



## Connection Inventory

At St. Mark's we celebrate the many ways you can connect with our mission to WELCOME, GROW, and SERVE. To learn how you can live out this mission in a meaningful way, consider:

- Reading this Connection Inventory packet
- Praying about how you feel called to participate in the various opportunities outlined in this packet to WELCOME, GROW, and SERVE.
- After that, please fill out a **Connection Inventory** using the website at [stmarkscarmel.org/inventory](http://stmarkscarmel.org/inventory) or picking up a hard copy just inside the main door (#2). Use the letter/number code to match items with their packet description. Submit one form per individual. Ways to turn in:
  - Place in an offering basket within the sanctuary
  - Fill out form on [stmarkscarmel.org/inventory](http://stmarkscarmel.org/inventory)

After you submit your inventory, ministry leaders and/or staff will be in touch with you to begin connecting you with the activities you selected.

Questions? Contact Missi Koenig at [mkoenig@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:mkoenig@stmarkscarmel.org).

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# Welcome

*Through a life of hospitality and a life of worship, we WELCOME all people and the presence of God into our lives.*

**Related website pages:** [stmarkscarmel.org/music](https://stmarkscarmel.org/music) | [stmarkscarmel.org/worship](https://stmarkscarmel.org/worship) | [stmarkscarmel.org/groups](https://stmarkscarmel.org/groups) | [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](https://stmarkscarmel.org/signups)

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## Worship

### **W0. Audio/Visual support**

No experience necessary! Full training provided to learn how to help with all kinds of A/V roles for worship and special services, including soundboard, worship livestream, and computer slides.

### **W1. Chancel Choir**

There are no auditions, just a desire to sing. Please consider serving St. Mark's by giving of your time and talent. The Chancel Choir sings at the 8:15 and 11:00 AM Sunday worship services. Rehearsals Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 PM.

### **W2. *the current* - music**

Share your musical gifts during the 9:40 AM worship service. Whether you sing, play guitar, violin, accordion, or something else we haven't thought of, let us know.

### **W3. Handbell Choir**

No experience is necessary to play with this adult/youth handbell choir. The Handbell Choir plays during the 8:15 & 11:00 AM worship services approximately 4 times a year. Rehearsals Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 PM.

### **W4. Liturgist**

Read prepared scripture and other readings at 8:15 and 11:00 AM Sunday worship services. Readings are emailed to liturgists mid-week prior to Sunday.

### **W5. Orchestra (SMO)**

Strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion players in the St. Mark's Orchestra share their talents. Rehearsals are the Wednesday before each Sunday performance, 6:00-7:30 PM.

### **W6. Prepare Communion**

Prepare the communion elements for the Altar on the first Sunday of the month. Following the service, clean and put away communion ware.

### **W7. Serve Communion**

In pairs, servers give juice and bread to the congregation on the first Sunday of the month and at special services. You may select which service(s) you would like to serve.

# Welcome Team

## **WT0. Friendship Cup Delivery**

Help deliver a friendship cup and welcome packet to first-time guests of our worship services.

## **WT1. Greeter**

Welcome people with a handshake and smile as they arrive at church for worship on Sundays.

## **WT2. Greeter Host**

Help guests feel welcome and answer questions they may have.

## **WT3. Usher**

Greet and distribute bulletins at the beginning of each worship service. Following the service, ushers collect completed attendance sheets, secure offering, and straighten the sanctuary.

# Hospitality

## **H0. Clean coffee mugs/pots**

Clean out coffee carafes, rinse mugs, and load mugs into dishwasher trays after the beginning of the 11:00 AM worship service on Sunday mornings. Training is available.

## **H1. Coffee host**

Brew coffee and fill carafes prior to 8:15am worship on Sundays. Training is available.

## **H2. Serve cookies/cake at special Sunday AM celebrations**

Serve treats between worship services on special celebration Sundays, such as Graduation recognition and Confirmation Sunday.

# Other Groups (Interest & Fellowship)

## **G0. Basketball**

Join our open gym on Wednesday nights for basketball with others from St. Mark's.

## **G1. Coffee N Cameras**

Join fellow photographers the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month at 9:00 AM at St. Mark's for conversation about art and technique. Bring your camera, questions or latest pieces to share.

## **G2. Craft & Hobby Group**

Join others as you dedicate time to your hobby and share ideas! Meets monthly. It is possible for childcare to be arranged ahead of time if needed.

## **G3. Dinners for Eight**

Groups of 8 (ish) meet for dinner once a month for four months to share fun, food, and fellowship with other St. Markers. Singles, couples, and families are invited to attend.

## **G4. JULIETs (Just Us Ladies Interested in Eating Together)**

JULIETs meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at various local restaurants.

## **G5. ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out)**

ROMEOs meets at Le Peep at Fashion Mall Commons every Wednesday at 11:00 AM. All men are invited whether you are retired or not!

## **G6. Marksmen**

A community of career- and family-focused men seeking to develop authentic and intentional relationships with one another while growing closer to Christ. Meet every other Thursday morning at 6:00 AM at St. Mark's or at a designated breakfast spot.

## **G7. MOBs – Methodists on Bikes**

Recreational bike riding group for adults. MOB rides in summers on 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 8:00AM (moderate pace/distance) and 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 6:30PM (slower pace).

## **G8. Page Turners book group**

If you enjoy good books, interesting discussions, and a shared evening with old & new friends, join us on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:00 PM.

## **G9. Pickleball**

Join our open gym on Thursday nights (Sept-May) for pickleball with others from St. Mark's.

## **G10. United Methodist Men (UMM)**

Meets the 2nd Saturday monthly (7:30-9 AM) for breakfast and programming in Wesley Hall.

## **G11. United Women in Faith (UWF)**

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month (September-May) for fellowship, devotions, and special interest groups. Choose from 9:00 AM or 7:00 PM gatherings.

## **Grow**

*To GROW in our knowledge and grace, we open our lives to Jesus and seek to follow his example in our actions, attitudes, and responses to others.*

**Related website pages:** [stmarkscarmel.org/kidz](http://stmarkscarmel.org/kidz) | [stmarkscarmel.org/youth](http://stmarkscarmel.org/youth) | [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups) | [stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/grow-groups)

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## **Children's Programming**

### **CM0. Kidz Church Servant Leader**

Lead or assist with the provided hands-on children's programming for infant, toddler, preschool, or elementary-age classes. Prepared preschool and elementary-age lessons foster their faith and help them grow in relationship to Jesus. Choose 9:40 or 11:00 AM times to serve.

### **CM1. Club 56 Servant Leader**

Lead or assist with youth in 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade; includes using age-appropriate content during Club 56 meetings (9:40am on Sundays) to prepare students for future confirmation and middle school Christian education, or mentoring youth during monthly social, fellowship, or mission events.

### **CM2. Kidz Music & Praise Servant Leader**

Assist with weekly Sunday morning programming in Kidz Music & Praise class. Help is also needed for annual Lenten and Advent musicals and the summer puppet and drama camps.

### **CM3. Vacation Bible Camp / VBS Servant Leader**

Serve in summer Vacation Bible Camp / VBS as a crew leader, station leader, or floating volunteer. Training and all materials are provided.

### **CM4. Childcare provider (paid)**

Provide occasional paid childcare for weekday, weeknight, or weekend events at the church.

### **CM5. General Children's Department Service**

Help the children's ministry as needed with special projects, tasks, and family ministry initiatives.

## **Cornerstone Youth**

### **Y0. Confirmation mentor**

Shepherd a 7th or 8th grade student during the confirmation process by attending occasional weekly gatherings and offering encouragement along the way.

### **Y1. Provide a meal for youth on Sunday evening**

Occasionally provide a meal for the Cornerstone weekly gatherings (Sundays at 5pm).

### **Y2. Retreat volunteer**

Drive or chaperone bi-annual youth retreats in the fall and/or spring.

### **Y3. Week of Hope/Workcamp volunteer**

Chaperone offsite youth mission trip one week during the summer.

### **Y4. Adult leader**

Adults work with youth director in various capacities to provide meaningful youth programming and fellowship opportunities.

### **Y5. Youth leader**

Youth work with youth director in various capacities to provide meaningful youth programming and fellowship opportunities.

## **Adult Discipleship**

### **A0. Themed (short-term) groups**

Short-term studies on specific themes (including deeper theological issues, personal growth, social justice, spiritual disciplines, current event topics, bestselling Christian books), typically lasting 4-8 weeks. Includes Pastor Brian's Sunday evening meetings.

### **A1. Weekday AM Bible studies**

We offer five different ongoing weekday morning Bible studies (Wed-Fri) that help us grow in our knowledge, grace, and community. Groups usually meet August/September through May/June with various Bible study books lasting 4-12 weeks at a time.

### **A2. Sunday morning classes**

Full descriptions are at [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups) (bottom of the page). During both worship services, various classes use lectionary lessons from Old & New Testaments, *Wired Word* devotionals, Christian themes from books and film, and more to grow in our faith.

### **A3. Grow Groups**

Our Grow Groups do life together with a combination of support, community, growth in Christ, encouragement, study, and accountability—a blend that varies by group.

#### **A4. Spiritual weekend reunion groups**

Have you ever taken part in a Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis Flight, Great Banquet, Cursillo, Tres Dias, or similar event? St. Mark's alumni of these intensive spiritual weekends currently have a men's reunion group, a women's reunion group, and occasional social gatherings to keep up with local spiritual walk events and other discipleship growth opportunities.

#### **A5. Encouragement Groups**

Encouragement Groups are Grow Groups that focus on encouraging one another through specific shared life circumstances. A Sunday AM and Wednesday PM group focus on encouraging one another through the care and support of aging parents. *NEW* this year: encouragement group for fertility struggles and pregnancy loss support.

#### **A6. Friends of Social Justice**

The Social Justice team educates, advocates, and engages our congregation and community on issues of social justice, using the United Methodist Social Principles to guide us individually and collectively in serving Christ to transform the world.

#### **A7. Leader/facilitator**

If you already lead a group and want to continue—or if you have interest in being a substitute leader, short-term facilitator, or leader of a new group—select this option.

#### **A8. Weekday PM study (interest)**

Is your best time to meet during a weekday evening? Let us know here so we can connect you with potential short-term weekday evening studies or Grow Groups on weekday evenings.

#### **A9. Leadership training (interest)**

If you would like to build your skills in facilitating small groups and studies, indicate your interest.

#### **A10. Library Volunteer**

Training is available to help with learning how to catalog books and managing materials that are checked out and returned. Most of the work can be done from the convenience of home.

## **Family/Intergenerational**

#### **F0. Marriage class (interest)**

If you would like to do short-term marriage workshop(s) or group study with others from St. Mark's, indicate your interest.

#### **F1. Parenting class (interest)**

If you would like to do a short-term parenting workshop(s) or group study with others from St. Mark's, indicate your interest.

#### **F2. Parent-child Bible study (interest)**

If you would like to do short-term marriage workshops or group studies with others from St. Mark's, indicate your interest.

#### **F3. Camping weekend (interest)**

Want to have a weekend getaway with other St. Mark's families, perhaps at an Indiana UMC camp or another park campground? Indicate your interest here.

# Serve

*With our gifts and our time, we SERVE our neighbors locally and globally by continuing to build a life of generosity and a life of service.*

**Related website pages:** | [stmarkscarmel.org/missions](http://stmarkscarmel.org/missions) | [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups)

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Community Outreach: Amy Adams [aadams@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:aadams@stmarkscarmel.org)

## Missions

### **M0. Blood Drive**

Life-saving blood donors are needed for those hospitalized from trauma, surgery, illness and more. St. Mark's is a Blood Drive location 4 times per year for Versiti of Indiana Blood Center to help meet these needs.

### **M1. Brightwood Community Center**

Volunteers provide snacks and after school tutoring for inner city children, food pantry sorting and distribution for their neighborhood families.

### **M2. East 10th United Methodist Children & Youth Center**

St. Mark's supports this UM center offer affordable childcare year-round. We have brought them VBS on the road in the summer, a Fall Festival each year during Mission in Action Day, and a Christmas Party with Angel Tree gifts.

### **M3. Fletcher Place Community Center**

Volunteers cook and serve breakfast once a month, to the homeless community in South Indy. St. Mark's is the "Oatmeal Church" for their ongoing Food Pantry and contributes to their annual Christmas Program, for families in need.

### **M4. Good Samaritan Network**

A network of non-profit organizations in Hamilton County that provides immediate and various support services to at-risk residents in our county. St. Mark's contributes to their Holiday Assistance Program through our annual Christmas in July toy drive.

### **M5. Habitat for Humanity: home builds**

Volunteers work with Greater Indy Habitat to build affordable homes for qualified families. Homeowner mentors are also able to support new homeowners as they build new lives.

### **M6. Hamilton Co. Kids Coats**

This collaborative effort between many churches & community partners strives to ensure all Hamilton Co. families stay warm in winter. Volunteers are needed year-round, and St. Mark's collects winter coats and winterwear for their various giveaways.

### **M7. Family Promise**

St. Mark's supports Family Promise through housewares and supply drives for the apartment shelter program. We also provide dinner for the families periodically throughout the year.



### **M8. Local Food Pantries**

Through an annual Food Drive and additional support, St. Mark's helps to feed families in need, homeless clients, and those who struggle with food insecurities.

### **M9. Midwest Mission Distribution Center: Kits & Food Pack**

Partner with MMDC, a UM local and global disaster relief organization: join an all-church Rice Meal Food Pack, assemble supply kits for emergency aid.

### **M10. Mission in Action Day**

Annual congregation-wide service event to mobilize and live out "Where mission is a way of life" at St. Mark's. In lieu of worship services that day, hundreds of volunteers are sent to various locations for multiple mission projects.

### **M11. Mission trip to Guatemala**

International travel for one week to build communities, relationships and share the love of Christ. Various mission work and service projects in Panajachel, Guatemala, and surrounding areas of mountainous San Andrés Semetabaj.

### **M12. Mission trip: Red Bird, Southeast KY**

Domestic travel for one week to build communities, relationships and share the love of Christ. Various mission work and service projects in the Appalachian Mountains, near Beverly, KY.

### **M13. Mustard Seed Furniture Bank**

Help collect and deliver household items to the Mustard Seed of Indianapolis' warehouse in Fishers.

### **M14. Outreach Indiana: Center for Homeless Youth**

Help St. Mark's effort to support this Christian-based center that connects homeless youth to services for life skills, education completion, and access to employment, while building relationships to transform their perception of themselves.

### **M15. Servants at Work**

Help SAWs, a non-profit volunteer organization, build wooden wheelchair ramps for low-income, permanently disabled individuals.

### **M16. Society of St. Andrew**

An annual Potato Drop in St. Mark's parking lot distributes thousands of potatoes to the community, minimizing food waste while fighting food insecurity. Year-round serving options include gleaning in farming fields for unwanted crops to reach a family's dinner table.

### **M17. Soup's On at Roberts Park UMC**

Volunteers provide and serve a meal to homeless and those in need, in downtown Indy, four times per year; allowing us to carry out Jesus' command to "feed the hungry."

## **Community Care**

### **CC0. Funeral Help**

Volunteers are needed to welcome visitors and serve as ushers/guestbook attendants during funeral visitations and services.

### **CC1. Prayer shawl ministry**

This ministry combines the love of knitting and crocheting with a powerful outreach. Shawls are provided to those in need of comfort and in times of celebration. Knit on your own at home or join others in the Chapel at St. Mark's once a quarter.



## **CC2. Provide food when needed**

Volunteers are needed to provide food to families in times of need. Food is also needed during special events such as Holy Walk, funeral luncheons, and churchwide fellowship events.

## **CC3. Deliver new baby gifts**

Volunteers take turns delivering a St. Mark's-provided gift bag full of goodies to new parents who have recently welcomed a new baby into their home.

## **CC4. Wedding host**

Welcome wedding guests and direct them to the guest book and sanctuary. Also provide help and hospitality to the wedding party on the day of the ceremony.

# **Community Outreach**

## **00. Easter family event volunteer**

Join members of the St. Mark's Fellowship Team to plan and implement a "fun for the whole family" Easter-themed event.

## **01. Fall family event volunteer**

Join members of the St. Mark's Fellowship Team to plan and implement a "fun for the whole family" Fall-themed event.

## **Holy Walk through Bethlehem**

Holy Walk through Bethlehem is a re-enactment of Our Lord's Nativity. A biennial tradition and St. Mark's largest outreach event, over 200 volunteers are needed in various areas to serve the 2,000-3,000 people who visit (see below).

### **02. Holy Walk - administration & communication**

Coordinate sign ups, publicity, and other "behind the scenes" needs.

### **03. Holy Walk - character**

Volunteers of all ages are needed to portray characters from the Nativity story on Friday and/or Saturday evening.

### **04. Holy Walk - hospitality**

Help with various areas of hospitality on Friday and/or Saturday. Includes sanctuary coordination/entertainment, parking and traffic directing, visitor hospitality in Wesley Hall, activities for child character room, and cast food.

### **05. Holy Walk - construction**

Help to set up and tear down the decorations, village, tents, tarps, luminaries, and other constructed props inside and outside St. Mark's.

## **06. Thanksgiving dinner - prepare /cook**

Help prepare a churchwide Thanksgiving meal to be shared in Wesley Hall.

## **07. Thanksgiving dinner - serve / set up / clean up**

Help serve food; set up tables, chairs, and decorations; help with cleanup with the churchwide Thanksgiving dinner in Wesley Hall. (This event occurs on years that are not Holy Walk years.)

## **08. Music & Fellowship event volunteer**

Help serve food, set up tables, or clean up after general music events or fellowship events.