

***JUBILEE***

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ST. MARK'S  
United Methodist Church

October 2023

# MIA Day & Potato Drop

Serve with us on  
October 21 & 22

[stmarkscarmel.org/mia-day](http://stmarkscarmel.org/mia-day)





## Potato Drop | Saturday, October 21 MIA Day | Sunday, October 22

Mark your calendar and join us for our annual churchwide event, Mission In Action! Members of St. Mark's will mobilize the message of Christ's love, living out our motto, "where mission is a way of life". Saturday fills our parking lot with a "Potato Drop", giving out 40,000 lbs of potatoes. Sunday begins with fellowship gathering in Wesley Hall, then we will "worship in service", working as the hands and feet of Jesus. A variety of mission projects will be available both offsite in our community and here at St. Mark's UMC.

### Mission In Action Day Projects

#### Onsite Projects @ St. Mark's

Christmas Gift Bags for Roberts Parks  
Outdoor church clean-up  
Fletcher Place Community Center  
Mission Mailbox Care Cards  
Potato Drop

#### Offsite Projects @ Community Partners

Changing Footprints Shoe Sort  
Hamilton County Kids Coat Sort  
E. 10th Mulching Project  
Soups On (Roberts Park)  
Carmel Food Pantry

#### In-Kind Donations

Socks  
Bottles of Water

Food for Soup's On  
Granola Bars

Visit [stmarkscarmel.org/mia-day](http://stmarkscarmel.org/mia-day) for more details.

Signup today [stmarkscarmel.org/signups!](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups!)



Dear Co-workers in Christ,

It's the time of year when we are asked as a church to put together a pile of forms in anticipation of our annual meeting with our District Superintendent. At Charge Conference we summarize, philosophize, and theologize. But mostly, we count. We count members, attendees, and Sunday School students. We count insurance premiums and building costs. We count leaders and jobs and hope they come out together. And we ask ourselves, how do you measure a church?

On our Charge Conference forms we will report that we have taken in new members this year. We will report about our finances, our building, and our grounds. We will report that we have invested time, money, and prayer in new programs and ministries. We will report that we have hired new staff members. All of these things are signs of growth that will appear on our reports in various ways.

To my mind, however, there are a myriad of things that should be reported that cannot be quantified and categorized. To me the measure of our church is the lives that have been touched by Christ because our doors are open, and the word is proclaimed. Our faithfulness is measured by the times we were present with people in need. Or by the telephone calls at odd hours that remind us that God's work doesn't always happen from nine to five. I would like to enter these into the record of the church.

To me the most important document to record may be a crayon drawing of three crosses on a green hill with a black sky. In it is represented one child's early understanding that Christ died for him. It is a sign of hope that the message is getting through, that another generation will experience the grace of God and proclaim it to yet another generation.

These things I would enter into the record of the church, but there is not a line for crayon drawings or a question about tearful hospital visits. And so, like Mary, I ponder these things in my heart and thank God that the church is alive and that lives are being touched in Jesus' name. As Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40, NRSV) This is the measure of the church.

In Christ's service,

*Brian*

# The Pastor's Place

Karla Elliott, Associate Pastor  
[kelliott@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:kelliott@stmarkscarmel.org)

Dear St. Mark's family,

October has always held a special place in my heart, especially being an Indiana native. There's just something about the crispness in the air, the golden hues of the leaves, and the cozy feeling of wrapping up in a warm scarf or sweater that evokes feelings of change, comfort, and contemplation.

As I observe the transformation taking place in nature, I am reminded of the words in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." This passage holds profound wisdom, reminding us that life is made up of seasons—some easy and some challenging, but all essential for our growth and development.

Fall is nature's way of signaling a time for change. The trees shed their leaves in preparation for the cold months ahead, knowing that with spring, new growth will appear. Likewise, our lives are continually undergoing seasons of change, and it's how we navigate through these transitions that shape our faith journey.

There's something beautiful about the idea that, just as the earth trusts in the natural order of things, so too should we place our trust in the ever-constant love and grace of God. In every season, whether one of joy or sorrow, we are not alone; God is with us, ushering us into the next chapter of our lives. This October, as the leaves change color and the air turns chilly, let's take a moment to be still and thank God for the seasons—both in nature and in life.

Fall is also a great time to renew our commitments, whether it's spending more time with family or deepening our spiritual lives. Let's be intentional about embracing the season and trusting that God will lead us through the changes that lie ahead.

Thank you for being a vital part of our church family. Your presence makes all the seasons more meaningful.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Karla



# Mission Focus

Amy Adams, Missions Coordinator  
[aadams@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:aadams@stmarkscarmel.org)



## "Rebuilding Lives- Committed to Addiction Recovery"

### Did you Know?

- Lucille Raines Residence (LRR) is a facility owned and operated by the United Women in Faith of Indiana (UWF).
- LRR, located in downtown Indianapolis, was founded in 1977.
- LRR houses up to 49 individuals recovering from alcohol and drug addiction, giving people a place to rebuild their lives and relationships with God, all while learning how to function independently day-to-day and working on successful recovery.
- LRR is in GREAT financial need due to UWF units disbanding locally and aging members.
- The operating budget at LRR requires \$8,500 per month from United Women in Faith of Indiana to maintain this ministry. There has been a deficit of several thousand dollars for a number of months, putting this crucial ministry at risk.

### How Can I Help?

- Financial donations to Lucille Raines Residence can be made online at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give) or by using the offering envelope in the blue attendance pads.
- Pray for the residents and staff of Lucille Raines Residence.
- Contact Beth Montag of St. Mark's United Women in Faith for more information on ways you can help ([bjmontag@frontier.com](mailto:bjmontag@frontier.com)).

# Donation & Service Opportunities

## Red Bird Mission Trip

November 5–10 | Beverly, KY

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



Join St. Mark's on a mission trip this fall to Red Bird Mission in the Appalachian Mountains. It offers a service opportunity for volunteers in mission as they provide home repair for low-income residents of their community.

Cost is \$425. Meals and lodging are included. Attendees stay in climate-controlled cabins set up as bunk houses, meals and devotional time are shared in the dining hall. Please prayerfully consider joining our mission team! Contact Robert Jennings, our Red Bird team leader, if you are interested or have questions, contact [missions@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:missions@stmarkscarmel.org).

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:joediane244@att.net) for more information and to sign up.

## Fletcher Place Breakfast

Friday, 10/27 & 11/24

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 AM-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](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups) or at the connection tables in the narthex.



## 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](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups) to see dates needed. Contact Jeff DeaKyne for questions, [jkdeakyne@gmail.com](mailto:jkdeakyne@gmail.com).

## Apartment Shelter Program Restocking Supply

During October, St. Mark's is collecting supplies to help Family Promise restock their apartments in the Apartment Shelter Program. These items are stocked in new apartments as they are leased to incoming families, giving them a fresh start in their new "home". The wonderful success of this program is made possible with the love and generosity from you! Please consider donating from the list below. Items can be left in the donation bins at St. Mark's, inside door #2, Monday-Friday, between 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM. Learn more at [stmarkscarmel.org/in-kind-donations](http://stmarkscarmel.org/in-kind-donations).

Thank you for helping families during their challenging transitions!

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Paper Towels        | 13-gallon Trash Bags                       |
| Toilet Paper        | Napkins                                    |
| Sponges             | Brillo pads                                |
| Dish Soap           | Laundry Detergent                          |
| Dryer Sheets        | Toilet Bowl Cleaner                        |
| Small First Aid Kit | Pillows (must be new)                      |
|                     | Liquid Hand Soap Dispensers                |
|                     | Liquid Hand Soap Refill (32 + oz)          |
|                     | Shower Liner with Rings                    |
|                     | Anti-Bacterial Multi-Surface Spray Cleaner |

## Volunteer Position OPEN Blood Drive Coordinator

As of January 24, 2024, St. Mark's will need a new Volunteer Blood Drive Coordinator to help us host Blood Drives. Primary role is to attend the 5 Blood Drives planned throughout the year, assist Versiti Blood Center staff with set up, greet blood donors as they arrive, communicate with St. Mark's Missions Coordinator to confirm preparation for each drive. NO experience needed, just a friendly smile to welcome and encourage our members who are able to donate blood. The Volunteer Blood Drive Coordinator is typically at St. Mark's from 7:00 AM- 1:30PM. Dates planned for **2024: 1/28, 4/14, 6/23, 9/8, 11/10**. Contact Amy Adams, [adamsm@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:adamsm@stmarkscarmel.org) for questions or if interested.

## World Communion Sunday Sunday, 10/1

This United Methodist Special Offering supports a diverse mix of national and international ethnic young adults to make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion Scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries; the remainder assists Ethnic Scholarships for U.S. and international undergraduates studying in the U.S. and Ethnic In-Service Training. These funds are administered by the General Boards of Higher Education and Ministry and Global Ministries. Financial donations may be made by using the special mission offering envelope in your bulletin, or online at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give).



## Changing Footprints Shoe Drive

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



## Hamilton County Kids Coats

Coats for kids drive! We are collecting coats in good condition that will be given away this fall, with Hamilton County Kids Coats. Hamilton County Kids Coats is a collaborative effort with community partners to make sure all Hamilton County children stay warm this winter. All sizes welcome but the greatest need is **Boys 8-12 and Adult sizes!** If your family has outgrown coats or if you are ready to pass your coat on to someone else, please wash it and donate it to HCKC. Drop off clean coats at St. Mark's.



## Because You Give, St. Mark's Gives!

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

- **Changing Footprints:** 70 pairs of shoes
- **Fletcher Place Community Center:** 6 bags of food, 171 packets of oatmeal, 60 breakfast meals, 370 Instant food cups, 2 bags of household supplies
- **Hamilton County Kids Coats:** 25 coats, 1 snowpants, 6 hats, 3 gloves
- **Mission Guatemala:** \$500.00 to Manny Heaton Memorial Fund
- **Operation Classroom:** \$1500
- **Outreach Indiana:** \$5836.82, 12 bags of clothing, 5 bags of personal hygiene supplies, 18 backpacks
- **Roberts Park UMC:** 125 hot meals served, 125 sack meals delivered
- **Servants At Work (SAWs):** \$1750 for wheelchair ramp
- **Travel size Toiletries for Homeless:** 3 bags, 23 rolls of toilet paper
- **Versiti Blood Center of IN:** 20 units of blood

## Blood Drive

**Sunday, 11/12 | 8:00 AM—1:00 PM**

Blood donors are an essential part of hospitals saving patient's lives. Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs a blood transfusion! One pint of donated blood can be used for life-saving treatment for three people. Please consider if you can donate blood this month and invite others who may be able to share the gift of life! Contact Mindy Davis at [Melinda.kay.moores,davis@gmail.com](mailto:Melinda.kay.moores,davis@gmail.com). Sign up TODAY at

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





## 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 4-6 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.

**10/ 1 | 11:00 AM - Kidz Music & Praise sings in worship.**

**10/29 | 12:15 PM - Fall Pizza Party (Hosted by Kidz Music & Praise and Harmonic Voices)**

All Kidz Church families are welcome to attend.

**10/29 | 2:00 —3:00 PM - St. Mark's Presents!**

A special musical performance presented by all the church music groups, including Kidz Music & Praise and Harmonic Voices.

**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 Late Night

**Saturday, 10/7 | 6:00 PM—9:00 PM**

Join us for games, snacks and a movie. Bring a friend!



@ St. Mark's

## Kids' Night Out

**(Parents' Night Off!)**

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

Parents can enjoy Christmas shopping, a date night, or even just some quiet time! Drop off your kids (ages 4-10) in Wesley Hall for a fun-filled night. (See page 20 for more information)



**Kids' Night Out**  
(Parents' Night Off!)

## St. Mark's Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

Thursday, 10/5 | 9:30 AM– 11:15 AM | *Befriend Discomfort* with Hollie Nicholson

Thursday, 10/19 | 9:30 AM–11:15 AM | *Operation Christmas Child*, Shoebox project

Time Out for Moms! MOPS has begun a new school year. 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](mailto:mopsatst.marks@gmail.com).



## Family Sunday Reminder!

Sunday, October 29

Every month with a fifth week, children begin their Sunday morning in the sanctuary worship service with their families and/or classmates. Check-in your child(ren) as usual in the Children’s Wing and then they may go with you into service. Parents who are attending a class instead of service may drop children off with their Kidz Church leader at the front of the sanctuary. Children will be dismissed from service after the Kidz Chat with the pastor and travel together to their Kidz Church class.

## New! Kidz Mission of the Month

### October Mission- Humane Society for Hamilton County

*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. **October’s mission is the Humane Society for Hamilton County.** Children know that pets are part of the family, and they will love to be a part of supporting furry friends! Some of the MOST NEEDED ITEMS at this time are:



- Wet Kitten Food
- Dry Science Diet Food
- Soft Dog Treats
- Calming Treats for Dogs
- Squeeze Cheese

Children will enjoy being a part of the shopping trip, picking out the item, and delivering it to the church. 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 to the Humane Society at the end of the month. Thank you for encouraging your child(ren) to be a part of giving!

## 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. Live 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.

## Cornerstone Neon Night

10/1 | 6:01 –8:01

Wear your favorite neon or bright colors that will look cool under black lights! There will be games, snacks, a quick message, and the evening will end with a game of Neon Mini Golf. Any students currently in grades 7 through 12 are invited to attend and friends are welcome! No sign-up-just show up. (During Cornerstone Fellowship)

## Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser

10/8—10/31 | 12:00 PM-8:00 PM-Daily

Cornerstone will be raising funds by selling pumpkins during the month of October. The pumpkins will arrive on October 8th at noon. We will need help setting up the patch, unloading pumpkins from the truck, selling pumpkins, and tearing down the patch at the end of the sale. By working shifts at the patch, students earn money for their Cornerstone account that can be used for Summer Camps, Workcamp, Retreats, or other Cornerstone events that cost money. Sign up to help at [stmarkscarmel.org/pumpkins](http://stmarkscarmel.org/pumpkins).

## Kids' Night Out

### (Parents' Night Off!)

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

A chance for Cornerstone students 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.

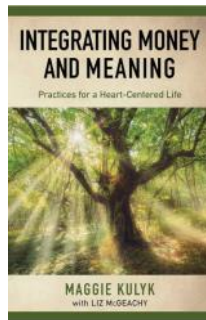
# Adult Discipleship

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

## A Wonder-full Life: Looking at *Money and Meaning*

Three Monday PM sessions, 10/30, 11/13, 11/20 6:30-8:00pm | Scott Baker leads Room B/C, possible Zoom option if requested.

We all exist inside society's complex, all-encompassing money system, but we rarely talk about it in an honest, self-reflective way. Is it possible to live within this system with integrity and meaning—to find a deeper connection to the heart and our faith? The answer is YES, and author and financial planner Maggie Kuluk's book *Integrating Money and Meaning* is the guide.



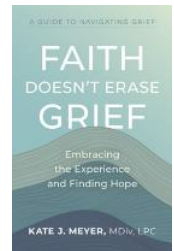
Seeing our relationship with money as central to the spiritual path helps create a more balanced, healthy life for ourselves, our families, our communities, and the planet. This group will meet for three sessions following the “A Wonder-full Life” sermons in worship this fall. Join this short-term study to gain some self-reflective and useful practices for “bringing money out of the shadows, healing its wounds, and creating a new relationship with money based on our true heart.” See more information on page 17.

## Grief Group

### *Faith Doesn't Erase Grief*

Sunday evenings 10/22-12/10 | 6:30-8:00PM | Missi Koenig leads

Grief is a difficult but natural part of life—you don't have to do it alone. Our NEW text *Faith Doesn't Erase Grief* (2022, by Kate Meyer, MDiv, LPC) blends grief psychology, biblical accounts, and everyday experience. This practical guide will help you better understand grief and give you personalized tools to navigate each phase of grief at your own pace. Whether you lost a loved one long ago or recently—or if you are grieving a different kind of loss in your life—you are welcome to join this group experience. **No meeting 11/26.**



Register at [stmarkscarmel.org/grief](https://stmarkscarmel.org/grief).

## Breakthrough Prayer in Groups

Does your small group, Bible Study, or class usually use the St. Mark's breakthrough prayer as part of your opening prayer, closing prayer, or some other part of your group's discussion? Continuing to use the breakthrough prayer helps us keep an “up and out” openness for the new hopes, dreams, and possibilities to which God is calling us. Celebrate your breakthroughs at [stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough](https://stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough).

Sign up and see more info at [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](https://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups)

Questions? Email Jennifer Cloud-Buckner ([grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org)).

## LIFT: a Widows Encouragement Group

No October meeting at the church; Off-site gatherings on 10/20, 11/7, 12/5

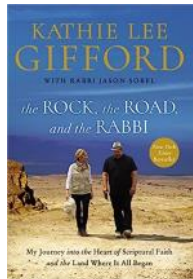
Our LIFT (Living Intentionally Forward Together) encouragement group for widows has several off-site adventures and lunches in Sept-Dec. To connect, see Mary Etta Yoho, contact Jennifer Cloud-Buckner (317-846-4912, [grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org) or sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/growgroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/growgroups).

## The Rock, the Road, the Rabbi

Thursdays, 10/12—11/16, 10-11AM

Judy Woempner leads | Room B/C | Books \$12

Walk with Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel on a journey through the deep roots of the Christian faith in dozens of Israel's ancient landmarks. Through this bestselling book and video study, you can hear directly from Kathie about her deepening connection with Jesus ("The Rock") while hiking the ancient paths of Israel, explore the promised land ("The Road"), and gain new insight on the Hebrew language, culture, and context of Holy Scriptures from Jason ("The Rabbi").



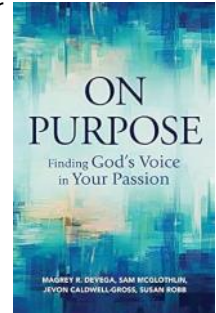
## On Purpose

Fridays, 10/20—11/10 | 9:30-11AM

Wednesdays, 11/1-11/15 | 9:30 AM-11 AM

Led by Robin Spyker, Sarah Copeland, & various class members | Room B/C + Zoom Books \$12

We are hungry for a sense of purpose, direction, and calling in our lives. That's as basic an ingredient to the human experience as they come. We want to be part of something bigger than ourselves. We want to participate in something that has eternal merit and lasting impact. We do not want to live a shallow, hollow existence. We yearn for deeper meaning, for deeper purpose within our lives. We want to be more than we are.



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 and hear God's voice for the life you are meant to live.

Lydia Fourman & Joan Dunn lead the **Wednesday** study in Cornerstone Commons (Room J-K some weeks).

Robin Spyker, Sarah Copeland, and various class members lead the **Friday** study in Room B/C and on Zoom. **Childcare is available Fridays if reserved >72 hours ahead at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups).**

# 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—attending meetings, serving on the board, volunteering, delivering Ribbons of Hope gift bags to those struggling, helping with one of the missions, and participating in fundraisers. How are you going to put Love in Action?

### October Meeting

**10/10 | 9:30AM & 7:00 PM**

Thank you to all who came to the kickoff meeting in September. We had a wonderful turnout and a fantastic speaker. Cecelia Whitfield, the Founder & Executive Director of "Use What You've Got Ministry: Keeping Families Connected", spoke about her Prison Shuttle Bus Ministry. This ministry provides transportation for families Childcare is available at the morning gatherings by registering your child(ren) at least 72 hours in advance. Sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups/](http://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 Bike & Barge Overseas Adventures.

Find out about all of the Interest Groups at [stmarkscarmel.org/uwf/](http://stmarkscarmel.org/uwf/)

### Volunteer

There are always volunteer need for monthly meetings, by helping with hospitality, providing a devotional, helping with an interest group or helping with fundraisers. Contact any board member to find out how you can help. There are also many mission opportunities. Donna Schwartz is looking for volunteers to act as contact points for each ministry the UWF is connected with.

### 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, [kathylentz@gmail.com](mailto:kathylentz@gmail.com) or (317) 652-0487.

*Any questions? Email [uwf@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto: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](http://stmarkscarmel.org/uwf).*

## UMM Meeting

Saturday, 10/14 | 7:30 AM

It's a topic we have all worried about. Are we doing the right things with our money? At least, have we avoided doing something dumb? What are the common pitfalls that plague people in their financial affairs? What are the financial moves that we can have confidence in, especially in retirement or as retirement approaches?

Ed Rowell, whom we all know as the Director of the St. Mark's Orchestra, is a financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial and a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor. He is ready to trumpet his sound insights on responsible personal finance. Join us for breakfast on Saturday, October 14, at 7:30 in Wesley Hall.

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. For more information, visit [stmarkscarmel.org/umm](http://stmarkscarmel.org/umm). For more information about UMM or to be added to the email list, contact Roger Schmenner, [umm@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:umm@stmarkscarmel.org).



## Marksmen

Starbucks-116th & Keystone

10/12 & 10/26 | 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](mailto:marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org).

## Basketball & Pickleball

### Open Gyms

Basketball and Pickleball Open gyms have returned. (You must be 16 or older)



Pickleball (Thursday evenings) - Contact Janet Brown, [grandeyb@gmail.com](mailto:grandeyb@gmail.com) or Doug Brown, [dthbrown@gmail.com](mailto:dthbrown@gmail.com).



Basketball (Tuesday evenings) -Contact Mark Moore, [mvm2920@aol.com](mailto:mvm2920@aol.com)

## Open Group Schedule

### Mondays

#### COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

10/2 & 10/16 | 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](mailto:ken_shultz@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

### Tuesdays

#### PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, 10/17 | 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

*When We Believe in Mermaids* by Barbara O'Neal. 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](mailto:mflora1950@yahoo.com).

#### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Friday, 10/13 | 11:00 AM

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.

#### MENS BASKETBALL

7 PM

Join us every Tuesday for Open Gym Basketball for ages 16 and above. Contact Mark Moore, [mvm2920@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:djmehl2004@aol.com).

### Thursdays

#### JULIETS

Thursday, 10/19 | 11:30 AM

Matt the Miller's, 11 Center City Drive

Juliets (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Out Together) meet at 11:30. Please contact Linda Schenk at 812-454-0661 or email [lschenk@att.net](mailto:lschenk@att.net) by 10/16 so current reservations can be made or for more information. All women are invited!

#### CRAFT GROUP

Thursday, 10/26 | 6:00 PM

Join us for a time of fun and fellowship as we each enjoy our craft or hobby. Contact Kathy Bartel, 317-294-4908 or [krbartel@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:dthbrown@gmail.com), or Janet Brown, [grandeyb@gmail.com](mailto:grandeyb@gmail.com) for more information.



# Committee News

## Stewardship Extravagant Generosity

“Money makes the world go round”

according to a  
song from  
Cabaret by  
Kander and Ebb.



What is your  
relationship with  
money? Grudg-  
ing? Reliant? Resentful? Confused?  
Stressed? Do you check your balances or  
investments daily, weekly or monthly? Do  
you wonder whether you have “enough”  
money?

Our study book for the fall stewardship  
emphasis is Integrating Money and  
Meaning: Practices for a Heart-Centered  
Life by Maggie Kulyk and Liz McGeachy  
(2019). Kulyk is a theologian (M.Div.)  
and financial planner (an interesting  
combination). She likens our huge and  
complex financial system to a giant whale  
that’s swallowed us. “Like Jonah and  
Pinocchio, we exist inside this daunting  
money system, often unaware of how it  
surrounds us and affects not just our daily  
tasks but also our inner spirit and the spirit  
of our communities. . . . People are worried,  
stressed, confused, angry, occasionally  
joyful, but more often fearful when it comes  
to money.” She sought to “deal with” her  
money and reach a spiritual, heart-centered  
relationship with her finances. “With  
practice, we can create new relationships  
with money based on our true ‘hearts,’  
which naturally lead to connections with  
others and the wider community.” Of  
course, we Christians all know what Jesus

said about money: Don’t worry! Give to  
Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is  
God’s! The widow’s two coins were more  
generous than a rich person’s tithe! Paul  
added, Don’t love money! (But Mark Twain  
quipped: The lack of money is the root of all  
evil.) Yet despite our wealth we struggle to  
be truly generous, and to think of money as  
one of our spiritual practices.

We pray that this book and the classes that  
study it will bring St. Markers to a heart-  
centered relationship with money, and a  
comfort with however much wealth we  
have (or don’t have) when seen in the  
context of a God-centered life. This is the  
true meaning of stewardship – not a  
short-term fund-raising campaign, but a  
year-round life of faith in God’s grace and  
generosity towards others.

See Adult Discipleship for more information  
on page 12.

## Trustees

Beginning in  
mid-October, the  
trustees will post  
temporary



welcoming and  
directional signs around the inside and  
outside of the church building. The signs  
will direct visitors throughout our property.  
After these temporary signs have been  
posted, we will ask the congregation for  
feedback. You can offer feedback using the  
comment sheets located on the  
connection table. Your comments will help  
us design permanent signage for St. Mark’s.

## SPRC

### Jennifer Cloud-Buckner

In the role of Adult Discipleship Coordinator, Jennifer Cloud-Buckner just celebrated 4 years of organizing and supporting adult classes, studies, and small groups. We checked in with her recently and asked some fun questions.

Any noteworthy fun or trips that you had this summer? Some hiking in Indiana state parks and, of course, I always love our Walking as a Spiritual Practice walks. Our only trip was to visit family in Tennessee – was great to see our 1st grader Amelia playing with her cousins and grandparents. Also, we ended the summer with a staycation attending GenCon downtown.

What are you most looking forward to as autumn begins and winter around the corner? I love the sense of expectation that comes with a new school year and new routines, plus the new energy as study groups and the preschool return after the summer break. As a family, we love getting out our tent to do some camping (even if just in the backyard). I can't wait for Holy Walk in December!

In your role as Adult Discipleship Coordinator, where have you felt God's presence / power (dunamis) taking hold? A breakthrough prayer practice has been transformational for me personally and professionally in this Adult Discipleship role. I've heard how the daily prayer time has helped: families talk more about their spiritual lives, people gain courage to try new things with God's power, and others find reconciliation and healing for broken parts of their lives. We are gaining a new sense of God's transformational power and moving forward on the paths to which God is calling us. I can't wait to see what is next for St. Mark's!

## New Missions Coordinator

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Amy Adams has accepted the position of Missions Coordinator at St. Mark's. Amy currently serves on staff as the Administrative Assistant for Program Support and has given leadership to a number of activities and events. She brings a passion for missions and social justice and has a long history at St. Mark's and with our missions partners. She will begin transitioning to her new position immediately. The SPRC is currently assessing the needs of the office and will be making a decision about staffing her former tasks in the near future.

## Library

Have you checked out the New Arrival shelves in St. Mark's Library lately?

Located just under the courtyard window, the new titles in-



clude both fiction and nonfiction, and books for study, inspiration and your reading enjoyment. You will also find the latest additions listed in the electronic library catalog available on the St. Mark's website.

# Upcoming Events

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

## Family Halloween Skele-bration!

Friday, 10/27 | 5:30 PM—7:30 PM

Join all your skeleton friends for your silliest, funnest most exciting Halloween Skele-bration! Try your hand at making your own spooky pizza and decorating your own monster treat. Spend the evening together winning spooktacular prizes for playing lots of ghostly games. Attending in costume would be bat-tastic but not required.



## Preschool Dine-To-Donate

### Hot Box Pizza (1 East Carmel Dr.)

Monday, 10/23

St. Mark's Preschool will get 20% of the proceeds for every order, dine-in or carry-out, that mentions St. Mark's Preschool or uses the promo code GIVEBACK when ordering online on Monday, October 23.



## Holy Land Trip with Pastor Karla

4/2/24—4/11/24

Walk in the footsteps of Jesus and see your faith come to life like never before! Join Pastor Karla Elliott in the Holy Land on the Holy Land Classic Tour in April 2024, as we grow in community and see the pages of the Bible go from black and white to color!

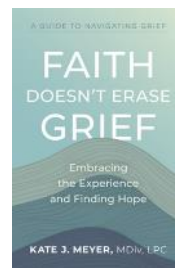


*For more information visit [stmarkscarmel.org/holy-land](http://stmarkscarmel.org/holy-land) or contact Pastor Karla, [kelliott@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:kelliott@stmarkscarmel.org).*

## Grief Study

Sunday, 10/22- December 10 | 6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Missi Koenig is leading a grief group using the book, *Faith Doesn't Erase Grief*. No meeting 11/26. For more details see page 12. Register at [stmarkscarmel.org/grief](http://stmarkscarmel.org/grief).



## St. Mark's Presents

### "Let Music Live"

**Sunday, 10/29 | 2:00 PM**

St. Mark's Presents "Let Music Live" a musical celebration featuring the St. Mark's Music

Ministry! On October 29, 2023 at 2:00pm, St. Mark's Presents will be holding a concert that will feature St. Mark's Orchestra, Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Praise Band, and Kidz Music and Praise! This is definitely something you won't want to miss! St. Mark's Presents concerts are always FREE and open to the public.



### 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](http://www.uwf@stmarkscarmel.org) and to purchase them for yourself, teacher gifts, Christmas gifts! Contact [uwf@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:uwf@stmarkscarmel.org) with questions.

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

**Signup at [stmarkscarmel.org/kidzfellowship](http://stmarkscarmel.org/kidzfellowship).**





# St. Mark's Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser

St. Mark's Cornerstone Youth will be selling Pumpkins in October to earn money for youth programs. Buy your Pumpkins from St. Mark's Tell your friends! All proceeds to help youth programs. Prices will vary based on the size of the pumpkin.

## How Can I Help?

- Buy your pumpkins from St. Mark's.
- Tell your friends and neighbors!
- Signup to help with setup and teardown.
- Signup to help working at the Sale.

For more information visit [stmarkscarmel.org/pumpkins](http://stmarkscarmel.org/pumpkins) or contact [dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org) .

**Sign up today**

# Community News

## Directory

Rick & Jane Risinger  
16373 Valhalla Drive  
Noblesville, IN 46060

## Sympathies

To the Karen Johnson at the death of her husband, Bruce Munk.

To Melissa Petro at the death of her father, Gary Gaddis.

To Tom Gospel at the death of his mother, Barbara Ann Gospel.

## To the Congregation

Dear Friends,

Joann and I would like to thank our St. Mark's friends for all the prayers, cards, phone calls and emails during my recent surgeries and recovery. We appreciate Pastors Brian and Karla follow up and support during this time. We hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

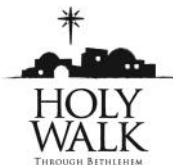
Mark Burnett

## Holy Walk Shirts

T-shirts and sweatshirts are available to order.

Order online [stmarkscarmel.org/holy-walk](http://stmarkscarmel.org/holy-walk)

or pick up an order form in the office. All orders must be placed no later than 10/25.



## 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.

Myrneath Anderson	Jean Anderson
Dorothy Mecca	Doris Carlow
Betty Lachman	Phyllis Delp
Phyllis Gidley	Jane Roberts
Georgia Herzog	Melvin Myers
Marlene Myers	Jerry Weikel
Brenda Weikel	Carol Hollinger

## Volunteers Needed

We Need You! It takes lots of volunteers for Worship at St. Mark's. Please prayerfully

consider volunteering for an hour, a Sunday a month. Help is needed at all

services, 8:15 AM, 9:40 AM and 11:00 AM.

Training is available. If you would be interested in any of the below, please

contact [staff@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:staff@stmarkscarmel.org) or sign up online, [stmarkscarmel.org/ways-to-serve](http://stmarkscarmel.org/ways-to-serve).



Ushers

Greeters

Communion Stewards

Communion Servers

AV Booth

Kidz Church Teachers and Helpers

Liturgists

Make Coffee

Clean Coffee Mugs

# Holy Walk Returns!

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.”



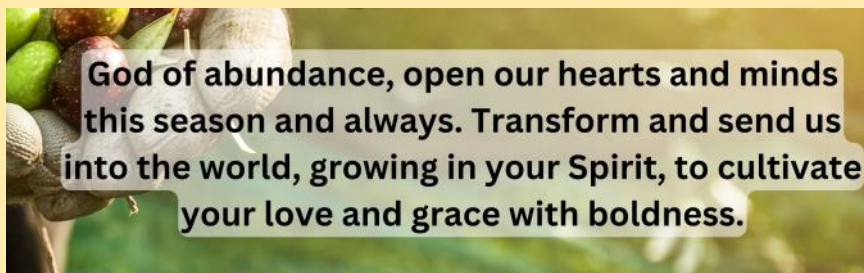
As our largest community outreach event, Holy Walk requires more than 200 volunteers. What gifts do you bring? Will you serve behind the scenes—for hospitality, building the village and outposts, food, costumes, parking and transportation, securing sheep and donkeys, laying fires for the shepherds, and 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](http://stmarkscarmel.org/holy-walk) to learn where you can help. Sign up today!



## Breakthrough Prayer Initiative

How is God speaking to you in response to the breakthrough prayer? Where have you experienced God's abundance? How is God transforming you? What are examples of how you have seen God's Spirit cultivate love and grace for you or for others?

We want to hear from you about how God is moving. Please share any answers to the above questions or prayer breakthroughs at [stmarkscarmel.org/breakthrough](http://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

4780 E. 126TH ST.  
CARMEL, IN 46033  
(317) 846-4912  
STMARKSCARMEL.ORG