

WELCOME TO THE ADVENTURE!

PACKING LIST:

- ✓ Bible
- ✓ United Methodist Devotional Material
- ✓ Prayer Journal
- ✓ SMUMC Ministry Directory
- ✓ Willing Spirit

You are invited to embark on a journey toward maturity in Christ, a journey that will lead you from the "Kingdom of ME" to the "Kingdom of GOD". There are five legs of the journey. Begin by determining what leg of the journey you are on now. Although the stages are in order, you may find that you have already completed parts of the journey, but no step on the path can be ignored.

Wherever you find yourself on the journey, the important part is to climb ... "until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ." (Ephesians 4) The end goal is to become spiritually mature followers of Christ and to equip others for this same journey. The journey will not always be easy or straightforward. Your pastors and this community of faith are walking with you toward the Kingdom of God.

Let us journey together with joy!

ENTER

Luke 5:11 "... When they had brought their boats ashore, they left everything and **followed** him."

START HERE

Are you ready for an adventure?
Do you hear God calling?
Do you desire to know life that really is life?

You are invited to enter into a relationship with Christ, to gear-up for a life transforming journey.

EXPERIENCE

Matthew 7:7-8

"Ask, and it will be given to you; **search**, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."

JUMP IN

Now that you have said "YES" to Christ and this community of faith, jump in and experience what Christ has to offer!

Experience the renewing power of worship, learn how to read God's word, learn how to pray, and experience the blessings of community as we strive together to become more like Christ.

ENGAGE

James 1:22-25 "Be **doers** of the word, and not merely hearers..."

GO DEEPER & HIGHER

Listen as the God who called you on this journey now beckons you to even deeper engagement with God's word, prayer, and worship.

Discover the joy of serving others, sharing your faith, and offering your gifts.

EMBODY

John 15:9-17 "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; **abide** in my love. And I appointed you to go and bear **fruit**, fruit that will last ... I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another."

BE & LEAD

Let your light shine! Let the love of God be known in your daily life so that others will be drawn to God.

Bear fruit through your giving and serving so that the world is transformed, and in all things, stay connected to the source through scripture study, prayer, and worship.

EQUIP

Ephesians 4:11-12 "The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to **equip** the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."

GO & TELL

Having found deep intimacy with Christ, one can't help but guide others along this same path to maturity in Christ.

Faithfully take these steps, and in time, with the help of the Spirit, you will find that you: know how to read the Bible in a meaningful way, are deeply rooted in a rich relationship with God and others, are serving in a place that is making a meaningful impact in God's world, have the ability to naturally share your faith with others, know what your spiritual gifts are and how to use them, are becoming more loving, more joyful, more peaceful, kinder, gentler, self-aware, and are living the life that really is life - a life that is deeply content and fulfilling.



The following is an assessment tool based on the five membership vows of the United Methodist Church. It is meant to help you determine where you are currently on the journey & where you can grow.

LIVING THE VOWS

... to faithfully participate in the Church's ministries by your prayers, presence, gifts, service & witness

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

God longs to be known, to be in relationship with each of us. Scripture and prayer are important means through which God is revealed. Prayer engages us in an intimate, growing relationship with God. Scripture teaches us who God is, showing us how God interacts with all people and how we are to live with God.

PRESENCE

From creation, God has always been present. Worship is the central act of the church that celebrates God's presence. As we grow in faith, we learn to recognize God's presence everywhere and become fully accessible to God and others.

GIFTS

God has given each believer gifts: talents, personalities, skills, passions and financial resources. As Christians we have a responsibility to discover and use these gifts to do God's work in the world.

SERVICE

God calls us to care for our neighbors both near and far. When we give of ourselves to meet the needs of the world we become the hands and feet of Christ, offering love and grace to others.

WITNESS

Witness is sharing our faith with others through our actions and words. We were first brought to faith through another's witness. As we grow in our faith, we trust the Holy Spirit to empower us to witness to others.

Once you discern which leg of the journey best describes where you are, see inside for next steps.

St. MARK'S

stmarksraleigh.org
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4801 Six Forks Rd
Raleigh, NC 27606



MILEPOST QUESTIONS AT EACH STAGE: Who's with me? Where is my time being spent? Where is my money going? What mostly occupies my mind? Where am I using my energy?

ENTER

Discover Scripture & Prayer

- Who God is
- How God interacts with us
- How we enter into relationship with God

Discover God's Presence

- Come as you are to worship

Discover that there are Gifts

- Spiritual Gifts
- Financial Gifts
- Time and Talents

Discover Service

- Learning why we serve
- Learning that anyone can serve
- Learning about opportunities for service

Discover the Need for Witness

- Reflect on what you know about faith and how you learned it

Learn more by attending
Gear Up: St. Mark's 101

EXPERIENCE

Make Membership Vows

Experience Scripture and Prayer

- Read Scripture
- Participate in a Sunday School class and/or Bible Study
- Learn ways to pray and practice praying

Experience God's Presence

- Learn how to prepare for and engage in worship
- Participate in worship regularly
- Search for God's presence in your life

Experience Offering Your Gifts

- Prayerfully fill out a commitment card
- Practice regular financial giving

Experience Serving

- Discern your God-given spiritual gifts
- Try serving in one of the following areas:
 - Hunger, Recovery, and Housing
 - Children, Youth, and Worship

Experience the Witness of Others

- Invite others to share their faith story
- Begin to formulate your faith story

ENGAGE

Engage Deeply With Scripture & Prayer

- Set aside time to study and pray daily
- Learn to view life through Scripture
- Find prayer partners
- Join a covenant group

Engage and Respond to God's Presence

- Allow worship to become central in your life
- Listen deeply for the Spirit during weekly worship and everyday life

Engage in Giving

- Grow towards a tithe by 3-5%

Engage in Serving

- Understand the transformative power of service
- Commit to regular service in one of the following areas:
 - Hunger, Recovery, and Housing
 - Children, Youth, and Worship
- Share your experience of servanthood with others

Engage in Witness

- Learn the blessing of witnessing
- Look to share your testimony with others
- Ensure that your actions reflect your faith

EMBODY

Embodying a Life of Scripture & Prayer

- Immerse yourself in Scripture and prayer
- Apply Scripture to life decisions
- Lead others in prayer
- Help others encounter Scripture

Embody God's Love

- Expect God's presence to move in worship and everyday life
- Worship God daily with praise and thanksgiving
- Allow God's love to be known through you

Embody Sacrificial Giving

- Give sacrificially (10%)
- Model Christ in your financial and spiritual giving
- Bear witness to the joy of giving

Embody the Heart of a Servant Leader

- Define, organize, and/or lead a service opportunity or ministry

Be a Living Witness

- Extend love and grace to everyone
- Become a disciple who makes disciples for the transformation of the world

EQUIP

Model and Walk Alongside Others

Scripture and Prayer

- Read Scripture alongside others
- Pray alongside others

God's Presence

- Help others seek God's presence in worship and everyday life

Sacrificial Giving

- Help others identify and offer their gifts of time, talents, and treasure

Service

- Help others serve our community and God's world

Witness

- Help others identify and share their witness

PREVENIENT GRACE

JUSTIFYING GRACE

SANCTIFYING GRACE

