

JUBILEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

April 2024



ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4780 E. 126th St., Carmel, IN 46033
317.846.4912 stmarkscarmel.org



Register Now for Summer Camps

It's time to plan the kids' summer activities! St. Mark's has many options for kids from 4 to 18 years old! We have music camps, VBS, youth camps, and mission camp! See details on pages 2 and 9.

SIGN UP NOW

stmarkscarmel.org/summercamps

Spring & Summer Events

Take a look ahead at St. Mark's spring and summer events. There are new and annual favorites coming soon for all ages.



VACATION BIBLE CAMP (VBS) CAMP FIRELIGHT JULY 8-12

Children ages 4 to Grade 5 are invited to participate as VBS campers. Registration is open now. Students in Grade 6 through adults of all ages are invited to participate as volunteers.

STMARKSCARMELO.ORG/VBS

COMING SOON



Indianapolis Brass Choir Concert - Apr 14, 4 PM
Spring Pizza Party - Apr 21, 12-1 PM
Touch-a-Truck - Apr 27, 12-2 PM
Spring Pops Concert - Apr 28, 12 PM



Trinkets and Treasures -
May 24, 8 AM-4 PM & May 25, 8 AM-12 PM



Club 56 Mission Camp - Jun 3-6
Cornerstone Youth Middle School Camp - Jun 9-14
Cornerstone Youth Mission Camp - Workcamp - June 16-22
Sacred Puppet Camp - Jun 17-21
Sacred Drama Camp - Jun 17-21
Cornerstone Youth High School Camp - Jun 23-28

Pastor's Place

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

A few years ago I was playing golf with a retired pastor friend of mine and we were preparing to tee off at a hole that had a narrow fairway and lots of ways to get your ball into trouble on either side of the fairway. My friend hit his ball soundly but well off to the right into a dismal bit of woods and undergrowth. I could sense my friend's frustration as he walked back to his bag and shoved his driver back into it's place. "Brian," he said, "That shot almost makes me want to swear. You got any good four letter words for an old preacher who just hit his ball into the rough?" In a moment of inspiration, I said, "Yes, I do - hope."



Rev. Dr. Brian K. White
Lead Pastor

My friend's golf situation in a way describes the world in miniature. People are looking for something to say, something to do, in the midst of their struggles. The world offers its advice which often reads like this: "Take care of yourself." "You can't win so why try." "It's just your lot in life so you might as well accept it." It is the response Job's wife gave him when she told him to "Curse God, and die." (Job 2:9)

The church has a different response - hope. Hope is the powerful message of the open tomb. It is the message of the blind beggar who is made to see. It is the message of fisherman turned into missionaries, prostitutes into disciples, tax collectors into philanthropists. It is a message of transformation and God's power. This is the word that we speak as Christians to a broken world.

We have the opportunity through our church programs, through our mission projects, and in our daily lives to not only say a word of hope but to be a word of hope. What word will you choose to use in this world?

Yours in Christ,
Brian

Pastor's Place

Dear St. Mark's Family,

As I was recently planning themes and series ideas for The Current for the upcoming months, I came across this line from poet Gary Snyder's For the Children: "The world is our garden, to tend and to keep, In joy and in service, as stewards and seers." Such a powerful reminder! The words beautifully encapsulate the concept of stewardship over the Earth, blending a sense of responsibility with the spiritual joy found in caring for the environment, especially as we enter further into the spring season.

As April unfolds around us, with its new blooms and longer days, it feels like the world is waking up again, doesn't it?

It's the perfect backdrop for a new sermon series we're introducing in The Current just two weeks after Easter, on April 14th - "A New Creation."

Easter Sunday is behind us, and we're wrapped in the joy we find in new life through Jesus. Often, we zoom in on the personal or spiritual lift it gives us. But there is a bigger picture - Jesus' resurrection is about new life not just for us on a personal level but for the whole of creation. That includes our neighborhoods, our furry and feathered friends, and yes, our environment. Given the environmental issues our world faces today, we're going to take a deep dive into scripture to see how the life Jesus offers us transforms the way we look at and care for our planet and its residents.

"A New Creation" is all about exploring what it means to be caretakers of this beautiful, wild world we live in. We'll talk about how our faith not only invites us to celebrate life in its many forms but also challenges us to roll up our sleeves and get to work in protecting and nurturing this earth for the ones who come after us.

Let's make this spring a time for growing not just in our gardens but in our spiritual and environmental stewardship as well. I'm looking forward to exploring these themes with you and seeing how we can live out our faith in ways that make a real difference for our world!

Blessings & Peace,
Pastor Karla



Rev. Karla Elliott
Executive Pastor



April Mission Focus

Did You Know?

Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity offers homeownership opportunities to low-income individuals and families who are unable to obtain conventional home financing.

- In Indiana, 1 in 9 households spend half or more of their income on housing.
- In Indiana, the average hourly wage necessary to afford a two-bedroom unit is \$19.00; more than half of Hoosier renters cannot afford the fair market rate.
- Greater Indy Habitat's home construction costs have more than doubled in the past 5 years

Research shows that Habitat for Humanity's homeownership program leads to benefits beyond housing:

- Improved quality of life and mental health
- A decreased reliance on social services
- Improved academic achievement of children
- Increased prosperity of families as well as the entire community

In 2022, Greater Indy Habitat launched a strategic plan for growth, setting a historic goal to provide 300 housing solutions to people in the Indianapolis region by the end of 2024. This plan was launched to address the expanding gap in racial inequalities and increasing construction and land costs, among other issues.

What Can I Do?

- Donations to support Habitat for Humanity may be given online at stmarkscarmel.org/give or by using the offering envelopes found in the blue attendance pads on Sundays.
- Pray for the Habitat mentors, build volunteers, organizers, and families who are in need of affordable housing.

- Donate new and used items in working condition to the Habitat ReStore. Visit indyrestore.com/checklist for a complete list of acceptable donations and to find a store nearest to you.
- Join an upcoming "build" with Habitat for Humanity.
- Learn more about Habitat for Humanity at stmarkscarmel.org/habitat.



April In-Kind Donations

Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis is renting and furnishing apartments which are used as emergency homeless shelters for qualifying families. The Apartment Shelter Program allows families to stay together and have more stability until they can secure permanent housing.

Learn more about the Program at www.fpgi.org/asp.

During the month of April, we will be having a Housewares Donation Drive for the Apartment Shelter Program. Our goal is to furnish one apartment with all the necessary housewares and furnishings so that it is move-in ready for a new family. To sign up for specific items, please go to www.stmarkscarmel.org/signups and select ASP Housewares Drive. Shop from a Wish List on Amazon (scan QR code below), your favorite local store, or donate gently used items on hand. If shopping on Amazon, select Family Promise from the delivery address options for items to ship directly. Other donations can be dropped off at St. Mark's Mon-Fri, 9-4.



ASP Wish List



Mission Delivery Team

A NEW Way to Serve!

Become a part of the Mission Delivery Team

Help is occasionally needed to deliver collected in-kind donation items to various mission partner locations. Volunteers will be contacted a week prior to the suggested delivery date to ensure your availability. Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Please contact Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org for more info.

Ascent 121 Prayer Journey

Saturday, June 1 - Begins at 9:00 AM

Meet at St. Mark's by 8:15 AM to carpool.

Sign up at www.stmarkscarmel.org/ascent121

The Ascent 121 Prayer Journey is an opportunity for you to drive through the near east side of Indianapolis and pray for areas affected by trafficking and exploitation. Through this experience you will learn more about the child welfare system, the juvenile justice system, ways that teens are drawn into trafficking, and recovery services that are available to survivors. Guided prayer stops allow you to pray for survivors, teens at risk, educators, social service providers, juvenile justice staff, law enforcement, ministries, and organizations. Your journey begins in the parking lot at the Indiana Department of Child Services and concludes at the Ascent 121 offices with a debrief for your group to process their experience. A parent must accompany participants under 18.

There is an online orientation sent to you prior to the event. On June 1, meet to receive needed materials for the self-guided drive to multiple locations. Spend as long as you'd like praying for each one. The length of the event depends on how long you spend at each location, but averages between 2- 2-1/2 hours total.



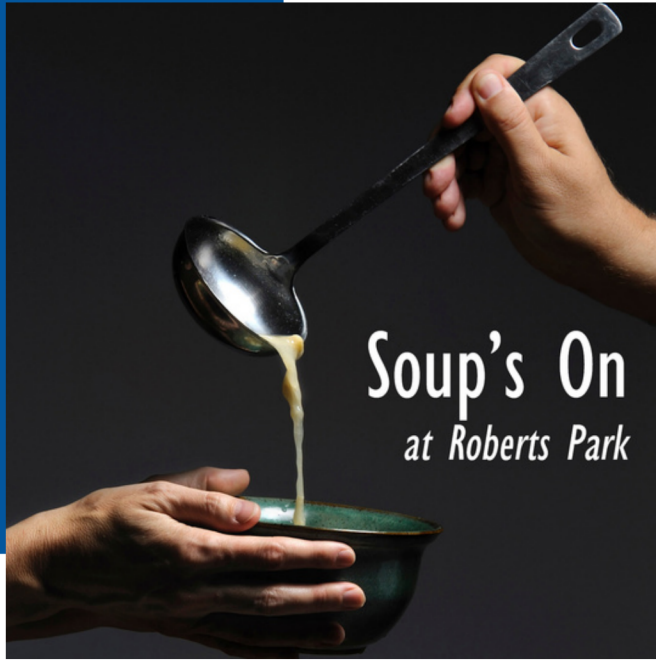
Brightwood Community Center Food Pantry Volunteers



"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." Big thanks to the many St. Mark's volunteers who have been helping with the monthly food pantry for Brightwood Community families! BCC Food Pantry is currently offering a "Client Choice" food pantry TWICE per month, on the 2nd & 4th weeks of each month. Volunteers help with shelving food on racks and assisting clients with shopping. Clients select foods that best meet their needs.

- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays: 12:00 - 2:30 - receiving food and shelving
- 2nd & 4th Wednesdays: 1:30 - 4:00 - help patrons shop/restock shelves

If you are ready to be the difference in a community's life, contact Diane Newton for more information and to sign up: joediane244@att.net.



Soup's On at Roberts Park UMC

Sunday, April 21

Can you help us provide a hot meal for homeless in Indy? Each Sunday, volunteers help prepare and serve lunch for Roberts Park UMC's Soup's On ministry. Meals are cooked onsite and then packed in carry-out containers. Soup's On ministry provides a wonderful opportunity for us to carry out Jesus' command to "feed the hungry." Sign up to help provide food and/or join volunteers that morning at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Blood Drive

April 14 | 8:00-12:30

A BIG thank you to the 27 volunteers and blood donors who came to St. Mark's in January! Blood donors are an essential part of hospitals saving patients' lives. There is no substitute for blood and the need for it is vital. For more info Contact Terry Fourman at 4manternlyd@gmail.com Sign up today at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.



Native American Sunday

Native American Ministries Sunday, one of the six Special Sundays in the UMC, is a denomination-wide celebration designed to raise awareness of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, and contemporary issues. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world. Donations for Native American Ministries Sunday can be made at online or by using the special envelope in your bulletin on April 14.

Fletcher Place Breakfast

Help Serving Needed | April 26

Help is needed to cook and serve a hot breakfast for the homeless and low-income population at Fletcher Place Community Center. Volunteers ride together to and from St. Mark's, 7:15-11:15 AM. Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups or at the connection tables in the narthex.



Club 56 Mission Camp

June 3-6 | 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Incoming and outgoing 5th-6th graders are invited to learn about the importance of mission outreach while safely serving others and having fun fellowship at St. Mark's annual Mission Camp. Registration is open through May 29 at stmarkscarmel.org/missioncamp. Contact [Amy Adams](mailto:Amy.Adams) with questions.



Because You Give

Brightwood CC: 113 boxes of food given out at food pantry, serving 394 individuals; 8 bags of donated pantry items

Changing Footprints: 2 pairs of shoes

Family Promise Apartment Shelter Program: 8 meals delivered; 12 houseware items

Fletcher Place CC: 80 meals served

Midwest Mission Distribution Center: \$7676.36

Outreach Indiana: 62 hoodies/gym shorts; 370 personal hygiene items; 182 bottles of water; 11 hat/scarf sets; 3 pair tennis shoes; 6 bags of additional clothing & hygiene items

Servants at Work (SAWs): \$500.00

Soup's On at Roberts Park UMC: 168 meals served

Travel Size Toiletries for Homeless Shelters: 12 bags

Kidz Church Sunday Programming

Check-in station & classes are located in the Children's Wing.

Nursery & Toddler Care | 8:15, 9:40, & 11 AM | Ages 6 weeks-3 years

Staffed by trained & experienced leaders, our nursery & toddler areas are here to care for our littlest members.

Current Kidz | 9:40 AM | Ages 4-Grade 4 | Lower Level Classrooms

This program opens with worship arts, followed by age-appropriate classes that include bible stories, games, and engaging activities.

Club 56 | 9:40 AM | Grades 5 & 6 | Lower Level Den

Club 56 is a class that celebrates the evolving young minds of tweens by weaving together biblical exploration, some theology, and relationship-building through activities, games, and lively discussions. Social gatherings for Club 56 take place throughout the year.

Harmonic Voices | 10:30-10:50 AM | Grades 3-8 | Upper Level

This music ensemble sings, plays handbells, and learns to create harmony. They share in worship and perform as part of special music events.

Kidz Music & Praise | 11:00 AM | Ages 4-Grade 4 | Upper Level

This high-energy program is an immersive experience that offers children the opportunity to explore the weekly bible story through singing, movement, instruments, drama, puppets, and more! This class also rehearses for seasonal musicals and shares their talents in worship services, programs, and special events.

Touch-a-Truck



Sat., April 27 | 12-2 PM
SMUMC Parking Lot

Get ready to rev your engines and have a truckload of fun! Be a part of this thrilling community event that not only brings joy and smiles but also supports a great cause. Proceeds will go towards the church Playground Renovation Fund. Admission and raffle tickets are available for purchase at stmarkscarmel.org/truck. You won't want to miss this wheelie awesome experience!

Kidz Music & Praise Sings in Worship



Sunday, May 12 | 11:00 AM

All children of the church are invited to sing in the 11:00 AM worship service on Mother's Day! Rehearsals to prepare for this performance take place during Kidz Church at 11:00 AM each Sunday. Join us for Kidz Music & Praise every week!



Register for 2024 Summer Camps

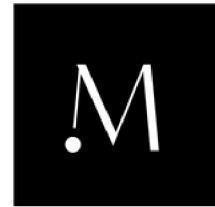
REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

"I'm bored!" Is this a familiar summer chant in your household? While it is true boredom builds character and creativity, it is also great to have some structured plans for your summer break. Enter...summer camps at St. Mark's!



These are the most exciting and enriching weeks of the summer...your kids will not want to miss out! Volunteers are also needed for all camps. Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/summercamps.

- **Club 56 Mission Camp: June 3-6**
 - 9AM-1PM
 - 5-6 Graders (incoming/outgoing)
- **Sacred Music Camps: June 17-21**
 - Sacred Puppet Camp: 9:30-11:30AM
Age 4-Grade 3
(incoming/outgoing)
 - Sacred Drama Camp: 12-2:30PM
Grades 1-4 (incoming/outgoing)
- **Vacation Bible Camp (VBS): July 8-12**
 - 9AM-12PM Campers Age 4-Grade 5 & Volunteers Grade 5-Adult



THE MOMCO
BY MOPS INTERNATIONAL

MOMCo (formerly MOPS)

Thursdays (2x/month)
9:30-11:15 AM

Time out for moms with children of all ages! Come join with a group of women who just “get it” (and have a cup of coffee while it’s still warm!). Our MOMCo group meets two Thursdays a month for fellowship and learning with children’s programming available for infants (6+ mo.) and preschoolers. There are also monthly MOMCo Moms’ Night Out events, family play dates, and child-free monthly coffee/brunch dates.

Learn more by contacting mopsatst.marks@gmail.com.

April Schedule

- April 11: Say Yes to Managing your Home *with Cassie Eby*
- April 25: Be Here Now - Summer 2024 *with Katy Mann from Indy With Kids*



DINE TO DONATE

Tuesday, April 16 | 4-8 PM
St. Mark's Preschool Dine-to-Donate Night at Chick-fil-A

“Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner!” Enjoy a night off from cooking and contribute to the church playground renovation at the same time. On Tuesday, April 16, dine at Chick-fil-A located at 14647 Thatcher Lane (146th & 31). The Preschool will receive 20% for all orders placed through the Chick-fil-A app using the designated code. The event code and more information can be found at stmarkscarmel.org/preschoolevents.

CLUB 56 OUTING



April 13 | 1-3 PM
Mini Golf at Birdies in Westfield

@ St. Mark's

Any students in grades 5-6 are welcome to attend and bring friends!

Contact Don Broad with questions (dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org).

FAMILY PIZZA PARTY

April 21 | 12-1 PM

Sponsored by Kidz Music & Praise

Join us in Wesley Hall for games, pizza, and fellowship! All family members are welcome. Please RSVP to Joyce Click, Children's Music Coordinator, jclick@stmarkscarmel.org.

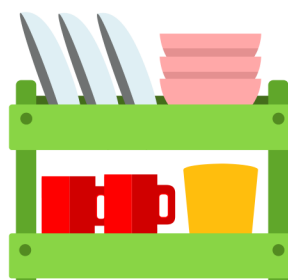


KIDZ MONTHLY MISSION

April | Family Promise's Apartment Shelter Program

Each month, Children's Ministries strives to have children involved in giving to the church's monthly In-Kind Donations. April's mission is Family Promise's Apartment Shelter Program. This organization is renting and furnishing apartments which are used as emergency homeless shelters for qualifying families. The Apartment Shelter Program allows families to stay together and have more stability until they can secure permanent housing.

You and your children can support this program by donating new or gently used houseware items. Donations should be chosen from the sign-ups page to avoid duplicates. Visit stmarkscarmel.org/in-kind to choose your items. Purchases can be made from the Family Promise Amazon Wish List (scan the QR code below), or you can shop wherever you like! Unless you choose to ship directly to Family Promise, please have children bring donations to the check-in station for Kidz Church. Thank you for encouraging your kids to be a part of giving!



ASP Wish List

Weekly Gatherings

Sunday Mornings

**Cornerstone AM | 9:40 to 10:30 am | Room M
Middle School (grades 7-8)**

Led by Aaron Koenig and Dean Solesky, this class meets every week during the school year to share some fellowship, talk about our faith, and of course, eat donuts. On Communion Sundays (first Sunday of each month), the class attends worship together.



Cornerstone Sunday Worship | Any worship service High School (grades 9-12)

High School students are encouraged on Sunday mornings to attend worship with their family and/or friends.

Sunday Evenings

**Cornerstone Fellowship | 6:01-7:31 pm
Cornerstone Commons
Middle & High School (grades 7-12)**

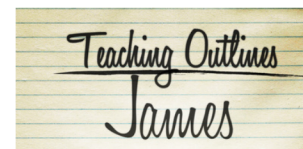
Led by DKB, Cornerstone Fellowship is a time of games, snacks, devotions, discussions, fellowship, and surprises. You won't want to miss a week! Friends are always welcome to join us as well!



Wednesday Evening Bible Study

**5:00-5:30 pm | Room N and Instagram Live
High and Middle School (grades 7-12)**

Led by DKB. During the seven weeks of Lent, we will be taking a look at Jesus' last moves as He approached His sacrifice on the cross and ultimate victory over death on Easter morning. The study takes place on Instagram Live, but students are welcome to join DKB in Room N.



Thursday Evenings

**DKB@Starbucks | 5:00-7:00 pm | Starbucks at Hazel Dell
& Main Street | Middle & High School (grades 7-12)**

Led by DKB. This is an opportunity for students (and parents) to grab a cup of coffee, discuss whatever is on your mind, get questions answered, or just simply hang out. Come spend some time with DKB!



Upcoming Events

2024 Youth Sunday

April 28 | All 3 Worship Services

Students in grades 5 through 12 are invited to help lead all three worship services as St. Mark's celebrates Cornerstone Students and Club 56 during another Youth Sunday. Students will serve as Greeters, Ushers, Readers, Singers, Musicians, and Speakers. Sign up online and contact Don Broad with any questions.



Club 56 Mini Golf

April 13 | 1-3 PM

Students in grades 5 and 6 AND any friends they wish to bring are invited for an afternoon of mini golf and fun at Birdies in Westfield (632 E. State Road 32). There is no need to sign up. Parents will need to arrange transportation to and from the event, and families are encouraged to join us!



@ St. Mark's

Cornerstone Spring Retreat

May 17-19 | Epworth Forest Retreat Center in North Webster, IN

Students currently in grades 7-12 are invited to attend, and feel free to bring friends! You can count on this being a wonderful time to grow together in faith and friendship. As always, we request that you come with a heart to learn and an expectation to encounter God. The cost to attend is \$100 per student. Sign up at <http://stmarkscarmel.org/spring-retreat>. Contact information for Don Broad dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org



Adult Discipleship Sunday Programming

Sunday AM Encouragement Group | 9:20 AM | Monthly

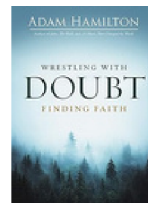
Group meets monthly for those dealing with care of aging loved ones. Call Jennifer in the church office or email grow@stmarkscarmel.org for info.

Cutting Edge | 9:30 AM | Room G-H and Zoom

Led by Steve Click, this class learns about the Bible by following the weekly lectionary scriptures in a 3-year cycle through the New and Old Testaments. Contact Steve for the online meeting info (sclick52@gmail.com).

Foundations & Friendships | 9:30 AM | Room J-K

Led by Doug Brown, Kathy DeaKyne, and Todd Snow. F&F's shares and discusses Christian themes through contemporary books, Bible studies, and occasional Wired Word devotionals. For 3/24-5/5, the class will read Adam Hamilton's *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith* (no meeting 3/31 for Easter). All are welcome!



Reel Spirituality | 11:00 AM | Room G-H and Zoom

"The movie class" watches films with various Christian themes and a wide variety of topics at home and then discusses together during the meeting. Contact Lydia and Terry Fourman, 4manternlyd@gmail.com for the film list, and Jennifer, grow@stmarkscarmel.org for the Zoom link.

HOW TO SIGN UP

How to Learn More and Sign Up for Groups

For full descriptions and signups for all ongoing study groups, short-term studies, and Sunday classes, see stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups. Books and paper signups are on the connection tables in the Gathering Area.

For our Grow Groups, encouragement groups, and other support groups information, see stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups.

BOOKS

How to Pay for Books

The book cost is listed on stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups and on the paper syllabus included with each book. Make checks to St. Mark's UMC with "study books" in the memo line. If you would prefer to pay online for books, click on "Give" from the stmarkscarmel.org website. Click "Give Online." Find the top question saying "How would you like to allocate your donation" and select Study Books from the dropdown menu.

WALKING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

9:00 AM on Thursdays 5/16, 6/13, 7/18

7:00 PM on Tuesdays 5/21, 6/18, 7/23

Locations may vary, see below

Gather with other St. Markers and Jennifer Cloud-Buckner for a short devotional



and mindful walk at your own pace on any of the Thursday morning sessions (9:00am on 5/16, 6/13, 7/18) and Tuesday evening sessions (7:00pm on 5/21, 6/18, 7/23). Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups or email grow@stmarkscarmel.org to be added to the email list for weather updates, location changes, or cancellations. For the May walks meet at our usual location, the northern entrance outside the restrooms of River Road Park (Now called “Prather Park,” 12575 River Rd.). This park features accessible trails of your choice for a variety of ability levels and terrains. Stay tuned for potential change in locations of June-July walks.

THE WIRED WORD

Weekly Email Devotional Available

St. Mark’s subscribes to *The Wired Word*, a weekly email devotional for personal study and group discussions. Topics are wide-ranging and directly relate scriptures to news stories. If you’d like to receive this weekly email, contact Jennifer (grow@stmarkscarmel.org).

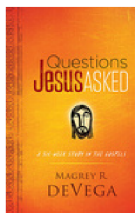
QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

A Six-Week Study in the Gospels

Thursdays, 3/21, 4/11-5/9 10-11AM |Led by Judy

Woempner | Room B/C and Zoom | Books \$14

No meetings on 3/28 and 4/4; with 5 sessions left, it’s not too late to join our



Thursday study’s look at Jesus’s questions in the Gospels. Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am? What does Jesus want to know about us? In *Questions Jesus Asked*, author Magrey deVega helps us gain a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives.

LOVE DOES BY BOB GOFF

Fridays, 4/12-5/10 | 9:30-11AM

Led by Robin Spyker & class members | Room B/C and Zoom Books \$10, optional study guide \$9

A repeat study, by request! This joyful, inspiring bestseller from Bob Goff continues to call people to show love and grace to their neighbors through real action—to simply DO love—instead of having the right answers or checking the right boxes. Bob shares examples of folks in many life stages who live a fully engaged life, who stop putting things off until next time, and



who find a new place of imagination, whimsy, and wonder as they answer God’s call to love their neighbor. Childcare available with >72 hrs reservation. Go to stmarkscarmel.org/signups and find Adult Study Groups —> “Sign Up for Childcare.”

ESTHER AND RUTH

Interpretation Bible Studies

Wednesdays, 4/3-6/5

Early AM Men’s Study, 6:30 AM-7:30 AM

Pastor’s Bible Study, 9:30 AM-10:30 AM

Led by Pastor Brian White | Hybrid Room B-C and Zoom | Books \$15

Author Patricia Tull leads readers through the entire Old Testament books of Esther—with its stories of faithfulness, courage, and survival, and ethical questions posed by its ending—and Ruth, with its themes of community, loyalty, and friendship.



LIFT: A WIDOWS ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP

Our LIFT (Living Intentionally Forward Together) encouragement group for widows will have their next planning meeting on Tuesday, April 2, 12:30 pm at 101 Beer Kitchen, 9708 District N Dr, Suite 910, Fishers, IN (near Fishers UMC). Carpool from church at 11:50 am. To connect with the LIFT group, sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups or see Mary Etta Yoho.

Open Groups



United Women in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The St. Mark's UWF theme for this year is Love in Action. There are so many ways that we can all put love into action. How are you going to put Love in Action?

April Meeting

Join us on April 9 at 9:30 AM and 7 PM for our regular gathering. Childcare is provided for AM meetings! Please register by the Thursday prior to the meeting to allow time to obtain staffing. Register for childcare at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Find out about all of the Interest Groups at <https://stmarkscarmel.org/uwf>.

Spring Celebration

Save the date! The UMW Spring Celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 PM. Join us for a night of fellowship, ice cream, and cookie decorating!

Fundraising

UWF's Trinkets and Treasures Indoor Yard Sale is coming around before you know it. It will be held on Friday, May 24, 8 AM to 4 PM and Saturday, May 25, 8 AM to noon. All proceeds go to Missions. When you are spring cleaning and find yourself with precious items that you no longer need, they can be donated to this sale. Donations can be dropped off at Wesley Hall starting Sunday, May 19, from noon to 3 PM.

We will take donations daily until Thursday, May 23 at 3 PM. We take a multitude of household items, bedding, rugs, toys, books, games, jewelry etc. We will expect small furniture but do not accept clothing, large exercise equipment or large furniture. Want to donate but have nowhere to store until the sale? Trisha Stanearth (317-430-4490) has offered her 3rd garage bay to store items but you must make arrangements to get it to her home.

More Info

Any questions? Email uwf@stmarkscarmel.org Read the latest monthly update, find out about fundraising, and more on the St. Mark's United Women in Faith page



UNITED METHODIST MEN

UMM provides a supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually, and to seek daily God's will. UMM has donated to many Missions. Some of the groups we donate to are: Family Promise, East 10th Methodist Youth Center, Fletcher Place, Habitat for Humanity, Wheeler Mission, Second Helpings and SAW.

Find out more at <https://stmarkscarmel.org/umm/>.

Fellowship Groups

MARKSMEN

Select Thursdays at Starbucks at 116th and Keystone

The MarksMen is a community of career and family-focused men seeking to develop authentic and intentional relationships while we unplug from the daily stress and craziness that life can bring. Email marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org for more info.

JULIETS

**Just Us Ladies Interested In Eating Together
April 18 | Lunch at 11:30**

Please make your reservations by the Monday before to Linda Schenk, lschenk@att.net or 812-454-0661. All women are invited to join us at Houlihan's in Noblesville.

ROMEOS

**Retired Old Men Eating Out
Wednesdays | 11:00 AM
Le Peep | 86th & Keystone**

All men are invited to meet weekly at LePeep's. Contact Don Mehl for more information at djmehl2004@aol.com.

PAGE TURNERS

**Book Club
Third Tuesdays**



Join us on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss our current book selection. Our April 16 book is *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult. Hope to see you there! Meets in Room G/H.

**Select Thursdays
March 28 | 6:30-8:30 PM**

The Craft & Hobby group will meet on Thursday, April 25. RSVP to Kathy Bartel by 5 pm, April 24. Contact Kathy at 317-294-4908 or krbartel@gmail.com for more information.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Select Fridays



Join us as we prayerfully knit and crochet prayer shawls that will be used to provide comfort and solace to people in need. Supplies are available. Men are welcome too! Contact Judy Bonnet, bonnetjm@icloud.com for more information.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

Join us every Tuesday for Open Gym Basketball for ages 16 and above. Contact Mark Moore, mvm2920@aol.com for more information.



PICKLEBALL

Join us Thursdays for Open Gym Pickleball.

All are welcome (16 and older). Contact Doug Brown, dthbrown@gmail.com, or Janet Brown, grandeyb@gmail.com for more information.



Committee News

Trustees

Work is progressing in the kitchen to remove the existing stove and replace it with a new, electric stove. The gas stove has been removed and the gas line to that stove has been capped.

Accordingly, there will not be a stove available in the kitchen for a short period of time. The electrical work necessary to accommodate the new stove will begin soon, followed by the installation of the new stove. The trustees would like to thank everyone for their patience, as this work progresses.

The trustees approved Mark Burnett to be their representative to the recently formed Endowment Committee.

SPRC Staff Spotlight on Joyce Click

For three decades, Joyce Click has been the heart and soul of St. Mark's Children's Music Ministry, guiding young hearts and voices on a journey of faith and melody. In a recent interview, Joyce graciously shared her reflections on this remarkable journey.



Joyce's musical odyssey began in her youth, when she helped lead music at summer Bible School at her childhood church in Sardinia, Indiana. "We were a musical family," she reminisces, "and we went to church regularly participating in music." This early exposure nurtured a passion that led her to pursue music education at Butler University, laying the foundation for a lifelong commitment to teaching. Retiring after 44 years from Washington Township schools, she currently has positions at both University of Indianapolis and Anderson University, in addition to her St Mark's role.

Throughout her tenure at St Mark's, Joyce's leadership has been marked by countless memorable moments. She recalls one spring musical where a tornado scare prompted the congregation to seek shelter together in the church basement. "Everyone was calm and felt safe," she remembers, "and thankfully no tornadoes touched down that day."

The church's closure at the start of the pandemic meant adapting to class over Zoom. "For over a year, that is how we kept the Kidz Music program going," she shares. "Those 12 or so loyal children who joined me along with Pam Whitehead, our super volunteer, became like family."

What fuels Joyce's passion after all these years? For her, it's the boundless curiosity and kindness of the children she teaches, their enthusiasm serving as a constant source of inspiration. She also enjoys the sense of community at St Mark's, from the families to the pastors and staff, and to the tireless volunteers.

Central to Joyce's approach is the integration of Bible stories and the example that Jesus gave while on earth. "Every single lesson plan for the St. Mark's Children's Music is guided by these teachings," she affirms, ensuring the kids are having fun with music and learning about God's love.

As we celebrate Joyce Click's remarkable 30-year journey at the helm of the Children's Music Ministry, let us extend our deepest gratitude for her unwavering dedication and boundless passion. May her teaching continue to uplift hearts and inspire generations to come!

WHAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW

Download your toolkit for getting things done. It's Committee Member 101!

stmarkscarmel.org/CommitteeMemberToolkit.pdf

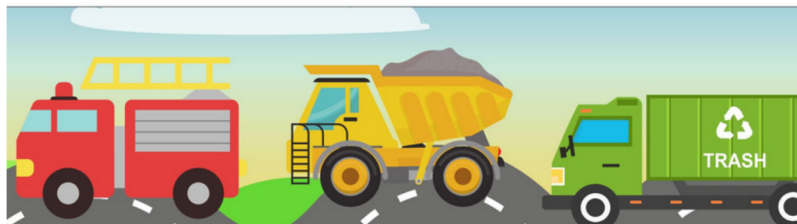
Check out this document for an overview of how to: **Schedule a room at St. Mark's; Request A/V support for an event; NEW: Request publicity in any church publication or communication method; Use the connection tables, kitchen, or office equipment; Request office supplies, announcements, event childcare, and more!**

Do you have questions not covered in this document or need more details? Contact your committee chair or the church office at 317-846-4912.

Upcoming Events

TOUCH-A-TRUCK

Hosted by St. Mark's Preschool



Touch-a-Truck Event Hosted by St. Mark's Preschool

April 27 | 12-2 PM | SMUMC Parking Lot

Get ready to rev your engines and have a truckload of fun! Be a part of this thrilling community event that not only brings joy and smiles but also supports a great cause. Proceeds will go towards the church Playground Renovation Fund. Admission and Raffle tickets are available for purchase at stmarkscarmel.org/truck. You won't want to miss this wheelie awesome experience!



ST. MARK'S ORCHESTRA

St. Mark's Orchestra Spring Concert April 28

Did you know that music can boost your overall well-being? Music is so powerful, listening can improve

brain function, reduce stress levels, and inspire creative juices to flow. Let the St. Mark's Orchestra provide you with a little musical self-care this spring at their annual Pops Concert!

On Sunday, April 28, pack a sack lunch, bring a dessert to share, and head down to Wesley Hall at noon after church services. There will be a witty MC, a drawing for a Guest Conductor, and a variety of musical selections to make you laugh, cry, and cheer. It's a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and fun! No sign-up required! Bring a friend!

Indianapolis Brass Choir Concert

Sunday, April 14 | 4 PM



The choir includes trumpets, trombones, horns, euphoniums, tubas, and percussion. Donations will be accepted at the concert and will go to St. Mark's Monthly Mission Focus, Habitat for Humanity.

St. Mark's Preschool Dine-to-Donate



Tuesday, April 16 | 4-8 PM

"Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner!" Enjoy a night off from cooking while contributing to the church playground renovation! On Tues., April 16, dine at Chick-fil-A at 14647 Thatcher Lane (146th & 31). The Preschool will receive 20% for all orders placed through the Chick-fil-A app using the code. Find the event code and more information at stmarkscarmel.org/preschoolevents.

Family Pizza Party Sponsored by Kidz Music & Praise

Sunday, April 21 | 12-1 PM

Join us in Wesley Hall for games, pizza, and fellowship! All family members are welcome. Please RSVP to Joyce Click, Children's Music Coordinator, jclick@stmarkscarmel.org.



Breakthrough Prayer

God of new beginnings, as we rest in your presence, prepare room in our hearts for your holy breath. May your Spirit inspire our next steps in following your will. Amen.



God Moments

St. Mark's is a community that believes in God's power to break through with new and unexpected possibilities when we pray and seek God's direction for our church and in our own lives. As we pray our breakthrough prayer individually or together in worship and in small groups, what is God revealing to you? We want to celebrate together how you are hearing from God. Please share below:

- What God moments have you experienced recently?
- What next steps is God revealing?
- How have you experienced your faith in tangible ways this week?

Check one:

Private (share only with staff) Public (can be shared anonymously in publications)

Please return this form to church office or place in the box on Connection Table

To complete online please visit stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough

COMMUNITY NEWS & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Help Honor First Responders

Bakers Needed: Each month a St. Mark's volunteer delivers baked goods to the policemen at their headquarters and to firemen at Station #44. The volunteers can choose the month that works best for them and can deliver them any time during that month. If you are interested, please contact Jan Walsh at jow3441@sbcglobal.net or at 317-908-9935.

Address Changes

Amy Pritchard
5595 E 236th St
Cicero IN 46034-9792

Deirdre Robinson
984 Bard Lane
Carmel, IN 46032

Nyla Johnson
689 Pro Med Lane, Suite 107
Carmel IN 46032

Sympathies

The family of Myrneth Anderson at the death of Jean Anderson.

Circle of Caring

The Circle of Care list includes St. Mark's members and friends who are homebound or in a care facility. Your prayers for these brothers and sisters in Christ mean so much to them and to their families.

Myrneth Anderson, Doris Carlow, Phyllis Delp, Phyllis Gidley, Carol Hollinger, Dorothy Mecca, Melvin & Marlene Myers, Jane Roberts, Jerry & Brenda Weikel

If you would like to be added to the Circle of Caring or know of someone, please contact the church office.

CONGRATULATIONS, CONFIRMATION STUDENTS!



The following students were confirmed on March 17: Drake Bultemeier, Elliot Clardy, Memory Clardy, William Frank, Conner Klus, Trey Lemberg, Andrew McCormick, Madelyn Uthoff, Thomas Warner

Confirmed on March 24 (not pictured): Charlotte Burnett

MEAL TRAIN MINISTRY

What is Meal Train?

There are times in our lives when friends and family ask, "What can I do to help out?" The answer is usually to help them with a meal. When many friends provide short-term support through a meals, Meal Train keeps everyone organized. Most meal trains include meals 2-3 times a week for 2 weeks.



MealTrain.com is a free meal calendar tool that makes planning meals among a wide group easy and less stressful. St. Mark's would like to thank Carol Smith for volunteering to help with this important ministry for our St. Mark's family. You can contact Carol at ctsmith106@gmail.com with questions or if you are in need of meals.

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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youtube.com/stmarkscarmel

JUBILEE PUBLICATION NOTE

The Jubilee newsletter is published monthly, and all articles are due by the 15th of the previous month. To submit information for the Jubilee, complete the form at stmarkscarmel.org/publicity. If you have questions regarding the form, please contact techsupport@stmarkscarmel.org.

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