

JUBILEE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ST. MARK'S
United Methodist Church

November 2023

Our Largest Outreach Event!



HOLY WALK

THROUGH BETHLEHEM

DECEMBER 1 & 2

Sign Up Now

stmarkscarmel.org/holy-walk

Advent

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, 12/24

10:30 AM Combined Worship service

Sunday services will be combined into one service which will feature a blend of Contemporary and Traditional worship.

5:00 PM Family Service

Family friendly service. St. Mark's kids are an integral part of this service.

7:00 PM Candlelight | contemporary

Join us for our contemporary Christmas Candlelight service.

9:00PM Candlelight | traditional

Join us for a traditional service of lessons, carols, and candle lighting on Christmas Eve.

11:00 PM Candlelight & Communion

Join us for a traditional service of lessons, carols, candle lighting and communion on Christmas Eve. Communion will be served.

Churchwide Advent Study

Right Here Right Now

This Advent season, as our worship services explore "The Gift of Being Present," we offer several opportunities to go more deeply into this theme by reading and discussing the book *Right Here, Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness* by Amy Oden. For more information on this study see page 14.

Study groups will meet on:

- Wednesdays, 11/29-12/20 | 9:30-11am
- Thursdays, 11/30-12/21 | 10-11:am
- Fridays, 11/17 and 12/1-12/15 (no meeting 11/26) | 9:30-11am
- Sundays in Foundations & Friendships class, 9:40-10:40am, 11/19, and 12/3-12/17

Advent Devotionals

For the Advent season of waiting and preparation, pick up devotionals for children and adults from the church entrance (Door #2) or from the Gathering Area beginning in mid-November. Enjoy spending a regular time through Advent in reflection and prayer to experience for yourself the gift of being present with God, with yourself, and with your family.



Christmas Mission Opportunities

Angel Tree

This holiday season please help us provide Christmas gifts for the children at E. 10th United Methodist Children & Youth Center. Look for the Christmas tree in our narthex, late November, which will be decorated with Angels. Each Angel hung on the tree will be labeled with names of the children at the E. 10th UMC. St. Mark's provides gifts for each specific child, to open at their center's Christmas Party. You will select an angel and purchase a toy in the \$25-\$30 range, suitable for that designated child. Wrapped gifts can then be placed underneath the Angel Tree no later than Sunday, December 10. Contact Amy Adams for more information at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.



Tree of Lights

Honor someone special with a mission offering gift in St. Mark's annual *Tree of Lights* campaign! Honorees will receive a card acknowledging your gift and extending Christmas greetings. This year, our Tree of Lights campaign will benefit Greater Indianapolis Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity offers homeownership opportunities to low-income individuals and families who are unable to obtain conventional home financing. Visit stmarkscarmel.org/lights to complete the Tree of Lights form online, with a minimum donation of \$5.00 per card. 100% of your donations will be given directly to Habitat for Humanity.



Fletcher Place Christmas Program

During November we will be collecting toys, clothing, and food items that will be given to the Fletcher Place Community Center for their Christmas Program. This provides a shopping service for parents living in poverty, who have been qualified as needing assistance, to have Christmas food and gifts for their families. Fletcher Place will be assembling specific wish lists for respective families, in hopes to provide a nice Christmas for each family.



Please visit stmarkscarmel.org/signups for the link to select specific food, clothing and gifts needed. Donations should be NEW and UNWRAPPED and may be dropped off **by Sunday, November 26**. For more info or to volunteer at their Christmas Program during the week of Dec. 4th, contact Amy Adams: aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.

Adopt a Family

Would you or your small group like to sponsor a family in need this holiday season? This year, St. Mark's is excited to be partnering with Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County to "Adopt a Family" for Christmas. Your family/group will need to provide children's toys & clothing items, along with non-perishable food or a gift card for food, then deliver the gifts to the family the week of December 4. If interested, please contact Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org or 317-846-4912.



Holy Walk thru Bethlehem

Friday 12/1 & Saturday 12/2 | 6:00 PM—9:00 PM

The story of Jesus's life comes to life. Experience the choir of angels, shepherds, the village of Bethlehem, wisemen and the manger. Guests will be invited to join us for hot chocolate and cookies. Reservations required. Signups will begin mid November. Look for details in upcoming publications or stmarkscarmel.org/holy-walk



Kids' Night Out (Parents' Night Off!)

Sunday, 12/15 | 5:30—8:30 PM

Parents! It's a special night for you to enjoy some last minute Christmas shopping, have a date night, or even just some quiet time! Drop off your kids (ages 4-10) in Wesley Hall for a fun-filled night of games, activities, videos, and snacks with our fun student counselors (adult directors on-site). Contributions of \$15/child (\$30/family) will serve as a fundraiser for Cornerstone student trips and retreats. Advance registration required by Tuesday, 12/5. Questions? Contact Jackie or Jen at kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org.
Signup at stmarkscarmel.org/kidzfellowship.



Cantata

Sunday, December 10 | 8:15 & 11:00 AM

LOVE (A Gospel Christmas Celebration)

by Joel Raney will be presented by the St. Mark's Chancel Choir, Orchestra, and Praise Band. This gospel-flavored musical reflects on the promise of peace delivered by the angels on the night of Jesus' birth. An original composition, *Love is Born*, is used as musical bookends; it's theme is briefly stated in the second movement and returns in full-blown gospel style at the end to provide an emotion-filled climax. In between, the Christmas story is told through scriptural narration and familiar carols set in a variety of styles ranging from jazz to gospel to calypso.

Kidz Music & Praise Advent Musical

The Good News Goes Viral

Sunday, 12/10 | 1:30 PM

The Musical will be presented in the sanctuary, followed by a cookie reception in the Café. This musical tells the story of Jesus' birth in a new and creative way! There are plenty of roles for young performers and the songs in the musical are traditional carols.





Dear Co-workers in Christ,

We are entering the holiday season. I know it is approaching because there is a blend of masks, harvest items, and Christmas decorations appearing in all the local stores. This confusion of commercial items has led one of my friends to call this season “Hallowthankmas.” It is difficult to distinguish the lines between the various holidays. I can remember when the holidays were neatly divided and allotted their own calendar space. Christmas decoration never appeared in stores until after the Thanksgiving turkey had been joyfully consumed and the Thanksgiving Parade completed.

Now, Santa Claus invades the back-to-school flyers and ghouls and goblins appear well before October 31. The irony is that the holiday that really should be prominent at this moment gets crowded out. Instead of fright or greed – the two emotions that all too often prevail during Halloween and Christmas – we really ought to focus more on giving thanks. In the Bible, the Psalms give us numerous examples of giving thanks to God.

- Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. (Psalms 30:4 NRSV)
- I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good. (Psalms 54:6 NRSV)
- I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. (Psalms 57:9 NRSV)
- Then we your people, the flock of your pasture, will give thanks to you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise. (Psalms 79:13 NRSV)

As we enter this holiday season our attitude should be one of thanksgiving. We begin by giving thanks on November 5 for the saints of the church who have been so instrumental in shaping our past and providing the foundation for our future. On November 23 we will gather with family and friends and give thanks for God’s provision for us throughout the year. As Advent begins, we begin to give thanks for the great gift of Jesus Christ! It is a celebration of “God with us.”

As you begin this season don’t forget to give God thanks. I close with the words of Paul who said things much better than I could: “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.” (Philippians 1:3-5 NRSV)

Giving thanks in Christ,

Brian

The Pastor's Place

Karla Elliott, Associate Pastor
kelliott@stmarkscarmel.org

What's the first thing that comes to mind when we start talking about the month of November? Thanksgiving!

For me, it's a holiday that touches on all the senses. When I start to think about it, I can feel the nip in the air that comes with the change in the weather. I can hear the chatter that comes from being surrounded by family. I can see us all sitting together around the table enjoying a special meal. I can smell the turkey, baking apples, and just a touch of the firewood burning in the fireplace. And my mouth starts to water remembering the taste of the feast we get to share together.



Keeping with the spirit of November's theme of giving thanks, this time of year is a great time to ponder all the things that we're thankful for. Sometimes the best expressions of gratitude are found in simple joys—a heartfelt conversation, a shared meal, or even the comforting presence of community.

Gratitude isn't just a fleeting emotion; it's a choice that affects our daily lives and interactions. It's easy to express thanks for the big, obvious blessings—a loving family, good health, a roof over our heads. But what about the small, seemingly insignificant things that bring color to our lives?

From a warm cup of coffee that jumpstarts our morning to a spontaneous phone call from an old friend, life offers us countless simple joys that often go unnoticed. When we start paying attention to these, it's as if a curtain lifts, revealing a world teeming with reasons to be thankful.

Here at St. Mark's, we have many ways to turn our gratitude into action. Whether you participate in our missions and outreach programs, support community events, or simply take time to listen to someone who needs to talk, each action is a tangible expression of thanks—not just to the individuals you're helping, but to the larger community and the spirit that binds us.

As we approach Thanksgiving, let's celebrate gratitude together as a community. Let's remember to be thankful for not just the big blessings, but also for the everyday miracles that make life so incredibly rich.

In this season and all seasons, may you find joy in both the extraordinary and the simple moments that spark gratitude.

Peace,

Pastor Karla

Mission Focus

Amy Adams, Missions Coordinator
aadams@stmarkscarmel.org

Red Bird Mission

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, Health & Wellness, Community Outreach, Economic Opportunity, and Community Housing Improvement.
 - ◇ 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 includes over 300 home visits annually. They also operate 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. The Red Bird Community Store provides 11 full-time jobs for community residents.
 - ◇ Community Housing Improvement: Volunteers provide home repairs for low-income residents such as roof replacement, painting, building porches or ramps, and grounds keeping.



What Can I Do?

- Donations to support Red Bird Mission may be given online at 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.

Donation & Service Opportunities

Fletcher Place Breakfast

Friday, 11/24 & 12/22

Can you help St. Mark's provide a monthly breakfast for the Fletcher Place Community Center? More help is needed to cook and serve a hot breakfast for their homeless and low-income population, one Friday per month, 7:15-11:15 AM. Volunteers prepare a greatly appreciated meal while enjoying the reward of fellowship and service. ***Please sign up at least one month ahead.*** Learn more and SIGN UP TODAY at stmarkscarmel.org/signups or contact Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.



United Methodist Student Day

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Every year, General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church awards an average of \$5.5 million in financial aid to United Methodist students. The offering taken on United Methodist Student Day is one opportunity to support these scholarships. Every dollar - **yes 100%** - received goes towards supporting and educating a new generation of principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. Supporting this Special Sunday is truly an investment in our future. Donations may be given online at stmarkscarmel.org/give or by using the Special Mission envelope in your bulletin on November 26.

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 now offering a "Client Choice" food pantry, once per month, on the 2nd week of each month. Volunteers help with shelving food on racks and assisting clients with shopping. Clients select foods that best meet their needs.



- 2nd Tuesdays—11:30 receiving food and shelving
- 2nd Wednesday - 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, joediane244@att.net for more information and to sign up.

Family Promise

Apartment Shelter Meals

During November, St. Mark's will provide a weekly dinner for 2 families, each Thursday, in Family Promise's Apartment Shelters. The wonderful success of this program is made possible with the love and generosity from you! Please consider how you can help by providing a meal or delivering meals. Visit stmarkscarmel.org/signups to see dates needed. Contact Jeff DeaKyne for questions, jkdeakyne@gmail.com.



Blood Drive

Sunday, 11/12 | 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Thank you to the many volunteers and willing blood donors who have participated in St. Mark's 2023 Blood Drives so far this year!



Blood donors are an essential part of hospitals saving patients' lives. There is no substitute for blood and the need for it is vital. The continued plea indicates the emergency need has not slowed down. Life-saving blood is a daily need. Rolling up your sleeve is truly appreciated! Contact Mindy Davis at melinda.kay.moores.davis@gmail.com for more info. Sign up TODAY at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Because You Give, St. Mark's Gives!

Thank you for your generous support of the missions of St. Mark's. Since the October newsletter we have given to:

- **Brightwood Community Center:** 5 bags of food for pantry
- **Changing Footprints:** 301 pairs of shoes
- **Delaware Township Food Pantry:** 8 bags of food
- **Family Promise Apartment Shelter supply drive:** 97 items
- **Fletcher Place Community Center:** 71 hot breakfasts served, 640 instant meal cups, 320 packets of oatmeal, 25 scarf/hat/gloves sets
- **Hamilton County Kids Coats:** 101 coats, 1 snowpant, 12 gloves, 2 hats, 25 scarf/hat/glove sets
- **Mission Mailbox Care Cards:** 85 cards for various missional organizations
- **Roberts Park:** 150 Christmas Gift Bags for homeless clients, 125 hot meals served, 125 to-go lunch bags
- **Society of St. Andrew:** \$7092.82, 39,600 lbs potatoes and 4,800 lbs apples
- **Travel Size Toiletries:** 8 bags
- **World Communion Sunday:** \$126.00

Thank you for Mission In Action 2023!

MISSION IN ACTION DAY



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thank you, members of St. Mark's, for putting mission into action last month! The love extended to our brothers and sisters in Christ, serving both physical and spiritual nourishment, is beyond measure. We had 155+ volunteers serve at onsite and offsite mission projects over two days. BIG THANKS to the following MIA weekend leaders: Wayne Uhl, Jeff Salsbery, Linda Schenk, Tish Uthoff, David Adams, Hal Espey, Peggy Anne Hoy, Beth Montag, Charlie Mills, Janice Presley, Jackie Rowell, Missi Koenig and Carol Branson.

Your generosity and service allowed St. Mark's to

provide the following:

- 39,600 pounds of potatoes and 5000 pounds of apples distributed at Potato Drop
- 125 hot meals and sack lunches served at Soup's On at Roberts Park UMC
- Over 300 pairs of shoes donated and sorted at Changing Footprints
- Fletcher Place Donation closets sorted and organized
- Over 100 coats plus several pairs of gloves, hats, & scarves donated and sorted at Hamilton County Kids Coats
- Carmel UMC Food pantry cleaned and restocked
- East 10th Community Center playground mulched and garden beds cleaned up
- Over 85 Mission Mailbox Care Cards created
- Over 150 Christmas Gift Bags for Roberts Park UMC assembled

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:1-2



Sunday Programming

Nursery & Toddler Care

8:15, 9:40, & 11:00 AM

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

current kidz | 9:40 AM

Age 4-4th Grade Lower Level Classrooms

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

Club 56 | 9:40 AM

Grade 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 4-8 Upper Level Room 10

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

Kidz Learn & Grow | 11:00 AM

Age 4-Grade 3 Upper Level Classroom

Grades 4-8 Lower Level Den

Bible stories come to life through music, crafts, games, and video in this engaging hour of fellowship and learning.

Kidz Music & Praise

Ages 4-Grade 4, Upper Level

Begins in Room 6, Pick up in Room 10

This high energy class teaches the weekly scripture through singing, movement, instruments, drama, puppets, games,

and crafts. Kidz Music & Praise shares their talents in worship services, programs, and special events.

11/19 | 11:00 AM -Kidz Music & Praise and Harmonic Voices sing in worship.

12/10 | 1:30 PM -*Save the Date*

Advent Musical! "The Good News Goes Viral"

Presented in the sanctuary, followed by a cookie reception in the café.

Club 56 Bowling Party

**Sunday, 11/12 | 1:00 PM—
3:00 PM**



Any students in grades 5-6 are welcome to attend and bring friends! Cornerstone is covering the cost of bowling and shoes, so just show up (no sign-ups) to Woodland Bowl with your A-Game! Details at stmarkscarmel.org/club56. Contact Don Broad with questions dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org

Holy Walk 2023

**Friday & Saturday | 12/1 &
12/2**



Holy Walk is a live nativity experience that welcomes all ages to follow Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. Children ages 5+ are encouraged to participate at the manger scene as angels and shepherds. Students ages 16+ can volunteer to be Mary or Joseph. Children/teens will rotate in shifts standing at the manger and enjoy snacks/crafts in a supervised room in-between rotations. Signups at stmarkscarmel.org/holy-walk. This is the largest community outreach event at St. Mark's and a great way for families to serve together.

St. Mark's Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

11/2 | 9:30 AM- 11:15 AM | TBD

11/16 | 9:30 AM-11:15 AM | Saying Yes to Your Marriage-Speaker, Kerrie Siegle

11/30 | 9:30 AM-11:15 AM | Cultivating Healthy Rhythms for Presence- Speaker, Seana Scott

Time Out for Moms! Come join with a group of women who just "get it" (and have a cup of coffee while it's still warm!). Our MOPS 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 MOPS Moms' Night Out events, family play dates, and child-free monthly coffee/brunch dates. Learn more at mopsatst.marks@gmail.com.



Christmas Eve Family Worship Service

Sunday, December 24 | 5:00 PM

The holiday season is approaching, and Children's Ministry would like to extend you an invitation to participate in this year's Advent and Christmas Eve opportunities! The 5 PM Family Christmas Eve service is a special worship service that is almost entirely student led. Please go to the sign-up link, stmarkscarmel.org/signups (scroll down to the Kidz Church header) and choose the way(s) your family and/or children wish to participate. Please note that there is a short dress rehearsal for this service scheduled on 12/17 at 12:15 PM in the sanctuary. Please check your schedules and do your best to attend if you sign up for a role in the service. In addition to Christmas Eve, consider choosing from the several Sunday mornings in advent when your family can lead the lighting of the Advent Wreath together. Sign-ups for those are included in the link above as well.

Kidz Mission of the Month

November Mission- Fletcher Place Community Center

Mission is a way of life at St. Mark's, and what better way to live out this motto than by starting with our youngest members! Each month, Kidz Church will introduce a new mission that children can relate to and get involved in supporting. November's mission is Fletcher Place Community Center. Please choose from this list of specific items to donate:



- Toys for 6-10-year-olds
- 5 new backpacks
- Clothing for Boys: Tops Only (another organization is providing bottoms) Boy's 3T, 4T, 5T, 4/5 XS, 6/7 S, 8 M, 10/12 L, 14/16 XL, 18/20 XXL

Have your child(ren) bring their donation to Kidz Church and drop it in the bin at the check-in station. Please let us know if your family would like to be part of delivering the items at the end of the month. Thank you for encouraging your child(ren) to be a part of giving this holiday season!

Cornerstone Programming

SUNDAY MORNING

Cornerstone AM | 9:40 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, the class attends worship together.

Cornerstone Sunday Worship-Any Service High School (Grades 9-12)

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

SUNDAY EVENING PROGRAMMING

Cornerstone Fellowship | 6:01-8:01 PM

High School & Middle School (Grades 7-12)

Led by DKB, a team of adult volunteers, and Keystone (our team of student leaders). Cornerstone Fellowship is a time of games, snacks, devotions, discussions, fellowship, and surprises. You won't want to miss a week! Friends are always welcome to join us as well!

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Middle School & High School | 5:00-5:30 PM

Led by DKB and other adult volunteers. Join us on Instagram Live. In person option starting in January.

THURSDAY

Starbucks | 5:00 PM—7:00 PM

Led by DKB. Grab a cup of coffee, discuss whatever is on your mind, get questions answered, or just simply hang out.

Kids' Night Out

(Parents' Night Off!)

Friday, 12/15 | 5:30 PM- 8:30 PM

A chance for Cornerstone students in grades 5 and 6 to help serve as counselors for younger kids so their parents can have a night off. Cornerstone students earn money for their Cornerstone account that can be used for Summer Camps, Workcamp, Retreats, or other events. Signup at stmarkscarmel.org/kidzfellowship.

Club 56 Bowling

Sunday, 11/12 | 1:00 PM—3:00 PM

Woodland Bowl, 3421 E 96th Street

Students in grades 5 and 6 are welcome to join for bowling. More details on page 10.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, 11/26 | 6:01 PM to 8:01 PM

Students currently in grades 7 through 12 are invited to gather for a Thanksgiving meal, a quick message, and to watch *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving*. Friends are welcome! No sign-up—just show up!

Upcoming December Events

Club 56 Christmas Party

Sunday, 12/17 | 1:00- 2:30 PM

Cornerstone Christmas Party

Sunday, 12/17 | 6:01 PM—8:01 PM

Adult Discipleship

Dr. Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, Adult Discipleship Coordinator
grow@stmarkscarmel.org

What are your God sightings?

If you've not tried it yet, I hope you'll set a daily reminder for 8:00pm to join in the St. Mark's breakthrough prayer. Whatever you call them—God sightings, God moments, God stories, breakthroughs, goosebumps moments, or Holy Spirit power—this daily short prayer keeps us in a spirit of *openness* to seeing the ways God moves in our lives and calls us to act in new ways. See the fall 2023 breakthrough prayer on page 23 and celebrate your God moments and breakthroughs at stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough. — JCB

LIFT: a Widows Encouragement Group

Off-site gatherings on 11/7, 12/5

Our LIFT (Living Intentionally Forward Together) encouragement group for widows has two off-site activities in Nov-Dec. To connect, see Mary Etta Yoho, contact Jennifer Cloud-Buckner (317-846-4912, grow@stmarkscarmel.org) or sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/growgroups.

Followers Made: an intensive 6-month spiritual experience

Beginning 2024

Have you been feeling God calling you to make some kind of spiritual change in your life? Perhaps in your breakthrough prayer time, you've been feeling nudged to change your habits, to nurture the fruit of the spirit in your life, to find some spiritual accountability, to answer a new calling, or to build your character to love all others the way Jesus did. If so, Pastor Karla has been praying for you! If this message speaks to you, may it serve to plant a seed in your heart and mind in the coming months before the invitations begin for the 2024 Followers Made course—a digital discipleship experience. If you'd like to learn more, please reach out to Pastor Karla, kelliott@stmarkscarmel.org.

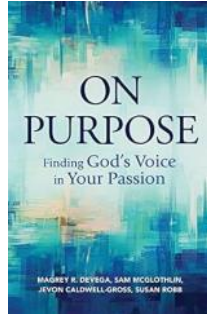
Sign up and see more info at stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups

Questions? Email Jennifer Cloud-Buckner (grow@stmarkscarmel.org).

On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion

Wednesdays, 11/1-11/15 | 9:30-11am | led by Lydia Fourman & Joan Dunn | Room J-K | Books \$12

We are hungry for a sense of purpose, direction, and calling in our lives—to be part of something bigger than ourselves, with deeper meaning and lasting impact. In *On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion*, authors Magrey deVega, Sam McGlothlin, Jevon Caldwell-Gross, and Susan Robb help us see God's purpose for our lives, how to open ourselves to God's voice, and how to take the first or next step to follow God's call. By reading this book and exploring life choices alongside others through new life stages and transitions, you will learn how to channel your passions, hear God's voice, and live the life you were meant to live.



Discipleship Resources Available

Check out our stmarkscarmel.org/discipleship page for update resources for spiritual rhythms, devotional and practices, and personal spiritual growth. Questions? Email Jennifer at grow@stmarkscarmel.org.

Churchwide Advent Study *Right Here Right Now*

This Advent season, as our worship services explore “The Gift of Being Present,” we offer several opportunities to go more deeply into this theme by reading and discussing the book *Right Here, Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness* by Amy Oden.

This study offers a refreshing break to slow down and experience God's presence during the holiday rush of errands, to-do's, events, and appointments. Author Amy Oden shows how the practice of Christian mindfulness begins with the teachings of Jesus and continues throughout Christian history. *Right Here Right Now* also includes step-by-step instructions for the practice of Christian mindfulness today, to deepen our life of faith and the power of our mission of love in the world. When we understand how radical it is to live in God's presence right here, right now, our lives are transformed toward mercy, justice and abundant life.



How can you get involved? Study groups will meet on:

- Wednesdays, 11/29-12/20 | 9:30-11am
- Thursdays, 11/30-12/21 | 10-11:am
- Fridays, 11/17 and 12/1-12/15 (no meeting 11/26) | 9:30-11am
- Sundays in Foundations & Friendships class, 9:40-10:40am, 11/19, and 12/3-12/17.

Keep watching stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups and stmarkscarmel.org/advent for other opportunities to engage.

Open Groups

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?



Next Meeting

November 14 | 9:30AM & 7PM

Join us in the morning or the evening meeting. Childcare is available at the morning gatherings by registering your child(ren) at least 72 hours in advance. Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/signups/

Interest Groups Information

Bookworms will discuss "You Just Don't Understand-Women and Men in Conversation" by Dr. Deborah Tannen. Bookworms will need to obtain their own copy.

Spiritual Growth, Led by Pastor Karla Elliott, will read Nevertheless: American Methodists and Women's Rights.

Cultural Insights will hear about travel experience in Turkey. Find out about all of the Interest Groups at stmarkscarmel.org/uwf/

JOIN THE UWF BOARD

Have you been looking for ways to get more involved at St. Mark's? United Women in Faith offer so many opportunities. There are still positions open on the Board:

- Vice President of Programming & Interest Groups

- Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation.

Find out more about these positions at stmarkscarmel.org/uwf/

UWF Reading Program

United Women in Faith National Reading Program consists of reading selected books organized into five categories. Faith Talks is also part of the program. For more information contact Kathy Lentz, kathy-lentz@gmail.com or (317) 652-0487.

Fundraising

Our **November Arts & Crafts Marketplace** will be held Saturday, 11/4. St. Mark's Crafters may also donate handcrafted items to the UWF craft table. Popular items include matching knit scarves and hats, aprons, ornaments, and American Girl doll clothes and jewelry.

Calling all bakers and candy makers! Please consider donating your homemade baked goods or candy items for the upcoming Arts and Crafts Marketplace bake sale table. Items can be left on the cart outside the church office on Friday, Nov. 3rd from 9 am -noon or you may bring them to Wesley Hall from 5 PM - 7 PM. Please label items and note if they contain nuts. Items should be individually wrapped or in small amounts (e.g., 6 pretzel rods, 6 cookies, etc.). Decoratively wrapped treats for the Christmas holidays are especially appreciated! Any questions? Email uwf@stmarkscarmel.org

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

UMM Meeting

Saturday, 11/11 | 7:30 AM

It's football season, and our UMM breakfast speaker for November is Mark Baltz, a resident of Zionsville who has spent 50 years as a sports official, including 25 years as a head linesman in the National Football League. He officiated in 21 post-season NFL games, 5 conference championships, and the 2013 Super Bowl. He spent his early years in the Mid-American Conference and the Big Ten. He has refereed boy's high school football and basketball, and both men's and women's college basketball for most of his 50 years as an official.



Join us on Saturday, November 11, at 7:30 am in Wesley Hall to hear stories of Mark's "Life as a Sports Official."

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 money and time to many Missions. For more information, visit stmarkscarmel.org/umm. For more information about UMM or to be added to the email list, contact Roger Schmenner, umm@stmarkscarmel.org.

Marksmen

Starbucks-116th & Keystone

11/9 | 6:30 AM

A community of career-and family-focused men seeking to develop relationships while we unplug from the daily stress that life can bring. If you have any questions or would like to be put on our list, email marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org.

Juliets

Thursday, 11/16 | Cooper's Hawk

Thursday, 12/21 | Tilly's Tea Room *

**December lunch will be at noon*

Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together- Interested in having lunch with the girls Join the JULIETS for lunch the **3rd Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM**. Each woman is responsible for paying for her own meal. All women are invited, young or retired, stay-at-home or working - whatever stage of life you're in!

Lunch will begin at 11:30. Please make your reservations by the Monday before. Coordinators are Linda Schenk, lschenk@att.net or Sandi McCracken, smccracken75@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Open Group Schedule

Mondays

COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

11/6 & 11/20 | 9:00 AM

This self-help camera group meets for conversation about photographic art & technique. Bring your camera & your questions. Contact Ken Shultz, ken_shultz@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Tuesdays

PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, 11/21 | 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

Vanishing Half by Britt Benton. Join us the 3rd Tuesday of each month if you enjoy good books, discussions, and a shared evening with new/old friends. If you have any questions, contact Marcia Flora, mflora1950@yahoo.com.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

MENS BASKETBALL

7 PM

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

Wednesdays

ROMEOS (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT)

Le Peep | 86th & Keystone | 11:00 AM

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

Thursdays

JULIETS

Thursday, 11/16 | 11:30 AM

Cooper's Hawk | 3815 E. 96th Street

Juliets (Just Us Ladies Interested In Eating Together) meet at 11:30. Please contact Sandi McCracken at 210-279-7878 or email smccracken75@yahoo.com by 11/13 so current reservations can be made or for more information. All women are invited!

CRAFT GROUP

Thursday, 11/16 | 6:00 PM—9:00 PM

The Craft group will meet Thursday, November 16 from 6pm-9pm. RSVP by 5pm, November 15. Contact Kathy Bartel, 317-294-4908 or krbartel@gmail.com for more information.

PICKLEBALL

7:00 PM

Join us Thursdays for Open Gym Pickleball. All welcome (16 and older). Contact Doug Brown, dthbrown@gmail.com, or Janet Brown, grandeyb@gmail.com for more information.

Committee News

As we continue on our path of Extravagant Generosity—both individually and as the family of St. Mark’s—we open our hearts and minds to listen to what God is asking us to do. How are we transformed by God not only to support ourselves but to support each other and those in need? Extravagant Generosity tells us that we will be extremely abundant with our generosity. We might have to give up something, sacrifice something, or make tough decisions about the ways we spend our time, resources, and attention.



What does sacrifice look like for us in our lives today? We can glimpse a deeper kind of sacrifice in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.” If you have ever visited the national military park at Gettysburg and observed the rows of graves simply marked “unknown” you can see the heart-wrenching sacrifices made by those families and loved ones who never had an opportunity for closure.

Our journey of stewardship is a way of life—of ongoing, daily choices to be more generous and sacrifice in the many dimensions of our lives. This will not happen instantaneously as we expect in today’s society. Just as Jesus Christ was on a journey that ended in God’s kingdom, we strive to become more joyful and faithful as stewards in our relationships, with our resources, time, and wealth. By initiating, nurturing, and strengthening the ways we interact with friends, family, our church, community, and the world, we move down the path. Think of all the lives St Mark’s touches with the numerous missions, outreach programs, in-house programs that we have.

I have had some questions about the pie chart on our stewardship brochure made available in August. To clarify, the tithe listed in the chart is our connectional giving to our district and conference that supports the entire United Methodist Church. The Worship/Music section includes pastoral items, music staff and program support, and worship costs (Communion, bulletins, flowers, audiovisual, etc). The Administrative/Office section includes our church office, supplies, technology and administrative support.

In November, you will be asked to update your pledge commitment for our annual operations budget and building fund. Because St. Mark’s is a community of followers that strives to Welcome all people, Grow in knowledge and grace, and Serve our neighbors, you can be assured that your giving to the operations budget supports this mission to Welcome, Grow, and Serve. Your giving provides clean and well-lit classrooms for groups; creates engaging and hospitable worship services with strong music programs; and supports our expansive activities in and beyond our walls that help people grow in Christ, in community, and in service to others. When we go beyond our church walls in mission—building Habitat homes and wheelchair ramps, feeding the hungry, clothing those in need, and supporting under-served populations —know that your operations giving provides the infrastructure to make St. Mark’s a place where mission is a way of life. We pray these worthwhile activities will continue. You can make that happen through your Extravagant Generosity. It is easy; return the pledge card, visit stmarkscarmel.org/pledge, or use the QR code. Thanks and may God bless!

As we travel our ongoing stewardship paths, let us be mindful that our breakthrough prayer asks, “God of abundance, open our hearts and minds this season and always.”

SPRC

Jenny Rundle's Retirement

Dear St. Mark's UMC Family,

It is with a mixture of joy and sadness that we announce the retirement of our beloved Office Manager, Jenny Rundle. Jenny will be retiring at the end of this calendar year after serving our community for 8 wonderful years.

Jenny's steadfast dedication, compassion, and invaluable contributions have made our community a better place. We are incredibly grateful for the ways she has served St. Mark's, always with a warm smile and open heart.

While we will miss Jenny's daily presence in the office, we are excited that she plans to stay actively involved in our community through volunteer work. We look forward to seeing her continue to bless us in new ways!

Please join us in thanking Jenny for her years of service and wishing her all the best in this new chapter of her journey.

Grace and peace,
SPRC Committee

Trustees

The Trustees have posted temporary signs throughout the church. There are forms in the narthex for you to provide feedback on these signs and their location.



The trustees are also working on repairs to the roof.

Library

Have you checked out our online library catalog?

Go to St. Mark's website,

stmarkscarmel.org and click on the Grow menu, then Library, and then Electronic catalog.



To search for an item, type the title, author, subject, series or keyword in the box in the upper left corner and click the GO button. Clicking on the title in red will provide more information about the book. Any text in red is a link. You may click on an author, subject heading or series title in red and bring up more search results for related areas.

You'll find this an easy way to explore library resources from the comfort of your own home with any of your electronic devices. The electronic catalog is also accessible on the computer in the library.

Upcoming Events

stmarkscarmel.org/events

St. Mark's Preschool Dine to Donate

Chipotle | 12697 Pennsylvania Street, Carmel, IN

Tuesday, 11/14 | 5:00 PM—9:00 PM

Enjoy a night off from cooking and benefit the church playground renovation at the same time! This month's Dine-to-Donate takes place at **Chipotle**. In-person orders need to show a flyer at the restaurant; online orders must be for pickup only (no delivery) and use the code JF2CQ3Y. Flyers can be found at stmarkscarmel.org/preschoolevents.



St. Mark's Presents Indy Wind Flute Choir

Sunday, 11/26 | 2:00 PM

The Indy Winds Flute Choir is a high-level group of about 30 members that performs several times a year around the city. Led by local musician and yogi extraordinaire, Laura Dubish, they perform mostly classical arrangements of pieces for flute, piccolo, alto, bass, and contrabass flute.



Arts & Craft Marketplace

Saturday, 11/4 | 9:00 AM—4:00 PM

Visit the Arts & Craft Marketplace sponsored by United Women In Faith. on Saturday, November 4. Vendors will feature unique, handmade items perfect for Holiday gifting and decorating. Plan on eating lunch at the Candy Cane Café.(see Page 24 for more information)



United
Women
in Faith

Pecans are coming! Pecans are coming!!

We will be selling pecans again this November. Be on the look out for sign ups to help sell Pecans between services and to purchase them for yourself, teacher gifts, Christmas gifts! Contact uwf@stmarkscarmel.org with questions.

Community News

Directory

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Borgmann
2343 Crofte Drive
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

Deirdre Robinson
405 Parkview Place, Apt C
Carmel, IN 46032

Sympathies

To the family of Lynn Lareau.

To Jill Gorzalski at the death of Betty Lachman, her mother.

To Ada Hoffmaster at the death of Cathy Foutch, her sister.

To Karla Elliott at the death of Virginia Pattengale, her aunt.

To Sharon Craib at the death of Wilma Robinson, her mother.

To Jim Waldron at the death of Karen Brune, his sister.

To Karen Bortolini at the death of Arthur Bortolini, her husband.

To Pat Weeks at the death of her grand niece, Erin Baker.

To Dorothy Wiens at the death of her nephew.

Births

Brooklyn Mae Hutchinson born on September 22 to Kevin and Ashley (Schaefer) Hutchinson. Grandparents are Nole and Kassie Schaefer.

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 brothers and sisters in Christ mean so much to them and to their families.

Myrnych Anderson

Jean Anderson

Dorothy Mecca

Doris Carlow

Phyllis Delp

Carol Hollinger

Phyllis Gidley

Jane Roberts

Georgia Herzog

Melvin Myers

Marlene Myers

Jerry Weikel

Brenda Weikel

Hanging of the Greens

If you are interested in helping decorating the church for Advent, please email



staff@stmarkscarmel.org. We will need help putting up wreaths, putting out poinsettias, putting up Christmas trees, etc. This year Advent begins on 12/3. We will be decorating the week before.

Holy Walk Returns! We Need Your Help.

Friday, December 1 & Saturday, December 2

Help us make the story of Jesus's birth come to life! In December, our congregation, friends, and community will once again gather to celebrate a bi-annual event that—once you experience it—will become a treasured memory, a story to share, and a Christmas tradition for your family. Thousands of guests have joined us for our live re-enactment of Bethlehem since it began in 1999, and we expect 2000-3000 people to attend in 2023! Guests call it “magical,” “unforgettable,” “a family tradition,” and the “the true meaning of Christmas.”

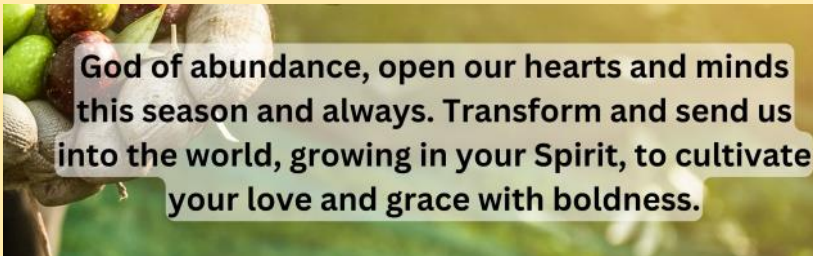


As our largest community outreach event, Holy Walk requires more than 200 volunteers. What gifts do you bring? Will you serve behind the scenes—for hospitality, building the village and outposts, food, costumes, parking and transportation, securing sheep and donkeys, laying fires for the shepherds, and more—or will serve in the spotlight as a musician, angel, Roman Guard, guide for guests, shepherd, prophet, merchant, or other part? Visit stmarkscarmel.org/holy-walk to learn where you can help. Sign up today at stmarkscarmel.org/signups ! If you have questions, look for Committee Members in the gathering area between services.



Breakthrough Prayer Initiative

During the Thanksgiving season we often reflect on what is on our gratitude list. What is included on your gratitude list? Where are you seeing God's abundance? Have you experienced spaces of transformation that you want to celebrate? Do you feel more connected to the Holy Spirit through prayer, in good times or during challenges seasons? Have you noticed love and grace being cultivated at St. Mark's, in your neighborhood, or through your community? We want to celebrate gratitude together. Please share your thankfulness breakthroughs at stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough.





ARTS AND CRAFTS MARKETPLACE

SAT, NOV 4 | 9AM-3PM

25 VENDORS

FEATURING UNIQUE, HANDMADE ITEMS PERFECT
FOR HOLIDAY GIFTING AND DECORATING!

JEWELLED FRAMES & TREES PAINTED ROCKS
WOODEN TOYS **ORNAMENTS**
HANDMADE JEWELRY KNIT & CROCHET ITEMS
QUILTED PURSES DECORATIVE SCARVES



ENJOY HOME-BAKED ITEMS AND A LIGHT
LUNCH AT OUR CANDY CANE CAFE



ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CARMEL, IN 46033
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