

JUBILEE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ST. MARK'S
United Methodist Church
MAY 2020



Mission is
always our
way of life

stmarkscarmel.org/connected

The Pastor's Place

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

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

Anyone who knows me knows that I am a planner. I generally am not comfortable doing things off the cuff and even the most casual experience will find me considering time schedules and budgets. If you want to make me a little crazy then suggest an activity where you just take things as they come and see where things go. I want a plan. I need a plan.



Unfortunately, we live in a time without precedent. We are suddenly thrust into a social reality for which we do not have a clear long-term plan. It would be nice to have a map to follow in this situation, but we don't have one. In a sense we are creating our own map as a society and within our own circles of concern - like our families and our church.

Stephen Covey talks about the difference between a map and a compass when trying to navigate. It is nice to have a map if you know where you are and you have the correct map for your location. A map, however, has some limitations because it requires someone else to have traveled the same terrain and to have written down that terrain accurately. Covey says that in situations where we are in uncharted territory what we really need is a compass. A compass isn't as specific as a map but it is more flexible and adaptive to more situations. Covey writes: "We are more in need of a vision or destination and a compass (a set of principles or directions) and less in need of a road map. We often don't know what the terrain ahead will be like or what we will need to go through it; much will depend on our judgment at the time. But an inner compass will always give us direction." (Covey, Stephen R.. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, p. 108. Mango Media. Kindle Edition.)

The good news is that while the Bible, which is the closest things that Christians have to a life roadmap, doesn't give us specific instructions about dealing with pandemics, it does point to the true north of God's intention for how we treat each other in every moment. When Jesus was asked about the central compass point for Christian living he said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." (Luke 10:27, NRSV)

Our Wesleyan heritage also gives directions for finding our spiritual true north. In his book, *Three Simple Rules, A Wesleyan Way of Living*, Bishop Reuben Job summarizes Wesley's mandates as: 1) Do good. 2) Do no harm. 3) Stay in love with God. It is easy to see how Wesley drew on Jesus' words to create his values compass.

So, the long and short of it is that we do not have a map to lead us through these days but we do have core values which can lead us in the right direction without specific instructions. As we decide our actions on the road of life we can ask ourselves question like: "Do my actions promote good in the world? Do my actions avoid harming anyone? Are my actions guided by my love for God and do they draw me closer to God?"

Sometimes the road is clear before us and we follow a well beaten trail. Sometimes we must create the road as we go. We are trailblazing in some ways as we learn new ways of doing ministry in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. But we also have a compass - God's word for our lives individually and our lives together. As you face uncertain days ahead please know that you are not alone. We will make our way together as we move into the future being led by God.

In Christ's service,

Brian

The Pastor's Place

Julia Gonzales, Associate Pastor
jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org

Hello St. Mark's family,

"What is your taste of happiness?" That simple question posed in an episode had me pausing Netflix and sitting back. What is my taste of happiness? During this time of social distancing and quarantine, where have I tasted happiness? As the moment in the episode had to do with cooking, I started thinking about the things Kyle and I had cooked and baked since the quarantine started. Sweet scones, homemade danishes, jalapeno cheese dip, mozzarella baked tilapia, tortilla soup...an array of sweet, spicy, and savory (although not all eaten together in one meal).



As Christians, it is part of our traditional liturgy at communion to say, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." We rely on our senses of taste and touch, sight and smell, as well as hearing to understand the fullness of God's love. Any way that we can experience God's goodness we are invited to do so. But taste...the simple act of breaking bread together and sharing a meal is a powerful component. At this time, it feels like there's a limit on how often we are able to truly taste God's goodness. We may wonder what there is to be happy about when there is *so much* going wrong and it's made even worse by our need to stay away from one another to remain healthy. But even so, I'm inviting you to find a taste of happiness, even if it is only a crumb.

Take care, St. Markers. You are not alone.

Julia

The Pastor's Place

Mary Ann Moman, Associate Pastor
mmoman@stmarkscarmel.org

As many of you know I walked part of the Camino de Santiago two years ago. This was a pilgrimage I chose. I walked with clergy friends and their spouses and with my daughter. It was a walk of a lifetime. The walk had been on my bucket list for some time. I prepared as best I could. Even with preparation I suffered many of the pitfalls that befall pilgrims: blisters, sore muscles, discouragement, and the wondering of why I thought this was a good idea. I am grateful that I went on this pilgrimage. I learned many things about myself.



Some of those lessons have been helpful in these days of "distancing". The pilgrimage of the last month was not chosen. I would not choose to stay distant from my family and friends. The first lesson is that each day has its challenges and joy. Easter Sunday my daughter and son-in-law came to my house. I sat on the porch and they brought chairs and sat in the yard---10 feet away. it was a joy to see them and a challenge not to hug them.

The second lesson is that "the Camino provides". While being safe in my home for over 30 days I have read books that have been on my shelves for a long time. I have discovered the spiritual discipline of silence. In the silence I am finding space to listen for God.

Before I left to walk Camino I gathered some quotes for my journal. These were an encouragement to me each day. One that I have come back to again and again I share with you as you journey though these days.

The Five Elegant Practices of Pilgrimages

Practice the arts of attention and listening.

Practice renewing yourself everyday.

Practice meandering toward the center of every place.

Practice the ritual of reading sacred texts.

Practice gratitude and praise-singing.

Grace and peace,

Mary Ann

May Mission Focus

Stephanie Cohen, Mission Coordinator
scohen@stmarkscarmel.org



East Tenth United Methodist Children & Youth Center is a Registered Ministry that serves children and families on Indianapolis' Near Eastside, providing quality care and education regardless of a parent's ability to pay. They have a sliding scale and this month St. Mark's is collecting donations that will help subsidize parent payments and provide scholarships for children to attend.

Statistics show that the children in this area are faced with many challenges and East Tenth offers a variety of programs to help meet their needs:

Early Learning Childcare Center

Childcare for infants and children ages 6 weeks to five years old. The center provides quality childcare, educational activities, nutritious meals, inter-generational activities, and a chance to learn and grow in a safe environment to all children.

Summer Days for Youth

Provides an all-day camp, which focuses on academic enrichment, computer classes, art programs, recreational activities and field trips. The #1 goal for summer is personal development. Last year they provided safe summer fun to 106 youth.

Before & After School Program

Serves school-age children. Their focus is on tutoring, homework, recreational & service opportunities, and drug prevention to help their youth become successful, well-rounded students. They provide transportation to & from school and all-day care during breaks and holidays.

How Can I Help?

- Monetary donations may be given online at stmarkscarmel.org/giving.
- Mail a check to the church office while we are still restricted to stay-at-home.
- Look for Summer opportunities for In Kind donations

Donation & Service Opportunities

Blood Drive

Sunday, June 7 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

Your help is still needed to save lives! Community members are being urged to schedule and/or keep their blood donation



appointments to ensure an adequate blood supply. It is critically important that healthy individuals continue to donate to minimize disruptions to the blood supply and ensure blood is available. "The patients in our communities and our hospital partners rely on the generosity of donors for this precious resource," said Versiti Chief Medical Officer Tom Abshire, M.D. "The donation process itself poses no risk of infecting a donor with coronavirus. Donors and our blood drive sponsors should be reassured that attending organized blood drives is safe."

Sign ups will begin in May; further details to come! Contact Mindy Davis at Melinda.kay.moore.davis@gmail.com for more information.

Update for Missions

Several events have had to be put on hold for Missions because of COVID-19:

- Midwest Food Pack has been postponed. It will be re-scheduled as soon as we can safely do so.
- Mission Guatemala trip has been postponed until 2021.
- Fletcher Place and Soup's On meals are currently sack meals only.
- Hosting IHN in May has been postponed. You can support this important ministry by signing up for "Night Without A Bed". (More information on page 7)
- Second Helpings received our Food Drive items in March.

Please hold all your donations (Mustard Seed Donations, Coats, Shoes, etc.) We will have a Churchwide Collection when the church doors are open again. There are also monetary opportunities available. Check out our website stmarkscarmel.org/missions.

Because You Give, St. Mark's Gives!

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

- Fletcher Place: 19 oatmeal, 2 bags of food, breakfast served to 80 people in need, 56 sack meals
- Roberts Park: \$500
- Outreach Indiana: 45 hygiene kits
- Second Helpings: 13 bags (74 pounds) of food
- Family Promise: \$7000, 3 bags of food, bags of gift items for guest welcome bags
- Versiti Blood Center of IN: 25 units of blood
- Brightwood Community Center: 2 meals to after school care children
- Mustard Seed: countless items



Presented by Ivy Tech Automotive

Have you ever had to spend a night without a bed? Join St. Mark's team in helping Family Promise/IHN expand shelter for families in need. You can participate in a unique, family friendly, fundraising opportunity to help Family Promise support families who may not have a home, let alone a bed.

Will you spend a night without a bed on May 2? In your car, on your sofa, on your floor, in a treehouse, in your tent in your yard. Have fun and be creative while helping those in need. This event is to raise money for the Apartment Shelter Project. Every \$15,000 means we will say yes to eight families with children that call for shelter this year. Why? Because that is the operating expenses for one apartment (i.e. year's rent, utilities, security deposit, insurance, furnishings, etc.) to be used as a temporary shelter for a family experiencing homelessness. Each apartment will serve about eight families, one at a time, over 12 months. This event is usually an actual bed race. However, due to COVID-19 the event is now a Virtual night without your bed. Prizes will be awarded.

How Can I Help?

Join St. Mark's Team

1. Donate money at stmarkscarmel.org/give (any donation is welcome-select "night without a bed" from the dropdown list)
2. Donate by sending a check to the church office with "night without a bed" in the memo line.
3. Spend May 2 without a bed and share your Virtual "night without a bed" on Social Media (#NightWithoutABed)

Would you like to know more about this Family Promise fundraiser? Visit stmarkscarmel.org/night-without-a-bed

May Programming

We miss seeing you in person and can't wait to hear all that you have learned while we have been apart. Each week many programming options are available:

- Check out the **Connect with Kidz website** at stmarkscarmel.org/kidzconnect to find weekly Kidz Church and Kidz Music & Praise resources that connect to the church service.
- Join our **St. Mark's Kidz Facebook** page stmarkscarmel.org/signups to watch a weekly Bible Story and object lesson and share what you are up to each week.
- Children ages 4-4th grade are invited to attend "**Kidz Music & Praise Rocking 11 AM**" each Sunday on Zoom. Contact Joyce Click at jclick@stmarkscarmel.org for an invitation.
- Youth in 5th and 6th grades are invited attend "**Club 56 Social Hour**" each Sunday on Zoom. Contact Ramie Cooney at rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org for an invitation. Club 56 weaves together Bible instruction, some theology, service projects and relationship building.

Club 56 Mission Camp

Monday, June 15-Thursday, June 18

Mark your calendars! Incoming 5th through 7th graders are invited to participate in our annual local mission camp. Signups are available at stmarkscarmel.org/missioncamp. If the schedule changes, families will be notified via email.



SUMMER KIDZ CHURCH HELP NEEDED

We are actively searching for one-time volunteers to be guest leaders during the summer months. If you have a passion for Jesus, then We Want You! Please prayerfully consider if you have just one hour free this summer and contact Jackie Rowell, jrowell@stmarkscarmel.org or Ramie Cooney, rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org for more details. During this time of physical distancing volunteers are needed to record object lessons and Bible stories. Once we gather together again, volunteers will be needed to lead and assist small groups.

Flat Jesus Project

Flat Jesus is inspired by a national school project called Flat Stanley, based off a book written by Jeff Brown. Flat Jesus has become popular this spring and our goal is to stay plugged into the Bible and also connected to each other. The Flat Jesus Project is simple. All of us (kids and adults) get their own paper cutout of Jesus to take with them on their adventures You can find Flat Jesus templates on the St. Marks and St. Mark's Kidz Facebook pages or stmarkscarmel.org/kidzconnect. Decorate and cut out Jesus so he is ready for travel. Then, take photos of your Jesus as he walks with you-helping keep Jesus at the forefront of your mind. We can't wait to see your Flat Jesus pictures. Please post them on our Facebook page (@ St Mark's Kidz)!





Weekly Gatherings

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Cornerstone AM—Grades 7-12
9:40 AM Will resume when building reopens

SUNDAY EVENINGS

Cornerstone Fellowship - Grades 7-12
5:00 PM –6:00 PM J
Join us on ZOOM until the church reopens
During our Zoom Meeting, we play games, worship together, hear a quick message and break into discussion groups.

Jackbox..tv games

Following Cornerstone Fellowship, we gather on ZOOM and play Quiplash 2, Trivia Murder Party, Fakin' It, Tee K.O., and/or Guesspionage.

Confirmation Class

Meets with Pastor Julia on Zoom
6:00 PM-7:00 PM
The 2020 Confirmation Class continues to meet over ZOOM.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Youth Group at Home
8:00 PM-9:15 PM
Watch a Live Stream message at youthgroupathome.com and then join our Zoom meeting after for discussion.

Third Street Rehearsal | Will resume when church reopen

Students who play an instrument, sing or run AV are encouraged to join us. Kody Emrich leads this group.

THURSDAY EVENINGS

DKB @ Starbucks Join Don on Zoom until restaurants reopen. Parents and students are all welcome!.

Graduation Recognition

Date TBD

We will be honoring our 2020 College and High School Graduates this Spring/Summer. If you are a high school graduate please send the following information no later than 5/10 to staff@stmarkscarmel.org:



- High School- Name, high school attending, ad plans for next year. Also please email a recent photo of yourself.
- College- Name, college attending, and degree receiving. Also please email a recent photo of yourself.

Spring Retreat

Friday-Sunday, May 15-17

Join us for a weekend of growing together in faith and friendship! We will meet at St. Mark's at 4:15 PM on Friday, 5/ 15 and head to Epworth Forest Retreat Center Any students currently in grades 6 through 12 are invited to attend. Cost is \$75. Please register at stmarkscarmel.org/spring-retreat.



As always, we request that you come with a heart to learn, Bible, deodorant , and other personal items. Contact Don Broad, with questions at dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org.

In the event that this retreat cannot take place as scheduled due to COVID-19 restrictions, we WILL reschedule it. There WILL be a Spring Retreat. I just don't know where or when it will take place. Please go ahead and sign up now for planning purposes.

Adult Discipleship

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

Dear St. Mark's friends,

It's mid-April as we prepare this *Jubilee*; event dates and locations are our best guess as we continue the season of social distancing and virtual meetings. See our website for updates.

In our time of virtual meetings, some groups are using lessons from the free weekly devotional *The Wired Word* (TWW), described on the next page. In a recent edition about loneliness, TWW editors offered a prayer in isolation that is helpful in this time of social distancing. We pray:

[...] We thank you that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[...] We thank you that you have promised never to leave us or abandon us. Turn to us and be gracious to us, O God, when we feel lonely. Relieve the troubles of our hearts, and bring us out of our distress, so that we may be a blessing to others in trouble and distress, as we bear witness to your faithfulness and tender mercies that are new every morning. Amen.

— TWW for 2/16/20.

Thank you for finding ways to be good neighbors from a distance during the novel coronavirus pandemic. Blessings for good health, peace, generosity, and God's presence for you in this season. If you've not yet connected with an online group, either by phone or computer, please email me or call the church office. (Voicemails go to our email.)

Jennifer Cloud-Buckner
Adult Discipleship Coordinator
grow@stmarkscarmel.org
317-846-4912

Calling all "Walk" Alumni

Have you ever taken part in a **Walk to Emmaus**, **Chrysalis Flight**, **Great Banquet**, **Cursillo**, **Tres Dias**, or similar event? Email or call Jennifer C-B to join the list of St. Mark's alumni of these intensive spiritual weekends who might want to share in small covenant accountability groups or other discipleship growth.

Sunday Morning Groups

CUTTING EDGE—9:30 A.M. ONLINE

Learn about the Bible by following the Revised Common Lectionary, an ongoing 3-year cycle through the Bible's Old and New Testaments. Contact Steve Click for the online meeting info (sclick52@gmail.com).

FOUNDATIONS & FRIENDSHIPS-9:30 A.M.

Email Doug Brown (dthbrown@gmail.com) for the online meeting information.

JOURNEY *and* OPEN DOORS / OPEN IDEAS

These groups have not yet set up online meetings during the church closure.

REEL SPIRITUALITY

Meeting at **11:00 a.m.** online; Lydia and Terry Fourman are facilitating discussions of online videos (e.g., sermons, TED Talks) during church closures. Email 4manternlyd@gmail.com for video links and online meeting info.

VENTURE—2:00 P.M. SUNDAYS ONLINE

Venture Class is meeting at **2:00p.m.** virtually on periodic Sunday afternoons during the church closures. Contact Jean Douglass or Jennifer C-B (grow@stmarkscarmel.org) to learn how to connect with your phone or computer.

Learn more and sign up on stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups.
Email Jennifer C-B (grow@stmarkscarmel.org) with questions.

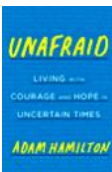
Themed Studies

UNAFRAID: LIVING WITH COURAGE AND HOPE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Sunday, 4/26-5/24, 6:00 -7:00 PM

Pastor Brian White will lead online meetings of this 5-session study by Adam Hamilton. 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 fears ranging from disappointing others, financial insecurity, and aging, to large perils like death and terrorism. For anyone struggling with fear or wondering how families and communities can thrive in troubled times, *Unafraid* offers informed, inspiring, and practical solutions. Order your book on [Cokesbury](#) or [Amazon](#).



Weekday Study Groups

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

Continuing *The Letters of John* by NT. Wright until 5/13. Email Pastor Brian for online info (bwhite@stmarkscarmel.org).

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

The Gospel of Mark, 4/29-6/10

Grab a Bible to join in this discussion of the Gospel of Mark! We'll spend 7 weeks learning about Jesus's life and ministry by reading and discussing 2-3 chapters weekly. As you read the assigned chapters ahead of each discussion, jot down in a notebook what stands out to you from the reading. Those nudges from the Holy Spirit can often teach us and enlighten us as a group. Sign up to receive the full schedule and the online meeting information. Lydia Fourman facilitates (4manternlyd@gmail.com).

THURSDAYS

AM STUDY GROUP, 9:30 AM-11:00 AM

Weekly *Wired Word* devotional discussions, Thursdays in April-May TBD

While the church is closed, we'll meet online to discuss *The Wired Word* (described below). Led by Judy Woempner and Janet Brown. Email Jennifer (grow@stmarkscarmel.org) or sign up online to receive the readings and online info.

FRIDAYS

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

Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World by Max Lucado, 4/17-5/15

Anxiety is part of life, but it is especially present in these trying times of isolation and illness. However, as God's Word reveals, anxiety doesn't have to dominate life. In this 5-session video-based study, Max Lucado looks at seven admonitions in Philippians 4:4-8 that lead to one wonderful promise: "The peace of God which surpasses all understanding." You can order the Study Guide on [Cokesbury](#) or on [Amazon](#). Feel free to read the original book on your own, but our discussions will follow the Study Guide. Stephanie Cohen leads.

The Wired Word

St. Mark's subscribes to *The Wired Word*, a weekly email devotional for personal study and group discussions. Topics are wide-ranging and directly relate scriptures to news stories. Recent topics included generosity, corruption, prayer, loneliness, homelessness, neighborliness, ecology, rock music, world events, and more. If you'd like to receive this email, please contact Jennifer C-B. If you're accustomed to picking up *The Upper Room*, consider signing up for *The Wired Word* instead while the church is closed.

Open Groups



UMW Meeting

Tuesday, May 12

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! May's meeting will be held as a Zoom Meeting with Breakout Meetings. **This month's meeting will be a ZOOM Meeting. Contact Steff Mabe, steffmabe@yahoo.com, for an invitation.**

MORNING GROUPS

Bookworms-Group will be back in the Fall. Gail Lee facilitates.

Spiritual Growth- The group is discussing *In 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, and we supply the craft materials for a small fee. *Working on a special craft for the Zoom meeting.* 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. Summer reading is *Sensible Shoes* by Sharon Garlough Brown and *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds.

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

Will resume when stay-at-home ends

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 for more information.

TRINKETS & TREASURES

Trinkets and Treasures, our largest fundraiser for mission work will be canceled this year. If you have been cleaning/organizing and have items you would like to donate but don't have a place to store please contact Trish Stanearth at 317-430-4490. Remember we are not collecting clothes this year due to changes at Goodwill. Please donate your gently used clothes to the charity of your choice.

MOTHER DAUGHTER FRIEND BANQUET

Due to the COVID-19 the Mother Daughter Friend Banquet will need to be cancelled. Join us next year for this great event!

UMM Breakfast Meetings



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

Will resume after stay-at-home ends.

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/umm. Come and join us!

Marksmen

MAY 7 & 21 | 7:00 AM

Meeting on Zoom through May

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 an invitation for the meeting contact marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org

MOB (Methodists on Bikes)

The MOB is a fellowship group for adults who enjoy recreational bicycle riding join together. Rides are held on Wednesdays & Saturdays. **(Will resume after stay-at-home ends)**



Wednesday Rides-The 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month shorter rides (10-12 miles) at a leisurely pace (approximately 10 mph) begin from St. Mark's parking lot. These rides last approximately 1 hour. Occasionally these outings will include a social stop such as Dairy Queen.

Saturday Rides-On the 1st & 3rd Saturday mornings, riders comfortable with heading out on country roads & trails begin from various locations. Generally, these rides are 15-20 miles in length at a moderate pace (14-16 mph).

Members of the group take turns picking a route and leading the group. Sign up via St. Mark's Sign-up Genius. The MOB coordinator is John Flora. To add your name to the email distribution that contains specifics for each outing, please contact mob@stmarkscarmel.org.

Career Curve

Mondays, 10:00 AM | Zoom Meeting until stay-at-home is lifted

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. This group will be meeting on Zoom Conferencing until the stay-at-home is lifted. If you'd like to join in a Zoom meeting, please email grow@stmarkscarmel.org for an invitation.

Open Group Schedule

Monday

COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

Will resume when we return to building

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 (Available on Zoom until building reopens)

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 bonnetjim@icloud.com.

PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB

5/19 | 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng.

Join us 3rd Tuesday of each month if you enjoy good books, discussions, and a shared evening with new/old friends. Contact Marcia Flora, mflora1950@yahoo.com with any questions.

Meeting will be held by ZOOM if building is not re-opened

Wednesday

ROMEOS (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT)

Will resume after stay-at-home ends

All men are invited for a weekly Wednesday lunch.

MOBS (WEDNESDAY RIDE)

Will resume after stay-at-home ends

This is a shorter ride (10-12 miles) at a leisurely pace (10 mph). Begin from St. Mark's parking lot and last about 1 hour. Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/signups For more information contact mob@stmarkscarmel.org.

Thursday

JULIETS

Will resume after stay-at home ends

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.

BRIDGE

Will resume after stay-at-home ends

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

CRAFT & HOBBY GROUP

Will resume meeting at church after meet at home. Visit their facebook page!

Meet monthly for time of fun and fellowship as we each enjoy our craft or hobby.

Contact Kathy Bartel, krbartel@gmail.com, if you have any questions.

SATURDAY MOBS (SATURDAY RIDE)

Will resume after stay-at-home ends

This is for riders comfortable riding on country roads & trails begin from various locations. These rides are 15-20 miles at 14-16 mph. Signup at stmarkscarmel.org/signups. For more information, contact mob@stmarkscarmel.org.

Special Events

Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays, 2:00 PM | Thursdays, 4:00 PM

Until we can meet in person again we'll be offering informal Zoom gatherings on Sundays at 2 p.m. and Thursdays at 4 p.m. This will be a chance to sit, enjoy your preferred beverage and a snack, and spend time with other members of the congregation. This is a casual gather. Feel free to join us when it is convenience for you. To join the Thursday group email your first and last name and preferred email address to Missi Koenig, mkoenig@stmarkscarmel.org. To join the Sunday meeting email your first and last name to Julia Gonzales, jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org. Please RSVP for Zoom gatherings no later than 5 p.m. on the day prior to the gathering.

Worship Wednesdays

Wednesdays | 6:00 PM

Join Kody Emrich, on St. Mark's Facebook page (St. Mark's United Methodist Church-Carmel, IN) every Wednesday for devotions and music. Third Street Band will be joining him when we start meeting at the church.



St. Mark's PRESENTS

Sunday, July 19 | 2:00 PM

The Retro Brothers & Ice Cream Social

The Retro Brothers consist of: Dan Vincent, Norman Knight, two acoustic guitars, two microphones, an occasional harmonica, two lava lamps, and many songs that are sure to delight, surprise and trigger fond memories of the 1960's and 1970's.



The Fellowship committee invites you to join us for an Ice Cream Social following the Retro Brothers concert. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors, as these events are open to all!

Subject to change due to recommendations on social distancing & Covid-19.

Committee News

Finance

Greetings from your Finance Chair:

I thought I would share some of my thoughts that were included when we distributed the quarterly giving statement earlier this month.

As a boomer, I cannot speak to the 30's or 40's, but there have been memorable dates or events I will never forget; the winter and spring of 2020 will be one of them. God continues to deliver: He rose again this past Easter! I can only think of God's blessings. By the time this period blows over I am sure each one of us will be impacted personally in some form or another.

I look toward the future - I thank God for the blessings He has bestowed, for Jesus taking away my sins, and for the acts of kindness we have all experienced. As noted in a recent communication received from St. Marks ... *"no matter what the world throws at us, the ministries of St. Mark's keep pressing forward to support our community and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."* It is with the support of your time, your services, and your contributions that we continue to support our ministries.

As we closed March, we again met all of our budgeted financial commitments to our employees, our missions, and our vendors. However, until we have a clearer picture of our financial condition, we have elected not to pay any conference or district tithes. We ask that you continue to pray for our ministries at St. Marks and continue to support them. We face some very uncertain times, but like the events we have experienced in the past, working together and supporting each other, God will provide. We just need to continue to "do our part."

Though we may not be able to "attend" a Sunday service at our church, the services on line have been a refreshing reminder that God lives, and that we will be okay. Remember that there are three easy ways you can support our ministries.

- **Give online**-Use our secure giving portal, available on www.stmarkscarmel.org/give.
- **Text2Give**-Instructions found on St. Mark's website stmarkscarmel.org/giving.
- **Mail a Check**-You may continue to give by check through the mail.

Thank you for continuing to support ministry and outreach here at St. Mark's!
Respectively submitted,

Bill Nicolai
Finance Chair

Annual Conference

Saturday, August 15 & October 10

After consulting with many medical professionals the June Annual Conference has been postponed to two Saturdays (8/15 & 10/10). For more information visit inumc.org. The General Conference which was to be held in May has been postponed to 2021.

Social Justice

Welcoming the Stranger – Immigration, Asylum Seekers, & Refugees

Imagine a circumstance where you would be moved to uproot your family – or worse still, separate it – leave behind all that is familiar and put those you love in peril. For many, that circumstance stems from fear – of real and escalating war, scarcity, oppression and violence.

That fear is driving people from locations around the world to seek safety in a land where they can they have even a glimmer of hope for the life, liberty and pursuit of happiness that we regularly take for granted.

These immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees are afraid. And like us, they are children of God.

“But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:24b-26a)

Throughout scripture, the people of God are called to love the sojourners in our midst, treating them as we do one another. Welcoming the migrant is not only an act of mission; it’s an opportunity to receive God’s grace. The Church calls upon us to show hospitality, believing that through their presence, we are receiving the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. (2016 Book of Resolutions, #3281)

This Spring St. Mark’s Social Justice Team invites you to join us in welcoming the stranger. You can find many of the resources below through Amazon or in electronic form at your local library.

Books:

- [Welcoming the Stranger Justice, Compassion, and Truth in the Immigration Debate](#) by Matthew Soerens & Jenny Yang
- [Enrique’s Journey](#) by Sonia Nazario
- [This Land is Our Land: An Immigrant’s Manifesto](#) by Suketu Menta
- [The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border](#) by Francisco Cantu
- [Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, and the Bible](#) by M. Daniel Carroll
- [Seeking Refuge: On the Shores of the Global Refugee Crisis](#) by Issam Smeir, Matthew Soerens and Stephan Bauman
- [The Fox Hunt: A Refugee’s Memoir of Coming to America](#) by Mohammed Al Samawi

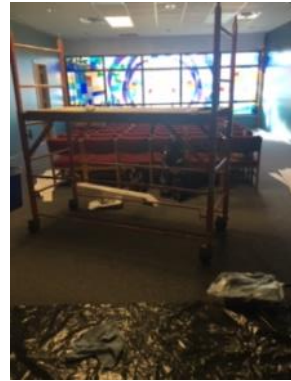
Documentaries/Movies:

- [Human Flow](#) (2017)
- [Between Borders: American Migrant Crisis](#) (2015)
- [Which Way Home](#) (2009)
- [Shenandoah](#) (2012)
- [The Good Lie](#) (2014)
- [Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom](#) (2013)
- [Under the Same Moon](#) (2007)
- [A Better Life](#) (2011)
- [Sin Nombre](#) (2009)
- [The Visitor](#) (2007)
- [In America](#) (2002)
- [Well-Founded Fear](#) (2000)

Trustees

With the exception of a few minor remaining items, the renovations to the church are complete! See photo (below) of the recently completed striping in Wesley Hall. A big thank you to Jim Bridenstine and the entire BuildSmart Construction team. Additionally, Juan Mercado and his facilities management team have been working very hard to clean and disinfect the building so that it is ready to welcome everyone back safely when the time comes.

- Chapel is being repainted
- Complete cleaning of Sanctuary.
- Carpets throughout the church have been cleaned
- Carpeting is being replaced in one of the Preschool Rooms.
- Workroom in office is being repainted



Library News

We will update all new books that have been added to the Library when the building reopens.

Staff Contact Information

All Staff is working remotely. If you have any questions or need information, please email us or call the church office (317) 846-4912 and leave a message in the staff person's voicemail or leave a general message. (Dial 0). We are looking forward to getting back in the building and seeing all of you.

Be well! Be Safe! Be Blessed!

Staff Name	Extension	Email
Amy Adams	223	aadams@stmarkscarmel.org
Don Broad	241	dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org
Jennifer Cloud-Buckner	214	jcloud-buckner@stmarkscarmel.org
Stephanie Cohen	215	scohen@stmarkscarmel.org
Ramie Cooney	221	rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org
Eric DeForest	226	edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org
Kody Emrich	260	kemrich@stmarkscarmel.org
Julia Gonzales	216	jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org
Missi Koenig	222	mkoenig@stmarkscarmel.org
Juan Mercado	231	jmercado@stmarkscarmel.org
Becky Mills	251	bmills@stmarkscarmel.org
Mary Ann Moman	224	mmoman@stmarkscarmel.org
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Jenny Rundle	210	jrundle@stmarkscarmel.org
Stephanie Solesky	213	ssolesky@stmarkscarmel.org
Shaw Wang	212	xwang@stmarkscarmel.org
Brian White	217	bwhite@stmarkscarmel.org



Connecting from Home

Committee Meetings



UMW Monthly Meeting



Bible, Grow & Study Groups



Kidz Music & Praise



Worship



Kidz Church



Community News

Directory Updates

Mel & Marlene Myers
9974 Federalist Drive, Apt 114
Fishers, IN 46037

Eric & Karen Dodd
17304 Americana Xing
Noblesville, IN 46060

John & Judy McDowell
11579 Platt Street
Noblesville, IN 46060

Sympathy

To the family of Judy Bonnet at the death of her father, Donald Naeye.

To the family of Charles Reid at his passing.

To the family of Becky Mills at the death of her father, Robert Hart.

To the family of Ann Baker at the death of her mother.

To the family of Lori Roberts at the death of her mother, Elaine Darvas.

To the family of Mary Gospel at the death of her father, John "Hap" Dragoo.

To the family of Drew Braley at the death of his father, Richard Braley.

To the family of John Reno at the death of his grandfather.

To the family of Raymond Muller at the death of his brother, Kenneth Muller.

To the family of Gary McDermid at the death of his mother, Betty McDermid.

To the family of Bill Gilson at the death of his mother Bea Gilson.

In Our Congregation

Dear Friends at SUMC,
Thank you for the beautiful rose that appeared on the altar after our handsome baby Carson was born. We also received a lovely baby gift full of goodies. It was unexpected and very much appreciated.
The Uthoff Family

Dear St. Mark's family,
Thank you so much for all of the words of encouragement, thoughtful cards and prayers for my mother's surgery and my dad's passing. Charlie, Matthew and I are blessed to be a part of such a loving community.
Becky Mills

St. Mark's
Thank you for your kindness and support to everyone here at the Carmel Police Department . Your kindness and generosity is appreciated by all. Thank you for the cookies they were delivered.
Carmel Police Department

Dear St. Mark's Family,
Thank you for the lovely peace lily you sent for my Dad's passing. Jay, Sammy and I are also very thankful for all the prayers during Dad's illness and after he passed. We miss him very much but are lifted by the thoughts and prayers. We are touched by the cards we received as well.
With Deep Appreciation,
Judy, Jay & Sammy Bonnet



Preschool Openings

Our wonderful St. Mark's Preschool has a few openings for the 2020-2021 school year in the 2's and 4's classes. If you know of any families with little ones who may be interested (they do not have to be a church member), please share this information with them.

If you would like to schedule a tour or have any questions, please call or email the director, Jennifer Weixler, 317-846-4912 or preschool@stmarkscarmel.org. You can also visit our website, stmarkscarmel.org/preschool

We are already planning for another great school year next year!

Pictorial Directories

Pictorial Directories will be available at the Connection Table when we reopen the church. (One per family).

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	Vallie Williams
Mary Pielemeier	Jean Smith
Judy & Tom Hebenstreit	Don Ranck

audio fetch

HEARING ASSISTANCE APP

Audio Fetch is a WIFI enabled hearing assistance program that will allow users to securely connect their smartphones to a dedicated WIFI channel. You only need to download the free "Audio Fetch" app from "Play Store" for Android or "App Store" for Iphones. The app displays a simple volume slider that allows the user to listen to our services with ear buds at a comfortable level and not miss anything! When we are back in the church bring your earbuds to church!

Music Ministry

just wanted to take this opportunity to say Thank You to everyone involved in the Music Ministry at St. Mark's. Your dedication to providing music for the congregation of St. Mark's is remarkable and truly appreciated. Your contributions of time and talent are invaluable. I look forward to the time when we can get together again to make a joyful noise for our worshippers. From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU!

Dr. Eric DeForest

Vacation Bible Camp

Monday, July 6—Friday, July 10 | 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

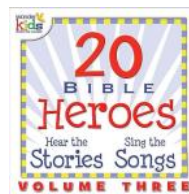
On this faith-filled adventure, you'll discover that trusting Jesus pulls you through life's ups and downs. Please invite family members, neighbors and friends. Registration for participants and volunteers at stmarkscarmel.org/vbs We need lots of help from St. Mark's family to make VBS a success. Please pray for VBS and consider joining the team. At Rocky Railway, God's word comes to life during sing & play drama, Bible adventures, imagination station, locomotion games, and a service-oriented cinema time. Our plan is to hold VBS in the building, but will adjust and still host an on-line version of our popular VBS if necessary.



St Mark's Puppet Camp

Monday, June 22— Friday, June 26 | 10:00 AM- 11:30 AM

Students ages 4, 5, entering Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, and 3 will use a variety of puppets during the week to interpret songs and themes of "Bible Heroes". Students will make their own puppets to take home each day. Parents or caregivers are invited to assist during the camp. (Background check required) Upper elementary and middle school students are invited to attend and assist siblings. Cost is \$15. Informal performance will be Friday at 11:30 or 12:00 on Sunday, June 28.



St. Mark's Drama Camp

Monday, June 22- Friday, June 26 | 12:15 PM-2:30 PM

Students entering Grades 1-6 will not only act-out stories of Ancient Heroes but will also get a chance to share stories of real life Heroes. Middle school students may serve as assistants. Cost is \$15. Informal performance will be Friday at 2:30 or Sunday, June 28 at 12:15. **If we are not allowed to meet in the building, the camp will be presented online. Supplies will be sent prior to camp.** Students signing up for both camps should bring a sack lunch. This camp is open to all children in these age groups. (You do not have to attend St. Mark's to attend. Register early. Limited space is available. For more information, contact Joyce Click, (317)439-0112 or jclick@stmarkscarmel.org. (If on-line you will be mailed all supplies before the camp meets.)



For more information on these camps, visit our website at stmarkscarmel.org/musiccamps.



Prayer Vigil

Saturday 5/2

7:00 AM- 10:00 PM

St. Mark's UMW and UMM are sponsoring a Prayer Vigil beginning Saturday, May 2 at 7:00 AM until 9:30 PM . COVID-19 has created a time of isolation. Prayers give us a sense of purpose during this time away from the church building, Participating offers a positive effect on lifting the burden of this virus in our life and throughout the world. 30 minute time periods will be available . Some suggested topics are:

- Pray for the World
- Pray for the United States
- Pray for Indiana
- Pray for healing

How do I sign up? There are 3 ways.

- Sign up on stmarkscarmel.org/signups
- Call the church office and leave a message in the General Mailbox (press 0) with your name, time requested, and phone number.
- Email staff@stmarkscarmel.org with your name, time requested (last time slot is 9:30 PM

Thank you for dedicating your time and energy to pray during this time.

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

ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Label goes here