

# JUBILEE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May 2024



ST. MARK'S  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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



## Spring & Summer Youth Events

It is not too late to sign up for the Cornerstone Spring Retreat (May 17-19) or Summer Camp opportunities for middle and high school students (various weeks in June). Learn details on page 13.

**SIGN UP NOW**  
[stmarkscarmel.org/youth](http://stmarkscarmel.org/youth)

# Spring & Summer Events

Take a look ahead at St. Mark's spring and summer events. There are new and annual favorites coming soon for all ages. Please visit [stmarkscarmel.org/events](http://stmarkscarmel.org/events) for all event details.



## TRINKETS & TREASURES SALE

**FRIDAY, MAY 24 & SATURDAY,  
MAY 25**

Don't miss this giant indoor yard sale open to the public! Shop Friday from 8 AM to 4 PM and Saturday 8 AM to Noon. All proceeds go to Missions.

## COMING SOON



# May

**Celebrating 3-Year-Olds** - May 5 at all services  
**Kidz Music & Praise Sings in Worship** - May 12 at 11 AM for Mother's Day  
**Dine out to Donate to St. Mark's Preschool** - May 14 at Handel's Ice Cream  
**Trinkets and Treasures** - May 24, 8 AM-4 PM & May 25, 8 AM-12 PM



# June

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



# July

**VBS Leader Training:** July 1, 6:00-7:30 PM  
**Vacation Bible Camp (VBS) - Camp Firelight** - July 8-12  
**VBS Community Night with musical guests Naptown Jazz 5:** July 10, 6-7 PM  
**VBS Student Volunteer Social:** July 10, 7-9 PM  
**"Worship Without Walls" all-church outdoor tent service:** July 14, 10:30 AM

# Pastor's Place

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

What is our purpose in life? In recent years, this has been a frequent topic in conversations and in Christian books. I personally have read several of the “purpose driven life” books. At many levels, I have found Rick Warren and others helpful in discovering a course and purpose for my life. However, I am often left with the uneasy feeling that life is more complicated than anyone’s formula for finding meaning and purpose.

One of the giants in Methodism in the twentieth century was a British clergyman named Lesley Weatherhead. Weatherhead tells this story:

I remember so clearly going out “birding” in Yorkshire with a dear friend of mine. We watched some jackdaws apparently building a nest in the crevices of an old ruined tower. They gathered their material and they pushed it into the crevices. Apparently, they could not realize that it was dropping right through the crevices on to the floor inside the hollow tower. If they can feel frustrated, they must have felt terribly frustrated about that. Believe me or not, when we walked into the tower, there was a heap of nesting material almost up to my shoulders. But when we went to a farmhouse adjoining the ruins, an old lady, crippled with arthritis, came out and talked to us, and she said this, “You know the jackdaws are doing me a wonderful service. They gather my kindling for me. I use what they push through the holes at the top of that ruined tower to start my fire.” (Leslie D. Weatherhead, *The Key Next Door*, 17-18)

Sometimes I think the purpose we might identify for ourselves and the greater purpose in God’s economy might be very different. Like the birds in Weatherhead’s story, we may serve a higher purpose even if that purpose sometimes eludes our understanding.

The important thing is that we always strive to discover God’s direction in our life and that we set about to do what God calls us to do. We can’t wait until we understand every nuance of God’s purpose for our lives to become active. There are times when serving God means putting one foot in front of the other and trusting God for the destination.

When it comes to serving God we have to ask – “What are we waiting for?”

In Christ’s service,

Brian



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

# Pastor's Place

Dear St. Mark's Family,

As we step into May, our surroundings burst into life with vibrant blooms and lush greenery, inviting each of us to pause and appreciate the simple joys that this month brings. While I'm not much of a gardener myself, the allure of the outdoors and the magic of planting season is undeniable - even for those of us more likely to admire a garden than cultivate one!

Gardening, or even just spending time outside among the plants and dirt, offers a unique way to connect with God's creation. It's a chance to witness firsthand the intricate details and the careful balance of nature that sustains our world. Whether it's the growth of a tree, the blooming of flowers, or the busy life of insects, every element of a garden speaks to the creativity and care of our Creator.

In these bustling times, when life seems to move faster than we can keep up, finding moments for such simple pleasures can be especially rewarding. Engaging with the earth, whether by planting, weeding, or simply enjoying a walk through a park, can help quiet our minds and soothe our spirits. It's a reminder of the steady rhythm of life that continues around us, a rhythm that carries a calming certainty of renewal and growth. (And, speaking of a walk in the park - consider connecting with God in nature as part of our "Walking as a Spiritual Practice" group that kicks off again mid-May for the summer!)

And there's more good news: research shows that activities like gardening can positively impact our physical health, lowering blood pressure and reducing stress. It seems that interacting with nature doesn't just nurture the environment - it nurtures us, too, in body and mind and spirit.

Each moment spent in nature is an opportunity to draw closer to God and to find peace in the beauty of creation. So, let's take this month to appreciate the world around us, finding joy and serenity in the gifts of nature and the endless creativity of God who designed it all.

Blessings & Peace,

Pastor Karla



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



## May Mission Focus

### Did You Know?

The Brightwood Community Center, a nonprofit organization, has been compassionately dedicated to building stronger families and vibrant communities for 89 years. Despite the chaos in the economy and the world at-large, the Brightwood Community Center continues to be a hub for the Brightwood community, delivering excellent programming while also giving hope to families around Indianapolis. Their goals are to cultivate and expand opportunities, skills, resources, and connections to enrich lives.

### Programs include:

- Healing Circles, where community members can find support in addressing trauma in the community
- Youth Summer Camp, designed to increase reading, experiential learning, comprehension skills, build character and teamwork
- Workforce Development
- Pro Se Legal Assistance programs
- "Client Choice" food pantry twice a month, where clients can select foods that best meet their needs and all individuals are eligible. St. Mark's volunteers help with stocking and assisting clients with shopping, on most Tuesdays & Wednesdays.

### What Can I Do?

- Volunteer at the food pantry on Tuesdays, 12:00-2:30, receiving and shelving food pantry items
- Volunteer at the food pantry on Wednesdays, 1:30-4:00, helping patrons shop and restock shelves
- Contact Diane Newton for more information and to sign up: [joediane244@att.net](mailto:joediane244@att.net)
- Financial donations for Brightwood Community Center can be made online at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give) or by using the mission offering envelope in the blue attendance pads. Learn more at [stmarkscarmel.org/Brightwood](http://stmarkscarmel.org/Brightwood).



## May In-Kind Donations

During the month of May, we are collecting items to support East Tenth's summer camps and children's books to support Grassroot Projects. Book donations will be sorted into age-specific groups by our Club 56 Mission Campers in June!

East Tenth United Methodist Children & Youth Center is an accredited early learning center in east Indianapolis. They offer an income-based sliding scale for tuition costs and are proud to serve a diverse population. They offer a variety of programs, including the Early Learning Childcare Center, Summer Days for Youth, and a before and after school program.

Grassroot Projects creates and supports equitable communities for under-resourced immigrant and refugee children. These parents are most concerned with meeting their children's basic needs of food and clothing. Grassroot Projects offers various programs including "Sponsor A Passion", Early Literacy, Food Insecurity, and Customized Care Packages for families.

**Please support these important missions by donating the following items in May. Donations can be dropped off at St. Mark's Mon-Fri from 9am-4pm.**

- non-toxic markers (Crayola, Cra-Z-Art, etc.)
- construction paper
- Kleenex
- paper towels
- New or gently used children's books (ages infant - 5th grade)



## Night Without a Bed

# Night Without a Bed

**Saturday, May 4**

Have you ever had to spend a night without a bed? Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis shelters families who previously had to sleep in cars, park pavilions, even abandoned houses. You can help Family Promise

expand its homeless shelter to allow more children and parents from having to sleep without a bed! #NightWithoutABed is the primary fundraising campaign to support Family Promise's Apartment Shelter Program, allowing Family Promise to sustain 24 apartment shelters in the coming year, making it the largest family shelter in Indianapolis. The cost for one 12-month lease on an apartment, plus security deposit, utilities, Internet, insurance, and some repairs is about \$15,000. The shelter program has a housing rate of 77%! Learn more about this innovative solution, and how it's changing homelessness intervention at [www.fpgi.org/asp](http://www.fpgi.org/asp).

How Can I Help? Join the cause!

1. Donate online at [www.stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://www.stmarkscarmel.org/give) and select "Night Without a Bed" from the drop-down menu.
2. Donate by sending a check to the church office with "Night Without a Bed" in the memo line.
3. Spend a night without a bed on May 4—in your car, on your sofa, on your floor, in a treehouse, in your tent in your yard—to remember those who can't choose to. Have fun and be creative while helping those in need. Share your night with #NightWithoutABed on Facebook, Instagram, or other social media.

## Ascent 121 Prayer Journey

**Saturday, June 1 - Begins at 9:00 AM**

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

**Sign up at [www.stmarkscarmel.org/ascent121](http://www.stmarkscarmel.org/ascent121)**



The Ascent 121 Prayer Journey is an opportunity for you to drive through the near east side of Indianapolis and pray for areas affected by trafficking and exploitation. Through this experience you will learn more about the child welfare system, the juvenile justice system, ways that teens are drawn into trafficking, and recovery services that are available to survivors. Guided prayer stops allow you to pray for survivors, teens at risk, educators, social service providers, juvenile justice staff, law enforcement, ministries, and organizations.

Your journey begins in the parking lot at the Indiana Department of Child Services and concludes at the Ascent 121 offices with a debrief for your group to process their experience. A parent must accompany participants under 18.

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

## Brightwood Community Center Food Pantry Volunteers



"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." Big thanks to the many St. Mark's volunteers who have been helping with the monthly food pantry for Brightwood Community families!

BCC Food Pantry is currently offering a "Client Choice" food pantry TWICE per month, on the 2nd & 4th weeks of each month. Volunteers help with shelving food on racks and assisting clients with shopping. Clients select foods that best meet their needs.

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

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

## Peace with Justice Sunday

**Sunday, May 26**

Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as reconcilers of conflict. We insist that the first moral duty of all nations is to work together to resolve by peaceful means every dispute that arises between or among them. Each Annual Conference has a Peace with Justice Coordinator developing local social justice ministries. Fifty percent of the offering remains in your annual conference to support this ministry. Donations to this Special Sunday offering can be made at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give) or by using the special envelope in your bulletin on May 26.

## Fletcher Place Breakfast

**Help Serving Needed  
May 24**

Help is needed to cook and serve a hot breakfast for the homeless and

low-income population at Fletcher Place Community Center. Volunteers ride together to and from St. Mark's, 7:15-11:15 AM. Sign up online at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups) or at the connection tables in the narthex.



## June Meals for Family Promise Apartment Shelter Program



During June, St. Mark's is 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. The wonderful success of this program is made possible with the love and generosity from you! 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).



## Join the Mission Delivery Team

### A New Way to Serve!

Help is occasionally needed to deliver collected in-kind donation items to various mission partner locations. Volunteers will be contacted a week prior to the suggested delivery date to ensure your availability. Sign up online at [stmarkscarmel.org/missions](http://stmarkscarmel.org/missions). Please contact Amy Adams at [aadams@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:aadams@stmarkscarmel.org) for more info.

*Pictured left: March In-Kind donations on their way to The O'Connor House!*

## Club 56 Mission Camp

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

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



## Rice Meal Pack Thank You

To the St. Marks family:

What a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and service was experienced on Sunday, March 24th. So many of you volunteered your time and energy to assemble 2400 rice meal bags which will provide 14,400 meals. These meals will be transported to those in need by Midwest Mission to provide nourishment to those who struggle with food scarcity. Thank you to all who were able to spend the afternoon with us and to all who helped to sponsor the food pack.

Pat and Sharon Baumer  
Midwest Mission Ambassadors

## Because You Give

**Brightwood Community Center:** 135 boxes of food given out at food pantry, serving 504 individuals

**Fletcher Place Community Center:** 60 meals served, 11 cans of coffee, 118 oatmeal packets

**Red Bird Mission:** \$6433.00

**Rice Meal Pack:** 2,400 food packs equaling 14,400 meals

**The O'Connor House:** 7 robes, 21 slippers, 30 towel sets, 46 disinfectant wipes, 27 baby shampoo/wash, 22 laundry detergent

**Travel Size Toiletries for Homeless Shelters:** 8 bags

**UMCOR Sunday Offering:** \$2357.00

**Wings of Hope Lenten Offering supporting Lucille Raines Residence:** \$1297.00

**Midwest Mission Distribution Center:** \$940.00



## Kidz Church Sunday Programming

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

**Please note: Kidz Programming will change slightly for the summer months. Please refer to the bulletin/website at the end of May for summer classes and times.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Three-Year-Old Recognition



### Sunday, May 5 | All Worship Services

Three-Year-Olds will receive a pastoral blessing and be presented with a Spark Story Bible! Please email a recent picture of your child in a jpeg or png format to [kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org) on or before Wednesday, May 1 to be included in the worship service slideshow.

## Kidz Music & Praise Sings in Worship



### Sunday, May 12 | 11:00 AM

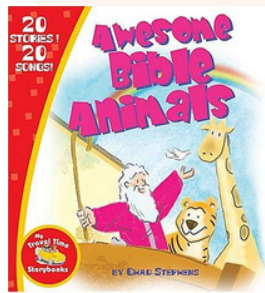
All children of the church are invited to sing in the 11:00 AM worship service on Mother's Day! Rehearsals to prepare for this performance take place during Kidz Church at 11:00 AM each Sunday. Join us for Kidz Music & Praise every week!

# Sacred Puppet Camp

**Age 4-Grade 3**

**June 17-21 | 9:30-11:30 AM**

Fly with the dove from Noah's ark, swim with the whale that swallowed Jonah, roar along with the lions that met Daniel, and join many more animal adventures in this entertaining collection of Bible stories!



**Register at [stmarkscarmel.org/musiccamps](http://stmarkscarmel.org/musiccamps).**

*Children attending both music camps can bring their lunch and stay all day!*

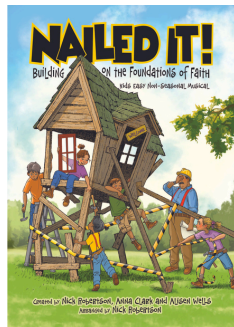
- Children will make and use a variety of puppets to tell the stories of Jesus, play fun games, and enjoy a snack each day.
- Friends are welcome and do not need to attend St. Mark's.
- Older students are invited to assist with the camp during the week (register as a Student Apprentice).
- All staff and volunteers will have the required background checks.
- Cost is \$20 (scholarships available).
- Informal performance will be held Friday at 11:00 AM

# Sacred Drama Camp

**Grades 1-4**

**June 17-21 | 12:00-2:30 PM**

This construction-themed production brings to life the parable of the wise man and teaches important lessons about the joys and challenges of building faith through the story of friends who set out to build a fort.



**Register at [stmarkscarmel.org/musiccamps](http://stmarkscarmel.org/musiccamps).**

*Children attending both music camps can bring their lunch and stay all day!*

- Friends are welcome and do not need to attend St. Mark's.
- Older students are invited to assist with the camp during the week (register as a Student Apprentice).
- All staff and volunteers will have the required background checks.
- Cost is \$20 (scholarships available).
- There will be a drama camp performance at 2 PM on Friday, and a medley of songs will be performed Sunday, 6/23, at the 11 AM service.

# Club 56 Mission Camp

**5th & 6th Graders (incoming & outgoing)**

**June 3-6 | 9 AM-1 PM**

Kids love to give back to the community! This is a 4-day event that allows students to participate in local mission projects both inside our church and out in the community.



**Register at [stmarkscarmel.org/missioncamp](http://stmarkscarmel.org/missioncamp)**

# Vacation Bible Camp (VBS)

**Campers Age 4-Grade 5**

**Volunteers Grade 5-Adult**

**July 8-12 | 9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

Camp Firelight is the perfect location for every camper's favorite summer activities! Each day, children join camp counselor Sam, and Lu the lightning bug puppet, and learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Campers will explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament figures trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name.



**Campers and Volunteers can register at [stmarkscarmel.org/vbs](http://stmarkscarmel.org/vbs).**

- **VBS Leader Training:** Monday, July 1, 6-7:30 PM
- **Community Social Night:** 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 friends!*
- **Student Volunteer Social:** Directly after Community Night, 7-9 PM.
  - *All student-age counselors are invited to stay for dinner, games, and fun activities!*
- **Now Accepting Donations:** Please leave items in the pink bin outside Children's Ministries Office. Large boxes can be left inside the CM Office.
  - Cardboard Refrigerator Box
  - Large Cardboard Boxes
  - Gallon Jugs of Drinking Water
  - Ziplock Bags (Gallon & Sandwich Sizes): Please, no Fold Top baggies
  - White Poster Board
  - Monetary Donations for Camp Sponsorship: Camp is \$25/child (Money can be delivered to Church Office or given online.)

## DINE TO DONATE

### Handel's Homemade Ice Cream

Tuesday, May 14 | 3-10 PM

Get into the spirit of summer and contribute to the church playground renovation at the same time! On Tuesday, May 14, have a sweet treat at Handel's Homemade Ice Cream located at 2466 E. 146th Street (Carmel/Westfield location). Present the Handel's flyer when ordering and the Preschool will receive 20% of all the total orders. Flyers can be found at [stmarkscarmel.org/preschoolevents](http://stmarkscarmel.org/preschoolevents).

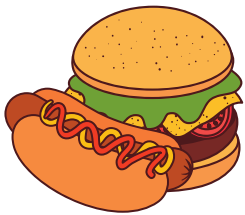


## COOKOUT FOR 5TH-8TH GRADERS

### Club 56 & Middle School 5th-8th Graders

Saturday, May 11 | 4-6 PM

Any students in grades 5-8 are welcome to attend and bring friends! Contact Don Broad with questions at [dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org).



## MomCo (formerly MOPS)

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

Time out for moms with children of all ages! Come join with a group of women who just "get it" (and have a cup of coffee while it's still warm!). Our MomCo group meets two Thursdays a month for fellowship and learning with children's programming available for infants (6+ mo.) and preschoolers. There are also monthly MomCo Moms' Night Out events, family play dates, and child-free monthly coffee/brunch dates. Learn more at [mopsatst.marks@gmail.com](mailto:mopsatst.marks@gmail.com).

Our final meeting this semester is our end of the year celebration on **Thursday, May 9**. Look for upcoming information about summer gatherings!



THE MOMCO  
BY MOPS INTERNATIONAL

## KIDZ MONTHLY MISSION

Each month, Children's Ministries strives to have kids involved in giving to the church's monthly In-Kind Donations. During the month of May, we are collecting items to support East Tenth's summer camps and children's books to support Grassroot Projects. Book donations will be sorted into age-specific groups by our Club 56 Mission Campers in June!



East Tenth United Methodist Children & Youth Center is an accredited early learning center in east Indianapolis. They offer an income-based sliding scale for tuition costs and are proud to serve a diverse population. They offer a variety of programs, including the Early Learning Childcare Center, Summer Days for Youth, and a before and after school program.



Grassroot Projects creates and supports equitable communities for under-resourced immigrant and refugee children. These parents are most concerned with meeting their children's basic needs of food and clothing. Grassroot Projects offers various programs including "Sponsor A Passion", Early Literacy, Food Insecurity, and Customized Care Packages for families. You and your children can support these programs by bringing any of the following items to check-in at Kidz Church any Sunday morning in May:

- non-toxic markers (Crayola, Cra-Z-Art, etc.)
- construction paper
- Kleenex
- paper towels
- new or gently used children's books (ages infant - 5th grade)

## Weekly Gatherings

### Sunday Morning Programming

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

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



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

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

### Sunday Afternoon Programming - May 5!

**Cornerstone Fellowship | 12:00-1:30 PM | Cornerstone Commons**  
**Middle & High School (grades 7-12)**

Cornerstone Fellowship invites all Junior and Senior High students to join us for a festive **Cinco de Mayo feast** (along with fellowship and fun!) on May 5 beginning at noon in Cornerstone Commons, as we celebrate nearing the end of the school year and the start of summer. Grab a friend or two and come have a great lunch provided by Cornerstone!



### Wednesday Evening Bible Study

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

Led by DKB. During May, we will be exploring what it means to be a Devoted Follower of Jesus in our everyday lives. The study takes place on Instagram Live, but students are welcome to join DKB in Room N.



### Thursday Evenings

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

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



## Club 56 & Middle School End of Year Cookout



**May 11 | 4-6 PM | St. Mark's UMC**

Students currently in 5th and 6th grade (Club 56) AND students currently in 7th and 8th grade (Middle School Cornerstone) are invited to attend, and feel free to bring friends!

Let's celebrate the end of the school year and the coming summer together with a cookout, outdoor games, and fellowship!

## Cornerstone Spring Retreat



**May 17-19**

**Epworth Forest Retreat Center in North Webster, IN**

Students currently in 7th through 12th grade are invited to attend, and feel free to bring friends!

You can count on this being a wonderful time to grow together in faith and friendship. As always, we request that you come with a heart to learn and an expectation to encounter God.

The cost to attend is \$100 per student. Sign up at <http://stmarkscarmel.org/spring-retreat>.

## Middle School Summer Camp

**June 9-14 | Camp Adventure in Pierceton, IN**

Students currently in grades 5 through 7 are eligible to attend. (This means students who will be entering grades 6 through 8 in the Fall of 2024).



The cost to attend is \$489.00 per student. Contact DKB with any questions, and sign up at <http://stmarkscarmel.org/campadventure/>

## High School Mission Trip (Workcamp)

**June 16-22 | Maumee, OH**

Students currently in grades 8 through 12 are eligible to attend. Join other students repairing homes in Maumee, OH.



The cost to attend is \$600.00 per student. Contact DKB with any questions, and sign up at <http://stmarkscarmel.org/workcamp/>

## High School Summer Camp

**June 23-28**

**Epworth Forest Retreat Center in North Webster, IN**

Students currently in grades 8 through 12 are eligible to attend. (This means students who will be entering grades 9-13 in the Fall of 2024).



The cost to attend is \$489.00 per student. Contact DKB with any questions, and sign up at <http://stmarkscarmel.org/thattthing/>

Contact information for Don Broad [dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org)

## Adult Discipleship Sunday Programming

### Sunday AM Encouragement Group | 9:20 AM | Monthly

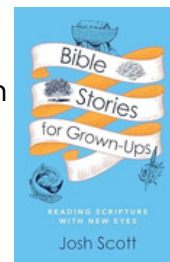
Group meets monthly for those dealing with care of aging loved ones. Call Jennifer in the church office or email [grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org) for info.

### 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 | Room J-K

Led by Doug Brown, Kathy DeaKyne, and Todd Snow. F&F's shares and discusses Christian themes through contemporary books, Bible studies, and occasional Wired Word devotionals. After finishing Adam Hamilton's *Wrestling with Doubt*, Finding Faith on May 5, the class will begin Josh Scott's *Bible Stories for Grown Ups* for May-June. No meetings in July. All are welcome!



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

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

## HOW TO SIGN UP

### How to Learn More and Sign Up for Groups

For full descriptions and signups for all ongoing study groups, short-term studies, and Sunday classes, see [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](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.

## THE WIRED WORD

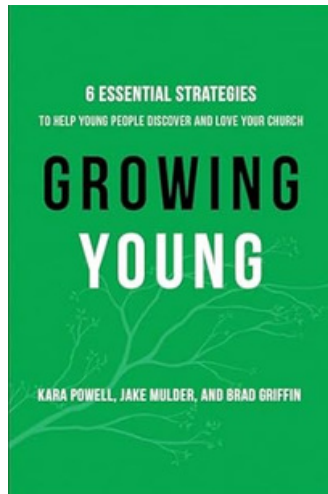
### Weekly Email Devotional Available

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)).

## GROWING YOUNG: AN ONLINE SUMMER STUDY DISCUSSION

“We need more young families.” “Where are the young people?” “Where are my friends?”

If these statements resonate with you, please consider participating this summer in an online study of the book *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*.



### About the book:

All churches grow old. Strategic churches grow young. Across the United States, churches are losing both members and vitality as increasing numbers of young people disengage. Based on groundbreaking research with over 250 of the nation’s leading congregations, *Growing Young* provides a strategy any church can use to involve and retain teenagers and young adults. It profiles innovative churches that are engaging 15- to 29-year-olds and as a result are growing—spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and numerically. Packed with both research and practical ideas, *Growing Young* shows pastors and ministry leaders how to position their churches to engage younger generations in a way that breathes vitality, life, and energy into the whole church.

### About the group:

This will be a private Facebook group (“Growing Young @ St. Mark’s Carmel”) with prompts and discussion threads about each chapter beginning the week of June 3. It’s an asynchronous group—discuss and comment at your convenience, all summer long! We’ll also have some Zoom opportunities to view videos and discuss. Led by Rev. Karla Elliott, Executive Pastor, and Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, Adult Discipleship Coordinator.

## WALKING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

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

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

**Locations may vary, see below**

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



at your own pace on a sessions (9:00am on 5/16, 6/13, 7/18) and Tuesday evening sessions (7:00pm on 5/21, 6/18, 7/23). Sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups) or email [grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org) to be added to the email list for weather updates, location changes, or cancellations.

For the May walks meet at our usual location, the northern entrance outside the restrooms of River Road Park (Now called “Prather Park,” 12575 River Rd.). This park features accessible trails of your choice for a variety of ability levels and terrains. Stay tuned for potential change in locations of June-July walks.

## LIFT: A WIDOWS ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP

Our LIFT (Living Intentionally Forward Together) encouragement group for widows will meet **Friday, May 10, for lunch at Ft.**

**Harrison Inn at Ft. Harrison State Park.** Carpool meets 11:00am from church with a 12:00pm lunch at Ft. Harrison Inn. Wear comfortable shoes for walking if you would like to walk a short easy trail.

**On Tuesday, June 4:** outing to Indianapolis Speedway Track tour, a two-hour golf cart tour which includes a detailed view of all IMS landmarks. Cost is \$14. Time is TBD, likely afternoon followed by dinner. To connect with the LIFT group, sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups) or see Mary Etta Yoho.

## WEEKDAY STUDY UPDATES

**Lydia’s Wednesday morning** (9:30am) study will be doing a 6-session study in May and June, book TBD. Follow updates on [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups) and on the connection tables.

**Pastor Brian’s Wednesday morning** (6:30am and 9:30am) groups will be wrapping up Interpretation Bible Studies: Ruth and Esther on June 5. Books are still available if you’d like to join in May!

**Thursday and Friday studies** will begin their summer break in May.

# Open Groups



## United Women in Faith

### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

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

#### **Sweet End of the Year Celebration Tuesday, May 14 | 7 PM | Wesley Hall**

oin UWF members for the "UWF- Sweet End of the Year Celebration". We are extending this invitation to UWF and St. Mark's women - bring a friend (no children this year). Dress code is casual - spring-like and pastel.

We are planning a wonderful evening of decorating cookies (eating them if you want), enjoying ice cream, and spending an evening of sweet fellowship. Our theme is to enjoy the end of a Sweet Year of UWF, and share it with others - meet someone new, share with someone you know. We will sing, laugh and have a joyful evening. The Selfie Corner will be available for evening pics. Please sign up at <https://stmarkscarmel.org/uwf/> so we will know how many to plan for the evening. Deadline for reservations will be May 7th. There will be no charge; however, there will be a free will offering for the church's playground.

#### **Fundraising**

UWF's Trinkets and Treasures Indoor Yard Sale is coming around before you know it. It will be held on Friday, May 24, 8 AM to 4 PM and Saturday, May 25, 8 AM to noon. All proceeds go to Missions.

When you are spring cleaning and find yourself with precious items that you no longer need, they can be donated to this sale. Donations can be dropped off at Wesley Hall starting Sunday May 19 from noon to 3 pm. We will take donations daily until Thursday May 23rd at 3 pm. We take a multitude of household items, bedding, rugs, toys, books, games, jewelry etc. We will expect small furniture but do not accept clothing, large exercise equipment or large furniture. Want to donate but have no where to store until the sale. Trisha Stanart (317-430-4490) has offered her 3rd garage bay to store items but you must make arrangements to get it to her home.

#### **More Info**

Any questions? Email [uwf@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:uwf@stmarkscarmel.org)  
Read the latest monthly update, find out about fundraising, and more at [stmarkscarmel.org/uwf/](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

## 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.

## PAGE TURNERS

### Book Club Third Tuesdays

Join us on the third Tuesday of each month to discuss our current book selection. Our May 21 book is *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks. Meets in Room G/H.



## 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.



## PICKLEBALL

### Join us Thursdays for Open Gym Pickleball.

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



## 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).

## JULIETS

### Just Us Ladies Interested In Eating Together May 16 | Lunch at 11:30

Please make your reservations by the Monday before to Linda Schenk, [lschenk@att.net](mailto:lschenk@att.net) or 812-454-0661. All women are invited to Matt the Millers in Carmel.

## CRAFT GROUP

### Select Thursdays May 30 | 6:30-8:30 PM

The Craft & Hobby group will meet on May 30. RSVP to Kathy Bartel by 5 pm, May 25 at 317-294-4908 or [krbartel@gmail.com](mailto:krbartel@gmail.com) Contact Kathy for more information.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

### Select Fridays

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



## COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

### Select Mondays

Mostly amateur photographers gathering on the first and third Monday of each month at 9:00 AM, to encourage each other's creativity, demonstrate techniques, share our photos and help each other grow in our knowledge and skill of photography. Bring your camera & 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.



# Committee News

## Stewardship - All In

What do these words bring to mind? Yes, we're all in to play pickleball or basketball, and we are all supportive of a new project for St. Mark's. But in our world today this phrase is a modern-day term with many interpretations but generally, we take it as yes, we are all in agreement, we are "All In."

In Biblical times do you think the Disciples were "All In" when asked by Jesus to stop what they were doing and follow him? In Hebrew the word "all" is taken as "kol" and can mean "all of, each or entire (of us.)" But there is no word for "in." It is a prefix. The closest you will come in The Bible to All In is "all in all" in Corinthians as God being all in all.

As our Stewardship journey continues, we have a chance to use these two simple words and transform them into a glorious movement to the satisfaction of God. We can form them, mold them, build with them, and shape them into our St. Mark's stewardship emphasis for 2024. God is directing us and speaking to us to get "All In" with our time, talents and resources. We just have to listen and get involved in order to achieve and support our missions, outreach and the work of St. Mark's.

As it says in 1 Corinthians 3:9, "We are God's co-workers." Let's work together with God!

## Trustees

Work continues on the kitchen project. The electrical portion of the project is now complete. We are hopeful that the stove will be delivered and wired in place, by the middle of May. Your patience is greatly appreciated, as this project progresses.

The Church parking lot maintenance is tentatively scheduled for the first week of June.

The parking lot cracks will be repaired and the entire parking area will be resealed and striped. Accordingly, the parking lot will have limited access during this period. Weather permitting, it is anticipated that this will take four days to complete. In order to complete this project, vehicles should be out of the lot adjacent to the Gray Road entrance by Sunday evening. Likewise, all vehicles should be out of the lot adjacent to 126 Street by Monday. The striping portion of the project will begin Wednesday or Thursday night and no vehicles should be left in the lot, overnight, as the work will be done overnight. These dates are obviously dependent upon weather conditions and subject to change. Your cooperation and understanding during this temporary period of inconvenience is appreciated.

## 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; NEW: Request publicity in any church publication or communication method; Use the connection tables, kitchen, or office equipment; Request office supplies, announcements, event childcare, and more!**

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

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

# Committee News

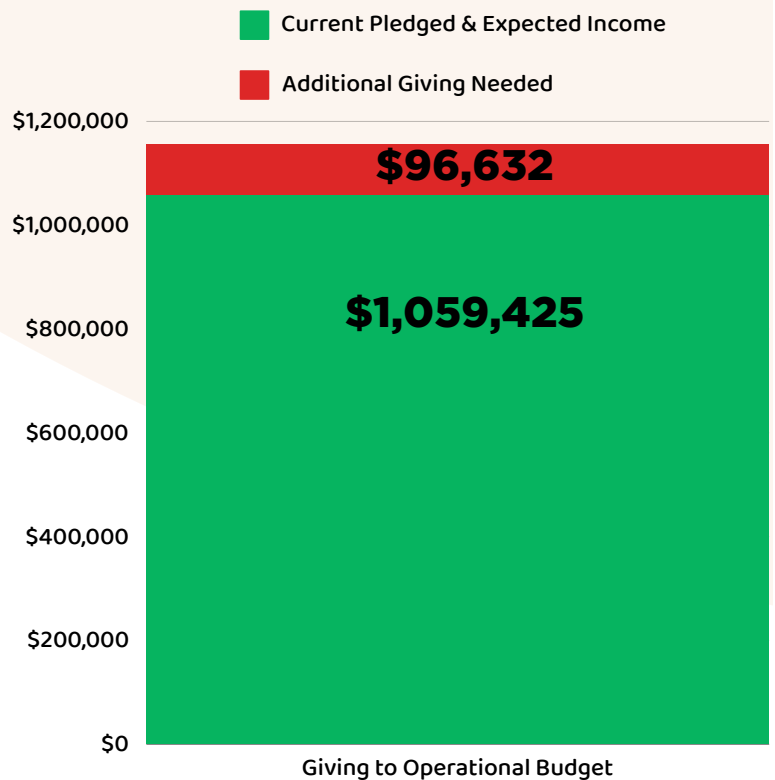
## Financial Update

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!

We also need to let you know about a concern we see on the horizon. So far, our giving in 2024 has been strong and we are thankful for that. However, if our historic giving pattern holds true, we anticipate a significant shortfall as we enter into late summer. 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 \$1,156,057, 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 despite 29% economic inflation over that period. In fact, over the past 10 years, we have maintained largely the same level of expenses, not even adjusting for inflation. 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 a little over \$96,000 from our goal, which equates to an approximate \$8,000 per month shortfall over the course of the year. 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 we are asking you, our St. Mark's members, to consider helping us meet our goal.



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 increasing your pledge by a small percentage or making a one-time gift.

We regularly experience substantially lower giving during the summer months. We anticipate that this will cause a financial shortfall July-September. To reduce the impact of this pattern, we would ask that you consider giving through regular monthly electric funds transfer (ACH). This is an easy option selecting ACH on the website Giving page or you can contact the church office. This small step can help to maintain consistent cash flow throughout the year, ensuring funds are available for our ministry efforts throughout the year.

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

# Breakthrough Prayer

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.



## Breakthrough Prayer Update

St. Mark's launched the breakthrough prayer initiative during Lent of 2023. Each week in worship, in small group gatherings, and in our homes, many of us have prayed for God to open our hearts and minds to new hopes and dreams for our church and in our own lives. St. Mark's is a community that believes in the power of prayer, and we celebrate how God has opened doors and focused our hearts on looking for God moments.

What is next?

Our breakthrough prayer task force is EXCITED to enter the next level of our breakthrough prayer journey with a new, simplified prayer and new ways to share your God moments. This prayer combines some favorite elements of previous prayers and gives us a way to unify St. Mark's with a common prayer to seek God's direction and open doors to possibilities that will transform our lives. We are opening ourselves to God's dreams not only for our own lives but also for St. Mark's, collectively—where is God leading our church?

You are invited to pray this prayer as a family at home and we will pray together when we gather at church. Look for new ways to share your God moments both in worship and in small groups. We are eager to celebrate God moments together.

## COMMUNITY & CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### Sympathies

Our sympathies are with Rich and Kathy Witmer at the loss of their son, Neil.

Our sympathies are with Beth McGill at the loss of her sister-in-law, Kathie.

Our sympathies are with Linda Mitchell-Powell at the loss of her niece, Janice.

Our sympathies are with Bryan Synder at the death of his mother, Carolyn.

### Circle of Caring

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

Carol Anderson, Myrneath Anderson, Steve Baylor, Trish Boger, Doris Carlow, Phyllis Delp, Phyllis Gidley, Carol Hollinger, Nancy Herrington, Dorothy Mecca, Melvin & Marlene Myers, Jane Roberts, Jerry & Brenda Weikel

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

### Meal Train Ministry

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

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

### Help Honor First Responders

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

## 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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