

JUBILEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2024



ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



Churchwide Fall Kickoff

Sunday, August 18 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join us as we kick off the 2024- 2025 ministry year! One all-church worship service at 10 AM followed by snacks and the Connections Fair in Wesley Hall.

Get all the details on page 16.

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGES
BEGIN AUGUST 25**

See page 2 for full details!

Special News

Worship Schedule Changes Begin August 25

After hearing congregational feedback about fall worship schedule changes, the Worship Committee and Church Council last month to revise the changes to worship service times, allowing now for a dedicated Education hour for Sunday classes and small groups.

Beginning Sunday, August 25, 2024, our Sunday morning schedule will be:

- **9:00 AM Traditional Service**
- **10:00 AM Education and Small Group Hour**
- **11:00 AM The Current**

As always, our services will be livestreamed and available for viewing at your convenience by clicking "Online Worship" on our website stmarkscarmel.org.

Thank you to all of the Sunday classes, musicians, and worship attendees of all services who offered this constructive input.



We are excited to create a dedicated Education hour so that no one has to choose between corporate worship and the community and support they find in their group.

If you serve on any Sunday morning team (e.g. ushers, greeters, coffee, A/V, liturgists) your staff contact will be in touch.

In case you missed the earlier emails with rationale for these changes, view the full message from the Worship Committee at stmarkscarmel.org/worship.

Staffing Updates

Welcome Jenny Miller

We announced in the July Jubilee that Scott Melvin has recently joined our staff as Youth Director and Worship Leader for The Current. In addition to this exciting news, we are equally delighted to welcome Jenny Miller to our team as Co-Youth Director. Both Scott and Jenny, along with their families, are already active and cherished members of our St. Mark's community.

As mentioned in the Jubilee, Scott has considerable experience as both a youth leader and a worship band musician, and he holds a Master's in Theology/Theological Studies from Baylor University. His background, energy, and insights are well-suited for this newly combined leadership role focused on growing youth engagement.



Jenny brings a wealth of experience to her new role. She has served as the Director of Youth Ministries at Wesley United Methodist Church in Muscatine, Iowa, and as the Interim Director of Youth Ministries at Community United Methodist Church in Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Jenny has also worked as a middle school science teacher in Zionsville. Her background in education and youth ministry, combined with her passion for fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, makes her a perfect fit for our team.

We are confident that the combined leadership of Scott and Jenny will greatly enrich our youth programs. Please join us in welcoming them both to our staff and supporting them in their new roles.

Summer Events

Take a look ahead at St. Mark's upcoming events. Please visit stmarkscarmel.org/events for all event details.



SYMPHONY ON THE PRAIRIE WITH ST. MARK'S AUGUST 9

St. Markers are invited to purchase tickets for the Aug. 9 performance of Symphony on the Prairie featuring the music of Abba. Come join other St. Mark's members for an evening of fellowship and great music under the stars at Conner Prairie in Fishers. Bring a picnic and lawn chairs to enjoy a wonderful evening. Gates open at 6 pm. Concert begins at 8 pm. For more information contact Mary Barclay at 317-601-5771

COMING SOON



St. Mark's on the Prairie -
August 9
Youth Back to School
Splash Bash! - August 10
Churchwide Fall Kickoff -
August 18
Sunday Morning Worship
Time Change Begins -
August 25



Dream Day - Sept 15
Photo Directory Pictures -
Sept 8, 15, 22
Potato Drop - Sept 28
Mission In Action (MIA) Day
- Sept 29
Hoosier Brass Band Concert
- Sept 29

Pastor's Place

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

As I study in preparation for this coming Sunday's sermon I have been reading a lot about Sabbath. When I was a kid keeping the Sabbath was generally about things you weren't allowed to do on Sunday. The local grocery store in the small town where I lived until I was eleven closed on Sunday, so if you needed anything for Sunday lunch you had to make sure and buy it on Saturday afternoon. Sunday was a day to relax, reflect, and quietly enjoy. Unfortunately, as a child I didn't want to quietly enjoy - I wanted to do something.

I have always found late July and early August to be a difficult time. It is a time when there is a pause in the programmatic activity in the life of the church. Attendance in worship is often lower than usual. Giving tapers off. People take vacations.

As a pastor, it has always created a certain anxiety. Will all the people who take a few Sundays off for end of the summer activities come back when the Fall begins?

Jesus called his disciples aside for a time of rest. In Mark 6:32 it says that "He [Jesus] said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. (Mark 6:32, NRSV) In America, and around the world, there are entire industries created to accommodate our sense of business, like fast food and call ahead ordering of groceries and household items. We sometimes feel guilty if we are not always occupied in productive activities.

However, the pauses are important. They give us a chance to rest. They give us a chance to restore our health, mentally, spiritually, and physically. It gives us a chance to focus on the divine purpose in our lives.

In his book, "Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives," author Wayne Muller reminds us, that the Chinese pictograph for "busy" is composed of two characters: heart and killing.

And so, I think about the end of the summer and last-minute trips and holidays and I try to remind myself that this holy pause is important. As we breathe in one last breath of sea air or take in one last beautiful view, we are preparing ourselves to move into what's next with a sense of restful readiness.

So, take some time off. Rest. Relax. Renew. And I will look forward to seeing you in church as we begin our next great adventure.

In Christ's service,

Brian



Rev. Dr. Brian K. White
Lead Pastor

Pastor's Place

Dear St. Mark's Family,

What a blessing it was to Worship Without Walls in our tent service on July 14! I heard from many of you how moving it was to see the crowd of kids and youth singing and dancing to a medley of their favorite VBS tunes, and to hear The Current band and choir members leading us in songs of unity and praise. Our Fellowship Committee provided the hospitality for us to share in conversation over a hot meal, and so many hands went into the setup, A/V, and logistics of the day.

Indeed, the sense of joy and community we shared under the tent was a fitting culmination of our VBS week—a Vacation Bible Camp with 198 campers and 121 servant leaders who made it all possible:

- Our amazing directors - Jackie, Jen, Michelle, and Amy - came together with a vision. Each had unique gifts and graces, from organization and planning to resourcing, artistry, and creativity that so beautifully created the master plan and space for the week.
- We had adult and student crew leaders who shepherded preschool and elementary campers through different stations throughout the week.
- Those stations had storytellers, crafters, musicians, game leaders, and snack experts teaching the campers about God and God's love.
- There were singers and dancers, a zen master, and command center guides.
- We had a great community night and an awesome youth social with Dr. Dance!
- We had A/V specialists, a great head counselor, and a fantastic firefly mascot who engaged all of the kids.
- And of course, everyone who donated much needed supplies, snacks, and gift cards for VBS itself and for the Perry Township Schools collection.

Everyone brought their individual and unique gifts to make it an unforgettable week for all those children, many of whom had never experienced the joy of VBS. None of it would have been possible without us coming together in unity as one church family with a common goal: being the hands and feet of Jesus for each camper that came through our doors.

It's pretty incredible what we can accomplish together, isn't it?

Throughout this newsletter you will see more exciting upcoming events for us to come together as a St. Mark's family, especially our 10:00 am all-church worship service on August 18 for Fall Kickoff; our August 25 launch of a new Sunday schedule and youth group; and our September 15 Dream Day event for guided brainstorming on how we welcome, grow, and serve as St. Mark's.

God is opening new doors!

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Karla



Rev. Karla Elliott
Executive Pastor



Society of St. Andrew
GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

August Mission Focus

Over 70 million people in the U.S. today are food insecure. We throw away billions of pounds of good food each year. Partnering with faith groups, secular groups, schools, and individuals, the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) sends willing volunteers to glean fresh fruits and vegetables from fields and orchards. Sharing healthy and nourishing food with hungry people prevents food waste and spreads the abundance that we are provided.

Potatoes cost an average of \$0.89/lb. Last year St. Mark's partnered with SoSA to provide and give away nearly 40,000lbs of potatoes at our annual Potato Drop. Please help us reach our fundraising goal of \$7000 to again host the Potato Drop on September 28.

Learn more at stmarkscarmel.org/st-andrew.

2023 IMPACT:

- 450,781 pounds gleaned
- 1,803,124 servings of nourishing food distributed
- 500+ dedicated volunteers engaged in gleaning
- 99 hunger relief agencies sharing healthy food with hungry people in their communities
- ~180,000 individuals served

How can you help?

- Financial donations may be made at stmarkscarmel.org/give or with the mission offering envelope in the blue attendance pads.
- Sign up to help at our annual Potato Drop on September 28 at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.
- Volunteer in the fields through gleaning opportunities here in Indiana at endhunger.org/serve.

GRASSROOT PROJECTS



SMALL PROJECTS. BIG DREAMS.

Aug. In-Kind Donations

During the month of August, we are collecting items to support Grassroot Projects which creates and supports equitable communities for under-resourced immigrant and refugee children. Their projects fund or directly provide resources for the children's health, nutrition, clothing, education, and cultural needs. Parents of immigrant and refugee children are most concerned with meeting their children's basic needs of food and clothing, and Grassroot Projects is there to help. Grassroot Projects offers various programs including "Sponsor A Passion", Early Literacy, Food Insecurity, and Customized Care Packages for families. Learn more at grassrootprojects.org. Financial donations can be given at stmarkscarmel.org/give.

Please support this important mission by donating the following items in August.

Donations can be dropped off at St. Mark's Mon-Fri from 9 am-4 pm. NEW ITEMS ONLY please.

- Socks for boys & girls - sizes newborn up to 5T
- Underwear for boys & girls - sizes 4T up to kids size 12
- Baby wipes

Shop from our [Amazon Wishlist](#). Send to your home or directly to St. Mark's!



Potato Drop:

Saturday, September 28

Mission in Action:

Sunday, September 29

Mark your calendar and join us for our annual churchwide event, Mission In Action! Members of St. Mark's will mobilize the message of Christ's love, living out our motto, "where mission is a way of life". Saturday fills our parking lot with a "Potato Drop", giving out 40,000 lbs. of potatoes. Sunday begins with a fellowship gathering in Wesley Hall. Then we will "worship in action", serving as the hands and feet of Jesus. A variety of mission projects will be available both offsite in our community and here at St. Mark's. Visit <https://www.stmarkscarmel.org/mia-day> for more details and to sign up!



Brightwood Community Center Food Pantry Volunteers

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.

St. Mark's Blood Drive:

Sunday, September 8, 2024 @ 8:00am-12:30pm



There is no substitute for blood and the need for it remains critical. YOUR donation will ensure cancer, trauma, labor & delivery and all patients in need have life-saving blood. Please donate and impact a life! Sign up TODAY at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Contact Terry Fourman at 4manternlyd@gmail.com or Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org with questions or for help signing up.

Donations needed for Mission in Action!

Items are needed for the onsite Mission in Action Day projects. Please help by donating any of the following by September 18th. You can also shop from our [Amazon List](#).



NEW ITEMS ONLY PLEASE.

- Men's athletic socks
- Toothbrushes
- Travel-sized toothpaste
- Travel-sized soap/body wash
- Travel-sized shampoo and conditioner
- Granola or protein bars
- Bottled water
- Gallon-sized Ziploc bags
- Regular & super absorbency tampons
- Menstrual pads (all sizes)
- Panty liners
- Body wipes (individually wrapped)
- Feminine wipes (individually wrapped)



Shoe Drive

Do you have shoes that no longer fit? During August and September, we are collecting new or used shoes for Changing Footprints, a local nonprofit organization that accepts shoe donations of all kinds. Changing Footprints distributes shoes to individuals, organizations, and agencies wherever there is a need, whether in Indiana, the United States or overseas. They were founded in 2005 and operate two warehouses right here in the Indianapolis area. Please bring shoe donations to the designated Changing Footprints container inside door #2.





Red Bird Mission Trip Informational Meeting

Sunday, August 4 | 12:00 PM | Room B/C

Trip will be October 20-25, 2024

Have you been thinking about serving on a mission trip but without leaving the country? Interested in working on a mission project in an atmosphere where participants grow spiritually and gain a personal understanding of mission? Red Bird Mission Work Camp, in the Appalachian Mountains, is just what you've been looking for!

Work Camp strives to provide home repair for low-income community residents and maintenance for Mission buildings and grounds. All ages and ability levels are encouraged to join the team - there is something there for everyone! The work, enthusiasm, and love shared during the work camp experience has a profound effect on the lives of the participants, staff, and community. The team will be led by Robert Jennings and the cost is \$500. Please prayerfully consider joining the team and contact Robert at 336-403-4769 or rcjennings5@gmail.com if you are interested or have questions.

An informational meeting will be held at St. Mark's on Sunday, August 4. Deadline to register and pay for the trip is September 1, 2024. Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/red-bird.

Mission Guatemala Trip

July 12-19, 2025

Join us at Mission Guatemala in San Andrés Semetebaj to "do all the good we can" for the people of this community through love and service.

The cost is \$675 plus airfare and includes all transportation, meals, and lodging. An info meeting will be held here in September. Want to be a Team Leader, contact Amy Adams aadams@stmarkscarmel.org. Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/signups or in the Gathering Area.

Fletcher Place Breakfast

Help is needed to cook and serve a hot breakfast at Fletcher Place Community Center. Volunteers ride together to and from St. Mark's, August 23, 7:15 - 11:15 am. SIGN UP ONLINE at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Coats for Kids Drive

We are collecting coats in good condition that will be given away this fall, with Hamilton County Kids Coats. Hamilton County Kids Coats is a collaborative effort with community partners to make sure all Hamilton County children stay warm this winter. All sizes welcome, from newborn to adult 3XL. If your family has outgrown coats or if you are ready to pass your coat on to someone else, please wash it and donate it to HCKC. Drop off clean coats at St. Mark's by September 28.

Because You Give

Brightwood Community Center:

118 boxes of food given out at food pantry, serving 443 individuals; 2 bags of food pantry items donated

Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis:

\$1000.00; 8 meals to families in the Apartment Shelter Program

Fishers Youth Assistance Program: \$1000.00

Fletcher Place Community Center:

Breakfast served to 100 individuals; 191 packets of oatmeal

Lucille Raines Residence: \$4415.00

Roberts Park Soup's On: 140 hot meals served; 150 sack meals served

Shepherd Community Center: \$1000.00

Versiti Blood Center of Indiana: 18 units of whole blood; 2 units of double red cells.

Kidz Church Sunday Programming

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

New times for classes starting August 25

Check-in for each hour begins 10 minutes prior to the start of class or service time. For 9 and 11 AM worship hours, children will proceed to the sanctuary with their families after check-in and will be released to Kidz Church after Kidz Chat with the pastor. For the 10 AM Education hour, children will proceed directly to class after check-in.

Nursery & Toddler Care | 9, 10, & 11 AM | Ages 6 weeks - 3 years

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

Kidz Church | 9 AM | Ages 4 - Grade 2 (please note grade level change) | Lower Level Classrooms

Children combine for an exciting rotational-style class downstairs. Each week includes a variety of fun activity stations like music, drama, Bible stories, science, and more.

Kidz Church | 10 AM | Ages 4-Grade 4, Lower Level Classrooms

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

Club 56 | 10 AM | Grades 5 & 6, Lower Level Den

Club 56 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.

Kidz Music & Praise | 11:00 AM | Age 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.

Praise God for an amazing week at Camp Firelight VBS!

Nearly 200 campers and 120+ volunteers attended and served at VBS in July!

Thank you to everyone who donated school uniform clothing, hygiene items, and school supplies for the weekly mission of Southport Middle School in Perry Township. We also raised approximately \$150 in cash donations.

Everyone learned about trusting God to "Go with Us," "Lead the Way," "Share Wisdom," "Give us Peace," and "Spark Joy!" Thank you to everyone involved with this fun and uplifting week of camp, it couldn't have happened without you!





THE MOMCO
BY MOPS INTERNATIONAL

MomCo Summer Dates

MOPS is now MomCo, and open to moms with children ages newborn through elementary school ages. To learn more, join us at any of our summer events. Event details on Facebook at The MomCo at St. Mark's or email us at mopsatst.marks@gmail.com.

Churchwide Fall Kickoff

Sunday, August 18 | 10:00 AM | One all-church worship service

Parents, please check-in children for Kidz Church as usual, then proceed to the sanctuary. Children will join the congregation for worship songs, the commissioning of volunteer education leaders, Kidz Music & Praise music, and then be dismissed to class in the lower level.

2024-2025 Kidz Church leaders, we hope you will Save-the-Date for this special Sunday! All the church volunteer education leaders will be recognized and commissioned in service for the school year to come.



Kidz Church "Move-Up" Sunday

Sunday, August 25

Move-Up Sunday is when the *summer* Kidz Church program ends and children will begin to attend the 10:00 AM Kidz Church class that corresponds with their 2024-25 school grade level. It is also when children who have turned 4 over the summer "move-up" from the nursery/toddler area to participate in Kidz Church classes. 11 AM Kidz Music & Praise programming will continue to be combined ages (age 4-4th grade).

Kidz Monthly Mission

GRASSROOT
PROJECTS 
SMALL PROJECTS. BIG DREAMS.

Each month, Children's Ministries strives to have kids involved in giving to the church's monthly In-Kind Donations.

During the month of July, we are collecting items to support Grassroot Projects. This organization creates and supports equitable communities for under-resourced immigrant and refugee children. Their motto is "Small Projects, Big Dreams." Their projects fund or directly provide resources for the children's health, nutrition, clothing, education, and cultural needs.

You and your children can support this program by bringing any of the following items to Kidz Church check-in:

- Socks for boys & girls – sizes newborn up to 5T
- Underwear for boys & girls – sizes 4T up to kids size 12
- Baby wipes
- Shop from our [Amazon Wish List](#) to send directly to St. Mark's!



Welcoming our New Youth Directors!



Dear Youth and Youth Parents:

As the new Co-directors of the youth department, we are excited for the future. However, as we grow through this season of change we want to hear from you directly.

Please fill out this brief survey and help guide our decisions for our St. Mark's youth.

Thank you,
Scott Melvin and Jenny Miller

Sunday Morning Youth Group starts August 25

7th - 12th grade, join Scott Melvin and Jenny Miller on August 25 at 10 AM in Cornerstone Commons as we talk about the year and what you would like to see happen for the future!

The Back to School Splash Bash!



Who wants to get the last bit of summer crazies out? I know I do!

The Youth Department invites all 7th - 12th graders to come join us August 10 from 2 - 4:00 PM for the The Back to School Splash Bash at St. Mark's on the lawn.

Bring your friends for a water slide, water obstacles, and other games! There will be snacks and drinks too!

Church friends of all ages, we would love your help, so if you want to lend a hand and come hang out with us reach out to smelvin@stmarkscarmel.org.

Adult Discipleship Sunday Programming

The times listed below are in effect until August 11. On August 18 (Fall Kickoff) there will be no classes, and the new 10:00 AM Education and Groups hour will begin on August 25..

New Option(s) desired | 10:00 AM

Sign up in the Gathering Area connection tables or at <https://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups/#sundayam> if you need a spot to land during the new 10:00 am Education & Small Groups hour. We have the chance to create new gatherings during our small groups hour! Would you like to connect with community, perhaps through casual conversation in the café, with get-to-know-you conversation prompts in the library, through discussions of the Wired Word devotional, or perhaps through a short, prayerful group with no pre-reading required in the Sanctuary? Sign up to express your interest.

Sunday AM Encouragement Group | 10:00 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. Note: the August meeting will be 8/11 at 9:20 AM.

Cutting Edge | 9:30AM on 8/4 and 8/11, 10:00 AM beginning 8/25 | 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 | 9:40 AM on 8/4 and 8/11 10:00 AM beginning 8/25 | Room J-K

August's book is *Courage: Jesus and the Call To Brave Faith* by Tom Berlin (books are \$12, available in the class and church entrance). Led by Doug Brown, Kathy DeaKyne, and Todd Snow, this class shares and discusses Christian themes through contemporary books, Bible studies, and occasional Wired Word devotionals.

Reel Spirituality | 11:00 AM on 8/4 and 8/11 in Room G/H 10:0AM on 8/25 in Room B/C

"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. Zoom is available upon request.

Learn More & Sign Up for Groups

See stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups for short-term, Sunday, and weekday study groups. For our Grow Groups, encouragement groups, the LIFT Widows Encouragement Group, and other support groups information, see stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups. Books and paper signups are on the connection tables in the Gathering Area.

NEW STUDY GROUPS FOR FALL

Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups. Books and paper signups are on the connection tables in the Gathering Area.

Hymns: A Congregational Study

Wednesdays, 8/7-8/28, 6:30-7:30 PM

Led by Pastor Brian White | Chapel | Books \$9

Author James R. Sydnor writes, "I believe there is in almost every person a deep spring of song waiting to be released." This special short-term group will explore the nature of congregational singing and the hymns and songs that we sing in worship each Sunday. This study guide is for anyone who desires to explore the interesting and beneficial realm of congregational music – hymns and their varied uses.

The Gospel of Mark (Fall 2024-Winter 2025)

Wednesdays, 9/4/24-2/19/25

Early AM Men's Study, 6:30-7:30 AM

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

Led by Pastor Brian White | Hybrid Room B-C and Zoom | Books \$9

This study uses the popular inductive method combined with Wright's thoughtful insights to bring contemporary application of Scripture to life. Discover how you can participate more fully in God's kingdom with this study's thoughtful questions, prayer suggestions, and useful background and cultural information. No meetings 10/16, 11/27, 12/18-1/1.

Simply Christian by N.T. Wright

Wednesdays, beginning 9/4 | 9:30-11 AM | Led by Lydia Fourman | Cornerstone Commons or Room J/K in various weeks | Books \$13

For two thousand years, Christianity has claimed to answer the mystery of human existence. Renowned biblical scholar and Anglican bishop N. T. Wright argues that the Christian faith still holds the answers today. Using clear language to convey a profound message, Wright walks readers through the Christian faith step-by-step and question by question, and reveals how basic inquiries such as "Why is justice fair? Why are so many people pursuing spirituality? Why do we crave relationship? Why is beauty so beautiful?" to take us into the mystery of God.

Savior: What the Bible Says About the Cross

Thursdays, 9/5-10/10 | 10-11 AM

Led by Judy Woempner | Room B/C and Zoom | Books \$12

If you enjoyed Magrey deVega's study on Jesus's questions in the Gospels, you'll want to check out this book. Rev. DeVega faithfully describes the need for reconciliation between humankind and a holy God through Jesus' death on the cross. The Bible uses many images to understand the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection, and deVega guides us through these images to achieve a richer understanding of the Christian faith. By exploring the mystery of salvation through the cross, we can deepen our love for God and others and strengthen our commitment to follow Jesus.

Friday Study Resumes after Labor Day | 9:30-11 AM

Stay tuned to stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups and the connection tables in the gathering area for full updates!

WALKING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

9:00 AM on 8/15 and 7:00 PM on 8/6



Join Jennifer Cloud-Buckner for a short devotional and mindful walk at your own pace for our final summer 2024 walks on 8/6 and 8/15.

August Walks Location: Central Park East Woods – meet at the Picnic Grove Shelters parking lot.

Directions: From Westfield Blvd, head west on Central Park Dr E towards the eastern Monon Center (1235 Central Park Dr E). Exit at the first roundabout, following signs for Picnic Grove Shelters.

If you're not on the regular email list from Jennifer, email grow@stmarkscarmel.org for details on directions and walk updates.

Open Groups



United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith - Fall Kick-off September 10

Women of the church, let's reconnect after a warm rainy summer! YOU are invited to the annual UWF Fall Kick-off! Featured will be a carry-in brunch in the morning and appetizers & salads in the evening with guest speaker and interest group previews. Our speaker will be a representative from Prevail. Located in Noblesville, Prevail is dedicated to serving victims of crime and abuse. Also, check out the list of interest groups available. There's one for you! Our gatherings are the second Tuesdays from September - May, 9:30 am - 11:30 am & 7 - 9 pm. Come enjoy coffee, fellowship, devotion time & special interest groups. More at stmarkscarmel.org/uwf.

Need childcare for the morning gatherings? Use Sign Up Genius, which is online starting in September. Register your child(ren) at least 72 hours in advance of the morning gatherings. Email uwf@stmarkscarmel.org for more info.

Upcoming Events

- Attend 1 day Mission U Express at Franklin College on August 3. There will be a carpool leaving from St. Mark's.
- Join the Bookmarkers on August 13 at 7 PM to discuss *The Next Ship Home*.
- Reunite with all your UWF friends at the Kickoff September 10 at 9 AM and 7 PM.

Find out more about these events, read the latest monthly update, and more on the St. Mark's United Women in Faith page <https://stmarkscarmel.org/uwf>



I SUPPORT THE GIRLS

UWF will be collecting new and gently used bras and period supplies before and during our September Kickoff. Through an international network of Affiliates, I Support the Girls collects and distributes essential items, including bras, underwear, and menstrual hygiene products to those experiencing homelessness, impoverishment, or distress. It allows them to stand tall with dignity.

Learn More: <https://isupportthegirls.org/>

Amazon wish list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1KQSP1199QAWH/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1

Watch for more information in the September Jubilee. For more information contact Donna Schwartz at dehschwartz@gmail.com.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

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.

All United Methodist Men are invited to attend the breakfast Saturday, August 10 at 7:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker will be the Reverend Chiyona Bourne, UMC Central District Deacon and pastoral care specialist. She will speak about issues surrounding the UMC General Conference and the recent Indiana Conference.

Learn More: <https://stmarkscarmel.org/umm/> 14

Fellowship Groups

Learn more at:
<https://stmarkscarmel.org/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.

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

We will not meet in August. Join us in September when we discuss *Wonder Drug: The Secret History of Thalidomide in America and Its Hidden Victims* by Jennifer Vanderbes. Hope to see you there!
Meets in Room G/H.



CRAFT GROUP

The Craft & Hobby group not meet in August. We will resume in September. Contact Kathy Bartel for more information at 317-294-4908 or krbartel@gmail.com

JULIETS

Just Us Ladies Interested In Eating Together

August 15 - Carmel La Hacienda
Please contact Linda Schenk with RSVP's by the Monday before the luncheon date at lschenk@att.net or 812-454-0661.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

Join us every Tuesday for Open Gym at 7 PM Basketball for ages 16 and above. Contact Mark Moore, mvm2920@aol.com for more information.



COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

Select Mondays

Mostly amateur photographers gathering on the first and third Monday of each month at 9:00 AM, to encourage each other's creativity, demonstrate techniques, share our photos and help each other grow in our knowledge and skill of photography. Bring your camera, questions, or your latest work to share.. In memory of Ken Shultz and thankfulness for his many years of leadership, we will continue this group with guidance from rotating leaders. All are welcome. Questions, please contact Melinda Deedrick 317-903-8388.



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.



METHODISTS ON BIKES

May to October | 2nd & 4th Wednesdays and Special Rides throughout the summer.

All adults are invited to join this recreational bike riding group. The MOB will ride on the second and fourth Wednesdays (10-12 miles at a slower pace). Our Wednesday rides will always commence at the church parking lot at 6:30 PM. Contact mob@stmarkscarmel.org with questions.



Upcoming Events

SYMPHONY ON THE PRAIRIE WITH ST. MARK'S AUGUST 9

St. Markers are invited to purchase tickets for the Aug. 9 performance of Symphony on the Prairie featuring the music of Abba. Come join other St. Mark's members for an evening of fellowship and great music under the stars at Conner Prairie in Fishers. Bring a picnic and lawn chairs to enjoy a wonderful evening. Gates open at 6 pm. Concert begins at 8 pm. For more information contact Mary Barclay at 317-601-5771



CHANCEL CHOIR & HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

It's almost time to Make a Joyful Noise again! The St. Mark's Chancel Choir and the St. Mark's Handbell Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday September 4. Handbells will meet at 6:30 pm in the Music Room and Chancel Choir will meet at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. We would love to have new members! If you love to sing or have interest in ringing, please come and join us! If you have any questions, please contact Eric DeForest at edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org.



THE BACK TO SCHOOL SPLASH BASH AUGUST 10 AT 2 PM

Who wants to get the last bit of summer crazies out? The Youth Department invites all 7th - 12th graders to come join us for the The Back to School Splash Bash! Bring your friends for a water slide, water obstacles, and other games! There will be snacks and drinks too! Church friends of all ages, we would love your help, so if you want to lend a hand and come hang out with us reach out to smelvin@stmarkscarmel.org.

Dream Day Sept. 15 | 3:00-5:00 PM



Come share your dreams for St. Mark's! Reserve your spot today at stmarkscarmel.org/dream (or go to stmarkscarmel.org and click "Dream Day") for this churchwide conversation with guided brainstorming sessions. We will break into small groups to a Spirit-led dialogue, gathering ideas about how we welcome, grow, and serve at St. Mark's. It will be a time of openness to God's promptings, rather than a time for strategic planning or evaluation of the ideas.

For the last year we have been united in prayer with our breakthrough prayer initiative, asking God to reveal hopes and dreams for our church and our own lives. What are the new hopes and dreams God is revealing for our church's future? Let's gather our whole family and bring ideas together.

Churchwide Fall Kickoff Sunday, August 18 10:00 am - 12:00 pm



10:00 am | One all-church worship service in Sanctuary

This churchwide blended service will feature various St. Mark's musical groups. Parents, please check in children as usual, then proceed to the Sanctuary. Partway through worship, Kidz Church leaders will take children to programming in the lower level.

11:00 am | Connection Fair, fellowship, and snacks in Wesley Hall

See friends, meet new people, and enjoy refreshments while exploring the many ways you can connect to the St. Mark's mission to Welcome, Grow, and Serve. Perhaps it's time to try something different! Tables will be set up in Wesley Hall for all ages to learn more.

New Photo Directory - Get Your Picture Taken!

Help us reach 100% participation for our new photo directory! You are invited to select a time slot at stmarkscarmel.org/events



on a Sunday morning September 8, 15, or 22 to have your photograph taken to be included in the updated directory. The directory will be produced in-house and securely available online. Online password protected access will be linked to our church database, which will ALWAYS get you the most up-to-date contact information. For those who would like a printed copy, one can be requested.

Committee News

Stewardship Committee

We sometimes think about stewardship as using our time, talents and treasures wisely when we have extra to share. What about being good stewards when you have little, or when times are tough? I was reminded about the importance of daily stewardship, regardless of your life situation, from a family we were serving several years ago on a mission trip to Red Bird Mission in southeast Kentucky. On this trip, to one of the US's poorest counties, we were made much needed repairs on the home of an elderly couple. One morning, after cleaning off an area on their porch with an old tattered piece of cloth, the wife reminded us not to toss out the old rag we had used. She told us that her mother had taught her not to waste what little she had. On that porch was an old vase holding a collection of wilted flowers. As we cleaned up and prepared to toss those flowers into the trash, she stopped us and said she wanted to take the seeds from those flowers and plant them on the hillside in front of their house so that she could enjoy them in the spring. These are two small examples that show what it means to be good stewards of what we have. Whether you are living in the Carmel or in Appalachia, we can all recognize what God has provided and be good stewards of it.

Trustees Committee

The internal and external sign project is nearing completion. The final revisions are being made and production and installation will soon follow. Thanks to everyone for their input and to the signage subcommittee members for moving this project forward. On a related note, the trustees are pursuing replacement of the monument signs, as the integrity of the signs has deteriorated over time. In addition, the signs will be updated with current information.

The planning of the playground project continues and the trustees are focused on ensuring the safety of the selected equipment. It is anticipated that this project will be completed by mid-September.

Work has begun on enhancing and improving the appearance of the columbarium. Thanks to Phil Wehman and Juan Mercado, Facilities Manager, for addressing this issue.

WHAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW

Download your toolkit for getting things done - It's **Committee Member 101** - 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
- oUse the connection tables, kitchen, or office equipment
- Request office supplies, announcements, event childcare
- ...and more!

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

Check out <https://stmarkscarmel.org/committeefinfo/> for more information on Committees at St. Mark's.

Breakthrough Prayer

Celebrating God Moments

- Progress in grief journey
- Youth VBS volunteer social
- God's goodness through family, friends, and St. Mark's family
- LIFT group's hospitality inviting new people
- Strangers who show kindness
- God's creation visiting 5 national parks



Sharing God Moments

Please visit our website to share your God moments.

stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough

We look forward to continuing to celebrate how God is opening doors in your life.

Visit stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough to share your God moments.

Please continue to pray for what new dreams God has for St. Mark's. On **September 15th from 3 PM to 5 PM** we will gather as a church to dream together to discern where God is leading St. Mark's.

COMMUNITY & CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Help Honor First Responders

Bakers Needed: Each month a St. Mark's volunteer delivers baked goods to the police officers at their headquarters and to fire fighters at Station #44. The volunteer 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 Updates

Jacob and Diana Lawrence
5765 Coopers Hawk Dr
Carmel, IN 46033

Dennis & Wanda Thompson
2579 Collins Drive
Westfield, 46074

Sympathies

Our sympathies go out to Lori Roberts with the loss of her father, Les Darvas; Jim & Phil Gidley with the loss of their mother, Phyllis Gidley; and Steff Mabe with the loss of her mother, Nancy Herrington.

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 loved ones mean so much to them and to their families.

Carol Anderson, Myrneath Anderson, Steve Baylor, John and Carole Browning, Trish Boger, Doris Carlow, Phyllis Delp, Phyllis Gidley, Carol Hollinger, Nancy Herrington, 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.

Meal Train Ministry

St. Mark's UMC has long helped members in time of need with Meal Train meals. Meal Train is a blessing for two groups—those who need it (recipients) and those who provide it (participants).

For the recipients it is a great help in a time of need such as a fall or surgery. Surgeries can be reported in advance, accidents and illnesses cannot. Just let us know and St. Mark's Meal Train will respond as quickly as possible. If you are going to need Meal Train, call or email Carol Smith, 406-546-7727, ctsmith106@gmail.com.

If you are unable to reach Carol, call the Church Office, 317-846-4912.

For the participants, it is a volunteer opportunity that will make such a difference for a family in need. It is my experience that people need to be needed. What else is a church for if not to take care of its own in time of need.



CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



facebook.com/stmarkscarmel



instagram.com/stmarkscarmel



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.

4780 E. 126th Street, Carmel, IN 46033
stmarkscarmel.org
Office Phone: 317-846-4912
Preschool Phone: 317-846-8941