

# JUBILEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2025



ST. MARK'S  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4780 E. 126th St., Carmel, IN 46033  
317.846.4912 [stmarkscarmel.org](http://stmarkscarmel.org)



## Lent Begins March 5

Find information about ordering Easter flowers, Lenten Studies, and Lenten Offering at [stmarkscarmel.org/lent](http://stmarkscarmel.org/lent).

SEE [STMARKSCARMEL.ORG/LENT](http://stmarkscarmel.org/lent) FOR DETAILS

# Upcoming Events

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



## IMPORTANT LENT INFORMATION

- Ash Wednesday Services - March 5 at 7 PM
- Ordering Easter Flowers - order online or pick up a form in the gathering area
- Lenten Devotionals available - see page 14
- Lenten Studies begin - see page 13

[DETAILS](#)

## COMING SOON



- **Ash Wednesday - March 5**
- **Home Budgeting Discussion - March 16**
- **Hoosier Brass Band - March 16**
- **Children's Lenten Musical - March 23**
- **All-Church Rice Meal Food Pack Mission - March 23**



- **Blood Drive - April 13**
- **Palm Sunday - April 13**
- **Holy Thursday - April 17**
- **Good Friday - April 18**
- **Easter Egg Hunt - April 19**
- **Easter Sunday - April 20**
- **Youth Retreat @ Epworth - April 26-27**
- **Kidz Church Spring Pizza Party - April 27**

# Pastor's Place

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

During the summer of 1999 Michelle and I traveled to Zimbabwe to work at Africa University. We had the opportunity to meet face to face with a person that Michelle had met through a chat group on raising and training Border Collies. (We had a border collie at the time.) Karen Peel, and her husband Steve, were officers in the Zimbabwe Sheepdog Association. Because we had a free evening in Harare before our departure from Harare, we were able to have dinner with the Peels, meet their dogs, and talk about life in Zimbabwe. We enjoyed talking about our lives, our families, our cultural differences, and our cultural similarities. During the conversation Karen asked a question that was unexpected but illuminating. She asked, "How are you finding things in a country where everything is broken?" She was referring to the dismal economy in Zimbabwe and the general reality that things rarely run smoothly. People have to make do with what they can find and are able to purchase. This is quite a contrast to our lives in America where everything is shiny and new, where service is prompt and precise, where timetables are mostly kept.

Karen's question is relevant to all of us, however, whether we are living in America or Africa. We do live in a world where everything is broken in its unredeemed state. We live in a world where schoolchildren murder each other, where many older people live in fear and poverty, where the divide between the poor and the rich grows larger everyday. We live in a world where people doubt their leaders, and where sports heroes are the only role models many young people see. It is easy to see the brokenness in our world. We are like the people Isaiah described: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way." (Isaiah 53:6, NRSV)

So, what do we do about this broken state? How do we fix it? The answer lies in the second half of the verse I just quoted. Isaiah finishes that verse by saying, "and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." Our hope is not in ourselves but in Jesus Christ. We need to pray the prayer of David who said, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10, NRSV)

Lent is a time to ask God to fix the brokenness inside us as well as the brokenness in our world. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our sinfulness which only God can forgive. During the season we journey toward Easter which is God's ultimate affirmation that things can be set right. Won't you join us on this journey from a broken world to a loving God?

Yours in Christ,  
Brian



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

# Pastor's Place

Dear St. Mark's Family,

March is here! With it, we begin to see the first signs of spring - longer days, fresh blooms, and the unmistakable feeling that the world is waking up. After the stillness and quiet of winter, everything seems to be stretching toward new life. Trees begin to bud, birds find their song again, and Earth itself reminds us that change is always possible.

Spring has a way of stirring something within us, too. It invites us to step out of the places where we've been stuck, to embrace growth, to open our hearts to what is new. And in many ways, this is exactly what Lent calls us to do—to pay attention to where God is moving, to reflect on where we need renewal, and to prepare ourselves for the joy and transformation that Easter brings.

This month, we begin our Lenten journey, walking through the last days of Jesus' earthly life. Each Sunday, we will step into one of those days - beginning with Palm Sunday, then moving through the events of Holy Week, one day at a time. We will witness the tension, the teaching, the betrayal, and the love that led Jesus to the cross. And in the end, we will arrive at the empty tomb, where death is defeated and new life begins.

Lent is a season of reflection, but it is also a season of preparation. As spring reminds us that new life is always breaking through, Lent reminds us that God is always at work—shaping us, renewing us, and calling us to deeper faith. Wherever you are on your journey, this season is an opportunity to open your heart in a new way.

I invite you to walk this road with us. Be present in worship, engage with Scripture, and make space in your life to reflect on what this story means for you. There is so much to discover along the way...

I can't wait to take this journey with you!

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Karla



**Rev. Karla Elliott**  
**Executive Pastor**



## March Mission Focus

### Did You Know?

- Red Bird Mission, guided by Jesus Christ, creates opportunities for individuals to enrich their lives and positively impact others within the mountains of southeastern Kentucky and throughout the world.
- The need is great in this isolated, rural area where chronic poverty, lack of jobs, poor housing, and rugged terrain create obstacles to a fuller life.
- Red Bird Mission strives to meet the needs of their neighbors through ministry in five areas:
  - Education: Red Bird Christian School serves students in grades K-12 and centers on developing the full potential of its students in a Christian atmosphere, regardless of their ability to pay.
  - Health & Wellness: Red Bird operates Community Health Services which provide over 3000 health education and direct services in a 3-county area and a Dental Clinic that provides complete services for 600 patients each year.
  - Community Outreach: Aid includes emergency support services, a clean water kiosk, and assistance with clothing, food, and transportation needs.
  - Economic Opportunity: The Craft Marketing Program provides economic opportunity for craftspeople within a 75-mile radius of the Mission, purchasing crafts directly from the artisan and marketing them locally and throughout the U.S.
  - Community Housing Improvement: Volunteers provide home repairs for low-income residents.

### How Can I Help?

- Donations to support Red Bird Mission may be given online at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give) or by using the offering envelopes found in the blue attendance pads.
- Pray for those individuals and families who are served by Red Bird Mission.
- Join an upcoming Mission Trip to Red Bird Mission.
- Learn more about Red Bird Mission at [stmarkscarmel.org/red-bird](http://stmarkscarmel.org/red-bird).

## March In-Kind Donations

The O'Connor House in Carmel, IN provides a Christian home to single, pregnant, homeless women to improve life for themselves and their children. The O'Connor House provides shelter, food, clothing, and transportation for their residents, as well as teaching wellness, financial, and parenting skills. They also promote furthering education as a way out of poverty and aid in job searching and professional skill building.

Learn more at <http://www.theoconnorhouse.org>.

During the month of March, we are collecting donations of items of greatest need for The O'Connor House. Requested items are listed below and may be dropped off in our donation bins, inside Door #2, Monday-Friday, between 9-4. Please put gift cards inside a sealed envelope before leaving in the donation bin.

Thank you for supporting this essential mission!

- Multipurpose all-surface cleaning sprays
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Twin bed size cotton blankets
- Diaper bags (NEW ONLY)
- Robes/slippers (NEW ONLY - for mothers)
- Walmart gift cards (any amount)
- Kroger gift cards (any amount)



## All-Church Rice Meal Food Pack on March 23

St. Mark's will partner again with Midwest Mission Distribution Center for a Rice Meal Food Pack. Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 23 from 2:00-4:00 PM in Wesley Hall!

Safety guidelines will be followed as we share a fun and family-friendly opportunity for anyone age 5 and older. Childcare is available with 72-hour advance notice.

Sign up NOW at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups).

Please bring a goodwill donation for Midwest Mission Cleaning Kits with you to the food pack! Needed items are laundry detergent (32-64 oz), liquid dish soap (16-34 oz), work gloves with leather palms, rubber gloves (for cleaning), and heavy duty trash or contractor bags (2+ mil thickness). All NEW items, please.

## Brightwood Community Center Food Pantry



"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 PM - receiving food and shelving
- 2nd & 4th Wednesdays: 1:30 - 4:00 PM - 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).

## March Meals for Family Promise Apartment Shelter Program

During March, St. Mark's will be providing weekly dinner for 2 families in the Apartment Shelter Program each Thursday.

Volunteers are needed to make dinner and to deliver the meals to families. Please see how you can help by visiting [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups). For questions contact Jeff or Kathy DeaKyne at 765-491-3749 or [jkdeakyne@gmail.com](mailto:jkdeakyne@gmail.com).



## Housing Injustice Summit

**Tuesday, March 11 from 6-7:30 PM**

**Hosted by the JCC Indianapolis at 6701 Hoover Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46260**

Join the JCC and the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) for the Housing Injustice Summit, an evening of education and advocacy. Explore the history of redlining in Indianapolis through the FHCCI's Unwelcomed exhibition and presentation, followed by a panel discussion with local housing justice advocates. This free program is open to all, with light food provided. 6



## Wings of Hope: Lenten Offering & Easter Card Campaign

Honor someone special this Lenten season with a gift through St. Mark's Wings of Hope Campaign. Your Lenten offerings this year will benefit the Society of St. Andrew (SoSA), which brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors. Make a gift In Honor, In Memory, or In Appreciation of a special person or group. Honorees will receive an Easter Card from St. Mark's acknowledging your gift and celebrating the Resurrection of Christ. Your donations are given directly to the Society of St. Andrew to help them continue their mission to feed the hungry while minimizing food waste.

- Visit [stmarkscarmel.org/wingsofhope](http://stmarkscarmel.org/wingsofhope) to complete the form online.
- Use the designated envelopes at the connection tables to complete the form and turn into the church office.
- Submit a minimum donation of \$5.00 per card, either online at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give) or via check, noting "Wings of Hope" in the memo.
- Feed your spirit by picking up a copy of the Daily Lenten Devotions book, "A New Day Dawns" from the connection tables for daily scripture readings, reflections, and prayers written especially for SoSA.

## Club 56 Mission Camp



**June 9-12, 2025**

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

## Fletcher Place Monthly Breakfast

**March 28, 2025**

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat" (Matt. 25:35). Help is needed to cook and serve a hot breakfast for the homeless and low-income population served by Fletcher Place Community Center. Volunteers ride together to and from St. Mark's, 7:15am-11:15am. SIGN UP ONLINE at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups).

## UMCOR Sunday



**March 30, 2025**

UMCOR Sunday is one of the six Special Sundays in the United Methodist Church. This church-wide special Sunday offering provides United Methodists the opportunity to help our brothers and sisters around the world in their time of need. Our generous gifts through the UMCOR Sunday offering support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, who provide immediate assistance in the wake of disasters and participate in ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health, and peace. Donations for UMCOR Sunday can be made at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give).

## St. Mark's Blood Drive

**Sunday, April 13, 2025 @ 8:00am-12:30pm**

There is no substitute for blood and the need for it remains critical. Please donate and impact a life! Sign up TODAY at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups). Contact Terry Fourman at [4manternlyd@gmail.com](mailto:4manternlyd@gmail.com) or Amy Adams at [aadams@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:aadams@stmarkscarmel.org) with questions or for help signing up.

# Ongoing Ways to Serve Our Community

There are always opportunities to serve in our community and YOUR help is needed! Volunteers are needed at the CUMC Food Pantry, Changing Footprints, Fishers Youth Assistance Program, and many more!

## CUMC FOOD PANTRY

The CUMC Food Pantry serves about 400 Hamilton County families each month.

Your help is needed to fill shifts at the pantry. Visit <https://carmelumc.org/ministries/mi-ssions/> for more information and to sign up!



## CHANGING FOOTPRINTS

Changing Footprints relies on volunteers like you to continue operating!

Families, retirees, singles, anyone is welcome who would like to make a difference. Visit [www.bit.ly/cfsignupz](http://www.bit.ly/cfsignupz) to sign up for available shifts.



## ASCENT 121

Ascent 121 provides trauma-informed therapeutic services to teen survivors of commercial sexual exploitation. From writing “words of encouragement” cards or advocating on social media, to providing a birthday box or activity kits, there are various ways get involved. Visit <https://ascent121.org/volunteer/> to explore the many ways that you can support the teen survivors served by Ascent 121.



## SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW (SOSA)

SoSA volunteers typically glean produce left behind after the harvest on local farms. Gleaning keeps produce from going to waste by sharing it with local feeding agencies. Come glean with SoSA to be a good steward of our resources and share food with people in need! Visit <https://endhunger.org/get-involved/volunteer/> to fill out the volunteer interest form.



## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Serving in Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, and Marion counties, Greater Indy Habitat provides the access, education, house construction, and mortgage for low-to-moderate income buyers to purchase a home without being cost burdened. a volunteer for future building opportunities. No previous experience needed!



## FISHERS YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FYAP)

FYAP provides summer meals, tutoring, mentoring, counseling, food, clothing and financial assistance to students ages 3-17 residing in the Hamilton Southeastern School district. Assistance is needed in their food pantry to restock, to assemble summer meal bags, and to make snack kits for families at various times during the year. Email Amy Adams at [aadams@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:aadams@stmarkscarmel.org) to find out how you can volunteer.





## Kidz Church Sunday Programming



The check-in station and Kidz Church classes are located in the Children's Wing. 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 be released to Kidz Church after the Kidz Chat. For the 10 AM education hour, children will proceed directly to class after check-in. A list of available classes and times can be found in the bulletin each Sunday or online at [stmarkscarmel.org/kidzprogramming](http://stmarkscarmel.org/kidzprogramming).

## Kidz Monthly Mission



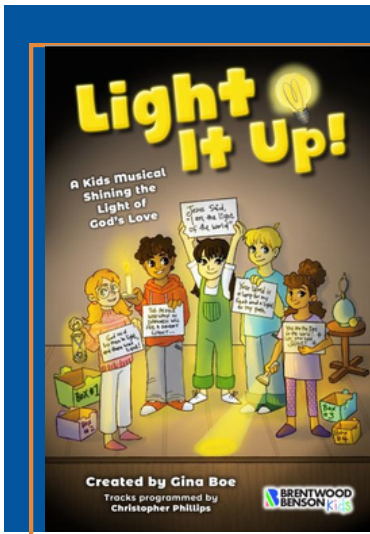
Each month, Children's Ministries invites kids to get involved in giving to the church's In-Kind Donations. During March, we will be collecting items for The O'Connor House which provides a Christian home to single, pregnant, homeless women. For more information about this program or how to give, see page 5 or visit [stmarkscarmel.org/missions](http://stmarkscarmel.org/missions).

## Movie, Popcorn, & Games!



### Sunday, March 30 | 10 AM

We're having a party in Kidz Church! We'll be celebrating March's monthly theme of "Big Picture," which highlights the parables of Jesus through the relatable subject of movies. If your family usually attends at 9 AM, stay for this special event at 10. If you are an 11 AM family, come early at 10 this week. Your kids won't want to miss out on this super fun occasion (ages 4 - 4th Grade)!



# Children's Lenten Musical

**Sunday, March 23 | 1:30 PM**

Rehearsals have begun for the Kidz Music & Praise Lenten Musical, Light It Up! In this show, a bright group of students has just arrived for Bible class, but a couple of things are missing...their teacher and LIGHT! With a note and a few wrapped boxes in a dark room, the students begin a unique lesson to discover just how significant light is and has always been, with each box representing a new object and a new Bible verse about light—starting from the very beginning of creation and continuing into Christ passing on the task of spreading His light to the world. The show will wrap up in time for families to join the Food Pack at 2 pm. Rehearsals take place each week in Kidz Church at 11 AM.

## Home Budgeting Discussion in "The Living Room"

**March 16 | 10 AM | Cornerstone Commons**

If you still need a place to be during the 10AM Education & Small Groups hour, be sure to check out "The Living Room," our experimental drop-in, informal space in Cornerstone Commons. Based on input from the Parent Connection Brunch, we'll be offering occasional guided discussions in "The Living Room" centered on topics requested by you! **On March 16, please join Financial Planner Ed Rowell as he leads a discussion on Home Budgeting.** This event will take place in a small area of Cornerstone Commons, leaving plenty of space still available to chat or read if you desire to have down time. More information about "The Living Room" can be found on Page 12.

## Join the Student Procession of the Palms on Palm Sunday!

**April 13 | 9 & 11 AM Worship Services**

All children and youth of the church are invited to take part in the opening processions for both services on Palm Sunday. Meet behind the sanctuary just before 9 and 11 AM where you will receive a palm to wave as you process down the center aisle to the opening music. Students will lay the palms on the altar and then be seated with their families.



## Spring Pizza Party

**Sunday, April 27 | 12 PM | Wesley Hall/Gym**

All Kidz Church families are invited to attend this afternoon of games and fellowship, sponsored by Kidz Music & Praise. Whether your family attends the 9, 10, or 11 AM hour on Sundays, everyone is welcome to the party! Feel free to bring a friend along with you too! RSVP to Joyce Click, at [jclick@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:jclick@stmarkscarmel.org).

# Register NOW for 2025 Summer Camps!

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

Registration is now open for kids' summer camps! Vacation Bible Camp (VBS), Sacred Drama & Puppet Camps, & Club 56 Mission Camp take place on 3 separate weeks so students can participate in them all! The camps fill up fast so be sure to sign your kids up soon. These are the most exciting and enriching weeks of the summer!

## Camp Info

### Club 56 Mission Camp:

June 9-12,  
9 AM-1 PM  
Incoming/Outgoing 5th & 6th Grade



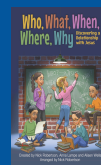
### Sacred Puppet Camp:

June 16-20  
9:30-11:30 AM  
Age 4 through 3rd Grade



### Sacred Drama Camp:

June 16-20  
12-2:30 PM  
1st through 5th Grade



### Vacation Bible Camp (VBS):

July 7-11  
9 AM-12 PM  
Age 4 through 5th Grade



## Sunday Mornings

**10 AM:** 7th - 12th grade, join Scott Melvin and Jenny Miller in **Room M** for a quick get-together.

**10:15 AM:** Junior and Senior high students break out for Bible study time. 7th & 8th graders meet with Aaron Koenig and Pete Elliott in the Middle School room while the 9-12 graders meet with Jenny Miller in the Senior High room.

## 2nd & 4th Youth Group Schedule

**5:30- 7:00 PM | March 9 & March 23**

Grab a friend and join us the 2nd and 4th Sunday for an evening of food, devotions, worship and fun! We will meet in Wesley Hall for dinner and then head to the Chapel for time to explore our faith and end the evening with some fun!



## Upcoming Events

### Student Ministry Any Number Fundraiser

#### How Would You Like to Make a Difference?

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our Student Ministry Any Number Fundraiser starting on **March 9!** This is an exciting opportunity to support the incredible young people in our church as they grow their faith through retreats, summer camps, and other programming.

#### How to Donate:

1. Pick an envelope (from the board in the gathering area) with a dollar amount with which you are comfortable giving.
2. Place the dollar amount (or more, if you wish) in the envelope.
3. Return the envelope to the Front Office.

Together, we can empower the next generation of Christian leaders and change-makers!

## Summer Camps!

Get Ready for some summer fun! Two great camp opportunities in June offering swimming, canoeing, archery, zip lines etc.:

- 6th - 8th Middle School Impact Camp @ Camp Rivervale June 22nd - 27th. Go to <https://stmarkscarmel.org/middle-school-camp/> to find out more.
- 9th - 12th High School (including recent graduates) Impact Wildfires Camp @ Camp Epworth June 22nd - 27th. Go to <https://stmarkscarmel.org/high-school-camp/> to find out more.

If you are in need of scholarships, please reach out to Scott Melvin and Jenny Miller before registering. Scholarships will be awarded based on need.



## Mission Week

We want to hear from you! We have three great opportunities for a mission week this summer for all current youth and want to hear which you prefer most. Please take 1 minute and fill out this short survey so we can start planning a great mission week! <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VHJMPPY>

# Adult Discipleship

Dr. Jennifer Cloud-Buckner  
Adult Discipleship Coordinator  
[grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org)

## Home Budgeting Discussion in "The Living Room"



**March 16 | 10 AM | Cornerstone Commons**

If you still need a place to be during the 10AM Education & Small Groups hour, be sure to check out "The Living Room," our experimental drop-in, informal space in Cornerstone Commons. Based on input from the Parent Connection Brunch, we'll be offering occasional guided discussions in The Living Room centered on topics requested by you! **On March 16, please join Financial Planner Ed Rowell as he leads a discussion on Home Budgeting.** This event will take place in a small area of Cornerstone Commons, leaving plenty of space still available to chat or read if you desire to have down time.

The past month has been an exciting time of testing The Living Room option at 10AM for adults. There is coffee, conversation, and a resource cart full of parenting articles, books, and discussion guides for you to browse and use as desired. There is also plenty of space for alone time to read, reflect, or listen to a podcast. We hope to see you there! If you have suggestions of topics you'd like to see in future guided discussions, email Jennifer at [grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org).

## Website Directory for Adult Discipleship groups, signups, and resources

**Sunday Classes & "The Living Room"** See <https://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups/#sundayam> for full descriptions of Sunday classes and a new informal drop-in gathering, "The Living Room." The Foundations & Friendships class will be reading the Lenten study *Entering the Passion of Jesus*; learn more on the next page.

**Study Groups and Short-Term Events:** All descriptions and signups are at [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](https://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups).

**Grow Groups, Encouragement Groups, and Support Groups:** Visit [stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups](https://stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups) to find ways to connect with others in our groups that support one another through shared seasons and challenges in life.

**Discipleship Pathway and Personal Growth resources:** Find resources for prayer, meditation, spiritual practices, rest, reflection, and growth at [stmarkscarmel.org/discipleship](https://stmarkscarmel.org/discipleship).

**Breakthrough Prayer:** We share our breakthrough prayer in worship and in many of our small groups and meetings, but this is also a valuable personal and family prayer practice in your busy schedule. Set a timer for 8:00pm to pray the prayer you can find at [stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough](https://stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough).

**Workshops:** Learn more about upcoming special events like our March 16 Home Budgeting Discussion at [stmarkscarmel.org/workshops](https://stmarkscarmel.org/workshops).

## Your Connection Concierge

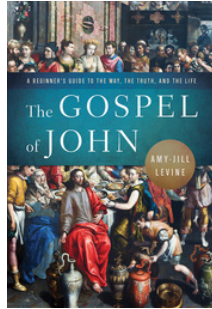
Feeling disconnected from the broader community? Sometimes the circumstances and struggles that make us feel most like isolating are the times we most need to connect with others for encouragement and community. Let Jennifer Cloud-Buckner help find a group or connection opportunity for you today. Email her at [grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org), catch her in the Gathering Area on Sunday morning, or call the church office (317-846-4912, ext. 214).

# Studies, Groups & Devotionals

Sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups). Books and paper signups are on the connection tables in the Gathering Area.

## The Gospel of John

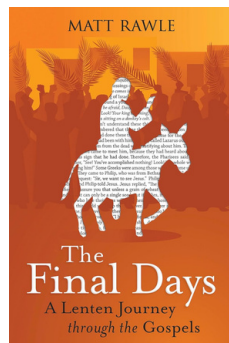
**Wednesdays, 2/26-4/2 | 9:30-11AM | Led by Lydia Fourman | Cornerstone Commons or Room J/K in various weeks | Books \$14**



John's Gospel offers readers a new language—of being born anew, of living water, of wind and spirit, of the “I am”—that enhances how we understand the divine, how we experience the world, and how we participate in the mystery of faith. With her characteristic wit and charm, scholar and author Amy-Jill Levine explores the entire John narrative with insights into the original context and contemporary interpretations—from the prologue and the wedding at Cana to encounters with outcasts, acts of healing, and more. You are invited to this study to discover the richness and enduring relevance of John's Gospel in your own faith journey.

## The Final Days

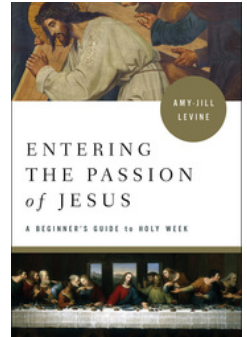
**Fridays, 2/14-3/21 | 9:30-11AM | Led by Jennifer Cloud-Buckner and Annessa Miller | Room B/C and Zoom | Books \$13**



This Lent, ponder the themes of justice, poverty, freedom, and love through different lenses of each of the four Gospels. While Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John present distinct details of Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, they offer the same Resurrection hope. Author Matt Rawle explains that these different perspectives aren't a reason to dismiss the Gospels; rather they reveal an abundant, diverse, and complementary picture of God's work in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

## Entering the Passion of Jesus

**Wednesdays, 3/5-4/9  
Early AM (Men), 6:30-7:30AM;  
Pastor's Study, 9:30-10:30AM  
Led by Pastor Brian White |  
Hybrid Room B-C and Zoom**



**Wednesday EVENINGS | 2/26,  
3/12-4/2, 4/16, 6:00-7:15PM |  
Led by Amy Pritchard | No  
mtg 3/5 & 4/9 | Room B/C**

For Lent, dive into historical and social contexts—and the risks taken for great loss or great reward—of Jesus's final days. Jesus risked his reputation when entering Jerusalem in a victory parade and risked his life teaching in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes or anointed him with costly perfume. Author and scholar Amy-Jill Levine raises ethical and spiritual questions from the text and highlights how we all can face risk in our Christian experience.

**The Foundations & Friendships class will discuss 3/9-4/13 (Room J/K, Sundays 10-11AM).**

No sign up needed, just show up!

**Books will be available on Connection Tables & Door #2 entrance shelves for \$11.**

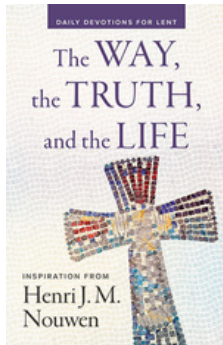
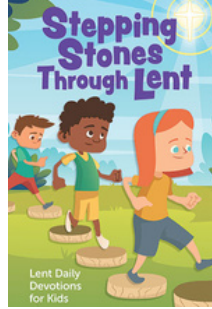
## Lenten Devotionals

If you'd like a short devotional book to help you with daily resting in prayer and contemplation, you have several options this year! Pick up your copies of devotionals for kids ("Stepping Stones Through Lent") and adults ("Lifted Up in Love") from the shelves in the

church entrance or table near the cafe.

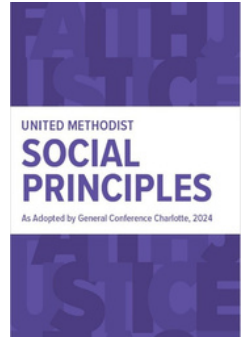
Additionally, a new devotional ("A New Day Dawns") from one of our mission partners, the Society of

St. Andrew (SOSA), is available on the Missions connection tables in the Gathering Area



## The Social Principles

**A Special Evening Study**  
**Mondays, 3/10-3/31 | 7:00-8:15pm | Led by Pastor Brian White | Room B/C & Zoom**  
**Books: free printouts provided or view PDF**  
**<https://www.umcjustice.org/documents/124>**



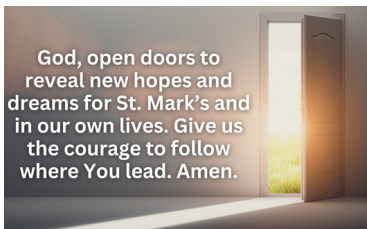
Did you know that the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church are the product of more than a hundred years of legislative decisions made by lay and clergy members of the UMC and its predecessor denominations? The official text of these principles was most recently updated by the 2024 General Conference and represents the ongoing, prayerful, and thoughtful efforts on the part of many General Conferences to speak to complex and controversial issues in the global community.

Join this study to examine your own theology and ethics and grow in your discipleship as we explore topics of Community of All Creation, The Economic Community, The Social Community, and The Political Community.

## Breakthrough Prayer & Personal Resources

Our breakthrough prayer helps us develop the practice of an "up and out" prayer posture, with a sense of expectancy and noticing where God is

moving in our lives in new ways. Set an alarm for 8 PM to join with others in this prayer practice, and learn more at [stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough](http://stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough). For other personal prayer, meditation, and study resources, visit [stmarkscarmel.org/discipleship](http://stmarkscarmel.org/discipleship).



God, open doors to reveal new hopes and dreams for St. Mark's and in our own lives. Give us the courage to follow where You lead. Amen.

## Other Upcoming Studies

Watch the weekly email, Connection Tables, and [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups) for updates on the next studies for Thursday & Friday AM groups.

# Dream Day: Results & Next Steps

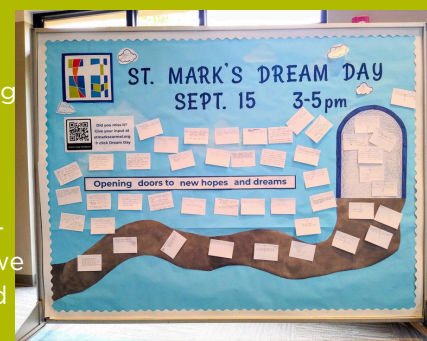
What are some of the new hopes and dreams for St. Mark's? Learn more from the Dream Day Executive Summary and Final Report (at [stmarkscarmel.org/dream](http://stmarkscarmel.org/dream)) including common themes, behavioral insights, and potential strategies for implementation on the 17 topics discussed in the guided brainstorming sessions. This report is for the entire congregation, leadership teams, and staff to help people connect with new ideas and to inform strategic planning and programming. Is there a Dream Day idea that speaks to your heart? Read more and connect at [stmarkscarmel.org/dream](http://stmarkscarmel.org/dream).

## Key Themes of Dream Day Ideas

- **Connection and Community:** Increasing connections within St. Mark's and with the broader community through effective communication and follow-up, visibility at community events, understanding our neighbors' needs, mentorship, small groups, welcoming and inclusive environments, fun events, and intergenerational gatherings.
- **Congregational Care:** Supporting aging members, providing practical and emotional support programs, and fostering community building.
- **Hospitality and Physical Spaces:** Providing a warm and welcoming atmosphere through engagement from the entire church, improving space usage and accessibility, creating a welcoming environment for youth and families, and enhancing aesthetics and comfort.
- **Worship:** Engaging worship experiences with diverse music, meaningful preaching, testimonials to illustrate faith in daily life, and intergenerational participation.
- **Discipleship:** Providing expanded opportunities in a variety of formats, environments, durations, and groups for Bible study, spiritual growth, and applying faith in daily life.
- **Engaging with Youth and Young Adults:** Fostering authentic relationships, engaging youth in intergenerational activities, creating youth-centered programs, and connecting with schools.
- **Generosity:** Cultivating a culture of generosity through transparent communication, engaging the congregation, illustrating what our giving supports, and making giving easier.
- **Missions and Outreach:** Engaging in community outreach, ensuring accessibility and sustainability of programs, evaluating the scope of our mission efforts, and creating local opportunities for youth and family involvement.
- **Internal Congregational Service:** Improving communication, engaging volunteers effectively, and streamlining service processes.

## What Was Dream Day?

Dream Day was a congregation-wide, guided brainstorming event held in September 2024 to gather ideas for the future of St. Mark's—including the ways we Welcome, Grow, and Serve; ideas for



community partnerships; and potential areas of improvement. Through breakthrough prayer, we have been opening our hearts and minds to God's new hopes and dreams for our church, and this event resulted in 60 participants enthusiastically sharing their insights.

## Core Motivations that Drive Engagement in the St. Mark's Community

The Dream Day ideas indicate a desire for community and finding connection, wanting to have a meaningful impact through activities that address real-life concerns, and a desire for trust and transparency with reliable support systems and communication within the congregation. Results also indicate a desire to provide hospitality—fostering inclusive environments that welcome people from all walks of life—and preferences for flexible, convenient options in activities that can adapt to changing needs and busy schedules.

## What's Next?

The Leadership Board and staff have received copies of this report, and it is recommended that each ministry team and committee review the ideas related to their ministry for feedback on how things are going and to pinpoint a couple of strategic focus areas. Everyone can continue praying our breakthrough prayer. Some areas of this report do not have existing committees or teams; if there's something that speaks to you, email [grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org) to figure out some next steps.

# Intergenerational Connections

## Share in a Sunday Meal & Conversation

If you're feeling disconnected from the youth in our church, consider being one of the adults to share in an upcoming Sunday evening meal and meeting. Adult groups are invited to provide food and share in conversation with our youth, generally on the 2nd or 4th Sunday of each month, at 5:30pm. The evening would entail bringing enough food for the youth and the adult group to enjoy together, mingling in conversation during the meal (5:30-6:00), and then helping clean up the area while the students continue with their programming for the evening. Two of the recent meetings included 20-25 youth! It doesn't have to be anything complicated; they are middle schoolers and high schoolers that just enjoy food and time together. It could be something homemade like pulled pork, taco bar, potato bar, soups, spaghetti, or just ordering from a restaurant or pizza. Email [youth@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:youth@stmarkscarmel.org) to sign your group up for one of these opportunities for intergenerational fellowship.



## Listen with an Open Ear & Mind

If you were to cross paths with one of our youth on Sunday mornings, would you be able to say hello and call them by name? Our team going through Growing Young training has been learning about building empathy and a sense of warm community across generations. We are learning how to listen without immediately jumping to the phrase “when I was your age...”

Here are some open-ended questions that might be useful in your next conversation with a young person in your life:

- What is the best part of being the age you are right now?
- What is the hardest part about being the age you are right now?
- What do older adults assume about your generation that is unfair?
- What would it look like for older adults to understand and support you?

## Dream Day Insights on Youth, Young Adults, & Intergenerational Connections

Dream Day included many ideas for meaningful interactions and intergenerational engagement through shared experiences, fun activities, mentorship and guidance, involving youth in decision-making, and making youth feel included. Results indicate a desire to be a safe and welcoming space where young people feel valued. Behavioral insights include:

- **Need for Belonging:** Young people desire a sense of belonging and connection to the church community.
- **Appreciation for Practicality:** Practical support and resources are highly valued.
- **Desire for Fun and Engagement:** Fun and engaging activities can draw in young people.
- **Importance of Relationships:** Building strong relationships is key to fostering intergenerational connection.
- **Desire for Authentic Connection:** Young people crave genuine relationships and meaningful interactions with others.
- **Need for Inclusion & Belonging:** Creating a sense of community and belonging is essential for attracting and retaining young people.
- **Value of Intergenerational Learning:** Opportunities for cross-generational learning and mentorship are highly valued.

Read more in the Dream Day results on page 15 and on [stmarkscarmel.org/dream](http://stmarkscarmel.org/dream).



# Open Groups

## UNITED METHODIST MEN

**Next Meeting: March 8th @ 7:30 AM**



Boy's I have a great Idea. Lets Go to St. Mark's UMM Breakfast every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month!

Sound's great to me Dad! Faith, Fellowship, Food, a Speaker, & Good People

I am ready guys. That is at least once a month we will not have to eat Mom or Debras's burnt breakfast.



All United Methodist Men are invited to attend the breakfast March 8 at 7:30 AM.

Join us and learn about Rank Choice Voting from Brian Schmidt. He has a Ph.D. in mathematics and briefly taught math at Indiana University and Notre Dame. Now that he is retired, he spends most of his time writing adventure novels for teenagers, none of which are published so far. His talk today will be about the pros and cons of various voting methods, such as ranked choice voting.

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.

### UMM 2025 Hamilton County Lenten Breakfast Series:

All St. Mark's men are invited to attend the 2025 Lenten Breakfast Series hosted by several Hamilton County Methodist Churches this year, including St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Each Saturday morning breakfast includes good food, a speaker and fellowship with other Methodist men in the county.

Breakfasts are at 7:30 each Saturday starting on March 22. You can go to the church directly or join us at St. Mark's at 7:00 am to carpool to the breakfast.

- Saturday, March 22 - Fishers UMC, 9691 E. 116th St Fishers .
- Saturday, March 29 - Sheridan UMC, 207 E. 2nd St. Sheridan
- Saturday, April 5 - Christ UMC, 318 N. Union St. Westfield,
- Saturday, April 12 - St. Mark's UMC, 478 E. 126th St. Carmel

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**Next Meeting is March 11 | 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM**



United Women in Faith

The next monthly United Women in Faith meeting is March 11 at 9:30 am and 7 pm. Interest groups will meet. Childcare is available 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](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups). Visit [stmarkscarmel.org/uwf](http://stmarkscarmel.org/uwf) for more information.

### United Women in Faith's Trinkets & Treasures

Springtime is almost here! It's time to declutter your house. Now is a good time to tackle that job before the weather gets nice and you want to spend more time outside. Wonder what to do with all the tools, appliances, decorating items that you will never use. TRINKETS AND TREASURES (T&T) is your answer.

T&T which happens in May is St Mark's UWF biggest fundraiser of the year and we need your donations. Don't have space to store items? Contact Trisha Stanearth.



# 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 at 7 PM

### March 18

Join us on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss our current book selection. Join us on March 18 for *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Hope to see you there! Meets in Room G/H.



## CRAFT GROUP

### Select Thursdays

March 27 | 6:30-8:30 PM

RSVP to Kathy Bartel by 5 pm March 26 at 317-294-4908 or [krbartel@gmail.com](mailto:krbartel@gmail.com). Contact Kathy for more information.

## JULIETS

### Just Us Ladies Interested In Eating Together

March 20 - We will be meeting at Dooley O'Toole's at 160 E. Carmel Dr. in Carmel. Lunch will begin at 11:30. Please make your reservations by the Monday before to Linda Schenk, [juliets@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:juliets@stmarkscarmel.org) 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](mailto:mvm2920@aol.com) for more information.



## COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

### Select Mondays

March 3 | 9 AM

Coffee - yes,  
Cameras - whatever you have. Our members use both types of cameras (traditional and phone). We would love to have you join us on March 3. We 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, and be ready to tackle a monthly assignment presented by rotating group leaders.



## 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.



## PICKLEBALL

### Thursdays | 7-9 PM

Looking for a fun weekday evening activity this fall and winter? Join us in Wesley Hall on Thursday evenings from 7-9 PM for some fun and fellowship as we play pickleball! Participants of all skill levels are invited and should be 16 years or older. Contact Janet Brown ([jgrandeyb@gmail.com](mailto:jgrandeyb@gmail.com)) or Doug Brown ([dthbrown@gmail.com](mailto:dthbrown@gmail.com)) for more information.



# Committee News

## Staff Parish Relations Committee Announcement

As announced several weeks ago, Rev. Brian White is retiring from St Mark's after 12 years of service as our Lead Pastor and over 40 years in ministry effective July 1, 2025.

Your Staff-Parish Relations Committee is excited to share a letter with you from our resident Bishop, Tracy Smith Malone. Bishop Malone writes:

*To the Congregation of Carmel St. Mark's,*

*Bishop Tracy Smith Malone and the District Superintendents of the Indiana Conference announce the appointment of Reverend Nathan Whybrew as the Senior Pastor of Carmel St. Mark's United Methodist Church and the community/local mission field effective July 1, 2025.*

*Based on a consultative process, including your church's profile, we highlight several of the missional reasons for this appointment.*

- 1. Nathan Whybrew demonstrates strong administrative abilities*
- 2. Nathan Whybrew's collaborative leadership style builds teams and empowers leaders*
- 3. Nathan Whybrew leads the church to a missional presence in the community.*

*Our prayers are with you as you partner together and seek God's guidance for the next exciting chapter in the life, ministry, and witness of your congregation.*

Nathan and his wife, Sarah, along with their four children will be relocating later this spring to Hamilton County and will join us at St. Mark's in July.

Please join us as we welcome the Whybrew family with open arms to St. Mark's as together we follow God's call for us into the future.

Blessings and Peace,  
St. Mark's Staff-Parish Relations Committee

## ARE YOU ON A MINISTRY TEAM, OR LEAD A SMALL GROUP OR FELLOWSHIP GROUP?

This information is for you! 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
- 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 a question not covered in this document or need more details? Contact the church office at 317-846-4912.

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

# Community Outreach & Upcoming Events

## Ash Wednesday Worship Service March 5 | 7 PM

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline. In-person and livestream available. Childcare is available for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years.



## St. Mark's Presents - The Hoosier Brass Band March 16 | 4 PM

St. Mark's will host The Hoosier Brass Band on March 16 at 4:00 PM in a free concert open to the public. The Hoosier Brass Band uses the same instrumentation as the British bands. This would include Soprano Cornet, Bb Cornets, Flugelhorn, Tenor Horns, Baritones, Euphoniums, Tenor Trombones, Bass Trombone, Eb Tubas, Bb Tubas and Percussion. The music will be a mixture of styles and will introduce the audience to some of the unique sounds you get with this type of group.



## Easter Egg Hunt April 19 | 2:30 PM

Bring the whole family for an Easter Egg Hunt with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 19th!

The event will be from 2:30-4 p.m. in Wesley Hall. The afternoon will start at 2:30 p.m. with the egg hunt beginning approximately at 3 p.m. in separate areas for each age. It promises to be wonderful fun and all are welcome, so invite your friends and neighbors! Sign up today at [stmarkscarmel.org/easteregghunt](http://stmarkscarmel.org/easteregghunt).



## 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](mailto:jow3441@sbcglobal.net) or at 317-908-9935.

# Congregational Care & Connections

## Tithe Time

The Worship Committee invites you to Participate in the Life of the Church. We each in our membership vows are reminded to participate in the church's ministries by prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. There are a wide variety of opportunities, and every task is important as we support our church and our ministers. Opportunities include being a friendly Greeter, to assisting in worship as an Usher or Liturgist, running a slide show with a button press, setting out the Communion elements or serving them once a month. Whether you like to be the public presence or the background set up, we have a need for you! Please sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/ways-to-serve](http://stmarkscarmel.org/ways-to-serve).



## St. Mark's Library

Have You Tried Our Electronic Catalog? Available anytime...anywhere, the catalog can be accessed from your phone, computer or other device. Search the Electronic Catalog by title, author, or subject. Instructions and video tutorials are available on the News and Message screen.



[Electronic Catalog Link](#)

### Additions to the Library:

*Right Here Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness* by Oden, Amy  
*Dramatic Encounters with God* by Johnson, Nicole  
*Interrupting Silence: God's Command to Speak Out* by Brueggemann, Walter  
*Ordinary Grace: A Novel* by Krueger, William Kent  
*The Night Portrait: A Novel of World War II and Da Vinci's Italy* by Morelli, Laura  
*More E-mail from God for Teens* by Cloninger, Claire  
*The Book Woman's Daughter* by Richardson, Kim Michele  
*When the Jessamine Grows* by Everhart, Donna  
*Chasing Vines: Finding your Way to an Immensely Fruitful Life* by Moore, Beth  
*They Walked with God: 40 Bible Characters who Inspire Us* by Lucado, Max

## Photo Directory

The new St. Mark's photo directory is available online with the most up-to-date information. To access the online directory you can visit [stmarkscarmel.org/directory](http://stmarkscarmel.org/directory). You will need the password, which can be obtained by calling the church office or picking up a business card on a connection table on Sunday morning. If you need a printed copy, it can be requested via a clipboard on the connection table in the gathering area. If you have questions, contact the church office at 317-846-4912.

## Circle of Care

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.

Carole Anderson, Myrneath Anderson, Steve Baylor, John and Carole Browning, Trish Boger, Doris Carlow, Phyllis Delp, Carol Hollinger, Dorothy Mecca, Melvin & Marlene Myers, Jane Roberts, Jerry & Brenda Weikel, Bob Wiens

If you would like to be added to the Circle of Care 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. If you are in need of 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.

# Celebrations & Thank You

## Thank You for an Unforgettable Talent Show!



We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in and attended our incredible talent show! Your enthusiasm, support, and talent made the afternoon truly special.

With 14 outstanding acts, the event was filled with a beautiful variety of performances, from stunning piano and cello solos to powerful vocal performances, mesmerizing ensembles, and even a display of Rubik's cube wizardry! Each act showcased the dedication, creativity, and passion of our talented participants.

A special thank you to our performers for sharing their gifts with us. Your hard work and courage to step on stage made this event unforgettable. To our audience members, thank you for cheering, clapping, and encouraging each act—you helped create a welcoming and energetic atmosphere that made all the difference!



Events like these would not be possible without the efforts of many. We are grateful to the organizers, volunteers, and everyone behind the scenes who contributed their time and effort to ensure the night ran smoothly.

Thank you again for being part of such a memorable day. It's not too soon to start preparing your act for next year!



## Food Florist Fundraiser Thank You



The Preschool and Children's Ministries would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who supported the Food Florist fundraiser last month.

The Preschool raised \$426.00 on their day and the church raised \$552.00 on the Sunday the food truck was at church. A grand total of nearly \$1,000! All the proceeds of these events will go towards updating the toddler room which is used every week by both the Preschool and the Church.

Thank you for helping to keep important church projects like this going!

## Breakthrough Prayer Ripples Across Country



Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey, co-author of *Dynamite Prayer*, has sent a message of gratitude for St. Mark's part in the breakthrough prayer movement. Because St. Mark's was one of the earliest INUMC congregations to adopt breakthrough prayer (launching our churchwide initiative in February 2023), Rev. Nilson Kibbey interviewed our St. Mark's team for a training video.

She writes, "Your breakthrough prayer initiative leadership and inspiration continues! I want to thank your team again, many times over, for the ongoing breakthrough prayer inspiration and leadership that your videos and website continue to offer congregations [...] who have and are stepping out to put this type of prayer at the center of congregational life." Other UMC conferences across the country have joined the movement, most recently the UM Western PA Conference, which just viewed a segment of our St. Mark's Zoom in their training.

Rev. Nilson Kibbey continues, "The zoom video that we have had posted on the dynamiteprayer.com website has been viewed many times over. And the accompanying link to your church website's guidance that you designed, the excellent framework how to have Dynamite Prayer weekly discussion groups, we also have posted on dynamiteprayer.com. That is the most-often requested 'how-to' info in inquiries that come to Dynamite Prayer co-author Rosario Picardo and me. [...] These are only two examples of how St. Mark's, through your courageous breakthrough prayer leadership, has and is continuing to inspire so many other sister congregations to believe—really believe—that prayer makes a difference...and to add that kind of 'up and out' prayer component asking for what God would have, which will open doors into their miraculous future."

## Spicing Up Success: The Chili Cook-Off was a Sizzling Hit!



This year's annual Chili Cook-Off was nothing short of spectacular! The annual event brought together a fantastic mix of talented chefs, eager taste-testers, and a whole lot of fiery fun. From mouthwatering recipes to friendly competition, the cook-off proved to be a resounding success that left attendees raving about the experience. The over 80 people in attendance had the tough task of sampling the diverse range of chilis and casting their votes. In the end, Thomas Warner took home the prize of Overall Best Chili. Other notable winners included Jennifer Cloud-Buckner for Most Creative Chili and Dave Yunker for Hottest Chili.

A huge thank you to all the participants, volunteers, the Fellowship Committee, and attendees who made this event such a success. The Chili Cook-Off continues to be a cherished tradition, and we can't wait to turn up the heat again next year. Until then, keep those pots simmering and your spice racks stocked—next year's competition is bound to be even hotter!



# Because You Give

- **Brightwood Community Center:** \$6984.00; 68 boxes of food given out at food pantry
- **Fishers Youth Assistance Program:** 260 hygiene items; 58 cleaning products
- **Fletcher Place Community Center:** 102 packets of oatmeal; 104 meals served
- **Human Relations Day offering:** \$59.00
- **Versiti Blood Center of IN:** 8 units of whole blood; 4 units of double red cell

## 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).

## SUBMIT CELEBRATIONS

If you have celebrations from your St. Mark's activities to put in the newsletter, submit them to [stmarkscarmel.org/publicity](https://stmarkscarmel.org/publicity).

## CONTACT

4780 E. 126th Street  
Carmel, IN 46033

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

Office Phone: 317-846-4912  
Preschool Phone: 317-846-8941