

# JUBILEE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ST. MARK'S  
United Methodist Church

APRIL 2021

# EASTER SUNDAY

*at St. Mark's*

**Easter Sunrise**  
7:00AM

We'll be outside, weather permitting.  
*No registration required*

**Blended Services**  
8:15, 9:40, 11:00AM

All blended services.  
Please pre-register on our website

# Holy Week and Easter

## Holy Week

### **Palm Sunday | March 28**

8:15 AM & 11:00 AM - Traditional Service

9:40 AM - *the current*

In-Person & Livestream at 9:40 AM & 11:00 AM

### **Maundy Thursday | April 1**

7:00 PM

In -Person & Livestream

### **Good Friday | April 2**

7:00 PM

In -Person & Livestream



## Easter Services | April 4

Join us Easter Sunday. We will offer four service options.

### **7:00 AM—Sunrise Service Outside**

(No Pre-registration required)

Bring your lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, service will be moved inside.

### **8:15 AM, 9:40 AM & 11:00 AM**

**Blended services—Pre-Registration is required, limited seating available**

Register online to attend our 8:30, 9:40, or 11:00AM services. All three services will have the same blended format. Livestream and Facebook will be available for the 9:40 and 11:00AM services.

**Limited seating is available. Pre-registration is required for 8:15, 9:40 & 11:00 Services.**

Register at [stmarkscarmel.org/lent](https://stmarkscarmel.org/lent). Current COVID-19 protocols will remain in place.

## Lent Offering

Each Lent offering will go to Outreach Indiana. Outreach Indiana provides social services and assistance for homeless teens/youth, empowering them to work towards long-term goals of stability. Go to [stmarkscarmel.org/give](https://stmarkscarmel.org/give) to make a donation.

**OUTREACH**  
Hope for homeless youth

# COVID-19 Reopening Plan Guidelines

	Phase C Revised November 17	Phase D Revised 3/21/21	Phase D-1	Phase D-2
Church Office	Increase office hours. M-W-F, 9 AM- 12 PM Library Open	Increase office hours Monday-Friday, 9 am-12 pm <b>beginning April 12.</b>	Schedule & Protocol TBD	Reopen 9-3 M-F
Worship	Online worship service continue. Live family worship Is suspended. .	In person services 8:15 & 11 Traditional 9:40 <i>the current</i>  Limited seating.	In person services 8:15 & 11 Traditional. 9:40 <i>the current</i>  Limited seating	In person services 8:15 & 11 Traditional. 9:40 <i>the current</i>  Connection tables return
Adult Ministries	Online presence continues for Small groups, Bible studies and Sunday classes.  Limited live gatherings allowed in the building. Meetings must be scheduled with the office.	In person with limited capacity. Online option also available for small groups, Bible studies.  Sunday School classes remain online only COVID protocol continues to be followed.	Schedule & Protocol TBD	Schedule & Protocol TBD
Student Ministries	Phase B Guidelines continue  Third Street Rehearsals may resume in the building.	In person meetings with COVID protocol followed.  Third Street Rehearsals may resume in the building.	In person meetings with COVID protocol followed.  Third Street Rehearsals may resume in the building.	In person meetings.  Third Street Rehearsals may resume in the building.
Children's Ministries	Online presence continues.  In person Children's programming is suspended.	Continue online only  No Childcare available.	Schedule & Protocol TBD	Schedule & Protocol TBD
Non-Church Meetings	Limited in person meetings begin.	Limited in person meetings. Rooms must be reserved in advance  Follow COVID Protocol	Limited in person meetings. Rooms must be reserved in advance  Follow COVID Protocol.	Schedule & Protocol TBD

**ALL PHASES MUST FOLLOW CDC GUIDELINES: PHYSICAL DISTANCING, WEAR FACE MASKS, AND HAND SANITIZER AT ENTRY POINTS.** Stay at home if you are sick or have been exposed, until at least 10 days past initial symptoms, 3 days fever-free (without medicine), AND no respiratory symptoms. Recommendations for cleaning and sanitizing will be followed in all phases. For updates check out the St. Mark's website, [stmarkscarmel.org/reopening](http://stmarkscarmel.org/reopening).

# The Pastor's Place

Dr. Brian White, Lead Pastor

[bwhite@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:bwhite@stmarkscarmel.org)

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

“Are we there yet?”

Any adult who has made a car trip with children has heard these words at one time or another. Even though the driver repeatedly advises that there will be an announcement when we get close or that we are still pretty far away it is as if there is an irresistible pull toward that question. It is what children ask when they really mean, “I’m tired of this trip and I’m past ready to arrive at our destination.”



That kind of exchange has come to mind frequently in recent days. With vaccinations and COVID-19 numbers on the wane people are asking themselves, “Aren’t we there yet?” Surely, we think, it is time to go back to normal pre-COVID life.

Unfortunately, the answer is yes . . . and no. We are back worshipping in person on Sunday mornings but we continue to wear masks and socially distance. We are meeting together in small groups but we also offer hybrid options so participants can join by Zoom if they are not ready to be in person. We take communion during worship services but we still continue to use prepackaged communion elements to avoid unnecessary movement and handling of the elements. We continue to collect mission items to distribute but share in only a limited number of in-person mission projects. Most often we call or send a card rather than visit in person.

“Are we there yet?”

No. We have not reached our destination of moving past COVID-19 but we have made significant progress. We have learned new ways of reaching out to one another and we have begun to take small steps toward in-person worship, studies, and mission projects. It is important for us to celebrate the progress that we have made while also continuing to keep doing the things we have done to arrive safely to this point.

I am so grateful for the ways that our St. Mark’s family has put the good of the whole in the forefront of our decisions during this pandemic. As we move forward, and we are moving forward, we will continue to make decisions that reflect the importance of connection with one another while balancing the need to do so in a safe manner. This is an important time for us as we begin to reconnect and renew our relationships.

Recently, in one of my study groups, the author of our book wrote: “Followers of Jesus, then, must get used to living with a form of theological jet lag. The world all around is still in darkness, but they have set their clocks for a different time zone. It is already daytime on their worldview clock, and they must live as daytime people.” (N.T. Wright, *Paul: A Biography*, p. 222)

We are preparing to celebrate Easter, a time when we affirm the light of God’s redemption of our world. There is still a lot of darkness in the world but I believe that the dawn of a new era is on the horizon and God is calling us forward into new things. I am grateful to share this journey with this faith community and I pray that we will finish this last leg of our coronavirus journey in a way that allows us all to reunite and recommit to God’s future for us.

We aren’t there yet but we’re getting close.

# The Pastor's Place

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

Hello St. Mark's family,

You may or may not already know this, but for those who are interested in taking part in the ordained ministry of elder or deacon within The United Methodist Church, there are a few steps that must be followed. There are educational requirements that need to be met, but beyond seminary there is also a process known as RIM (Residence in Ministry). RIM is made up of three tracks, each with different requirements that need to be completed to move onto the next. There are retreats that happen every few months filled with workshops and opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal, and serving as a chance for connection between learning faith leaders. There is a fair amount of paperwork as well, essay questions compiled to encourage reflection on personal ministry and goals for the future. There is a project designed to help hopeful elders and deacons move toward developing fruitful congregations. And there are interviews where the ordination hopefuls must answer questions and give an account of their ministry thus far. It is the result of those interviews that people pursuing ordination really anticipate.



With the work that goes into RIM and ordination, I'm sure you can imagine the joy that I felt when I received a phone call and learned that I've been approved to move onto Track 3. What this means is that, God willing, I'll be ordained as an elder in full connection at the 2022 Annual Conference. There is still a lot that can happen between now and then with plenty of work still to do, but doesn't that feel true for all of us right now? As we find ourselves getting closer to the finish line, closer to a post-Covid world, there is still more work to be done. There are still safety measures that we need to be aware of especially since we've made it this far. We are so close, though, and that feeling of hope and joy is growing in me and I pray it grows in you as well as we continue to move forward one step at a time and look towards reconnecting with one another. Please remember the invitation and encouragement of Hebrews 12:1a, "So then let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us." (CEB) We are so close, everyone. Keep up the amazing work.

Take care,

Julia

# The Pastor's Place

Mary Ann Moman, Associate Pastor

[mmoman@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:mmoman@stmarkscarmel.org)

## Still Standing

Earlier this year I discovered a wonderful Canadian TV program: *Still Standing*. The star of the show travels to small towns in Canada that have suffered hard times. Some of the towns have lost industries and are now losing residents to places where they can find jobs. Some would say these towns are dying. The host interviews members of the community and learns about the abundance that is still there. I love this.

In one of the towns a community center was needed. They didn't have the resources to build a new center, so the people traveled 300 miles north to dismantle a building and rebuild it in their town. They raised money by having community dinners and soliciting gifts. The main structure of the building is completed. Work continues to finish it. But the hockey rink is done, and a school to train hockey players has been established. Students come from Canada and around the world. They are billeted in homes and have become part of the community. The community found a way where there appeared to be no way.

As we continue to celebrate Easter, I invite you to see the places of abundance in your life and in our communities. Too often we focus on what we don't have and as a consequence are often blind to the gifts all around us. The last year has been hard. Are there places of abundance that have surprised you? Have you found joy when you thought there was no joy to be found?

May your heart be open to the joy of life.

May you know the gift of each day.

May you know laughter and surprise.

May you find resurrection all around.

Mary Ann



# Monthly Mission Focus

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



## Did you know?

- Fletcher Place Community Center exists to break the cycle of poverty through hope, caring and renewal. With roots in the United Methodist Church, they started in 1872 as a small outreach in the South side of Indianapolis. FLCC has grown to support families, youth, and homeless.
- FPCC provides programs to ease the burden of low- to moderate-income individuals who struggle with life's basic needs.
- Hunger and financial deficiencies continue to be a reality, especially this past year. COVID-19 has changed the way Fletcher Place provides services. They are still offering programs of the Free Thrift Store, Food Pantry, Christmas Program, Golden Age, Hot Meals (when able), and daily distribution of sack meals.
- The REACH Early Learning Center at Fletcher Place is a preschool program that believes every child has a right to a quality education. Their mission is to build a safe, high-quality preschool environment as diverse as the community surrounding Fletcher Place Community Center. It encourages children ages 3-5 to recognize their value and REACH for their full potential.
- Visit their website, [fletcherplacecc.org](http://fletcherplacecc.org), for more information.

## How can I help?

- Give online at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give).
- Donate the following food items for Fletcher Place Community Center's food pantry:

Canned Fruits & Vegetables	Toilet Paper/Paper Towels
Canned Chicken	Brown Paper Bags
- St. Mark's is the "oatmeal" church for the Fletcher Place food pantry. Oatmeal donations are collected all year long and may be left inside Door #2.



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

# Donation & Service Opportunities

## St. Mark's Blood Drive

**Sunday, April 25 | 8:00 AM—1:00PM**

Sign up now for the next Blood Drive! People Need People. Can you help save a life and roll up your sleeve? Healthy



individuals are needed to donate blood today! The donation process itself poses no risk of infecting a donor with coronavirus, and Versiti staff are following CDC recommendations on how to properly defend against COVID-19. Visit [versiti.org](https://www.versiti.org) to learn more about the continued importance of blood donation, and the steps Versiti is taking to keep our donors safe. Contact Mindy Davis at [Melinda.kay.moores.davis@gmail.com](mailto:Melinda.kay.moores.davis@gmail.com) for more info. Sign up online at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](https://stmarkscarmel.org/signups).

## Native American Ministries

**Sunday, April 18**

Native American Ministries Sunday (third Sunday of Easter) nurtures mission with Native



Americans and provides scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminary students. Together, we empower local spiritual development and educate Native American seminarians to serve God faithfully. When the United Methodist Church educates and trains a generation of young members, it is creating a generation of leaders for Christ. Donations may be given online at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](https://stmarkscarmel.org/give).

## Mission Guatemala

### Virtual Mission Experience

**June 6-10 | 7:00 PM—9:00 PM**

Join us for an international mission opportunity right in your own home!



In this 5-day adventure we will experience the sights and sounds of Guatemala through daily videos and video chats with Mission Guatemala staff, have an opportunity for spiritual growth through daily devotions, and learn about cultural and social justice issues in Guatemala and the U.S.

The suggested donation of \$150 per person provides you with a Virtual Mission Experience, a Mission Guatemala t-shirt, and daily fellowship. Signups and more info coming soon. For questions, contact Stephanie Cohen at [scohen@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:scohen@stmarkscarmel.org).



## Night Without a Bed

**Saturday, May 1**

Most of us have warm, comfortable beds to sleep in every night. Family

Promise receives calls daily from area families seeking shelter. Thanks to last year's *#NightWithoutABed* the Apartment Shelter Program was able to rent and furnish 20 units! Help is needed keep those units rented. Can you spend a night without your bed to raise awareness and support? Visit [stmarkscarmel.org/night-without-a-bed](http://stmarkscarmel.org/night-without-a-bed) for more info and to join team St. Mark's!



## Club 56 Mission Camp

**June 14-17, 2021**

God calls us to love God and our neighbors. Incoming and outgoing 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to participate in St. Mark's Annual Mission Camp. Youth will learn about the importance of mission outreach while *safely* serving others, having fun and fellowship! Sign up today at [stmarkscarmel.org/missioncamp](http://stmarkscarmel.org/missioncamp). For questions, contact Stephanie Cohen at [scohen@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:scohen@stmarkscarmel.org).



## 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:

- **Family Promise:** \$6537, 37 packages of paper goods, 10 new pillows, 26 bags of other supply drive items
- **Fletcher Place:** 50 sack meals, 22 containers of oatmeal, 3 bags of food, 2 bag of household items
- **O'Connor House:** \$115
- **Outreach Indiana:** \$200, 5 bags of bedding, 9 bags of clothing, 2 bags of food, 2 boxes of personal hygiene items
- **Second Helpings:** 162 pounds of pasta, 12 bags of other foods
- **Third Phase Christian Center:** 4 bags of food, 6 bags of clothes and shoes
- **Versiti Blood Center of IN:** 30 units of blood donations
- Travel size toiletries for homeless shelters: 5 bags

## Habitat for Humanity Build Days

**April 1 & 14**

St. Mark's UMC and Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity are partnering to help the Woodruff and Marshall families build safe and affordable homes! We



need 7 volunteers (age 16 and older) on the build site, for each of two dates: **Thursday, April 1**, for exterior painting and **Wednesday, April 14** for cleaning day; **7:45am-2:30pm**. No experience needed as training, build materials, and safety equipment will be provided. Location is in Southwest Indy (exact address given upon registration). Review COVID-19 build safety guidelines at [indyhabitat.org/safety](https://indyhabitat.org/safety) Contact Joe or Diane Newton for questions at [joediane244@att.net](mailto:joediane244@att.net) Sign up online at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](https://stmarkscarmel.org/signups).

## Soup's On "to go" at Roberts Park

**Sunday, May 2**

St. Mark's will once again provide to-go meals for the community served at Roberts Park, for May 2, 2021. 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 to homeless persons and others in need in downtown Indianapolis. During the pandemic, sack meals are being handed out as a safe alternative. Please help us offer lunch for those less fortunate by purchasing select food items and by making PB&J sandwiches. Sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/signup](https://stmarkscarmel.org/signup) and choose from food items needed. Contact Trisha Staneart at [tstaneart@frontier.com](mailto:tstaneart@frontier.com) for questions.

Stay tuned for updates as we look forward to safely returning to more hands-on mission opportunities!

## Sunday Morning Offerings

**KidzConnect: *Live* | 10:00 AM-10:30 AM**

Kids ages 3 –4th grade are welcome to join together for a time of worship, Bible stories and games. We use Spark House curriculum materials and divide into several similar age grounds for part of our time together.

Register for weekly Zoom codes at [stmarkscarmel.org/kidzprogramming](http://stmarkscarmel.org/kidzprogramming).

**Kidz Music & Praise Rocking 11:00 AM**

Children ages 4 to 4<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to gather each Sunday on Zoom for worship, praise, and fun.. Contact Joyce Click ([jclick@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:jclick@stmarkscarmel.org)) for a Zoom invitation.

**Club56://ive | 1:00 PM Zoom**

Club 56 weaves together Bible instruction, some theology, and relationship building. All 5th & 6th graders are welcome to come join the fun. Contact Ramie Cooney ([rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org)) for more information and register for weekly Zoom codes at [stmarkscarmel.org/kidzprogramming](http://stmarkscarmel.org/kidzprogramming).

## Programming During COVID

We miss seeing the children and their parents. It is exciting to see the vaccine rollout continuing and we look forward to re-opening Kidz Church later this spring.

- Check out the Connect with Kidz website, [stmarkscarmel.org/kidzconnect](http://stmarkscarmel.org/kidzconnect) to find weekly Kidz Church, Club 56 and Kidz Music & Praise resources.
- Join our St. Mark's Kidz Facebook page to watch a weekly Bible Story and an object lesson and share what you are up to.
- Kidz Kits are available for families attending in-person worship services at St. Mark's.



### CLUB 56 LASER FLASH OUTING

**Saturday, April 17 | 2:00 PM—4:00 PM**

Meet at Laser Flash (617 3rd Avenue SW, Carmel). Cornerstone Youth will also be attending. No registration required. For more information contact Don Broad, [dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org).

## Summer Camp with Impact 2818

### Outdoor Ministries

Camping is Back! Church camp is designed to help children thrive on their spiritual journey. The United Methodist Churches 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 in Indiana is available [Impact2818.org](http://Impact2818.org). *Cancellations and transfers made in the best interest of health and safety will **not** be subject to the standard cancellation policy, and will be eligible to receive a full refund.*

## MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)

Join other mothers who desire friendship, community, support and growth for several Thursday mornings each month during the academic year, play dates, and nights out. Preschool and nursery care offered. Mom gatherings and family playdates begin late spring and MOPS meetings start mid-September. Contact Amy Bender at [mopsatst.marks@gmail.com](mailto:mopsatst.marks@gmail.com) to register or learn more.



## Volunteer Recruitment

Come join the fun and impact a child's life! Please prayerfully consider how you can be involved in this critical local mission—our own St. Mark's children. We need volunteers and assistants to called to lead and shepherd during Kidz Church when we return to in person programming. Training and materials are always provided, and you will always have partners to help. Contact Ramie or Jackie at [rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org) to get involved. Even if you cannot volunteer in a classroom, please pray for the volunteers God is nudging to serve.



# Cornerstone

Student Ministries

Don K. Broad,  
Director of Student Ministries  
[dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org)

## Weekly Gatherings

### WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Wednesday Night Bible Study | 5:00 PM

Will resume meeting in-person mid April.  
Meeting on Zoom until April 14. Contact DKB  
for updates and more information,  
[dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for face-to-face Sunday School over  
Instagram Live.

AM Middle School (Instagram Live) - 10:00 AM

AM High School (Instagram Live) - 10:30 AM

Email Don Broad, [dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org)  
for more information.

## Upcoming Events

### LASER FLASH OUTING

Saturday, April 17 | 2:00 PM—4:00 PM

Meet at Laser Flash, 617 3rd Ave SW, Carmel.  
No registration required.

### SPRING RETREAT

May 21-23

Look for upcoming details.

### WORK CAMP

June 20-June 26

### WEEK OF HOPE

July 25-30

## Sunday Evening

### Cornerstone Fellowship *Live*

Sundays | 5:00 PM– 6:30 PM

We are meeting in person in Wesley Hall. Social distancing and Masks are required. Students need to wear masks, bring a chair if they want to sit anywhere besides the floor, and no food or drink. We'll play 9-Square, Basketball, have a short message, and just reconnect with each other.



# Adult Discipleship

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

## Friday AM Study

***Set Apart: A 6-Week Study of the Beatitudes*** by Jennifer Kennedy Dean  
4/16-5/21, 9:30-11:00AM

Led by Stephanie Cohen |  
online | Books \$13

This 6-week interactive study through the Beatitudes examines holiness, happiness, the Lord's Prayer, and the promise of blessedness in Christ's Sermon on the Mount. Unlike a circumstance-driven emotion such as happiness, blessedness is eternal and grounded in the reality of Christ in us. We are able to live in the state of blessedness that God has created for us when we discover the key to true holiness and a praying life—a call to freedom and joy.



## NEW Weeknight Study: Art & Spirituality

**Tuesdays, 6/1-8/31, 7:30PM**

Led by Julia Gonzales | no book required

Mark your calendars this summer for a new Tuesday evening gathering! We hope you will find some weeks to be available for this hybrid online/on-site study. Participants will listen to scripture, see scripture-based art, and each use their own supplies to create artwork from their spiritual reflections. Sign up online or email Julia Gonzales, [jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org) for info.

## Social Justice Discussion

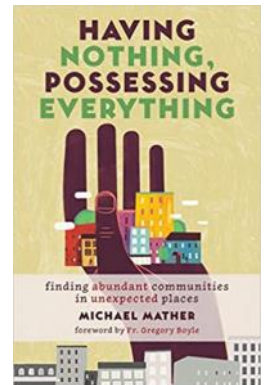
**Wednesday, 4/21, 7:00-8:30PM |**  
**online | Books \$14 | Sign up at**  
[stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](https://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups)

The Social Justice Committee is inviting you to join us for a conversation regarding community and economic health

We will be using the book ***Having Nothing, Possessing Everything*** by Rev. Mike Mather as our resource. Mike will join us for the conversation. Zoom information will be provided closer to the event.

We suggest two questions to ponder as we prepare for the conversation. 1) What is the meaning of wealth? 2) What did Jesus mean when he said that we would always have the poor with us?

For any questions about the Social Justice Committee, contact Jennifer Fogo.



Books are available in the church entrance for \$14 each, or you can buy your own Kindle edition from Amazon.

## Sunday Evening Study

New information for upcoming studies will be posted on [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](https://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups).  
Led by Pastor Brian White.



Sign up for studies at [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups).  
 Questions? Email Jennifer Cloud-Buckner  
 (grow@stmarkscarmel.org) or call (317) 846-4912 x. 214.

## Ongoing Studies

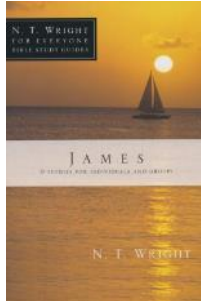
### Wednesday AM Study

*James* by N.T. Wright, 3/24-5/12, no meeting 4/7 | 10:30-11:30 AM

Led by Lydia Fourman |  
 Hybrid online and  
 Room B/C | Books \$8

It's not too late to sign up for this study, which will run through May 12.

This group will meet some in the summer while taking periodic breaks. Updated schedule info will be posted at [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups).

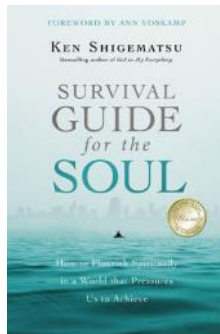


### Thursday AM Study

*Survival Guide for the Soul* by Ken Shigematsu  
 3/18-5/27, no meeting 4/8 | 9:30-11:00AM

Led by Judy Woempner |  
 Hybrid online and  
 Room B/C | Books \$12

Continuing discussion of *Survival Guide for the Soul: How to Flourish Spiritually in a World that Pressures Us to Achieve* through May 27. No meeting 4/8.



## *The Wired Word* Weekly Email Devotional Available

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. If you'd like to receive this weekly email, contact Jennifer Cloud-Buckner at [grow@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:grow@stmarkscarmel.org).

## Online Sunday Groups

### FOUNDATIONS & FRIENDSHIPS (9:40 AM)

Finishing *The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby and beginning *Recapturing the Wesleys' Vision* by Paul Wesley Chilcote. Books available in the church entrance for \$14. To join the Zoom meeting, email Doug Brown ([dthbrown@gmail.com](mailto:dthbrown@gmail.com)).

### CUTTING EDGE (9:40 AM)

Steve Click ([sclick52@gmail.com](mailto:sclick52@gmail.com)) follows weekly Revised Common Lectionary lessons.

### REEL SPIRITUALITY (11:00 AM)

Exploring Christian themes through film and videos. Email Lydia & Terry Fourman ([4manternlyd@gmail.com](mailto:4manternlyd@gmail.com)) for video links, current movies, and connection info. For now, the class is individually watching movies and/or video clips and then gathering on Zoom to discuss. Upcoming movies include *Life is Beautiful*; *I Am Legend*; *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*; *A Star Is Born* (1937).

### VENTURE (2:00 PM ON 4/11, 4/25)

Call Jean Douglass or Jennifer Cloud-Buckner in the church office for connection info.

# Open Groups



## UMW Meeting

Tuesday, April 13 | 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

If you are new to UMW, Welcome! For information on how to connect on Zoom, please contact Mary Etta Yoho, [Maryetta.yoho@gmail.com](mailto:Maryetta.yoho@gmail.com).

Below are the groups available. Interest Groups will be meeting after the general meeting via Zoom. For more information on Interest Groups, go to [stmarkscarmel.org/umw](http://stmarkscarmel.org/umw).

## Morning Interest Groups

**Bookworms**—The group will be reading in March *Sourdough* by Robin Sloan. Gail Lee facilitates.

**Spiritual Growth**—The group is using *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* by Erin James-Brown. Pastor Mary Ann Moman facilitates. Kindle books can be immediately purchased, and paperbacks for the church entrance pick-up are on currently on backorder.

**Color and Chat**—Coloring isn't just for kids! Come enjoy fellowship while coloring with UMW friends. This group will color and discuss pages with inspirational quotes and scriptures. Download these coloring pages.

[Coloringfaith.com](http://Coloringfaith.com), [rocksolidfaith.ca](http://rocksolidfaith.ca), [bloggersforthe kingdom.com](http://bloggersforthe kingdom.com), [sarahtitus.com](http://sarahtitus.com)

## UMW Reading Program

**Monday, April 26 | 7:00 PM (Zoom)**

Windows on the World reading group will meet via Zoom on Monday, April 26 at 7pm. We will be reading from “Nurturing for Community” books that have pink tags on the book spines in the church library. See full lists at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>. Please join us even if you have not read the books.

Contact Susan Salter at [sbf5salter@att.net](mailto:sbf5salter@att.net) for more information.

## Evening Interest Groups

**Bookmarkers**—Group will be reading *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. Debbie Skinner facilitates.

**Spiritual Reflections**—Spiritual Reflections is studying *Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit: Growing in Christlikeness* by Christopher J.H. Wright. Books are available in the church entrance for \$10. For info, contact Holly Moore, [holly.e.moore693@gmail.com](mailto:holly.e.moore693@gmail.com).

## Spa Day Kits for Ascent 121

Ascent 121 is a non-profit organization that helps young survivors of human trafficking. The St. Marks UMW has been supporting this organization for many years in many different ways. During the next two months, we will be gathering items to put together Spa Day kits for these teens. If you would like to participate, we will be collecting the following new items:

- Nail polish (pastel colors)
- Nail files
- Nail clippers
- Travel-size hand lotion and body wash
- Lip balm/gloss
- Small jewelry items such as earrings and bracelets

Donations will be received in April and can be placed in the red tote inside door #2. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Schenk at [lschenk@att.net](mailto:lschenk@att.net).



## UMM Breakfast Meetings



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

### Saturday, April 10

April will be a Zoom Meeting. UMM provides a supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually, and to seek daily God's will. UMM has donated to many Missions. Some of the groups we donate to are: Family Promise, East 10th Methodist Youth Center, Fletcher Place, Habitat for Humanity, Wheeler Mission, Second Helpings and SAW.

For more information about UMM or to be added to the email list, contact John Clodfelder, 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/umm](http://stmarkscarmel.org/umm). Join us!

## Marksmen

4/8 & 4/22 | 6:30 AM

### Meeting at St. Mark's

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 at St. Mark's. Please bring your own coffee. We will meet outside (weather permitting) or inside.

There will also be an opportunity in April to team up with UMM for a SAWS Ramp Build. Dates being considered are 4/17. Need five Marksmen to volunteer.

If you have any questions, email [marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org).

## What to Expect When Meeting in the Building

- 6 ft social distancing
- **Masks at all times. (Will continue to follow CDC Guidelines)**
- No food or drink allowed for indoor events, other than personal water bottles. Water can be refilled.
- Water fountains will only be available for bottle refilling.
- Food and drink may be distributed or purchased when the event is outdoors if it is pre-packaged or from an authorized vendor (i.e., food vendor following health guidelines)
- If attending a meeting, go directly to your assigned meeting room. No meeting rooms will be available unless scheduled in advance.
- No Childcare is available until further notice.
- Parking Lot meetings may be scheduled. Areas will be assigned.
- Any non-church related meeting requests will be reviewed and considered by St. Mark's task group on a case-by-case basis.
- No athletic events allowed in Wesley Hall at this time (volleyball, basketball, pickleball and dodgeball).
- Connection tables remain closed.
- Limited office hours Monday-Friday, 9 AM-12 PM.
- Restrooms are open for emergency use.
- Sign outside the door should be turned over to indicate the room has been used and needs to be cleaned.
- **Number of people in rooms is limited. Please make sure you register or notify your leader if you are attending in person.**

## Open Group Schedule

### Mondays

#### COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

##### Meeting on Zoom

This self-help camera group meets for conversation about photographic art & technique. Bring your camera & your questions. Contact [ken\\_shultz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ken_shultz@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

#### CAREER CURVE

##### 10:00 AM (Meets on Zoom)

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).

### Tuesdays

#### PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB

##### Tuesday, April 20 | 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

##### *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead

Join us the 3rd Tuesday of each month if you enjoy good books, discussions, and a shared evening with new/old friends. If you have any questions, contact Marcia Flora, [mflora1950@yahoo.com](mailto:mflora1950@yahoo.com).

#### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

##### Tuesday, April 27 | 11:30 AM-12:15 PM

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! We are planning on meeting in the Chapel. Contact Judy Bonnet for more information at [bonnetjm@icloud.com](mailto:bonnetjm@icloud.com).

### Wednesdays

#### ROMEOS (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT)

##### Currently meeting at St Mark's, Room J/K

All men are invited to meet weekly in Room J/K or on the church yard with our lawn chairs. Masks are required.

#### MOB (METHODISTS ON BIKES)

##### Wednesday, 4/28, 5/12, 5/26

##### Saturday, 5/1, 5/15

All adults are invited to join this recreational bike riding group. Our season begins Wednesday, 4/28 & Saturday, 5/1.

Wednesday rides begin at St. Mark's at 6:30 PM to cruise area neighborhoods at a leisurely pace for approximately 1 hour.

Saturdays are for riders comfortable heading out on county roads for 15-20 mile rides moving at a pace of 13-16 miles per hour.

Members of the MOB take turns planning & leading the routes. Rides are cancelled if no one signs up to lead 3 days prior to the ride date. For more info about each ride, contact John Flora, [johnflora2710@hotmail.com](mailto:johnflora2710@hotmail.com).



### Thursdays

#### JULIETS

##### Houlihans | Hamilton Town Center, Noblesville

##### Thursday, April 15 | 11:30

Juliets (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Out Together) will be meeting this month at Houlihans. Contact Barbara Johnson, (317) 863-2689, [timberblj@gmail.com](mailto:timberblj@gmail.com), or text 303-918-6308. We are limited to 12 people.

### Craft & Hobby Group

Join us on Facebook at "St. Mark's UMC Craft & Hobby Group". Share what you've been working on or get ideas for new projects! Contact Kathy Bartel, [krbartel@gmail.com](mailto:krbartel@gmail.com), with questions.

# Committee News

## Trustees

The Fellowship Hall project is complete. The floor was completed last year, and we have just completed the rest of Fellowship Hall with a major renovation to the kitchen including a new warming oven and a new commercial dishwasher. The storage area on the other side is complete including re-do of walls and floors, adding double door for easier access to move tables and chairs in and out. Facilities manager Juan has redone the walls in the hallway and bathroom to complete the remodel from the entry project of last year through the new Fellowship Hall. We are looking forward to you seeing it. The trustees continue to work on maintenance projects and are starting to explore future building projects.

## Finance

Now a word from your Finance Committee:

It may be cold outside as I write this, but with the coming of Easter, comes hope and inspiration to which I am thankful. The bulbs have shown life as leaves are already peeking through the left-over mulch from last year... HE LIVES, and the evidence is everywhere, and St. Mark's continues to respond as well.

Giving patterns have changed as compared to prior years, with many donors making their annual, as well as monthly pledges, in January and February; likewise, the staff continues to be very diligent with the spending and with the church providing limited services so far as a result of the pandemic, other "regular" expenses have been mitigated, to some extent – as such, we are FAVORABLE against budget year to date, as I would expect: The church continues to be in sound financial footing as

we enter spring and anticipate the summer "down months."

Uncertain times lie ahead: you may recall that current expected contributions and donations for calendar year 2021 will not cover expected expenditures at current trends, despite the care the staff is taking to minimize their spend. We expect to balance the budget and cover all our expenses, including 100% of our conference and district tithes for 2021 through accessing reserves carried over from 2020. As such, I ask that you continue to pray for St. Mark's, the United Methodist Church, and continued guidance as we continue through the balance of 2021 and eventually when we plan for 2022.

Know that you, we, remain blessed. I can only imagine the hardships we all have incurred. Remain faithful in the hope that HE provides, and for our unanswered prayers. I will continue to rely on my favorite verse....

*"So, give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong...." 1 Ki 3.9a*

Bill Nicolai  
Finance Chair

## Internship Opportunities

Do you enjoy working with children? Do you want to learn more about working in a church setting?

The Children's Ministry department at St. Mark's UMC in Carmel, IN is excited to announce paid internship opportunities for Summer 2021. Work schedules will be flexible and approximately 15 hours per week during the summer months.

***Job Responsibilities:*** Interns will assist with Children's Mission Outreach and work with church ministries to help carry out the mission of St. Mark's. For example, interns will assist in preparing for Vacation Bible Camp, organize a Club 56 Mission Camp, attend Week of Hope, 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.

***Application Process:*** Interested candidates are invited to submit a cover letter explaining why they are interested in a St. Mark's Internship and a resume with relevant experience (volunteer or paid) to Children's Ministry Director, Ramie Cooney at [rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org). Youth are invited to contact Ramie Cooney or Jackie Rowell at (317) 846-4912 with any questions or to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee beginning March 2021 and decisions communicated by April 2021.

## General Conference Postponed

Over the past several years we have been reporting on the progress of the General Conference (the worldwide legislative body of the United Methodist Church) as they make decisions about the church and human sexuality. The last called General Conference in 2019 was meant to be followed by the normally scheduled conference in 2020. This was postponed to 2021.

Unfortunately, the Commission on the General Conference made the decision to further postpone the 2020 General Conference until August 29 – September 6, 2022 in Minneapolis, Minn. as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect the safety of mass gatherings and travel. We will update the congregation as more information is available.

# Community News

## Directory Updates

Mr. & Mrs. James Gidley  
2278 Morel Way  
Westfield, IN 46074

Elaine Keyes  
14638 Bach Dr, Apt 812  
Carmel, IN 46032

## Sympathies

To Jennifer Witherbee at the death of her husband, Jon.

To Ky Ragsdale at the death of his father, Jack Ragsdale.

To Greg and Vince Dixon at the death of Lauren Dixon, daughter and sister.

## Births

Morgan Mae McDermid born 3/1. Parents are Jon and Lauren; brother Hunter; grandparents are Gary and Jonene McDermid.

## 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	Mary Hart
Jane Roberts	Ola Morrow
Betty Lachman	Mary Pielemeier
Jerry & Phyllis Delp	Hilda Meyers
Judy & Tom Hebenstreit	Don Ranck

## Grab-and Go Visit Guidelines

The church staff thanks you for keeping your office visits as brief as possible. We still have contact-free missions drop-offs in the church entrance (Door #2), 9:00 AM- 4:00 PM, Monday-Friday.

For your convenience, we have Grab-and-Go shelves in the entryway where you can:

- Pick up and pay for study books.
- Find Upper Rooms, newsletters, directories.
- Pick up Communion Supplies.
- Return and pick up requested library books.
- Return UMW missions donations.
- Make other short-term drop-offs and pickups as arranged with the office.

## Registering Attendance

We are grateful for your presence in online worship. Please register your attendance every week at [stmarkscarmel.org/attend](http://stmarkscarmel.org/attend). Please include the names of all in the family attending worship. Thank you for being a part of St. Mark's wherever you are!

## Communion

Communion is served the first Sunday of every month. Elements for home use with online worship are available for pickup in the church entrance the week before communion is served.



# Other Opportunities

## UMW Fundraiser

### 3-D CARDS RETURN FOR SPRING

This spring, choose a handmade greeting card for your loved ones! The UMW is busy again, with a new selection of 3-D pop-up cards. The cards are handmade keepsake-style cards, made with high-quality cardstock and beautiful accents. Mother's Day, Father's Day, and two All-Occasion cards will be offered. You will be enchanted with these unique cards! Priced at only \$8 each, custom envelopes are included. The cards are being made in limited quantities To order, call/text Peggy Nicolai at 513-374-1371, or email at [panicolai@aol.com](mailto:panicolai@aol.com). Remember, all proceeds will go to UMW-supported missions!



## College Retreat

**Friday, May 28-Saturday May 29**

Youth 18-22 (college age) are invited to attend a retreat. Signups will be active soon. Please contact Don Broad, [dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org) for more information.



## ReConnect Picnics

**Beginning Wednesday, June 2 | 6:25 PM- 7:00 PM**

**1st & 3rd Wednesdays (2nd & 4th Weds are rain backup dates)**

Bring a dinner and lawn chair for these new combined fellowship-discipleship conversation circles immediately after Wednesday Worship. Conversation starters will be provided, and activities will be available for kids so parents can connect too. The 2nd and 4th Wednesdays are backup rain dates monthly. If you've been missing Dinners for Eight, chatting between services on Sundays, or your in-home Grow Group meetings, these are the events for you.



# Kidz Summer Opportunities

## Club 56 Mission Camp

**Monday, June 14–Thursday, June 17**

Mark your calendars! Fifth and sixth graders are invited to participate in our annual local mission camp June 14-17, 2021. Register at [stmarkscarmel.org/missioncamp](http://stmarkscarmel.org/missioncamp)



## VBS Rocky Railway

**Monday, July 19–Friday, July 23**

We will host Rocky Railway Vacation Bible Camp from 9 AM-12 PM. Children Ages 4–Grade 5 are invited to participate. Volunteer opportunities for Grade 6 through Adults. Register at [stmarkscarmel.org/vbs](http://stmarkscarmel.org/vbs). Registration begins April 1.



## Puppet & Drama Camp

**Monday, June 21–Friday, June 25**

**Puppet Camp: 10:00 AM– 11:30 AM**

**Drama Camp—12:15 PM-2:30 PM**

Mark your calendars and get ready for some fun. Puppet Camp is for students ages 4– Grades 3. They will use a variety of puppets during the week to interpret songs and themes. Students will make their own puppets to take home. Drama Camp is for students Grades 1-4 and will act out stories. Cost is \$15 for each camp. Watch for details on whether the event will be online or in person. Sign up at [stmarkscarmel.org/musiccamps](http://stmarkscarmel.org/musiccamps)





# SAVE THE DATE

## Rice Meal Food Pack

Sunday, May 16 | 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

St. Mark's is  
partnering with  
Midwest Mission



Distribution Center for another Rice Meal Food Pack. Sunday, May 16, 2:00-4:00pm, in Wesley Hall. All meals go to non-profits internationally and each bag will feed 6 people in need!

This is a great family-friendly, hands-on mission opportunity for anyone age 5 and older. Safety guidelines will be followed including masks, gloves, and social distancing. Sign up today at [stmarkscarmel.org/signups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/signups). Contact Stephanie Cohen at [scohen@stmarkscarmel.org](mailto:scohen@stmarkscarmel.org) for questions. Hope to see you there!



4780 E. 126th St.  
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ST. MARK'S  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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