

**JUBILEE**

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ST. MARK'S  
United Methodist Church

MARCH 2020

# ST. MARK'S FOOD PACK

Sunday March 22 | 2:00 – 4:00PM

*Hearts and hands transforming the  
resources of God's people into  
humanitarian relief.*



**MIDWEST MISSION**  
DISTRIBUTION CENTER  
[midwestmission.org](http://midwestmission.org)

# The Pastor's Place

Dr. Brian White, Lead Pastor  
[bwhite@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:bwhite@stmarkscarmel.org)

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

In the next few months we will be focusing our attention on two events in the life of the church. One is Easter and one is the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. It is tempting to see one of these as routine and one of these as a watershed moment. I suspect if you were to identify which event I am putting in which category you might be mistaken.



In May, the United Methodist Church will be meeting to determine the future of our denomination. This is a meeting that has received a lot of attention and will have significant implications for the UMC. It is not yet clear what the ramifications will be for local congregations like St. Mark's. We will have an opportunity to have a discussion about what this conference might mean for us on March 8 at 3:00 p.m. Our resident bishop, Bishop Julius Trimble, will be having a series of discussions around the Indiana Area including a discussion in our district on March 21 at 10:00 a.m. at Fishers United Methodist Church. The General Conference will be held May 5-15 and will be live-streamed.

As important as each of these meetings are they are not the most important date for the church in the next few months. The most important occurrence for us as Christians is Easter Sunday which we celebrate on April 12 this year. I have said many times in the past year that we need to remember that whatever happens in the life of our denomination God will still be God. After Jesus was raised from the dead he told those gathered around him to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19, NRSV).

I am confident that as we sort things out denominationally that making disciples will continue to be the primary mission of the church. I am confident that people will continue to need to know the saving grace of Jesus and the fellowship of other believers. I am confident that we will worship, sing, preach, and pray as we continue to serve our Lord. I am confident that our commitment to missions and serving our neighbors in our city and in our world will continue to be central to our faith. In other words, I am confident that we will be the church just as we have been in the past.

It is my prayer that God will lead us into the future God wants for our congregation. I pray that the new life Jesus has for each of us will also be part of our life together in 2020 and beyond. As we move through the next couple of months let us focus on the event that changed, and changes, history, that is, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let that be the future that we claim together!

In Christ's service,  
*Brian*

# The Pastor's Place

Julia Gonzales, Associate Pastor  
[jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org)

Hello St. Mark's Family,

A friend recently introduced me to a YouTuber who animated short and funny stories about her life. Rebecca Parham has been on YouTube for a few years and has a collection of videos that I have not yet seen, but last night I saw one that struck a chord with me titled "Don't Listen to the Demon." In the video, Parham talks about the "cartoon platitude" where a character has a moral decision to make and then gains a demon and angel on their shoulders trying to persuade their decision.



While this is a trope in cartoons, Parham notes that in truth many of us do have a demon and angel on our shoulders. The demon tends to whisper things like "you're not good enough," "everything is awful," and "there is no hope."

And you know, it is almost ridiculous how easy it is to listen to the "demon" on our shoulder at times. But here's the thing, just because things are hard right now doesn't mean that they will always stay that way. We don't have to listen to the demon on our shoulder that's trying to take away our hope. Jesus knows what it's like to have a demon on the shoulder, whispering doubts and struggles. Matthew 4:1-11 recounts Jesus' temptation by the devil, an encounter that occurs after Jesus has spent forty days and forty nights alone in the wilderness. Except Jesus wasn't alone, not really. Jesus had God and the Holy Spirit with him and he was able to look at the devil and say, "no." To tie it into Parham's video, he had an "angel" on his shoulder reminding him that there is hope. For those of us who are Christians, Jesus is that hope. The hope that there is more to life than what this world has to offer and that things will get better.

I know life is hard right now. There's a lot of uncertainty about what's going to happen in the church and beyond. But I promise you, there is still hope. You are not alone.

Until next time,

Julia

# March Mission Focus

Stephanie Cohen, Mission Coordinator  
[scohen@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:scohen@stmarkscarmel.org)



Imagine seeing your children slowly starving... and having nothing to feed them. For countless destitute families, this is a grim reality. Life-saving food and resources are needed to fight hunger and crises in the poorest of the poor.

Midwest Mission, a ministry of the United Methodist Church, distributes kits around the world and around the corner for health, education, and disaster relief supplies. Since opening for ministry in 2000, Midwest Mission has been showing God's Love in practical ways. They transform the resources of God's people into humanitarian relief, powered by your prayers and contributions, and connecting with local aid organizations. For more information please visit [midwestmission.org](http://midwestmission.org)

On March 22, St. Mark's is partnering with Midwest Mission, a ministry of the United Methodist Church, for a Rice Meal Food Pack. All the meals we pack will go to non-profits internationally. In connecting with "Food for the Poor," the response is given where the need is greatest. Help us reach our goal of packing 25,000 meals!

## How Can I Help?

- Financial donations to MMDC may be given online at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give) or using the mission envelope in the Sunday bulletin.
- Sign up for our Rice Meal Food Pack Sunday, March 22, 2:00-4:00pm in Wesley Hall. This is a family-friendly, hands-on mission opportunity for anyone age 5 and older. Childcare will be provided for children age 4 and under. Sign up online at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups/](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups/)
- Help with set up and/or tear down for the Food Pack.

Please contact Stephanie Cohen, [scohen@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:scohen@stmarkscarmel.org) for more information.

# Donation & Service Opportunities

## Breakfast Servers Needed

Thursday, March 26

On the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:scohen@stmarkscarmel.org)



## UMCOR Sunday

Sunday, March 22

UMCOR Sunday is one of the six Special Sundays in the United Methodist Church. This church-wide special Sunday offering provides United Methodists the opportunity to help our brothers and sisters around the world in their time of need through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Our generous gifts through the UMCOR Sunday offering provide immediate assistance in the wake of disasters and ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace.

## Second Helpings

March Food Drive

Can you help others in central Indiana who are food insecure? Thousands of hungry children and adults are struggling to provide essential meals. During the month of March, we will be collecting food for Second Helpings. They make and distribute food, free of charge, through local social service agencies in Greater Indianapolis. Second Helpings also trains unemployed and underemployed adults for meaningful careers in the culinary industry. Please choose from the needed list below and drop off donations to the bins inside door #2.



### High Priority Items

- |        |               |             |
|--------|---------------|-------------|
| Rice   | Pickles       | Mayonnaise  |
| Pepper | Cooking Spray | Cooking Oil |

### Additional Items Needed

- |              |                   |              |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Chili powder | Taco seasoning    | Hoisin sauce |
| Coriander    | Italian seasoning | Plum sauce   |
| Cumin        | Curry powder      | Fish sauce   |
| Oregano      | Garlic powder     | Soy sauce    |
| Thyme        | Turmeric          | Pasta        |
| Salt         | Granulated onion  |              |

## Mustard Seed Swing into Spring

**Wednesday, March 18 | 6:00 PM-9:00 PM**

Join the Mustard Seed for their 2nd Annual fundraiser, with food, fun games and prizes!



\$100 in advance, \$110 at the door. RSVP at [mustardseedindy.org](http://mustardseedindy.org) or call (317) 572-5724.

## Brightwood Community Center

The kids at Brightwood Community Center need you! Help is needed to serve and/or prepare meals for the after-school program. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve as the hands and feet of Christ. St. Mark's covers the cost of food. Contact Stephanie Cohen at [scohen@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:scohen@stmarkscarmel.org) or 317-846-4912 for more information.

After-school tutoring also continues to be a 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](mailto:joediane244@att.net).

## 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:** 9 bags of food
- **Fletcher Place:** 40 containers of oatmeal, 5 bags of food, breakfast served to 150 people in need
- **Family Promise/IHN:** 14 bags of Supply Drive Personal Hygiene items; 3 bags of gift items for guest welcome bags; 4 pillows, 3 sheet/blanket sets, 2 bags bedding
- **Brightwood Community Center:** 2 meals to after school care children
- **Mission Guatemala, Inc.:** \$4039.78
- **Soup's On at Roberts Park:** lunch served to 250 people in need

## Red Bird Mission Trip

### INTEREST/CALL OUT MEETING

**Sunday, March 8 | 12:30 PM**

Have you been thinking about serving on a mission trip 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, is just what you've been looking for!

This is a year-round work opportunity for volunteers in mission and service-minded groups. Work Camp strives to provide home repair for low-income community residents and maintenance for Mission buildings and grounds. Plan to attend the call out meeting on **Sunday March 8, at 12:30**, here in St. Mark's. We'll choose the next trip date and have Q&A with other St. Mark's members. No need to register for this meeting—just show up. For more info contact Stephanie Cohen at [scohen@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:scohen@stmarkscarmel.org)

## Soup's On! At Roberts Park

**Sunday, April 26**



The Roberts Park United Methodist Church Soup's On ministry provides a wonderful opportunity for us to carry out Jesus' command to "feed the hungry." Each Sunday, volunteers at Roberts Park serve lunch for 200-250 homeless persons and others in need in downtown Indianapolis. We have served 240 people the last two times we have served. St. Mark's will be providing the meal on Sunday, April 26. Servers will meet at St. Mark's in Wesley Hall at 9:15 a.m., plan to leave at approximately 9:30. And return around 2:30. Mark your calendars for our next serving opportunities: April 26, August 30, and October 25.

How can you be involved?

- Join others from St. Mark's on April 26th and help serve lunch for those less fortunate. (23-25 volunteers are needed.)
- Provide food for the meal.

***Sign up to help at [stmarkscarmel.org](http://stmarkscarmel.org) anytime or at the Ministry Table outside the sanctuary, beginning March 22.***

## Funeral Meal Ministry—NEW!

A new group of volunteers is now coordinating and providing Funeral Meals. This ministry offers well-balanced, tasty, and low-cost meals to grieving St. Mark families and guests, ranging from \$0-\$4 per person.

The team currently has 19 members, 14 of whom are Team Leaders to guide helpers through the shopping, set-up, food prep, serving and clean-up. The team leadership rotates through funerals so no one carries a disproportionate load of each funeral meal. The goal is to provide a caring, stress-free, delicious, and welcoming meal for grieving families at a relatively low cost. Because they are not a catering service, the menu options are simple and consistent. (No substitutions or add-ons.)

If you are interested in participating on the Funeral Meal Team, please contact Lydia Fourman (4manternlyd@gmail.com), Julie Lyons (julielyons796@gmail.com) or Joann Burnett (joannburnett1@aol.com). Many hands make light work.

# Music

Dr. Eric DeForest, Director  
[edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org)

## Music Opportunities this Spring

### 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](mailto:jackieanded@gmail.com) for more information.

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## *St. Mark's* PRESENTS

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### **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 team at 9:40 AM & 11 :00 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 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.



## Internship Opportunities at St. Mark's

Do you enjoy working with children? Do you want to learn more about working in a church setting? St. Mark's is excited to announce 2 paid internship opportunities for Summer 2020 working with staff and focusing time with children and mission activities. Work schedules will be flexible and approximately 15 hours per week during the summer months.

**Job Responsibilities**-Interns will assist mainly with Children's Mission Outreach. Interns will assist in preparing for Vacation Bible Camp, organize a Club 56 Mission Camp, as well as plan fellowship and service opportunities over the summer for children and our local community.

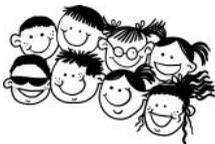
**Qualifications**-Intern candidates should be comfortable working in a church setting, caring, compassionate, confident, and enjoy children. To be eligible, youth must have completed their sophomore year in high school (up through a college graduate). The ideal candidate will be computer literate and comfortable working in an inter-generational environment.

**Application Process**-Interested candidates are invited to submit a cover letter explaining why they are interested in the Internship, a resume with relevant experience, and contact information for three references to Children's Education Director, Ramie Cooney, [rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org). or (317) 846-4912 with any questions or to learn more. Applications will be reviewed beginning April 3 and decisions communicated around April 17.

## Kidz Night Out

**Friday, March 13 | 6:00 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](http://stmarkscarmel.org/sundaykids) and contribute \$15 per child (\$30 per family) to benefit youth mission trips and retreats. Contact Ramie Cooney, [rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org) for more information.

## Club 56 Bowling Party

**Sunday, March 29 | 1:00 PM**

Club 56ers are invited to meet at Woodland Bowl for several rounds of bowling followed by video game fun. Parents can drop off at 3421 E. 96th Street, Indianapolis. Approximate cost is \$12.

## Kidz Music & Praise

### Spring Bowling Party

**Sunday, March 29 | 5:00 PM**

Join Kidz Music & Praise as we celebrate families at Woodland Bowl (3421 E. 96th Street, Indianapolis).

## Infant Recognition Sunday

**Sunday, March 8**

On Sunday, March 8, we will be recognizing infants born in 2019. Families are invited to send a picture of their baby to [rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org) by 3/4 (even if they cannot attend) Babies and parents will be recognized at the beginning of the 9:40 AM and 11:00 AM services. As in previous years, we will also have a white rose to honor those families who lost an infant in 2019.

## Scouting Ministries Sunday

**Sunday, March 15**

All children and youth involved in scout ministries are invited to come in uniform to celebrate the importance of activities that build strong virtues, survival skills, confidence, leadership and teamwork. St. Mark's is fortunate to host several Boy and Girl Scout troops and packs.

## Kidz Worship Performs

**Sunday, March 22 | 9:40 am & 11:00 AM**

Children in Kidz Music & Praise classes will sing "Woke Up This Morning with Drum Ensemble" 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.

## Save the Date

### 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**

Save the Date! The theme is Rocky Railway: Where Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through.

### PUPPET & DRAMA CAMP

**Monday, June 22—Friday, June 29**

Puppet Camp | 9:45 AM-11:30 AM

Drama Camp | 12:00 PM-2:45 PM

Look for more information in upcoming issues of the Jubilee.



## **Weekly Gatherings**

### **SUNDAY MORNINGS**

Cornerstone AM—Grades 7-12

**9:40 AM**

Sunday School class for students in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **THURSDAY EVENINGS**

**DKB @ Starbucks**

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

## **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

## Groups for Parents

RSVP FOR NEW GROW GROUP BY  
MARCH 8

Beginning soon! **RSVP by March 8.** If you've not received an invitation from Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, email her at [jcloud-buckner@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:jcloud-buckner@stmarkscarmel.org) or sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups) by March 8. Join the couples who are forming a new Grow Group for parents with young children. 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 Christ's love.

## MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOLERS (MOPS)

March 4 | 9:30 AM- 11:15 AM  
March 18 | 9:30 AM- 11:15 AM



The MOPS topic for the March 4 meeting is ER vs Urgent Care vs Pediatrician. March 18's topic is Fun with Family. 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](mailto:mopsatst.marks@gmail.com).

## SCHOOL AGE MOMS

March 4 (offsite) & March 18 | 12:00 PM

For moms of school-aged kids, SAMS meets two Wednesdays per month at 12:00-1:45. Next meetings are scheduled for 3/4 offsite and 3/18 at St. Mark's. Contact Ali Lemberg ([getintouchinc@yahoo.com](mailto:getintouchinc@yahoo.com)) to connect with this community.

## FRIDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP, 9:30AM-11:30AM | 3/6-3/27

Childcare is available with 48-hours' advance registration at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups). The Friday AM study group is an ever-changing community that shares in different books and seasons of life. New people are always welcomed. The next study, beginning 3/6, is *The Authenticity Challenge: 21 Days to a More Content Life* by Sarah Heath. Learn more on page 22.

## Upcoming Family Events

### KIDZ NIGHT OUT

Friday, March 13 | 6:00 PM

For details, see page 10 or email [rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org).

### EASTER EGG HUNT- SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 28 | 10:00 AM

See page 23 for more details.

## Summer Camp

### IMPACT 2818-OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

Church camp is designed to help children thrive on their spiritual journey. The UMC of Indiana offers excellent camps through Impact 2818:Outdoor Ministries. In addition to lots of fun, summer church camp can also provide transformational experiences in the life of a child. St. Mark's is looking to coordinate summer camp sessions this summer to help children build community with others from our church while also meeting many other children from across the state. Information on individual and family camps is available at [IMPACT2818.org](http://IMPACT2818.org). Early registration ends 4/15.

# Adult Discipleship

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

Dear St. Mark's friends,

This fall I attended an intentional discipleship workshop from Phil Maynard, a ministry coach and pastor. He asks all of his Bible studies, Sunday schools, and small groups a compelling question: **What one thing will you do differently this week as a result of this discussion?** It's a quick way to help people focus on moving from knowledge to application. If you're already part of a study group here at St. Mark's, I encourage you to try this question as well. Through your reading, prayers, and discussion, what is God calling you to do?

As Dr. Maynard summarized, **"Discipleship is not about how much you know about Jesus—it's about how you behave. It's not about information, but about transformation—how you live differently because of Jesus."**

In December, our Friday AM study embodied these words. While reading *The Broken Way*, they felt called to provide care for people going through life's broken times. They created care bags for IMPD officers to have for calls involving children. Many of these calls are related to domestic violence, and these bags provide kids with a stuffed animal and activities to comfort them. If you also feel called to action based on what you are learning, I'd love to help you find some new ways to develop your discipleship.

- Jennifer Cloud-Buckner  
Adult Discipleship Coordinator

## Grow Groups

### GROW GROUPS SIGN UP ENDS MARCH 8

Beginning soon! If you are looking to connect with community for encouragement, spiritual growth, and sharing with others in a similar season of life, please **sign up by March 8** at [stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups) or on the Connections Table.

### ENCOURAGEMENT GROUPS

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

## Themed Studies

### PASTOR'S LENTEN STUDY

*Exploring the Way*

Sunday, 4/1/4/5 | 6:00 P.M-7:00 PM

Ideal for new and maturing Christians of all stages, *Exploring the Way* will help deepen your experience of God through spiritual practice. More details are on page 22.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE BOOK DISCUSSION

Sunday, 3/22 | 9:40AM

The Social Justice committee is offering a discussion of Gustav Neibuhr's *Beyond Tolerance*. Learn more on page 18.

Find links to signups and more information on Adult Studies, Grow Groups, and childcare at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups). Books and signups are on the Connections Table.

## Weekday Study Groups

### WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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/ea) are on the Connections Table.

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

*Romans: Good News that Changes Everything* by Melissa Spoelstra, **3/11-4/15**

Find the good news that brings hope and spiritual renewal. In a world full of bad news of disasters, violence, and conflict, we can't lose sight of the fact that God has given us good news in the gospel. Gospel truths for the early church in Rome echo into our day, reminding us that we can personally embrace God's love and share it with others. This 6-week study will highlight significant concepts about faith, grace, daily life, God's plan, relationships, and eternity. Whatever bad news we may receive, in Romans we will find good news to encourage and transform us. Lydia Fourman facilitates. Books are \$13.

### THURSDAYS

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

*John: The Gospel of Light and Life* by Adam Hamilton, **2/27-4/2**. Learn more on page 22.

### 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**. Learn more on page 22.

## Sunday Morning Groups

### 9:40 AM

#### VENTURE (ROOM B)

Venture Class meets at 9:15 with joys and concerns. This month features guest speakers and videos from *The Great Courses: History of Christianity II*. Jean Douglass facilitates.

#### CUTTING EDGE (ROOM G/H)

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.

#### OPEN DOORS/OPEN IDEAS (ROOM J)

Now reading Jessica LaGrone's *Set Apart Holy Habits of Prophets and Kings*. Chuck Blair leads.

#### FOUNDATIONS & FRIENDSHIPS (ROOM K)

In March, F&F's will be reading Diana Butler Bass's *Broken We Kneel: Reflections on Faith and Citizenship*. All are welcome to join!

### 11:00 AM

#### JOURNEY (ROOM B)

Share and discuss the Old and New Testaments based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Jonathan Barclay facilitates.

#### REEL SPIRITUALITY (ROOM G/H)

All are welcome to "the movie class" for Christian themes and heartfelt topics through film. The class usually completes a film within 3-4 consecutive Sundays, watching 30-40 minutes each week. Next movie will be *Secondhand Lions*, the 2003 comedy-drama about a boy (Haley Joel Osment) spending the summer with his eccentric great uncles (Robert Duvall, Michael Caine). Lydia and Terry Fourman facilitate.

# Open Groups



## UMW Meeting

Tuesday, March 10

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!

*Childcare is available by registering your child 48 hours in advance at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups)*

### MORNING GROUPS

**Bookworms**—The group will discuss *A Piece of the World*, Christina Baker Kline. Gail Lee facilitates.

**Spiritual Growth**— The group is discussing *Practicing Resurrection* by Janet Wolf. 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, as we supply the craft materials for a small fee. For March we will make an Easter Decoration. Kathy Dycus and Marilyn Roberts facilitate.

**Color & Chat**—Coloring isn't just for kids! 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. March's book is *A Mighty Long Way* by Carlotta Walls Lanier.

**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

Monday, March 30 | Leadership, 7:00 PM

Monday, May 25 | Nurturing for Community

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. 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](mailto:sbf5salter@att.net) for more information.

### TRINKETS & TREASURES

Friday, May 22 & Saturday, May 23

Start cleaning out no longer needed items for UMW's largest fund raiser for missions. Items (no clothing or Christmas items please) can be brought to the church starting May 17. If you have items that need to leave their present home before then we do have a garage for storage. Please contact Trisha Stanart for information. Clothes are not sold at the sale but are collected separately as part of our clothes drive. More information to follow.



## UMM Second Saturday Breakfast Meetings

**Saturday, March 14 | 7:30 AM at Christ UMC (Westfield)**

The United Methodist Men Breakfasts are held the 2nd Saturday of every month. We will be attending the March Lenten breakfast at Christ UMC.

### Lenten Breakfast Schedule

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](mailto:umm@stmarkscarmel.org) or call a UMM Board Member. You can also see what's going on at [stmarkscarmel.org](http://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

**3/12 & 3/26 | 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](mailto:marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org)

## WayFinders

WayFinders is a 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. If you have any questions about our next event, email Pastor Julia at [jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org).

## Open Group Schedule

### Monday

#### COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

3/2 & 3/16 | 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](mailto: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](mailto:careercurve@stmarkscarmel.org).

### Tuesday

#### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Tuesday, March 24 | 11:15 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! Group meets December, March, May, July, September. Contact Judy Bonnet for more information at [jbonnet@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:jbonnet@stmarkscarmel.org).

#### PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB

3/17 | 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

The Giver of Stars by JoJo Moyes 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

Sahm's, | March 19, 11:30 AM

11505 Allisonville Rd, Fishers

Juliets (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Out Together) every 3rd Thursday. Meet at a different restaurant every month. For more information, contact Barbara Johnson, (317) 863-2689, [timberblj@gmail.com](mailto:timberblj@gmail.com).

#### BRIDGE

1:00 PM

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

#### CRAFT & HOBBY GROUP

Thursday, 3/19 | 6:00 -9:00 PM

Friday, 3/20 | 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 3/15.

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

# Special Events

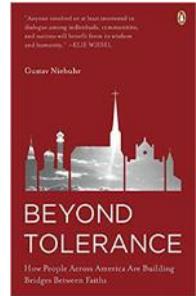
## Social Justice Book Discussion

### ***Beyond Tolerance* by Gustav Niebuhr**

**Sunday, March 22 | 9:40 AM**

The Social Justice committee is offering a book discussion of Gustav Niebuhr's book *Beyond Tolerance: How People Across America are Building Bridges Between Faiths*.

At a time when religious conflict and violence dominate the media, distinguished religion journalist Gustav Niebuhr set off across America to find people who are building, not burning, the bridges between faiths. As he travels across the country—from Queens and Baltimore to Louisville and L.A., he finds Buddhists, Catholics, Jews, Baptists, Muslims, & Episcopalians reaching out to one another to find common ground between their faiths. This insightful and deeply felt exploration of the nature of community and religion is a tribute to their efforts and a boost of much-needed optimism that reminds all Americans of their common goals, no matter their faith. **Books are \$5 on the Connections Table.**



## **"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.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Mother, Daughter, Friend Banquet**

**Tuesday, May 12 | 6:30 PM**

Look for details in the April Jubilee for this Annual Event.

# Committee News

## Finance

Did you know that you can make tax-advantaged contributions directly from your IRA / tax deferred retirement account and gain a tax advantage by doing so, even though you may not itemize your tax deductions? With the standard deduction for 2020 now set at \$24,800 for married filing jointly tax filers (and greater if 65 years or older), you may be interested to know that funds from an individual retirement account (but not 401k) can be donated “tax advantaged” to charity. The key requirements follow:

- Satisfy required minimum distributions
- Set up a direct transfer to a charity
- Select a qualifying charity

**IRA owners must be age 70** or older to make a tax-free charitable contribution; qualified donors can transfer up to \$100,000 (\$200k if you file a joint return) per year directly from an IRA to an eligible charity without paying income taxes on the transaction.

The donation to a qualified charity (for which St. Marks qualifies) can also help meet all or part of the IRA’s required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year. Another way to donate IRA assets is through an estate after the donor’s death by naming the charity as the designated beneficiary – or one of them – of the IRA.

Bottom line – using an IRA to make a charitable donation can help lower a tax bill and help a worthy cause, effectively increasing the net proceeds received from donor as the donor is contributing pre-tax funds. Distributions must be made directly to the charity, not the owner or beneficiary (i.e., checks need to be made payable to the charity, but most transfers may be done electronically – contact Stephanie

Solesky or Shaw Wang in the office for banking information). Talk to your IRA custodian about to how to make this happen and be sure to leave sufficient time for the funds to reach the charity.

—Bill Nicolai, St. Mark’s Finance Chair

## Social Justice

### Welcoming the Stranger

We continue our winter focus of “Welcoming the Stranger”. We are exploring 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)

Join us Sunday March 22 to discuss the book, *Beyond Tolerance* by Gustav Niebuhr. More information on page 18.

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

## Trustees

Renovations throughout the church are nearing completion and are anticipated to be completed by the end of March. The Trustees would like to extend their appreciation to the great professionalism, craftsmanship and flexibility that Jim Bridenstine and his team at BuildSmart Construction have provided throughout the project.

# Library News

stmarkscarmel.org/library

## Lenten Reading Options

The Story of the Cross, May Joslin

The Women of Easter, Liz Curtis Higgs

Give Up Something Bad for Lent, Moore

Apostle Peter and the Last Supper (DVD)

The Case for Easter, Strobel

Lord of the 40 Days: Meditations for Lent, Topping

Easter stories: Classic Tales for the Easter Season

Make Room: A Child's Guide to Lent & Easter-Alary

Family Celebrations at Easter, Hibbard

The Final Week of Jesus, Lucado

Risen (DVD)

Use the search term "Easter" to look for a complete listing of Lenten reading materials in the St. Mark's Library catalog (found at [stmarkscarmel.org/library/](http://stmarkscarmel.org/library/)). A printed bibliography is also available on the checkout counter just inside the library door.

## On the New Arrivals Shelf

***Cross My Heart*** – Christian fiction author Robin Lee Hatcher weaves together a contemporary love story with a heartwarming tale of redemption.

***Without You, There is No Us*** – A memoir by Suki Kim, who tells of her time as an English teacher for the sons of North Korean elites. (UMW Shelves)

***The Forgiving Jar*** – Popular author Wanda Brunstetter's novel about forgiveness and building relationships.

***Hospitable Planet: Faith, Action and Climate Change*** – Stephen Jurovics asks what can we do about our environment and what would God have to say about the problems we face. (UMW Shelves)

***Finding Chika*** – Best-selling author Mitch Albom relates the true story of a small Haitian child who became a member of his family following the recent devastating earthquake

***Heartbeat of a Mother*** – Jane Rubietta offers encouragement for mothers in this inspirational book. (UMW Shelves)

***Jesus is Alive: The Empty Tomb in Jerusalem*** – Jim Reimann (Children's Shelf)



# Community News

## Directory Updates

Joyce and Steve Click  
11993 Waterford Lane  
Carmel, IN 46033

Joanne & Lynn Denison  
14532 Allisonville Road, Apt 346  
Fishers, IN 46038

Dick & Joyce Landis  
11755 N. Michigan Rd.  
Apt 227  
Zionsville, IN 46077-9325

Mr & Mrs Barry Fairfax  
6362 Fordham Way  
Fishers, IN 46038

## Sympathy

To Doris Jean Carlow, at the death of her sister,  
Nell Mason.

## Congratulations

To Lynn Lareau on the birth of her twin great-grandchildren, Hunter & Jade Montanti. Proud parents are Megan & Sergio Montanti.

## New Doorstops Arrive

In a recent fire inspection, the Fire Inspector required us to remove all of the metal doorstops attached to our fire-resistant doors in order to comply with regulations. You will now find new black plastic door stops hanging from doorknobs for you to use in your classrooms. Thank you for your flexibility in this safety matter. If there is a room missing a doorstop, please notify Juan Mercado, [jmercado@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:jmercado@stmarkscarmel.org).

## In Our Congregation

Dear St. Markers & Friends,

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Your support shown brightly through the amazing planter. Thank you for praying for Mom for so many years and for all the cards you sent. How fortunate we are to be part of the Loving Christian family of St. Mark's. — The Carroll & Archer Families

Dear St. Markers,

Thank you, St Mark's family, for all the prayers, cards, and meals during my recent surgery recovery. They definitely add some sunshine to the day. Blessings to all of you. —Dorothy Wiens

## 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	Jean Smith
Judy & Tom Hebenstreit	Don Ranck
Vallie Williams	

# Season of LENT

A time of reflection and preparation

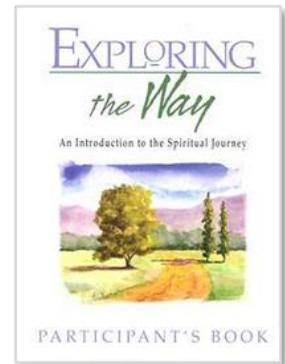
Ash Wednesday, February 26, through Easter, April 12

## Lenten Studies

**PASTOR'S LENTEN STUDY | SUNDAY EVENINGS, 6:00-7:00 P.M.**

*Exploring the Way: An Introduction to the Spiritual Journey, 3/1-4/5*

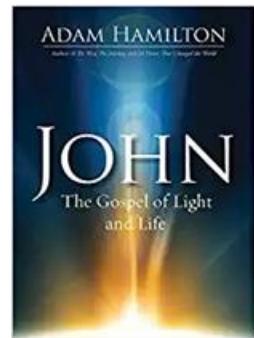
Ideal for new and maturing Christians of all stages, *Exploring the Way* will help you understand and deepen your experience of God. Perfect for a Lenten journey, this book defines and explains essential concepts of the Christian spiritual life: prayer, the Bible's message for our lives today, spiritual 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 are \$12 on the Connections Table. Sign up online at [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups).



**THURSDAY 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 on the Connections Table. Sign up online at [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups).



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

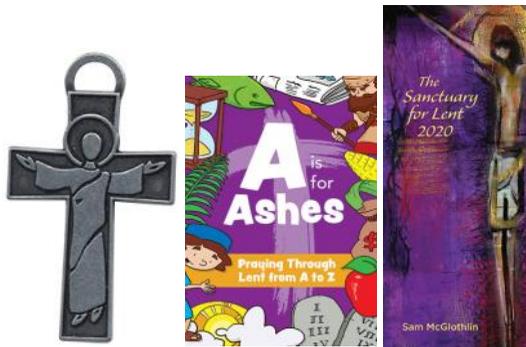
*The Authenticity Challenge: 21 Days to a More Content Life* by Sarah Heath, 3/6-3/27

The fear of missing out (FOMO) 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 advance sign up.



## Free Lenten Devotionals and Tokens in Gathering Area

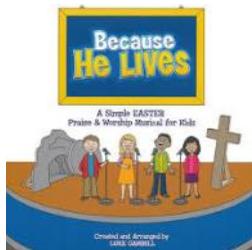
This week, pick up materials in the Gathering Area. Even three minutes of intentional devotion can change your day for the better. During Lent, spend time each day with a short scripture passage and reflection for practical, everyday wisdom. Pick up your Lenten devotionals for adults (*The Sanctuary for Lent*) and children (*A is for Ashes*) in the Gathering Area, next to the library drop box, to become closer to God and find hope in the promise of Easter. See the table also for cross tokens as a gift of remembrance for this season.



## Lenten Musical

**Sunday, March 29 | 12:00 PM**

Kidz Music & Praise will present their Lenten Musical, "Because He Lives" in the Chapel immediately following the 11:00 service. All are welcome.



## Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, March 28 | 10:00 AM**

Come enjoy brunch and an egg hunt with your St. Marks' friends! The morning will start off with brunch at 10:00 AM. Coffee and juice are provided. Please sign up at the Connection Tables to let us know what brunch item you will be bringing and how many will be attending. The egg hunt will begin at 11:00 AM. There will be separate egg hunt areas depending on age. After the eggs are collected, children will receive a treat bag and the Easter story will be told.

Donations of wrapped candy, small toys, stickers or treats are needed by March 15. Look for a basket marked "egg hunt" in which to place these donations near the Connection Tables.



## Order Easter Flowers Now

Each year, St. Mark's Chancel is filled with spring flowers in celebration of Easter. The flowers are provided by the congregation at the cost of \$8.00 per pot and may be given in honor of, or in memory of a friend, loved one, group, etc. There will be a listing of these gifts in the Sunday bulletin on Easter morning. You may also order online at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups). The orders must be in the office by **March 29** to be listed in the Easter bulletin. You may take your flowers home after the 11:00 Easter worship.



Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of flowers \_\_\_\_ @ \$8.00

Total \$ : \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of:

\_\_\_\_\_



## Lenten & Holy Week

### PALM SUNDAY SERVICES

April 5

Traditional Services, | 8:15 AM & 11:00 AM

Contemporary Service | 9:40 AM

### MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

April 9, | 7:00 PM

### GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

April 10 | 7:00 PM

### EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

April 12

Sunrise Service | 7:00 AM

Traditional Services | 8:15 AM, 11:00 AM

Contemporary Service | 9:40 AM