & Sat, Apr 12 from 12-3 pm in the Fellowship Hall. A Sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. Hurry, spots are filling up fast! This is your moment to dazzle the crowd and have some fun!

A potluck dinner provided by the Front Porch team will start at 5 pm and the show begins at 6 pm. There is no charge for dinner but a love offering is greatly appreciated.



ST. THOMAS

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8899 Sudley Road, Manassas, VA 20110

Rev. Matt Sergent, Pastor

stthomasumc.org

703-368-5161

Newsletter Deadline:

15th of the month

Please email all articles to both:

samantha.bouquet@stthomasumc.org

receptionist@stthomasumc.org

Upcoming Events

- Apr 4 Ladies Book Club | 10:30 am
- Apr 5 Women's Walking Group | 9 am
- Apr 17 Holy Thursday Service | 7 pm
- Apr 18 Good Friday Service | 7 pm
- Apr 19 Easter Cantata
- Apr 20 First Light of Easter Sunrise Service | 7 am
- One Worship Service | 10 am
- Easter Egg Hunt | 10 am
- Apr 21 Church Office Closed
- Apr 25 OWLS Outing | 1 pm
- Mark Kroos Concert | 7 pm
- Apr 26 St Thomas Talent Show
- Apr 27 Youth Sunday, One Worship Service | 10 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Dominic Johnson	2	3 Carl Juran	4 Pat Dodson	5 Grace Jung
6	7	8 Kathy Swancott	9 Merv Lyle	10 Jessica Page	11 Brodie Sutton Katie Yost Will Ameen	12 Barbara Sergent
13 Don Rickerson Heather Cortez Connie Santee	14	15 Steven Burnett	16	17	18 Melissa Hall	19 Rodney Miller
20 Earl Amstutz Daniel Goldfarb	21 David Norman Jamie Thornton Violet Minnus	22 Maddie Assor Samirah Jarrett	23 Renee Kinnear	24	25 James Flynn	26
27 Emily Sergent Ryan Page	28	29 Pam Ackley Dan Harcup Kathy Evans	30			