

JUBILEE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ST. MARK'S

United Methodist Church

February 2020

TALENT SHOW

FEBRUARY 9

12:30PM

*Come see St. Mark's most talented
members entertain and amaze!*

The Pastor's Place

Dr. Brian White, Lead Pastor
bwhite@stmarkscarmel.org

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

By now most of you know that the United Methodist Church will be having a General Conference on May 5-15, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This is our normally scheduled meeting which happens every four years. There was a special called General Conference last February but that was very unusual. It is expected that this General Conference will approve a plan to allow the members of the United Methodist Church to move forward in coming to terms with differences over human sexuality. This will most likely mean some sort of parting of ways although nothing has been decided yet. It is important for us to continue to pray that the mission of the church might be represented in whatever decision is made. As always, we at St. Mark's will continue to work hard to follow the leading of God's Spirit in welcoming people into relationship with God and one another, growing in our faith and knowledge, and serving people in our community and in our world. No matter what happens at General Conference these commitments will not change.



It is also important to know that this is another step in a long process that will likely still take some time to work through. Once the decision is made at the denominational level there will be decisions at the annual conference level, the local congregation level, and at the individual level. In all these decisions there will be times of discussion and discernment.

In many ways this is a difficult time. It is important to remember in these times that God is still present and will eventually make the way clear to us as we seek God's will. The Apostle Paul once said, "For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known." (1 Corinthians 13: 9-12, NRSV)

Sometimes we feel like children trying to work a puzzle with some of the pieces missing. We must pray that God will fill in the blanks of our understanding and give us a clarity of vision for the future. Paul ends the passage above by saying, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13, NRSV) There are many things about which we have difficulty to have certainty. In the midst of our ambiguity Paul reminds us that we can be certain that loving God and loving one another is at the center of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us hold fast to this truth as we strive for greater understanding in all things.

In Christ's service,

Brian

The Pastor's Place

Julia Gonzales, Associate Pastor
jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org

Hello St. Mark's Family,

Confirmation is here once again, and this year we're using Psalm 25:4-5 as our prayer verse. From the Common English Bible, the psalm translates to, "Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth - teach it to me - because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long." It seemed appropriate for both the class and as a life psalm. Seeking the way of the Lord isn't something done only in seventh grade but is instead a continual journey with checks along the way.

Even though God never changes, humans change plenty. We grow up, we learn more about the world, we meet new people, the way that we think changes and so on. It's part of why understanding God's will can be so difficult. How can we understand our God who never changes when we are in constant transition? And there lies the importance of continual prayers that God's way will be made clear to us. In the days that lie ahead, I pray that the ways of God will be made clear to all of us as a church, country, and world.

Take care,
Pastor Julia



February Mission Focus

Stephanie Cohen, Mission Coordinator
scohen@stmarkscarmel.org



Family Promise is a partnership of congregations and community organizations that are responding to the crisis of families who are homeless. They believe in interfaith cooperation, keeping families together, changing lives, hospitality, good stewardship, and raising awareness.

St. Mark's has been a long-time partner of Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), the hallmark program of Family Promise. IHN is a coordinated response of the faith community that provides emergency food & shelter, offers individual skill development & rehabilitation, advocates for economic stability and strives to end homelessness for the guests they serve. Each congregation in the network takes turns furnishing overnight lodging and meals during their assigned week, several times each year. Our role as volunteers is fundamental to this program - we can make a difference by offering dignified compassionate assistance to families who have lost their homes.

How Can I Help?

- Financial donations to IHN may be given online at stmarkscarmel.org/donate or using the mission envelope in the Sunday bulletin.
- Volunteer to help when IHN visits February 23- March 1. Signup at Connections Table outside the sanctuary or online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.
- Donate items until the end of February for a supply drive to collect personal hygiene items used by families at the Day Center and After Care programs. (List of items is at stmarkscarmel.org/ihn)
- Volunteer to be a IHN Task Coordinator. Mentoring is provided to learn these roles.
 - ◇ **Dinner Host Coordinator**-Duties include making sure we have dinner hosts for each evening and that they understand their duties. You would also communicate during the IHN week any family updates, as they occur.
 - ◇ **Pantry Coordinator**-Duties include making sure the breakfast and lunch items (donated by church members) are stocked in the kitchen during each IHN rotation. Occasional shopping for supplemental items needed (paid for by St. Mark's).

Please contact Stephanie Cohen (scohen@stmarkscarmel.org) or Jeff Keyt (shellcreek5@gmail.com) for more information.

Donation & Service Opportunities

Breakfast Servers Needed

On the 4th Thursday of each month St. Mark's volunteers load up their cars with breakfast food and cooking supplies, and drive to 1637 Prospect Street, Indianapolis. There, at Fletcher Place Community Center, they serve breakfast to those in need. Fletcher Place is dedicated to alleviating poverty and hunger for families, youth and homeless persons in their neighborhood. Volunteers meet at St. Mark's at 6:45am and return by 10:30am. If you are able and interested in helping, once or often, please contact Stephanie Cohen at scohen@stmarkscarmel.org



Blood Drive

Sunday, February 23 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

Your help is needed! Every two seconds, someone needs blood and every day, approximately 40,000 units of blood are used throughout the country. You can help save a life by donating blood at St. Mark's! Healthy individuals, age 16 and older can lend an arm to help.



Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups or at the connection tables outside the sanctuary. Contact Mindy Davis for more information, at 317-408-7838 or Melinda.kay.moore.davis@gmail.com.

Mustard Seed

“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can move mountains.” The Mustard Seed is helping veterans, the homeless, victims of natural disaster, low-income families and the elderly rebuild their lives by providing kitchen supplies, furniture, linens, and other household items. St. Mark’s collects household items and takes them on a regular basis to their Fishers warehouse. Please place your donated items in the blue bin in Wesley Hall.

Items needed immediately:

Tall Drinking Glasses

Fitted Sheets (Twin, Full, Queen)

Additional kitchen & bath items needed:

Dinner plates	Salad plates
Coffee mugs (no logos)	Measuring cups
Silverware	Measuring spoons
Can openers	Spatulas
Cooking spoons	Tongs
Pizza cutters	Chip clips
Ice Cream Scoopers	Toasters
Coffee makers	Blankets
Comforters (all sizes)	Bath towels
Wash Cloths	Kitchen towels
Scrubbers	Hot pads
Drinking glasses (no wine glasses)	



Because You Give, St. Mark’s Gives!

Thank you for your generous support of the missions of St. Mark’s. Since our last newsletter, we have given to:

- **Carmel United Methodist Food Pantry:** \$1704.30, 17 bags of food
- **Open Doors Food & Clothing Pantry:** \$1704.30, 25 bags of food, 7 bags paper goods
- **Third Phase Christian Home:** \$1704.30, 14 bags of food, 2 bags paper goods
- **Fletcher Place:** 45 bags of food, 28 containers of oatmeal, 31 large bags of toys, 10 large bags of children’s clothes
- **E. 10th UM Children & Youth Center:** 155 Angel Tree gifts
- **Indiana Blood Center:** 23 units of blood
- **Family Promise/IHN:** 4 packages of diapers/paper goods
- **Christmas Adopt a Family:** gifts and food for 3 families of IPS children
- **Red Bird Mission (Tree of Lights campaign):** \$9300.32
- **Brightwood Community Center:** 4 meals to after school care children
- **Mission Guatemala Scholarship:** \$5397 for Guatemalan kids’ middle school scholarships

Brightwood Community Center

Brightwood after-school tutoring and serving dinner meals continue to be a unique hands on mission opportunity! Tutoring is available Monday– Thursday, 4:00 PM–6:00 PM, assisting with homework for all ages. Please consider if you can donate your time to help these kids in need. For info on tutoring contact Diane Newton at joediane244@att.net



Help also needed to serve and/or prepare meals to the after-school program (cost of food provided by St. Mark’s). Contact Michelle White at michelle.white@inumc.org

2019 St. Mark's Annual Missions Giving

Thank you for your generous support of Missions in 2019!

Mission	Total 2019 Giving
Brightwood Community Center food for meals	\$774.56
Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children	\$2,920.00
Carmel UMC Food Pantry	\$1,704.30
College Care	\$200.00
East Tenth Children & Youth	\$6,192.43
Emergency Assistance	\$49.50
Family Promise	\$6,681.00
Fletcher Place Community Center	\$7,362.00
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Scholarship for Brian White	\$1,724.45
Good Samaritan Network	\$3,921.75
Habitat for Humanity Greater Indianapolis	\$6,667.73
Hamilton County Kids Coats	\$1,000.00
Meal & Food Supplies	\$3,463.35
Mission Guatemala	\$19,812.97
Mission in Action Day/March Spring MIA Day	\$1,070.80
Open Doors Food & Clothing Pantry	\$1,704.30
Operation Classroom	\$6,052.45
Mission Trips	\$2,000.00
Red Bird Mission	\$9,300.32
SAWS (Servants at Work)	\$1,500.00
Society of St. Andrew	\$5,542.60
St. Mark's United Methodist Men (given by)	\$2,500.00
St. Mark's United Methodist Women (given by)	\$1,000.00
The Mustard Seed of Central Indiana	\$13,785.00
Third Phase Christian Center	\$1,704.30
UM Special Sundays	\$3,559.00
UMCOR	\$3,480.00
Vida Nueva Hispanic Ministries	\$30.00
Youth Mission Trips	\$19,300.00
Total	137,683.00

Music

Dr. Eric DeForest, Director
edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org

Music Opportunities this Fall

CHOIR PRACTICE

Join the Chancel Choir and make a joyful noise with us! We accept any singer from high school age to 100! Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

BELL REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:30 PM.

JOIN THE ORCHESTRA

St. Mark's Orchestra plays about 10 times each year. Rehearsals are once the Wednesday before the service we are performing. Contact Ed Rowell, 317-727-2163 or jackieanded@gmail.com for more information.

St. Mark's PRESENTS

Sunday, April, 26 | 3:00 PM

Indianapolis Children's Choir in Concert

Sunday, July 19 | 2:00 PM

The Retro Brothers

Education

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING

Nursery & Toddler Care

Staffed by experienced, caring adults and teens, our nursery is here to help care for your kids at all of our Sunday Morning Services.

Kidz Learn & Grow Preschool

Children have fun singing, learning Bible stories, eating snack and making fun crafts. Bible discovery and exploration is integrated in every lesson by our fantastic volunteer team at 9:40 AM & 11 AM.

Kidz Learn & Grow Elementary

Kids entering kindergarten through 4th grade have a blast learning about God at Kidz Church beginning with Worship followed by lively & age appropriate activities (including games, crafts, and creative play) to accommodate various ways kids learn. Our fantastic Kidz Church leaders follow the Revised Common Lectionary and classes use SparkHouse & Whirl lessons during the 9:40 AM and 11:00 AM services.

Kidz Music & Praise

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord during this fun-filled hour each week. After a worship time with Kidz Learn & Grow classes, children participate in this high energy class. During the 11 service, the children will begin preparing for the Lenten Musical on 3/29.

Club 56

Club 56 weaves together Bible instruction, some theology, service projects and relationship building. All

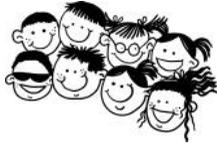
5th & 6th graders are welcome to come join the fun! Sunday programming is in the basement each week at 9:40 AM.



Kidz Night Out

Friday, February 7 | 6 PM

Parents enjoy a date night while children ages 4 years through 4th grade are invited to join the fun at St. Mark's. Parents drop off their children and children will enjoy a craft project, a movie and a (nut-free) snack throughout the evening as they are supervised by Cornerstone Youth. Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/sundaykids and contribute \$15 per child (\$30 per family) to benefit youth mission trips and retreats. Contact Ramie Cooney, rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org for more information.



Kidz Worship Perform

Sunday, February 9 | 9:40 & 11:00

Children in Kidz Music and Praise classes will sing "I've Just Come From the Fountain" for the congregation. All children learned this song during Large Group Worship time so those who attend Kidz Learn & Grow classes are also invited to join in the sanctuary or have the option to meet in their usual Kidz Learn & Grow classrooms that morning.

Kidz Music Lunch & Learn

Sunday, February 23 | 12:00 PM

Parents and children are welcome to come explore praise dance, liturgical dance, and folk dance with special guest instruction, LeAnn Haggard. This is a great activity for the whole family.

Club 56 Afternoon @ St. Mark's

Sunday, February 23 | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

Club 56 will enjoy games, some *Skit Guys* and a service project with friends in the Club 56 Den at St Mark's. This is a perfect event to invite friends and neighbors to participate too!

SAVE THE DATE

INFANT RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Sunday, March 8

CLUB 56 MISSION CAMP

Monday, June 15-18

Incoming 5th & 6th graders are invited to participate in our annual local mission camp.

VBS (VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL)

July 6-10



Weekly Gatherings

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Cornerstone AM—Grades 7-12

9:40 AM

Sunday School class for students in 7th through 12th grades. We first gather together at 9:40 AM to attend The Current. We will worship together and then gather at 10:30 AM in Room M.

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Cornerstone Fellowship - Grades 7-12

5:00 PM -7:00 PM

Middle School and High School meet separately. The two groups join together at 6:00 PM for Dinner. Youth may stay until 7:00 PM for games in Wesley Hall.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Third Street Rehearsal | 5:00 PM- 6:00 PM

Our Third Street Praise Band will meet to rehearse. Students who play an instrument, sing or run AV are encouraged to join us. Kody Emrich will be leading.

Dig Deep- Grades 9-12 | 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

High School students are encouraged to come dig deep into scripture on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. We will explore ways that the Gospel intersects with our broken world.

THURSDAY EVENINGS

DKB @ Starbucks

Join student ministries director Don Broad at Starbucks at 131st & Hazel Dell Parkway. Have a cup of coffee, conversation, or just catch up. Parents always welcome.

Pizza Fundraiser

Sunday, February 2

Earn money towards Work Camp, Week of Hope and Retreats by selling pizzas. We will begin selling in January and then assemble them on February 2.

Youth Sunday

February 23

Cornerstone will lead all 3 worship services this morning. We will need singers, speakers, musicians, ushers and greeters!

Service Opportunities

WORK CAMP 2020

6/21-6/27

One spot left. Mission trip available for students currently in 8th-12th grade.

WEEK OF HOPE -NASHVILLE, TN

7/26-7/31

Mission Trip for students currently in 6th-8th grade. Signups are now active .

Family Ministry Spotlight

Family Groups

ST. MARK'S MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS)

February 5 & February 19 | 9:30 AM- 11:15 AM

Group will meet 2/5 (Topic: Staying close after a baby) and 2/19 (Becoming less fearful as a parent). Learn more about the group as well as monthly MOPS Moms' Night Out events, family play dates and child-free monthly coffee/brunch dates by contacting mopsatst.marks@gmail.com.



SCHOOL AGE MOMS

February 5 (onsite) & February 19 (offsite) | 12:00 PM-1:45 PM

For moms of school-aged kids, SAMS meets two Wednesdays per month at 12:00-1:45. After the February 5 and 19 meetings, the next meetings are scheduled for 3/4 offsite and 3/18 at St. Marks. Contact Ali Lemberg (getintouchinc@yahoo.com) to get involved. This year's book is *Brave Mom: Facing and Overcoming Your Real Mom Fears* by Sherry Surratt, available for \$6 in the church office.

NEW GROW GROUP FOR COUPLES WITH CHILDREN

Join the couples, many of whom are new to St. Mark's, who are forming a new Grow Group for parents with young children. This group might meet at church with childcare offered, or might alternate meeting in homes, as the group decides. Indicate your interest on the Connections Table or online at stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups. Contact Jennifer Cloud-Buckner (jcloud-buckner@stmarkscarmel.org) for more information. Our Grow Groups are committed to grow in authentic community, supporting one another in building each other up, pushing each other forward, and sending each other into the world with the love of Christ.

Upcoming Family Events

KIDZ NIGHT OUT

Friday, February 7 | 6:00 PM—9:00 PM

Parents, enjoy a date night while children (ages 4 years through 4th grade) join the fun at St. Marks. Parents will drop off their children for their children to enjoy a craft project, a movie, and a (nut-free) snack throughout the evening as they are supervised by Cornerstone Youth. Sign-up at online at stmarkscarmel.org/sundaykids and contribute \$15 per child (or \$30 per family) to benefit youth mission trips and retreats. Contact Ramie at rcooney@stmarksumc.org.

ST MARK'S TALENT SHOW

Sunday, February 9 | 12:30 PM

The whole family can enjoy watching St. Markers perform a variety of talents. Lunch provided.

EASTER EGG HUNT- SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 28

Look for details in March's *Jubilee* newsletter.

Adult Discipleship

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

Winter Studies

WEDNESDAYS

PASTOR'S MEN STUDY, 6:30 AM-7:15 AM

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY, 9:30 AM-10:30 AM

***Letters of John* by NT. Wright, 3/4-5/6**

Pastor Brian White's Wednesday studies will not meet February 12-26 and will resume March 4 for ***The Letters of John* by N.T. Wright**. In his letters (1,2 & 3 John in the New Testament), John expresses delight at believers who are "walking in the truth": behaving with integrity that reflects the gospel. This study will help participants become people in whom God is at work for all to see. Books (\$9 each) are on the Connections Table.

WED AM BIBLE STUDY, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

***Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times* by Adam Hamilton, 2/5-3/4**

Fear is a complex emotion. Sometimes it saves us, but more often it robs us of the life we want. Drawing on recent research, inspiring real-life examples, and fresh biblical insight, Hamilton shows how to untangle the knots we feel about disappointing others, failure, finances, loneliness, insignificance, and aging. Then he helps readers understand and counter fears related to large perils like terrorism, death, and the apocalypse. For anyone struggling with fear or wondering how families and communities can thrive in troubled times, *Unafraid* offers informed, inspiring, and practical solutions. Books are \$16 each.

Lydia Fourman facilitates.

THURSDAYS

THURS AM STUDY GROUP, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

***John: The Gospel of Light and Life* by Adam Hamilton, 2/27-4/2**

This 6-week, DVD-based study led by Judy Woempner follows the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John, the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. It illuminates the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament. Books are \$13.

FRIDAYS

FRIDAY AM STUDY, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM

***The Authenticity Challenge: 21 Days to a More Content Life* by Sarah Heath, 3/6-3/27**

FOMO (the fear of missing out) can make us yearn for the lives we assume others are living. Today, social media makes us increasingly more aware of other people's fun, interesting, and enjoyable lives. Through her ongoing journey to contentment, author Sarah Heath discovered that living an authentic life with honesty and courage can help overcome these feelings of envy. Participants are invited to embrace authenticity in three key areas: vocation (the What), relationships (the Who), and faith (the Why). Led by Stephanie Cohen, this study will empower you to move toward a more content life. Books are \$11, and childcare is available with signup 48 hours in advance.

Learn more and sign up for Adult Study Groups, Grow Groups, and childcare at stmarkscarmel.org/signups or on the Connections Table.

Themed Study & Grow Groups

SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM SCREENING

Sundays, 2/9-2/23 | 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

As a follow-up to January's *Holy Envy* (Christianity and World Religions) study, the Social Justice committee is offering screenings and discussion of the PBS film "Beyond our Differences". Learn more on [Page 18](#).

PASTOR'S LENTEN STUDY

Sundays, 3/1-4/5 | 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Ideal for new and maturing Christians of all stages, Exploring the Way will help you understand and deepen your experience of God. Even people "raised" in a Christian church can feel disconnected from—and even repelled by — what should be a comforting, constant presence in their lives. It's why so many people today proclaim themselves "spiritual but not religious." This book defines and explains essential concepts of the Christian spiritual life: prayer, the Bible's message for our lives today, spiritual gifts, listening, journaling, and more. Feed your hungry soul by joining Pastor Brian White in this 6-week orientation to spirituality and the essential elements of faith. Books \$12.

ENCOURAGEMENT GROUPS

Our Sunday morning and Wednesday evening Encouragement Groups always welcome new participants who encourage each other through the care and support of aging parents. Call the church office for details.

NEW GROW GROUPS FORMING

Looking to connect with community for encouragement, spiritual growth, and sharing with others in a similar season of life? We are forming Grow Groups for parents of young families, baby boomers, empty nesters, and others who have not yet connected with community. Typical meetings include vulnerability, compassion, and grace; sharing through life's events; and spiritual study on wide-ranging topics. Learn more at stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups or on the Connections Table.

Sunday Morning Groups

Check the posted room signs each week for temporary room locations.

9:40 AM

VENTURE

Venture Class begins at 9:15 with joys and concerns. February will feature guest speakers and videos from *The Great Courses: History of Christianity II*. Jean Douglass facilitates.

OPEN DOORS/OPEN IDEAS

Open Doors/Open Ideas is finishing Adam Hamilton's *John: The Gospel of Light and Life*. Next studies will come from Christian living books and Wired Word devotionals.

CUTTING EDGE

Learn about the Bible by following the Revised Common Lectionary, an ongoing 3-year program through the Bible's Old and New Testaments. Steve Click facilitates.

FOUNDATIONS & FRIENDSHIPS

F&F's is now reading John Ortberg's *I'd Like You More if You Were Like Me*. In mid-February, they will begin Diana Butler Bass's *Broken We Kneel: Reflections on Faith and Citizenship*. All are welcome to join!

11:00 AM

JOURNEY

Discuss scriptures from the Old and New Testaments based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Jonathan Barclay facilitates.

REEL SPIRITUALITY

Everyone is welcome to "the movie class" for Christian themes and heartfelt topics through film. The class watches and discusses 30-40 minutes of a movie in Room G/H, usually completing a film within three consecutive Sundays. Next movie will be the award-winning *Maudie*, based on a true story about an artistic woman disabled by arthritis who blossoms into a famous folk artist. Lydia and Terry Fourman facilitate.

Open Groups



UMW Meeting

Tuesday, February 11

9:00 AM—11:00 AM | 7:00 PM— 9:00 PM

UMW meets monthly, on the **second Tuesday of each month**, from September to May. We offer two meeting times – We hope you will join us!

Check our UMW website for more information on our breakout Interest Groups.

*Childcare is available by registering your child
at stmarkscarmel.org/signups*

MORNING GROUPS

Bookworms—The group will discuss *Some Luck* by Jane Smiley in February. Gail Lee facilitates.

Spiritual Growth— The group is discussing *Practicing Resurrection* by Janet Wolf. This book explores what it means to live a life of radical discipleship today using the Gospel of Mark. Mary Ann Moman facilitates.

Make It or Take It—This group is a little crafty, a little messy and a lot of fun. No special craft skills are needed, and we supply the craft materials for a small fee. For February we will be painting a Valentine Surprise! Kathy Dycus and Marilyn Roberts facilitate.

Color & Chat—Coloring isn't just for kids! Come enjoy fellowship while coloring. This group will color and discuss pages with inspirational quotes and scriptures. Deirdre Robinson & Cathy Brinkman facilitate.

EVENING GROUPS

Bookmarkers—The evening group will read and enjoy lively discussion, fellowship and support. February's book is *This is How it Always Is* by Laurie Frankel.

Spiritual Reflections—Spiritual Reflections will use an Adam Hamilton study, *The Call: The Life and Message of The Apostle Paul*. No preparation required. Holly Moore facilitates.

UMW Reading Program

Every year the United Methodist Women's National Office recommends a diverse range of books with the intention of broadening exposure to a variety of concepts. This program organizes books into five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Our UMW Reading Program group selects a book from each of the categories meeting five times a year for book discussion and fellowship.

Contact Susan Salter at sbf5salter@att.net for more information.

UMW Mission Focus

February Mission Focus is to bring oatmeal for Fletcher Place and place it in the red tote.





UMM Second Saturday Breakfast Meetings

Saturday, February 8 | 7:30 AM

The United Methodist Men Breakfasts are held the 2nd Saturday of every month.

The speaker for February will from Prime Life Enrichment which promotes independence, optimal wellness and socialization for those 50 and beyond.

In March we will have Lenten Breakfasts at other nearby churches.

Date	Host Church	Speaker
3/14	Christ UMC (Westfield)	Josh Heaston , YMCA
3/21	Noblesville Emmanuel UMC	Jake Gilbert, Westfield Football Coach
3/28	The Promise UMC	Rev Amber Karkovsky
4/4	Fishers UMC	Mr. Stant Clark, President UMM Indiana Conference

United Methodist Men provides a creative, supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually, and to seek daily his will.

For more information about UMM contact Tom Roberts, email umm@stmarkscarmel.org or call a UMM Board Member. You can also see what's going on at stmarkscarmel.org. Come and join us!

PRAYER HUDDLE

Join us at the back of the sanctuary before the traditional services at 8:15 AM and 11:00 AM for a brief prayer in support of our worship leaders.

Marksmen

2/13 & 2/27 | 6:00 AM

Einstein Bros. Bagels (116th Street, Carmel)

A community of career- and family-focused men seeking to develop relationships while we unplug from the daily stress that life can bring. Meet every other Thursday. For more information contact marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org

WayFinders

WayFinders is a new group at St. Mark's designed for people in their early 20s to late 30s who do not have children. WayFinders is for people who are looking for faithful fellowship, flexibility with meetings, and mission opportunities. We're glad to welcome new members and our next event will be in February. If you have any questions, email Pastor Julia at jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org.

Open Group Schedule

Monday

COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

2/3 & 2/17 | 9:00 AM

This self-help camera group meets for conversation about photographic art & technique. Bring your camera & your questions. Contact Bob Wiens, wiens@iquest.net for more information.

CAREER CURVE

10:00 AM

A support and resource group for those who have suffered a job loss, are unemployed or under-employed and seeking a change. The mission of Career Curve is to provide individual job search strategies, and informal counsel associated with the challenges of a job search. For more information contact Jim & Chuck, coordinators at careercurve@stmarkscarmel.org.

Tuesday

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! Group meets December, March, May, July, September. Contact Judy Bonnet for more information at jbonnet@stmarkscarmel.org.

PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB

2/18 | 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

The Other Wes Moore by Wes Moore
Join us 3rd Tuesday of each month if you enjoy good books, discussions, and a shared evening with new/old friends. Contact Marcia Flora with any questions! No December meeting.

Wednesday

ROMEOS (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT)

Le peep | 11:00 AM

All men are invited for a weekly Wednesday lunch.

Thursday

JULIETS

Rosie's Place, Carmel | 2/20 11:30 AM

Juliets (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Out Together) every 3rd Thursday. Meet at a different restaurant every month.

BRIDGE

1:00 PM

Bridge Group meets weekly. For more information contact the church office.

CRAFT & HOBBY GROUP

Thursday, 2/20 | 6:00 -9:00 PM

Friday, 2/21 | 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Meet monthly for time of fun and fellowship as we each enjoy our craft or hobby. Registration deadline to attend is 2/16.

Contact Kathy Bartel, krbartel@gmail.com, if you have any questions. Childcare available when you register for Friday group if children are 5 and under.

Special Events

UMW Dessert Extravaganza

Sunday, February 9

Sweet Treats and Sweethearts go together!

The Dessert Extravaganza will be held on February 9. Stop by the UMW table between services to select the perfect treat for Valentine's Day. Desserts and treats are made by the wonderful bakers of our St. Mark's UMW, and proceeds go toward sponsored missions. Bring a few extra dollars to church on February 9 and pick up a Sweet for your Sweetheart!



Social Justice -"Beyond Our Differences"

February 9, 16 & 23 | 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Join us Sundays, February 9, 16, & 23 at 6:00 p.m. for a 3-part special screening & discussion of the award-winning PBS documentary, *Beyond Our Differences*. All of the world's religions proclaim the need for love, compassion, mercy, kindness, patience, tolerance, and forgiveness. Yet these emphases can be overwhelmed by the evidence of human violence, anger, hatred, prejudice, greed, and selfishness. Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups or on the Connections Table at the social justice table.



Get to Know St. Mark's

Sunday, March 1 | 12:30 PM-2:00 PM

Interested in learning more about membership at St. Mark's? Please join us March 1 where you can get to know the pastors, meet others considering membership, and learn more about St. Mark's.

Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/nextsteps or contact Missi Koenig, mkoenig@stmarkscarmel.org. Childcare available with 72 hour advance signup

ST. MARK'S IS A
COMMUNITY OF
FOLLOWERS OF
JESUS CHRIST
THAT STRIVES TO
WELCOME
ALL PEOPLE,
GROW
IN KNOWLEDGE
AND GRACE, AND
SERVE
OUR NEIGHBORS,
LOCALLY AND
GLOBALLY.

"What's going on in the United Methodist Church?"

A congregational forum

Sunday, March 8 | 3:00 PM

On March 8 there will be a congregational opportunity to learn more about the upcoming General Conference of the United Methodist Church which will be held on May 5-15 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The various proposals for moving forward as a denomination will be discussed. Some of these proposals call for a separation into more than one denomination. Look for more detailed information in the March Jubilee.

Committee News

Finance

Dear St. Mark's Family

We begin 2020 with grateful hearts and hope for the future. Thank you for your gifts of time, money, and service.

Though final numbers are still being compiled, we project 2019 will close with a budget **surplus** of approximately \$5,000; this is a significant improvement against previous projections. You may recall that your finance committee had projected a \$78,500 deficit for 2019. Your additional gifts, in both funds and service, combined with the staff's conscientious effort to manage expenses, made up a \$43,000 deficit against budget in December alone. **We met 100% of our tithes to the conference and district.** It is difficult to put in words how meaningful that is to all of us. We are surely grateful.

We are also encouraged to report that the finance committee has prepared a **BALANCED BUDGET** for 2020 that is scheduled to be presented to the Church Council for approval later this month.

We will continue to monitor and control expenditures and manage our precious resources with the diligence merited. Because of your contributions, we are able to continue with the programs and service St. Mark's is known for. "Because you give, St. Mark's Gives."

God bless you and again, thank you.

Bill Nicolai, Finance Committee Chairman

Brian White, Lead Pastor

Social Justice

Welcoming the Stranger

Ours is a nation born of strangers who, regardless of the circumstances of their arrival, chose to make the United States their home. They, like us, are here to raise families, to worship, to contribute to our country's growth, strength and civility.

The United Methodist Church recognizes, embraces and affirms all persons, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God. We affirm the right for all persons to equal opportunities for employment, access to housing, healthcare, education and freedom from social discrimination.

The St. Mark's Social Justice Team urges you to join us in "Welcoming the Stranger," our winter focus. We'll explore ways to strengthen understanding and appreciation of our neighbors from different countries, communities, cultures and faiths, "loving them as we do ourselves" (Lev. 19:33-34).

Look for more information coming soon on a special Pastor's study, movie screening, book discussion and ways you can actively participate in welcoming the stranger.

Visit our Connections Table to learn more and join our Friends of Social Justice email list to receive regular updates from St. Mark's Social Justice Team.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." — Hebrews 13:2

Library News

Welcome back to the new and improved St. Mark's Library. Stop in soon and get acquainted with our new location. The shelves are full of old favorites and new additions to provide support for Bible study, Christian living, mission work, inspirational leisure reading, and materials for Christian education. Search the online catalog by title, author, or subject with your phone, computer or iPad.

On the Arrival Shelf

The Good Neighbor: The life and works of Fred Rogers. Author Maxwell King traces the personal, professional, and artistic life of an amazing man, beloved by multiple generations. (A DVD of many of Mr. Rogers' episodes is also available.)

Noel Street - The latest Christmas novel from Richard Paul Evans, author of "The Christmas Box".

Get It Together - Melanie Cullen provides detailed instructions on how to organize your records so your family won't have to.

Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and radical discipleship - by Janet Wolf (UMW shelves)

Good Grief - Author Granger Westberg's classic book of timeless wisdom for all who grieve.

Shaken: Fighting to stay strong no matter what comes your way. Young reader's edition by Tim Tebow.

Legendary Locals of Carmel - Author Debra May provides a look at the early days of Carmel and the many who contributed to its growth along the way.

The Prodigal God - Renowned author and minister Timothy Keller uses one of the best-known Christian parables to reveal a message of hope and salvation.

The Orphan Keeper - Based on a true story, Camron Wright follows the journey of a small Indian child, kidnapped and eventually adopted by an unsuspecting American family, and his search for his birth family.

Psalms for Young Children - Marie Delval's collection of Psalms, paraphrased and beautifully illustrated for young readers. (Children's shelf)



Community News

Directory Updates

Joyce and Steve Click
11933 Waterford Lane
Carmel, IN 46033

Larry & Beth Montag
14229 James Dean Drive
Carmel, IN 46033

Jake & Sarah Zadny
4855 Autumn Grove Court
Noblesville, IN 46062

Jeff & Patty Hoffer
6889 Bent Grass Drive
Naples, FL 34113

Anthony Cook
12085 Limestone Drive
Fishers, IN 46037

Sympathy

To Liz Fuller and her family at the death of her husband, Tom Fuller.

To Meridith Anderson and her family at the death of her mother, Joyce Mellor.

To the family of Dub Taylor for his death.

To Greta Carroll and Dianne Archer families at the death of their mother, Lois Hardin.

To Pat Weeks and family at the death of John Weeks.

Congratulations

To Uthoff family for the birth of Carson Cole Uthoff on January 20. He is the son of Dale and Patricia Uthoff and brother to Madelyn, Reed, and Sophia.

Liturgists & Coffee Hosts Needed

If you are interested in serving as a liturgist in worship or a coffee host, please contact Amy at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org. We especially need folks to clean carafes and mugs after the 11:00 service. Many hands make light work!

Text to Give

Did you know that giving to the ministries St. Mark's is as easy as texting a friend?

If you haven't set up the new Text 2 Give feature, please visit our website stmarkscarmel.org/text2give/ for more information. No credit cards fees apply. (Depending on your phone program, texting fees may apply.)

New Office Hours

Starting January 1, our new hours are:

Monday - Thursday: 9 AM- 3 PM

Friday: 9 AM- 12:00 PM

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. Please remember:

Annette Dunlap

Clara Breisch

Jane Roberts

Mary Hart

Betty Lachman

Ola Morrow

Jerry & Phyllis Delp

Bea Gilson

Mary Pielemeier

Charles Reid

Judy & Tom Hebenstreit

Don Ranck

Jean Smith

Vallie Williams

Ways to Serve St. Mark's in 2020

Did you know it takes more than 130 people on any given Sunday morning, plus the many others who serve during the week, to make St. Mark's activities happen? Please consider how your time, skills, and presence may benefit the St. Mark's ministries listed below. Email staff@stmarkscarmel.org or call the church office (317-846-4912) and your message will be forwarded to the ministry leader.

Sundays—Hospitality

- Make coffee and get donuts
- Refill coffees and clear away dirty mugs during the morning
- Clean carafes, mugs, donut trays after the 11:00 service

Sundays—Worship

- Liturgists
- Greeters
- Ushers
- Communion servers and stewards
- A/V booth

Sundays—Programs

- Kidz Church leaders and substitutes
- Kidz Church Storyteller
- Cornerstone Youth dinners

Weekday Activities

- Childcare leader
- MOPS mentor moms

Funeral Hosts

- Help with setup (flowers, etc)
- Guest book attendant
- Hand out programs
- Greet / attend to family
- Help with funeral dinners

Church Events (various)

- Set up tables/chairs
- Take down tables/chairs
- Serve food
- Clean kitchen
- Decorate
- Provide food donations

Wedding Hosts

- Greet/ attend to wedding party

Missions

- Donate blood
- Cook & prepare food
- Serve food
- Tutoring
- Mentoring
- Donate food & paper supplies
- Serve on a mission trip
- Potato Drop coordinator
- IHN Dinner Host coordinator
- Deliver donations

Save The Date

for Vacation Bible School

VBS 2020

July 6— July 10
9:00 AM- 12:00 PM



Registration begins in April!

The 2020 theme is Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through.



Food Pack

Sunday, March 22 | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM



St. Mark's is partnering with Midwest Mission, a ministry of the United Methodist Church, for a Rice Meal Food Pack. Midwest Mission distributes kits *around the world and around the corner* for health, education, and disaster relief supplies. All meals go to non-profits internationally. In connecting with "Food for the Poor," response is given where the need is greatest.

This is a great hands-on mission opportunity for families and anyone age 5 and older. Childcare will be provided for children age 4 and under. Sign-ups will begin mid-February. Space will be limited to 140 volunteers, so be sure to reserve your spot! If you have questions or are able to help with set up, please contact Stephanie Cohen at scohen@stmarkscarmel.org or 317-846-4912.

