

# JUBILEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

July 2024



ST. MARK'S  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



  
**worship**  
without walls

Join us for an all-church worship service under the big tent on **Sunday, July 14 at 10:30 AM**. Please sign up online.

[stmarkscarmel.org/signups](https://stmarkscarmel.org/signups)

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGES  
BEGIN AUGUST 25**

See page 2 for newly revised details!

# Special News

## Breaking News! Newly Revised Worship Schedule

We are listening! After hearing congregational feedback about fall worship schedule changes, the Worship Committee and Church Council voted this week 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](http://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](http://stmarkscarmel.org/worship).



Additionally, Casey Hayes's departure and shifting responsibilities at Franklin College means that our Director of Music, Eric DeForest, will be shifting his own role at Franklin College and his St. Mark's focus to Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir, stepping away from leading worship at The Current.

With his experience as both a youth leader and a worship band musician in various churches, plus his Master's of Theology/Theological Studies from Baylor University, Scott brings the insights needed for this newly combined youth director/worship leader role. Scott will be a familiar face to many of you; he and his wife Elizabeth have attended since 2021 and children Corrine, Blaise, and Addie are active in the Kidz Church programs.

## Staffing Updates

### Welcome Scott Melvin

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is excited to announce the hiring of Scott Melvin in a newly combined role of St. Mark's Youth Director and Worship Leader at The Current. As we announced in the June Jubilee, Don Broad is retiring as director of Student Ministries on July 31.



Welcome, Scott!

# Summer Events

Take a look ahead at St. Mark's upcoming summer events. Please visit [stmarkscarmel.org/events](http://stmarkscarmel.org/events) for all event details.



## COMMUNITY NIGHT UNDER THE TENT WEDNESDAY, JULY 10 | 6-7 PM

It's an evening of celebration for all ages! Community friends, VBS families, and church members are all invited to gather outside under the tent for sweet treats and entertainment from the musical group, Naptown Jazz 5! There will be dancing, hula hoops, sidewalk chalk, and other outdoor activities.

## COMING SOON



**VBS Leader Training** - July 1  
**Vacation Bible Camp (VBS)**  
- **Camp Firelight** - July 8-12  
**Community Night Under the Tent** - July 10 | 6-7 PM  
**Student VBS Volunteer Social** - July 10 | 7-9 PM  
**Dine to Donate for VBS Mission** - July 11 | Red Robin  
**Worship Without Walls** - July 14 | 10:30 AM



**St. Mark's on the Prairie** - August 9  
**Churchwide Fall Kickoff** - August 18  
**Sunday Morning Worship**  
**Time Change Begins** - August 25



**Dream Day** - September 15

# Pastor's Place

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

It is summertime. While summertime brings some added simplicity to most people's lives there are some ways that it complicates things. For instance, I have noticed that one question for children that gets more complicated during the summer is, "What grade are you in?" Oftentimes, I sense some hesitation with one of several answers to follow. Some might say, "I just finished first grade." Others might say, "I will be in second grade in the Fall." Others still might offer some combination of these two answers or offer further explanation about their current location in relation to grades in school. What is an easy question to answer during the school year becomes a little more complicated during the summer.



**Rev. Dr. Brian K. White**  
**Lead Pastor**

When we talk about heaven there is a similar sense of "already" but "not yet." We become participants of eternity when we accept Christ, but we do not participate fully in the resurrection until our deaths. We have graduated from one existence but have not yet begun the next.

I think this concept applies to many aspects of our church life as well. As I am writing this letter, we have a positive financial balance for the year. But we know, from past giving experience, that we will have a shortfall by late summer if our current giving patterns don't change. Is our budget balanced? The answer is both "already" but "not yet." We have work to do and that is why we are asking you to consider giving to alleviate this gap we believe we will have by September.

Another aspect of the church is worship attendance. People often ask me if we are growing. The answer is another "already" but "not yet." Our attendance has been increasing over the past three years as we recover from the COVID experience, but we are not where we were prior to 2020. This is one reason that we are proposing some modifications to our Sunday morning schedule to help attract more younger families. We are heading in the right direction, but we are not there yet.

As we continue to have faith in the eternal existence that God has prepared for us, we also live into the heavenly life when we pray, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This is the ultimate "already" but "not yet."

In Christ's service,

Brian

# Pastor's Place

Dear St. Mark's Family,

My family and I had the true pleasure of spending this past week on vacation. Vacation is a wonderful thing – a time to rest, a time for adventure and fun, a time to refresh and renew our minds, bodies, and spirits. And we were blessed to be able to have time for all of those things in our short week away!

The latter part of the week we spent enjoying – ok, well, watching Sam thoroughly enjoying – Cedar Point amusement park and all its many roller coasters. Adventure and fun were all around us! But for several days prior to Cedar Point we were able to focus on refreshing and renewing at Lakeside Chautauqua on the shores of Lake Erie.

I first visited Lakeside several years ago for a stewardship conference and I absolutely fell in love with the peaceful, tranquil environment of this now 151-year-old community first established as a Methodist retreat. I have wanted to return ever since and was delighted that we were finally able to schedule a trip this summer.

During the week, I had the opportunity to connect and become friends with Lakeside's "Preacher of the Week" – a United Methodist colleague from Ohio who gave a series of messages throughout the week on being "United in a Divided World." Such an appropriate theme for this year when we've seen division and strife in our government, our church, our world ... and we have a big election yet to come. There were many different and unique sub-topics that were discussed each day, but a thread woven throughout them all really stuck with me. I think, perhaps, because it so captures the essence of the gospel for me – and is pretty descriptive of our St. Mark's vision of being a place where mission is a way of life.

If we stay true to what Jesus told us were the most important commandments – first, love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and second, love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:29-31), we find the wisdom necessary to find unity despite differences. My new friend's church home paraphrases their efforts to live out and live into these commandments in what I found to be fantastically simple language – "Love Jesus ... and DO something about it."

It really can be that simple – and we have so many opportunities here at St. Mark's to grow in both areas. Worship, Sunday School, Bible Study, Grow Groups, camps, Kidz ministries, youth ministries ... all ways we can come to know Jesus more deeply. And we DO something about it very well – missions, mentoring, leading, serving, being the hands and feet of Jesus here in our community and our world.

Where do you feel God nudging you as we move deeper into the summer and approach the fall season? However you are feeling it, know you're not alone within the St. Mark's family! By joining together to Love Jesus and DO something about it, we truly can change the world!

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Karla



**Rev. Karla Elliott  
Executive Pastor**



## Indiana United Methodist Children's Home

### July Mission Focus

With roots in the United Methodist Church, Fletcher Place Community Center was started in 1872, as a small outreach on the South side of downtown Indianapolis. They strive to compassionately provide programs that ease the burden of low to moderate-income individuals who struggle with life's basic needs. Hunger and financial deficiencies continue to be a grave reality in Indianapolis.

Fletcher Place provides programs such as a Free Thrift Store, Food Pantry, Christmas Program, Golden Age, Hot Meals, and daily distribution of sack meals. They continue to transition and expand the reach of their services, partnering with Southeast Community Services (SECS), who are located at nearby 901 S. Shelby. SECS has provided a limited food pantry, coaching for employment, education, and access to financial support, as well as a HealthNet health clinic. This exciting partnership combines the services of both centers, highlighting their expertise in assisting families with a continuum of care, while also allowing the current space on Prospect to be focused on their preschool program, REACH Early Learning.

More information can be found at [stmarkscarmel.org/missions](http://stmarkscarmel.org/missions) or visit [fletcherplacecc.org](http://fletcherplacecc.org). Financial donations may be given online at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give).

St. Mark's collects oatmeal for Fletcher Place's food pantry year-round. Donations may be left in the "Oatmeal" bin inside door #2.

### July In-Kind Donations

During the month of July, we are collecting items to support Indiana United Methodist Children's Home (IUMCH) in Lebanon, IN. IUMCH has been serving youth in crisis for more than 100 years. The task of reorienting the lives of children and families is highly complex and intensive. Your support allows us to help abused and neglected youth find happiness and grow to lead independent lives. While placed at the Children's Home, youth (ages 14-19) live in a therapeutic family-style, non-institutional environment with family teachers and assistant family teachers that have specialized training in the Teaching-Family Model.

IUMCH has a fully accredited school onsite. Other services include therapeutic counseling, psychiatric care, medical and dental care, aftercare, and spiritual development.

Learn more at [iumch.org](http://iumch.org). Financial donations can be given at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give).

Please support this important mission by donating the following items in July. Donations can be dropped off at St. Mark's Mon-Fri from 9am-4pm. NEW ITEMS ONLY please.

- Weighted blankets
- Sound machines (portable)
- Liquid bath soap/shower gel
- Deodorant
- Hair dryers
- Writing journals (no spiral bound)
- Shampoo (Cantu and Pantene brands preferred)
- Feminine hygiene products
- [Amazon Wish List](#) (QR code above)



## 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 Center ( BCC) 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](mailto:joediane244@att.net).

## Servants At Work (SAWs) Wheelchair Ramp Build



July 20  
8:30 AM-1:00 PM

Join St. Mark’s in a ramp build on Saturday, July 20, 2024! SAWs© is a faith-based nonprofit organization specializing in building wooden wheelchair ramps for low-income, permanently disabled individuals. Their ADA-compliant ramps provide access to the community for those who have been otherwise trapped inside their home due to a disability. SAWs seek to transform the lives of their ramp recipients and volunteers through meaningful service.

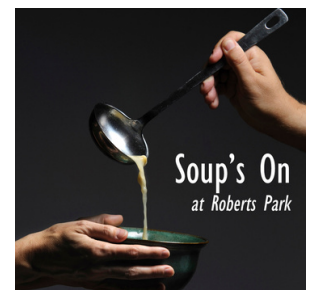
- Who: anyone age 16 & up (or accompanied by a responsible adult), no tools or skills required
- Where: South Tibbs Avenue & West Epler Avenue, Indianapolis
- How to join: Sign ups at [www.stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://www.stmarkscarmel.org/signups)
- Questions: Contact Doug Brown at [dthbrown@gmail.com](mailto:dthbrown@gmail.com)

*\*Please note the wheelchair ramp build planned for UMM and MarksMen will be Aug. 17, details to follow for that specific build and group.*

## Soup’s On at Roberts Park

**Sunday, July 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 and served onsite. This 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](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups). Volunteers can sign up to help cook and serve food or to help with clean-up (& arrive later that morning).





# 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](mailto: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](http://stmarkscarmel.org/red-bird).

## Upcoming Mission Events



Save the Dates!

- Potato Drop: September 28, 2024
- Mission in Action Day: September 29, 2024
- Red Bird Mission Trip: October 20-25, 2024
- Mission Guatemala Trip: July 12-19, 2025

## Because You Give

**Brightwood Community Center:** \$5544.00;  
132 boxes of food given out at food pantry,  
serving 480 individuals

**East 10th Street Children & Youth Center:**  
3268 sheets of construction paper, 13 boxes  
of crayons & markers, 30 boxes of Kleenex, 19  
rolls of paper towels

**Family Promise Apartment Shelter Program:**  
5 lamps, 1 set of dishes, 8 Apartment Shelter  
meals for families

**Fletcher Place Community Center:** food  
provided for 70 breakfast meals, 134 oatmeal  
packets

**Grassroot Projects:** 10 large boxes of new  
and gently used children's books

**IN U.M. Children's Home:** 70 welcome bags  
for entering youth

**Night Without A Bed (Family Promise):**  
\$1455.00

**Peace with Justice Sunday:** \$165

**Travel Size Toiletries for Homeless Shelters:**  
2 bags



## Kidz Church Sunday Programming

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

***Please note: July 14 is an all-church worship service under the tent at 10:30 AM. There will be no children's programming taking place that Sunday.***

### **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**

All ages combine for an exciting rotational-style class downstairs. Each week includes music, drama, Bible stories, and fun activity stations.

### **Club 56 | 9:40 AM During the School Year | Grades 5 & 6 | Lower Level Den**

Students in grades 5-6 are encouraged to attend worship with their family and friends. Club 56 will resume in August!

### **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.

## Churchwide Fall Kickoff

### **Sunday, August 18 | 10:00 AM | One All-Church Worship Service**

 FALL  
KICKOFF!

*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.

## Camp Firelight VBS Events



- **VBS Leader Commissioning: Sunday, July 7, all morning worship services**

The pastors will recognize and pray over all the VBS volunteers as we prepare our hearts for an amazing week of camp.

- **Community Night Under the Tent: Wednesday, July 10, 6-7 PM**

Join us outside under the tent for refreshments; entertainment from the musical group, Naptown Jazz 5; and fellowship with all your VBS, community, and church friends. Everyone is welcome!

- **Student VBS Volunteer Social: Directly after Community Night, 7-9 PM**

All student-age counselors are invited to stay for dinner, games, and fun activities!

- **Accepting Donations!**

Check out the rolling board in the church narthex for needed items.

- **VBS Campers Sing at Worship Without Walls! Sunday, July 14 | 10:30 AM outside under the tent**

All children who attended Vacation Bible Camp are invited to perform a medley of VBS songs during the outdoor worship service.



## Kidz Monthly Mission



### Indiana United Methodist Children's Home

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 Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon, IN. This program has been serving youth in crisis for more than 100 years. The task of reorienting the lives of children and families is highly complex and intensive. Your support allows us to help abused and neglected youth find happiness and grow to lead independent lives. You and your children can support this program by bringing any of the following items to Kidz Church check-in:

- Weighted blankets
- Sound machines (portable)
- Liquid bath soap/shower gel
- Deodorant
- Hair dryers
- Writing journals (no spiral bound)
- Shampoo (Cantu and Pantene brands preferred)
- Feminine hygiene products
- [Amazon Wish List](#) (QR Code on page 6)

## 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).



## Thank You, Don!

After nearly 20 years of service to the youth of St. Mark's, first as a volunteer and then on staff, Don Broad will be retiring as the director of youth ministries on July 31.

He tells us it's a semi-retirement; Don will be staying locally and exploring new opportunities for his schedule. Don has been busy this summer with youth camps and VBS! Thank you Don for your commitment to the youth at St. Mark's!

**All Youth are invited to wish Don well and welcome Scott on July 10 at the VBS Youth Volunteer Social from 7-9 PM.**

## July Hiatus

Please note that regular Cornerstone programming is on Hiatus for the month of July.

## Student VBS Volunteer Social

**With Special Guest, Dr. Dance!**

**July 10 | 7-9 PM | Wesley Hall**

St. Mark's own Greg Binder, aka Dr. Dance, is bringing the party to all Student VBS Volunteers and friends. Greg is more than just a DJ; he brings it ALL! Games, line dances, the limbo, music, lights, and more... students, you do NOT want to miss this night! It's an evening sure to be packed with food, fun, and friends. Even if you no longer qualify as a "student" volunteer, if you're young at heart with a passion for youth, please come join the party and lend a hand!

## Welcome, Scott!



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is excited to announce the hiring of Scott Melvin in a newly combined role of St. Mark's Youth Director and Worship Leader at The

Current. With his experience as both a youth leader and a worship band musician in various churches, plus his Master's of Theology/Theological Studies from Baylor University, Scott brings the insights needed for this newly combined youth director/worship leader role. Scott will be a familiar face to many of you; he and his wife Elizabeth have attended since 2021 and children Corrine, Blaise, and Addie are active in the Kidz Church programs.

## 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 hour will begin on August 25..*

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:sclick52@gmail.com)).

### **Foundations & Friendships | 9:30 AM, no meetings in July | Room J-K**

No meetings in July! When this group resumes in August, it is 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.

### **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](mailto:4manternlyd@gmail.com) for the film list, and Jennifer, [grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org) for the Zoom link.

## Learn More & Sign Up for Groups

Weekday study groups are off for the summer! For full descriptions and signups for summer short-term topics, see [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups).

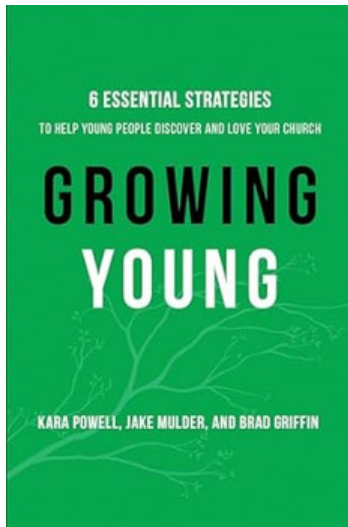
For our Grow Groups, encouragement groups, and other support groups information, see [stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups). Books and paper signups are on the connection tables in the Gathering Area.



## GROWING YOUNG: AN ONLINE SUMMER STUDY DISCUSSION

Join anytime this summer at your convenience.

What are your hopes and dreams when it comes to young people and St. Mark's? Can you describe a time in your life when someone helped you feel particularly connected to a church, particularly a time when you were 15-29 years old?



These are some of the discussion questions we have shared in our private Facebook group ("Growing Young @ St. Mark's Carmel"), with now more than 35 members. Many of us have begun reading *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church* in June, and it's not too late for you to join in! Email [grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org) or click to join the group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stmarksgrowingyoung/>. Books are available on the Connection Tables. To learn more about the book and group, check out the video at <https://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups/#young>.

## 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](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org)).

## WALKING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

9:00 AM on Thursdays 7/18 & 8/15

7:00 PM on Tuesdays 7/23 & 8/6

New August Dates!

Locations vary, see below



Join Jennifer Cloud-Buckner for a short devotional and mindful walk at your own pace on any of the Thursday morning sessions (9:00am on 7/18, 8/15) and Tuesday evening sessions (7:00pm on 7/23, 8/6).

**July Walks Location:** River Road Park ("Prather Park"), 12575 River Rd, Carmel, IN 46033

**August Walks Location:** Central Park East Woods, 1235 Central Park Dr E Carmel, IN 46032 (meeting spot details will be in email - meet at the Picnic Grove Parking, the first roundabout on Central Park Dr. East as you enter from Westfield Blvd.).

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

## LIFT: A WIDOWS ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP

Our LIFT (Living Intentionally Forward Together) encouragement group for widows is planning summer gatherings. To connect with the LIFT group, sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups](https://stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups) or see Mary Etta Yoho.

# Open Groups



## United Women in Faith

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

#### United Women in Faith We have a story to tell!

Has there ever been, in the pew next to you,  
A very nice lady who said, “How do you do?”

She started to tell you, all about her.  
She’d had an interesting life, that’s for sure!

You wanted to talk but had no time to chat.  
You wish that you knew her much better than that.

Then later, when reading UWF News,  
You found she’d be leading a group you could choose!

A great way to know her and meet others too!  
The CULTURAL AND LIFE INSIGHTS’ group,  
made just for YOU!

Find out more at  
[stmarkscarmel.org/uwf/#groups](https://stmarkscarmel.org/uwf/#groups)



#### United Women in Faith Upcoming Events

##### Upcoming Events

- Attend Mission U 2024 at Franklin College on July 12-14 or the 1 day Mission U Express on August 3. There will be a carpool leaving from St. Mark’s on August 3.
- 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/>



### 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

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](mailto: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](mailto:djmehl2004@aol.com).

## PAGE TURNERS

### Book Club Third Tuesdays

Join us on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss our current book selection. On July 16 we will discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann. Hope to see you there! Meets in Room G/H.



## CRAFT GROUP

### Select Thursdays

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

## JULIETS

### Just Us Ladies Interested In Eating Together

Juliets are taking a break and will meet again in August.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

### Tuesdays | 7:00 PM

Join us every Tuesday for Open Gym Basketball, ages 16 and above. Contact Mark Moore, [mvm2920@aol.com](mailto:mvm2920@aol.com) for more information.



## COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

### Select Mondays

Mostly amateur photographers gathering on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month at 9:00 AM, to encourage each other's creativity, demonstrate techniques, share photos and help each other grow in our knowledge of photography. Bring your camera & your questions or your latest work to share with the group. 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](mailto: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](mailto:mob@stmarkscarmel.org) with questions.



# Upcoming Events



## COMMUNITY NIGHT | JULY 10 | 6-7 PM

Join us outside under the tent for refreshments; entertainment from the musical group, Naptown Jazz 5; and fellowship with all your VBS, community, and church friends. Everyone is welcome!

## STUDENT VBS VOLUNTEER SOCIAL | DIRECTLY AFTER COMMUNITY NIGHT | 7-9 PM

All student age counselors are invited to stay for dinner, games, and fun activities!

## DINE TO DONATE FOR SOUTHPORT MIDDLE SCHOOL IN PERRY TOWNSHIP | JULY 11

Dine out at Red Robin in Clay Terrace on July 11, all day. All sales goes to help the VBS Mission Focus.

## Symphony on the Prairie with St. Mark's Aug. 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

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



Save the date for this churchwide conversation to dream for the future of St. Mark's! We will gather as a church and then split into small groups for guided conversations and open brainstorming about how we Welcome, Grow, and Serve as St. Mark's. This is a spirit-led dialogue to gather ideas, 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 nudges, prompts, or God moments are you experiencing about God's hopes and dreams for St. Mark's? Let's gather our whole church family and bring ideas together. Join us for an afternoon of spiritual discernment in community.

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



### 10:00am | 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.

### 11:00am | 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](http://stmarkscarmel.org/events) on a Sunday morning September 8, 15, or 22nd 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

A wealthy man summoned his accountant, pastor and lawyer. “I’ve figured out how to take some of my wealth with me when I die.” He handed each of them an envelope with \$100,000 in cash. “At my funeral, put the envelopes in my casket, I’ll take care of the rest.”

At the funeral a year later, the friends duly placed the envelopes into the casket before it was sealed. Afterward, over drinks, the accountant admitted that he had taken \$30,000 out of the envelope to donate to a charity. The pastor then admitted he had taken \$60,000 out to fund a new roof for their church. The lawyer was shocked. “I’m so disappointed in both of you! My envelope contained a check for the entire amount!”

A silly story to illustrate what we all know but often forget: You can’t take it with you. Why not? It doesn’t belong to you. As we think about all that we possess—all of it created and loaned to us by God—we must also think about what those possessions mean to us and how we respond to God’s grace and goodness.

Stewardship is a year-round state of mind. We are “all in” supporting St. Mark’s with our time, our talents, and our treasure. As summer approaches, consider signing up for a new mission activity, or joining one of the many small groups or classes St. Mark’s offers. And please keep your pledge current and consider increasing it. After all, you can’t take any of it with you!

-Stewardship Committee

## Trustees Committee

The parking lot sealing/striping project was recently completed. Thanks to our office staff and building manager for the assistance in making this project a success. This project will preserve our parking lot, improve the appearance and allow people to easier navigate through the lot.

The kitchen project has now also been completed, with the installation of the new stove. This project was completed, in large part, due to the efforts of Donna Schwartz. The trustees appreciate the patience of the members of the church during the interim, while we were between stoves.

The trustees are working with the preschool staff to improve the playground area and anticipate completion by fall.

## WHAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEED TO KNOW

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

[stmarkscarmel.org/CommitteeMemberToolkit.pdf](http://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; 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.

Check out [stmarkscarmel.org/committeefinfo/](http://stmarkscarmel.org/committeefinfo/) for more information on committees at St. Mark’s.

# Committee News

## Finance Committee

### Close the Gap!

As a Finance Committee we want to thank you for your generosity in supporting the work that we do in the name of Jesus Christ! Through your prayers, your service and your gifts, you have helped St. Mark's as we strive to live out our motto: Where Mission is a Way of Life. So, first of all, THANKS!

## CLOSE THE GAP



As we mentioned a couple of months ago, we anticipated a significant shortfall as we enter into late summer based on pledge giving and historic trends. We need your increased financial support during the summer to make ensure that St. Mark's continues to be a welcoming and missional church.

Our 2024 estimated operating expenses are \$1,059,425, which is approximately a 4% decrease compared to 2023. We are grateful to the staff for their careful financial management that has resulted in several years of decreased expenses. This year, we are in the unique position of having to close the gap between our church pledges and our expected expenses for the year.

After careful consideration and budgeting, we remain about \$96,000 from our goal. At our current rate of giving, we will have to make severe cuts in programming and mission giving in order to have a balanced budget at year's end.

Rather than cutting activities that are vital to the well-being of our church and community we are launching a mid-year pledge campaign, Close the Gap!

How can you help? First, we ask you to pray for us, that we be led to making the right decisions for St. Mark's. Next, please consider whether you can increase your support of St. Mark's financially, either by an additional pledge or making a one-time gift during July. Look for additional announcements and information during July.

Thank you again for your continued love and support of St. Mark's. Together, let's go change the world!

# Breakthrough Prayer

## Celebrating God Moments

- Community support for a friend who lost her son
- Reconciliation with a loved one
- Trusting in God and surrendering
- Fruitful opportunities after closed doors
- Volunteering at a hospice center
- Mentor Mom experience with MomCo
- Spiritual healing



## Sharing God Moments

Please visit our website to share your God moments.

[stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough](http://stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough)

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

Please continue to pray for what new dreams God has for St. Mark's.

On **September 15 from 3 PM to 5 PM** we will gather as a church for Dream Day 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 firefighters 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](mailto:jow3441@sbcglobal.net) or at 317-908-9935.

### Sympathies

Our sympathies go out to: Lynn Donnelson with the death of her father; Mary Etta Yoho with the death of her brother-in-law; and Laura McCloughlan with the death of her mother.

### 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, Myrnych Anderson, Steve Baylor, John and Carole Browning, Trish Boger, Doris Carlow, Phyllis Delp, 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 times of need with Meal Train meals. Meal Train is a blessing for those who need it and those who provide it.

For the recipients, it is a great help in a time of need such as a fall or surgery. 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](mailto: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](https://facebook.com/stmarkscarmel)



[instagram.com/stmarkscarmel](https://instagram.com/stmarkscarmel)



[youtube.com/stmarkscarmel](https://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](https://stmarkscarmel.org/publicity). If you have questions regarding the form, please contact [techsupport@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:techsupport@stmarkscarmel.org).

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