

SONGS

of hope

a lenten sermon series

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News From the Pastors

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

A few years ago I read online about the countdown procedures before a space shuttle launch. It is really interesting to learn about what happens during the “T-minus” period. For instance, did you know the “T” in “T Minus 43 Hours” means “Time until launch”. It means that there are 43 hours until the scheduled liftoff *according to the countdown clock*. There are numerous “built-in holds,” where unscheduled problems can be corrected, and still launch “on-time.” There is also the “L” (Local time) clock.

If it's 1:40 PM, and liftoff is scheduled for 2:40 PM, it is “L Minus 60 minutes”, but “T Minus 20 Minutes, and holding.” On the L, or Local clock, we're a whole hour away from launch, but we are in the midst of the built in hold at T-20 Minutes, and we still have a 10 minute built-in hold at T-9 Minutes to go. This means they plan to “pick up the count” at 2:10 PM at T-20 minutes. They will stop the count again at 2:21 PM at T-9 Minutes. When they come out of the hold at 2:31 PM, they plan to launch at 2:40.

Sometimes the countdown to Easter seems about that complicated. Easter is a floating holiday that is determined by the lunar cycle so the date changes each year. We have Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week activities and special activities like breakfasts, etc.

The time during the shuttle countdown is a busy time. So is Lent, the countdown to Easter Sunday. In this newsletter you will read about many activities planned in the next few weeks. I hope you will take time to plan to attend as many of these activities as you can. It is important to celebrate the joy of Easter morning but we also need to experience Christ's journey that led to Calvary on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

To the rest of the world it is just another day and another week but for us it is the countdown to the most exciting event in Christian history. Let's share it together!

In Christ,

Brian



News From the Pastors

Hello St. Mark's family,

Can I tell you a secret? I'm excited and nervous for my first Lenten season as a pastor. While by no means my first time celebrating the Lenten season, it still feels different from previous years with a change in responsibilities and expectations. Which leads me to a question for you: do you always experience Easter in the same way year after year?



Let's unpack that a little. What I mean is, do you ever feel like one Easter is the same as the one the year before and so on? Do the days of Holy Week and the lead up to the sunrise moment of Easter Sunday ever feel like you've already lived them before? Sometimes it can be hard to remember how feelings change from one year to the next, how you experience our Savior's rising from the dead.

My first Easter in North Carolina as a graduate student was hard for me. When I was in undergrad I was able to go home for Easter Sunday and worship in the family pew (to the left of the pulpit, second row back, never the first because we're good Methodists!) then join my family for dinner at my grandparents' home afterwards. Once I started at seminary though it wasn't as simple as making a forty-five minute drive to get home. Being away from my family and the church that was familiar to me gave me some new insight into the season of Lent and Easter, how God is at work in us no matter where we are, be it physically or mentally.

Now I have a question for you: What are the new things happening in your life right now? The good and the bad? What are some new insights that you're gaining about God in light of them?

Blessings,

Julia

APRIL MISSION FOCUS

Fletcher Place Community Center

Fletcher Place Community Center believes that taking care of the community is something everyone can do. They work to help families who are coping with difficult times. They work all year to support families throughout the community. Outreach services include: a **Free Store, Food Pantry, Hot Meals, Community Garden, a Christmas program and Preschool.**

Volunteer opportunities range from serving a meal, sorting donations at the free store, stocking food in the food pantry, working in the Community Garden project, or helping with building upkeep. You can also help out with their annual Christmas Store in late

November! Each year, generous volunteers put in thousands of hours at the center.

More information is available at their website: fletcherplacecc.org or contact St. Mark's Mission Coordinator, Ali Lemberg at ALemberg@stmarkscarmel.org or 317-846-4912. Financial donations may be given on Sundays using the white mission envelope in the worship bulletin or given through our website: stmarkscarmel.org/give.



This month we are collecting **oatmeal** for the Fletcher Place food pantry. Imagine the impact we can make if each one of us at St. Mark's would bring in just **one container** of oatmeal! **Please help us stock their pantry! Place your donations in a bin inside Door #2 at St. Mark's.**



Brightwood Community Center

Tuesday, 4/16 & 4/30, 4:30 PM

Dinners at Brightwood have been a wonderful success! We will be serving on Tuesday, April 16th and Tuesday, April 30th at 4:30 PM. For these meals to be successful they need 2-3 volunteers to serve the meals with them. If you are willing to serve, please contact Kirsten at pedsderm@yahoo.com or 317-698-7352.

Hamilton County Kids Coats

As we come to the end of cold weather, please remember Hamilton County Kids Coats. Your donations of clean gently-worn winter coats, hats, mittens, etc. may be dropped off at St. Mark's for this fall's giveaway. Hamilton County Kids Coats is a county-wide mission of many churches & community volunteers who work together to help our neighbors stay warm in winter.



Family Promise Reunion

CARMEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, May 19, 2:00 PM-5:00 PM

Calling all past and present guest families, volunteers, coordinators, clergy, staff, board members, donors, community partners, and family/friends--basically EVERYONE--to the first of two parties to celebrate all the successes of the past 25 years of serving families through Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis!

Join us on **Sunday, May 19, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** for the Family Promise Reunion. Carmel United Methodist Church--the congregation that hosted the first family in 1994--agreed to host the party in their gym, playground, and parking lot at 621 South Rangeline Rd. in Carmel, IN 46032. The event will also recognize Barb Williams, Family Promise After Care Case Manager. RSVP www.eventbrite.com/e/family-promise-reunion-presented-by-strada-education-network-tickets-57432943480 by 5/1.

For more information contact Ali Lemberg, aleMBERG@stmarkscarmel.org.

Mission in Action Spring Edition

Thank you to everyone that participated in Mission In Action Spring Edition on March 2! About 105 of us gathered together to complete service projects in the community and at St. Mark's.

A HUGE Thank You To Our Team Leaders:

Doug Brown: Outdoor Clean Up at St. Mark's

Becky Bultemeier: Assemble Food Bags for Forest Dale Students

Greta Carroll: Changing Footprints

Trisha Staneart: Hamilton County Kids Coats

Rick Lemberg: Basement Project

Robert Jennings: Education Wing Painting

Brian White: Prayer Warriors

Kinsen Beutler: Mustard Seed

Kirsten Turchan: O'Connor House

Angela Vance: Assemble Bags for Midtown Mental Health

Bob Wiens: Photography

Joe Garrison: Photography



Because You Give, St. Mark's Gives!

Because You Give, St. Mark's Gives!
Thank you for your generous support
of the missions of St. Mark's. You have
given to:

- Central Indiana Regional Blood Center: 31 units of blood
- Changing Footprints: 7 bags of shoes
- Children's Mission Outreach: \$2513.83
- Fletcher Place Community Center: 10 bags of food & 10 containers of oat-meal
- Forest Dale: 20 bags of food
- Midtown Mental Health: 108 toiletry kits

Tree Planting at Inlow Park

Sunday, April 14

This Palm Sunday we will have the opportunity to plant 200 trees! The Pollis Family has graciously set up this wonderful family friendly event for us. We will be planting 2 ft tall trees. The City of Carmel will provide shovels and watering cans, we just need to do the work.

If you are interested in participating on Sunday, April 14th, please contact Ali Lemberg at alemberg@stmarkscarmel.org



Team St. Mark's Miles for Missions

Team St. Mark's meets on Saturdays at 8 AM at the gazebo at Carmel's Civic Square to run, walk, or run/walk on the Monon Trail.

Come train for the Mini Marathon, the Geist Half, a 5k or just to be fit! This season the fundraising focus is Habitat for Humanity. To support our athletes, please feel free to make a donation at:

give.indyhabitat.org/19StMarksRunning

To learn about how to get involved please contact us at TeamStMarks@stmarkscarmel.org



UFIT FUNDRAISER

Saturday, May 11, 9:00 AM

UFit North has partnered with Team St. Mark's to create a hour workout to help our bodies and generate funds for Habitat for Humanity. Saturday, May 11th at 9:00 AM everyone can work out with a UFit trainer for \$10. UFit North pays the trainer, and Team St. Mark's earns 100% of the money raised for Habitat for Humanity. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ali Lemberg at alemberg@stmarkscarmel.org

Mustard Seed

The Mustard Seed is located in Fishers. It is an organization that helps the homeless by providing furniture and basic items once they are in homes. They are in immediate need of the following kitchen items: (Items can be left in fellowship hall in the bin or Janice Presley will pick them up.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| Dinner plates | Salad Plates | Soup Bowls | Drinking glasses | Coffee cups/mugs |
| Forks, knives, spoons | Kitchen towels | Dish cloths | Pot holders | Bath towels |
| Queen sheets | Full sheets | Wash cloths | Hand towels | |

adult music

stmarkscarmel.org/music

Eric De Forest, Director
edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org

Join the Choir

Join the Chancel Choir and make a joyful noise with us! We accept any singer from high school age to 100! Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Please contact Dr. Eric DeForest at edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org with any questions.



Join the Orchestra

Orchestra is open to all ages 10-100 who want to glorify God with music. Performances once a month (August–April) Rehearsals are the Wednesdays prior to the performance.

Contact Ed Rowell or Dr. Eric Deforest for more information.

Bell Rehearsal

Bell Rehearsals are held on Wednesday at 6:30 PM.

UPCOMING EVENTS

5/19 Indy Winds in Concert

Can You Help Once a Month?

We are looking for team members to join our AV Ministry on Sunday mornings. Team members run the soundboard, LiveStream, lights and/or computer presentations. No experience needed and your commitment would be once every 4-5 weeks. Hands on training is available. contact Justin Vance at jvance@stmarkscarmel.org or 317-846-4912 .



kids ministry

stmarkscarmel.org/kidz
Ramie Cooney, Director
rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org

Education

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING



Nursery & Toddler Care

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

Kidz Learn & Grow Preschool

Children have fun singing, learning Bible stories, eating snacks and making fun crafts. Bible discovery and exploration is integrated in every lesson by our fantastic volunteer team.

Kidz Learn & Grow Elementary

Kids entering kindergarten through 4th grade have a blast learning about God at Kidz Church beginning with Worship followed by lively & age appropriate activities (including games, crafts, and creative play) to accommodate various ways kids learn. Our fantastic Kidz Church leaders follow the Revised Common Lectionary and classes also include discipleship development following United Methodist principles.

Kidz Music & Praise

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord during this fun-filled hour each week. After Worship with Kidz Learn & Grow classes, children participate in this high energy class that incorporates music, drama, art, and puppets.

Upcoming Events

- 4/14 Kidz Sing 9:40 AM & 11:00 AM
Lunch & Learn, 12:00 PM
Drums Circles & Drums in Worship
- 5/12 Kidz Sing 9:40 AM & 11:00 AM

Club 56

Club 56 weaves together Bible instruction, some theology, service projects and relationship building. All 5th & 6th graders are welcome to come join the fun! Feel free to invite friends, grandchildren, and neighbors! Sunday programming each week in the basement.



Vacation Bible School

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

June 17- June 21

In order to make this special program a success each year, we need volunteers of all ages (from middle schoolers to retirees) who can give some time, energy and love to the kids who will attend. There are many roles to fill, so please consider taking part in this fun & meaningful week.

If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Ramie Cooney, rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org.

Kidz Lunch & Learn

Sunday, April 14, 12:00 PM- 1:00 PM

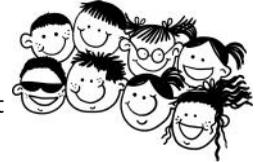
Parents and children are invited to learn about Drum Circles and Drums in Worship in the Basement. The class will be taught by Mike McBride, Elementary Music Teacher of the Year at Mohawk Elementary. Lunch provided, all ages welcome.



Kids Night Out

Friday, April 12, 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Parents enjoy a date night while children ages 4-10 years old are invited to join the fun at St. Mark's. Parents will drop off their children, and they will enjoy a craft project, a movie and a (nut-free) snack throughout the evening as they are supervised by Cornerstone Youth.



Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org and contribute \$15 per child (or \$30 per family) to benefit youth mission trips and retreats. Contact Ramie at rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org or (317) 846-4912 for more information.

Summer Camp with Impact 2818: Outdoor Ministries

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 at www.impact2818.org. Early registration closes 4/15/19.

Summer Internship

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

The Children's Ministry department is excited to announce paid internship opportunities for Summer 2019. 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. For example, interns will assist in preparing for Vacation Bible Camp, organize a Club 56 Mission Camp, as well as plan fellowship and service opportunities over the summer for children and our local community.

Qualifications: Intern candidates should be comfortable working in a church setting, caring, compassionate, confident, and enjoy children. To be eligible, youth must have completed their sophomore year in high school.

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 to Children's Ministry Director, Ramie Cooney at rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org. Youth are invited to contact Ramie Cooney or Jackie Rowel at (317) 846-4912 with any questions or to learn more about this exciting opportunity. Applications are due April 10, 2019.



Cornerstone Fellowship

Sundays | 5:00 PM- 6:30 PM

For all students in grades 7-12

Middle School and High School meet separately from 5:00 PM - 5:45 PM.

All grades gather from 5:45 PM - 6:30 PM for worship and a meal.

Cornerstone After Hours

Sundays | 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

For all students in grades 7-12

After Cornerstone Fellowship, the gym will be open for various activities.

The purpose is simply to spend time together where students feel confident to invite friends.

Third Street Rehearsal

Wednesday | 6:30 PM- 7:30 PM

Students currently in grades 7 - 12 are welcome!

Third Street is Cornerstone's Praise Band and is always seeking singers and instrumentalists to join us! ALL are welcome!

Rehearsals will take place weekly, with the goal of leading worship at retreats, some meetings, and Cornerstone Sundays!

Mindful Bible Study

"MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE"

March 13- April 28

All High School students (Grades 9-12) are invited to participate in a deeper dive into the Bible.

Students can choose between Wednesday evenings from 7:30 PM- 8:30 PM or Sunday evenings from 6:30 PM-7:30 PM during Cornerstone After-Hours. Both meetings will be the same.

No Signup required. No book required other than a Bible

Spring Retreat

Friday May 17- Sunday, May 19

Spring Retreat will be here before we know it. The Class of 2019 has been hard at work planning the weekend and it promises to be amazing! Sign up now so you don't miss out! Sign-ups for parent help will be coming soon.

Dear Friends,

The middle of March is approaching—and that means basketball tournaments. I am a huge NCAA Basketball fan. I think about the lessons being taught and being learned by each person participating on the teams, in the stands as fans, and even at home from our armchairs. In the book, *Mastering Civility: A Manifesto for the Workplace* by Christine Porath, chapter 12 is titled “Score” that encourages us to “focus more generally on the *how* of work when evaluating performance and not just the actual results.” The author begins the chapter:

What if you had a way to rate an e-mail a colleague sent you, or a status update a friend posted on social media, solely based on how respectful it sounded? That would be a game changer, wouldn't it?

In this time of spouting off to one another, judging people critically who have different opinions or lifestyles than mine, we need to get serious (and be intentional) about being civil to one another. Coach, John Wooden, kept a list of twenty-five character traits that he wanted his players to internalize, strive to live by, with the goal of realizing their full potential. The traits included basic foundations of civility, like “cooperation,” “friendship,” “self-control,” “team spirit,” “good sportsmanship,” and “poise.” (page 132 of *Mastering Civility*.) Isn't this similar to what Jesus models for us? As Jesus-followers, aren't we called to live demonstrating these same traits? Sometimes we all need the reminders to be kind. Be civil. Be respectful. We can improve.

Christ calls us to welcome, to grow, and to serve. United in the power of Christ we live to serve and to love. Let's grow together in love, the love of our Savior.

Lydia

Sunday Small Groups

9:40 AM

VENTURE

This group meets at 9:15 AM to share concerns and listen to “The Great Courses” a varied series on religious and theological studies and Rick Steve’s Travelogue Series Jean Douglass facilitates.

OPEN DOORS/OPEN IDEAS

Share and discuss various Christian and life themes through authors, studies and movies. Becky and Jack McElhannon facilitate.

CUTTING EDGE

Uses the Common Lectionary for Bible discussions & lessons. A three year program that cycles through Old and New Testament verses of the Bible. Steve Click facilitates.

FOUNDATIONS & FRIENDSHIPS

Share and discuss Christian themes through various authors. They are currently reading and discussing *Simon Peter* by Adam Hamilton. Doug Brown and John Flora facilitate, with classmates sharing leadership too.

11:00 AM

JOURNEY

Share and discuss the Bible scriptures from the Old and New Testament and Psalms based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Jonathan Barclay facilitates.

REEL SPIRITUALITY

View and discuss Christian themes and life values through movies. Together they watch 30-40 minutes of a movie, then discuss it, continuing the movie to completion for 3 to 4 weeks. Upcoming movies are *the Hate U Give* and *The Darkest Hour*. Lydia and Terry Fourman facilitate.

Study Groups

SUNDAY

6:00 –7:00 PM | 3/10-4-14

Entering the Passion of Jesus New Study will be announced starting Mid May. Pastor Brian White facilitates

WEDNESDAY

EARLY AM BIBLE STUDY

6:30–7:15 AM | 3/6–5/15

Ephesians by N.T.Wright

In Ephesians, Paul expressed his joy and amazement at the larger story of God's plan to save us in Jesus the Messiah. Pastor Brian White will facilitate.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

9:30-10:30 AM | 3/6-5/15

Ephesians by N T Wright

See above for description. Pastor Brian White facilitates.

AM BIBLE STUDY

9:30-11:30 AM | 3/20-4/17

Entering the Passion of Jesus by Amy Jill Levine 4/24-5/29

Reclaiming the New That Jesus Unleashed for the World by Andy Stanley. Once upon a time

there existed a version of our faith worth living and dying for, something the world found irresistible. Rather than working harder to make Christianity more interesting, we need to recover what once made faith in Jesus irresistible. Stanley shows how Jesus' arrival signaled that the Old Testament was fulfilled and its laws reduced to a single verb—LOVE—to be applied to God, neighbor, and enemy. Study guide cost is \$10.

THURSDAY

AM BIBLE STUDY

9:30–11:00 AM | 4/18-5/23

Miracles of Jesus by Jessica LaGrone The stories about Jesus raising the dead and calming the storm are incredibly astounding. It's natural to focus on the divine power, but these stories have something else in common: the human desperation that prompted the miracles.

In this study, LaGrone leads us on a exploration of the miracles of Jesus.

FRIDAY

9:30– 11:30 AM

The Jewishness of Jesus: A New Way of Seeing the Most Influential Rabbi in History

by Rabbi Evan Moffic (4/11 & 4/19)

Love Does by Bob Goff. (4/26-5/24)A five session study group where you will discover paradigm shifts, musings and stories from one of the world's most delightfully engaging and winsome people. What fuels his impact? Love. But it's not the kind of love that stops at thoughts and feelings. Bob's love takes action, just like Jesus did. Stephanie Cohen facilitates.

To sign up for Adult Bible Studies register at stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups.

Childcare is available with registration 72 hours in advance online at stmarkscarmel.org

ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP

Specifically addresses the needs and support wanted when caring for parents.

Wednesday (twice a month) lead by Becky Mills Sunday (once a month) lead by Susan Jacques

Grow Groups

An invitation and reminder: St. Mark's has four fun and meaningful ways (at least) we can GROW in our Christian Adult Education opportunities.

- Sunday Morning Study Groups-classes that meet at 9:40 and 11:00 AM before/after worship.
- Weekday Study Groups-classes that meet on a regular basis throughout the year.
- Grow Groups-5-12 people who gather as a small group on a regular basis throughout the year.
- Themed Study Groups-classes that form around a specific chapter of life for 4-8 weeks.

gatherings

Second Saturday Breakfast Meetings

We meet the second Saturday of every month except in **April** at 7:30 AM-9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall.

We will be hosting the

UMM Lenten Breakfast Schedule on **April 6**

4/6 St. Mark's (Lenten Breakfast)

5/11 Greg McCauley- NASA



UMM LENTEN BREAKFAST SCHEDULE

Please join the United Methodist Men for the **Lenten Breakfast Series** on First UMC, March 30th at The Promise UMC in Fishers and April 13th at Sheridan UMC. Additionally, **St. Marks will be hosting other churches for the April 6th Lenten Breakfast.** All Lenten Breakfasts begin at 7:30 am. For those who wish to carpool, we will meet at St. Marks and plan to leave at 7:00 am.

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, please check out the UMM Bulletin Board in the Narthex near the coffee area, contact Matt Hook, email umm@stmarkscarmel.org or call a UMM Board Member. You can also see what's going at: stmarkscarmel.org. Come and join us!

PRAYER HUDDLE

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

MARKSMEN

The MarksMen is a community of career and family focused men seeking to develop authentic and intentional relationships while we unplug from the daily stress and craziness that life can bring. We aim to grow closer to Christ through Service and Outreach, Enrichment and Education, Friendship and Fellowship.

PRAYER & SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays | 6:00 AM

April 11 & April 25

We meet at 6:00 AM every other Thursday morning at Einstein Bagels (116th Street) for our prayer and support meetings.

Check out our Facebook page, [Marksmen of St. Mark's Carmel UMC](#) to get the latest news.

ROMEO's Lunch Group

Wednesdays | 11:00 AM

LE PEEP RESTAURANT

12213 N. Meridian Street

All men are invited to join the ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out) for a weekly Wednesday lunch. They meet at 11:00 AM. For more information or questions contact Don Mehl, 317-844-0789.



Monthly Meeting

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

All women of St. Mark's are invited to United Methodist Women's gathering on April 9 for coffee, conversation, devotion time & special interest groups. We look forward to seeing you!

Childcare provided. To register for childcare, please click on the link "Childcare Registration" on St. Mark's website stmarkscarmel.org

Morning Groups

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The group will be studying **Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living** by Jessica Stonecypher. This study will explore our relationship with creation, others and ourselves. We will engage in conversations with Biblical texts, current realities and possible ways to respond. Facilitated by Pastor Mary Ann Moman

BOOKWORMS

UMW morning book discussion group. The book selected for March is **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Book Society** by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. While the books are seldom of a religious nature. We will ask the question, "Do you see God's grace or redemption at work in the book?" Facilitated by Gail Lee.

MAKE IT AND TAKE IT

For the month of April, We are making fabric covered Easter Eggs. They are so cute. Come give it a try. Facilitated by Marilyn Roberts and Kathy Dycus

SAMS (SCHOOL AGE MOMS)

SAMs (School Age Moms) will meet two Tuesdays a month. There will be a discussion group for the UMW morning and evening gatherings, and then we will meet the last Tuesday of the month. We will be using **Where Mom's Connect** as our guide. Facilitated by Ali Lemberg

Evening Groups

BOOKMARKERS

Join us at BookMarkers, an evening book group discussion. Come join us for a lively book discussion fellowship and support., Please come, even if you haven't had a chance to read the book. We add an extra meeting in May and in the summer. April's book will be **Just Mercy** by Bryan Stevenson. May's book will be **Last Bus to Wisdom** by Ivan Doig. For more information, contact Deb Skinner, dskins25@hotmail.com or call 317-574-1997 with any questions.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

Applying Biblical study to our everyday lives. This group uses a series of videos and study guides to help us apply the teachings of Jesus to our life challenges. We will be using the DVD **Israel's Mission** by Ray Vander Laan which explores welcoming strangers and prodigals the Lord longs to embrace. Facilitated by Beth McGill

SAMS (SCHOOL AGE MOMS)

See Morning Group for description

UMW Mission

ASCENT 121 PRAYER JOURNEY

The Ascent 121 Prayer Journey is an opportunity for you to drive through the near east side of Indianapolis and pray for areas affected by trafficking and exploitation. You will learn about the different social systems and recovery services available to survivors. Guided prayer stops allow you to pray for survivors, teens at risk, and those involved in the many social services that serve these young people.

St. Mark's UMW is sponsoring a Prayer Journey on Saturday, April 27 from 9 am to 12 noon.

The journey begins at West Morris Street Church. We will leave St. Mark's at 8:20. The Prayer Journey is best experienced with small groups in a car. Each person needs to sign up individually by visiting ascent121.org and clicking on "Get Involved".

If you have questions about this opportunity, please contact Linda Schenk at lschenk@att.net or 812-454-0661.

2019 UMW Retreat

Saturday, June 1 | 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

TETER LODGE

Want to get your hands dirty? Join with other women of St. Mark's in our faith journeys as we help at the farm, enjoy the beauty of Mother Nature and plant "seeds of hope" in our souls. Mark your calendar and set aside time for You! Submitted by the UMW Retreat Committee.

UMW Reading Program

Monday, April 29 | 7:00 PM

Every year the UMW's National Office recommends a diverse range of books with the intention of broadening exposure to a variety of concepts. This program organizes books into five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

Our UMW Reading Program group selects a book from each of the categories and they meet several times a year for book discussion and fellowship. The St. Mark's library has the UMW books on a cart on the right side of the library. Dates for the 2019 are April 29, August 26, October 28.

Check out the National UMW Reading program website at

unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram

Do not hesitate to contact Susan Salter at Sbf5salter@att.net or 317-848-1194 if you have any questions.

Save the Date

TRINKETS & TREASURES

Friday, May 24 & Saturday May 25

COLLECT & CONNECT

Saturday, May 25

UMW's largest fundraiser. It is a giant rummage sale. Belongings can be brought to the church starting Sunday, May 19. All items will be priced and displayed. Volunteers are needed. We do NOT accept Clothing. Clothing can be bagged for the Collect & Connect held on Saturday. For every bag of clothing donated for Goodwill we get a voucher which we will donate to Missions.

The Page Turners Book Group

Tuesday, April 16 | 7:00 - 8:00 PM

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by

Rachel Joyce

If you enjoy good books, interesting discussions, and a shared evening with new/old friends, start reading now. Join us for our next gathering where we will be deciding on the next 12 books to read. To sign up to lead a book discussion or to be added to the email list for this group visit us online at: stmarkscarmel.org. For additional information contact Marcia Flora, 317-670-9976 or mfloral950@yahoo.com with questions.

Career Curve

Mondays | 10:00 AM

A support and resource group for those who have suffered a job loss, are unemployed or under-employed and seeking a change. The mission of Career Curve is to provide individual job search strategies, and informal counsel associated with the challenges of a job search.

Contact Jim & Chuck, coordinators at careercurve@stmarkscarmel.org if you would like more information.

JULIETS

Thursday, April 18 | 11:30 AM

Spaghetti Factory

918 South Rangeline Road

Ladies, join the JULIETS (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together)

for lunch! we meet the **3rd Thursday** of every month. The group meets at a restaurant for lunch, laughs, and fellowship together. All women are invited, young or retired, stay-at-home or working - whatever stage of life you're in!

Please sign up by April 14 at the Connections Table behind the sanctuary. If you have questions, please contact Kat Howe, chattycat52@att.net or 317.431.6295



Craft & Hobby Group

Thursday, April 11 & May 9 | 6:00- 9:00 PM

Friday April 12 & May 10 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Join us for a time of fun and fellowship as we each enjoy our craft or hobby. Registration deadline to attend is Monday, April 8 and May 6. Child care is available for children 5 & under on Friday. Childcare must be requested at least 72 hours in advance by registering.

Contact Kathy Bartel, 317-294-4908 or krbartel@gmail.com, if you have any questions. Register to attend Craft Days at stmarkscarmel.org/signups

MOBS (Methodists on Bikes)

Weather is beginning to warm & plans for another St. Mark's MOB (Methodists on Bikes) season are starting to roll!

This adult bicycling group will begin to meet the 1st & 3rd Saturdays and 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month for recreation rides. (May- September)



Wednesdays, 6:30 PM - One-hour rides starting from St. Mark's and winding through local neighborhoods & trails for 10-12 miles.

Saturdays, 7:30 AM - Fast paced rides on county roads for 15 miles or more. Starting location & length of ride determined by ride leader.

Coffee 'n Cameras

Mondays

April 1, April 22, May 6 & May 20

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Do you enjoy photography? This self-help camera group meets for conversation about photographic art and technique. Bring your camera & your questions or your latest work to share with the group.

Contact Bob Wiens, 317-402-5617 or wiens@iquest.net with questions

special events

St. Mark's Presents

SUNDAY, MAY 19 | 3:00 PM INDY WINDS IN CONCERT



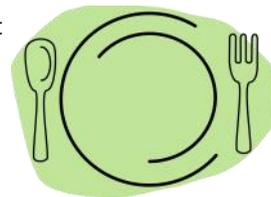
The Indy Winds Flute Choir is pleased to present a

concert that will take you on a journey through time!

Featuring music of the Renaissance through today, you'll hear classics like the first movement of Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*, Tchaikovsky's Waltz from his *Fifth Symphony*, and *Danse Bacchanale* from Saint-Saëns's *Samson and Delila* - with a twist! Join us for an afternoon of fun and plenty of musical surprises! Indy Winds Flute Choir is based in Indianapolis and is comprised of local flutists of all ages. We seek to have fun while playing beautiful music and spreading joy and our love of the flute to the community. Laura Dubish, director, Mary Sue McAlister Assistant Director, Alistair Howlett and Carl Butler, rehearsal directors.

Dinner For 8 (ish)

Dinner for 8 (ish) is a fun program at St. Mark's where groups of people meet for dinner once a month over the summer. Participants take turns planning and hosting, whether the group meets in each other's homes, dines in restaurants, or mixes it up. Please sign up at the Connection Tables or online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups by **April 15** if you would like to be included. For more information contact **Shelley** at scarver@stmarkscarmel.org.



Euchre Tournament

Friday, May 3, 6:30 PM-9:00 PM

Join us in the Narthex for a fun evening of fellowship and cards. Compete for prizes and bragging rights! No need to bring a partner, players will rotate tables throughout the night. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Appetizers begin at 6:30. Matches will start at 7:00 PM. Reservations are appreciated by May 1st; please look for sign-ups on the Connection Table behind the sanctuary or contact Andrew Mortonson (Andrew.mortonson@gmail.com). Childcare available with 72 hour advance request.



Mother, Daughter, Friend Banquet

Tuesday, May 14 | 6:30 PM

All women of the church - all ages - are invited. Bring your Mom, your aunt, your sister, your friend, and your favorite purse, but don't miss out on this fun evening of fellowship and party favors. Sit back and enjoy being served dinner by the United Methodist Men. Catering by Sahm's. The annual Mother, Daughter, Friend Banquet is our largest gathering of the year. Look for volunteer opportunities on sign-up genius

Contact Steff Mabe at [317-374-2529](tel:317-374-2529) for additional information and to volunteer.



Spring Orchestra Concert

Sunday, May 5, 12:00 PM

"Cinco de Mayo con SMO - - - Join St. Mark's Orchestra for the annual pops lunch concert on Sunday, May 5. Lunch is provided. Be sure to enter the drawing to conduct the orchestra!"



Save The Date Trinkets & Treasures

Friday May 24 & Saturday, May 25

Shop a wide array of furniture, artwork, games, toys, baby items, household goods, knick-knacks & more.



Collect & Connect

Saturday, May 25

The Goodwill truck will be in our parking lot. For every bag of clothing donated we receive a voucher that will be given to Missions.

committees

Social Justice Committee

RESISTING RACISM

Our United Methodist Social Principles affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons and rejoice in the gifts that ethnic histories and cultures bring to our collective lives.

Yet, throughout our community, our country and our world, racism persists – the belief that one race is superior over another, resulting in discrimination and prejudice.

The St. Mark's Social Justice Team invites you to join us in "Resisting Racism," our spring programming focus. Join us for film screenings, book discussions, special speakers and opportunities to support UMC partner organizations in the pursuit of racial justice. Check your Sunday bulletin for more details.

God is calling each of us to respond, understanding that as a denomination, we cannot hope to transform the world until we change our way of being in it.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." — Galatians 3:28

Prayer Requests

Thank you for participating in the prayer chain. It is an important ministry at St. Mark's. We would like to share a few reminders about the prayer chain.

The prayer chain is a way to share our concerns and pray for our church family. We share a minimum amount of information on the prayer chain for privacy purposes. Please do not reply to prayer requests. We also ask that you do not share prayer request information on social media.

Prayer requests are sent during the week when the church office is open. We try to share requests toward the end of the day to decrease the number of emails sent.

Please use the prayers@stmarkscarmel.org to request a prayer to be sent out on the prayer chain.

If you would like to be added to the prayer chain, please email prayers@stmarkscarmel.org and you will be added.

Prayer Squares

Using traditional quilt patterns, Prayer Squares are created as a tangible sign of connection and encouragement. A cross is sewn inside as a reminder of God's constancy, love and grace. They are available for you to pick up at the Welcome Center in the narthex for yourself or to share with someone else

LIBRARY NEWS

Be sure to keep an eye on the latest new books to be added to our growing library collection. They are located on the shelves just inside the Library door and include both fiction and nonfiction. New and seasonal children's books are usually displayed on the top shelf in the Children's Corner.

Take a look at the St. Mark's online catalog for other new titles, as well as many additional resources available for your study, inspiration and leisure reading. Click on the three-line menu at the upper right corner of the St. Mark's website. Then choose the "Grow" menu and click on "Library". Select "Electronic Catalog", to see new titles, and also to search the collection by title, subject, or author

New Arrivals

The Choir Immortal – Author Katie Schuermann's follow-up novel to "House of Living Stones" about a small-town church and it's congregation.

I Am Rehab: Touched by God, fully restored – Author Autumn Mills uses Rehab's story as well as her own to illustrate God's presence for all of us, in spite of the bad choices we may have made.

Grandmothering – Linda Eyre shares secrets of making a difference for your grandchildren while having the time of your life.

The Church and Foster Care – by Dr. John DeGarmo, who calls attention to the growing epidemic of the 500,000 children in America's foster care system, and the role of the church in this important mission field.

Awakening Grace – Authors LeRoy and Summers invite us to learn some spiritual practices that will awaken our souls to God's grace.

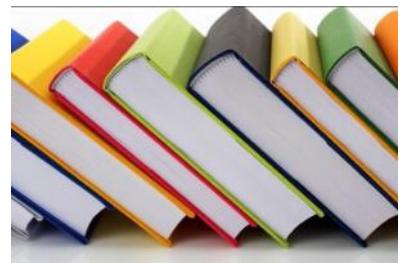
Continual Feast - A cookbook to celebrate the joys of family and faith throughout the Christian year, by Evelyn Vitz.

The Soul of a Team – Award winning author Tony Dungy's modern day fable for winning teamwork whether at work, school, church or home.

Thirst – Scott Harrison's story of his own redemption, compassion and eventual mission to bring clean water to the world.

Joshua, Judges, Ruth – Docampo provides fresh insight, enabling us to see these ancient texts through new ideas and discover applications for our lives.

The Berenstain Bears Respect Each Other – An early reader focusing on good manners and how to treat others. (on the children's shelves)



community news

Directory Updates

Samantha Johnson
884 Quillen Court
Avon, IN 46123

Sympathies

To Charlene Goldman at the death of her husband, Hal.

To Marge Patterson at the death of her brother, Bill Gibson.

To Rod Spence at the death of his father, Reverend Glen O Spence.

To the family of Leonard Sheats at his death.

Bakers Needed!

One of the many mission opportunities at St. Mark's is to bake goodies for the Carmel police and the firemen at Station #44. It is a one time only obligation.



You chose the month that best fits your schedule then some time during that month you deliver the goodies to the police station and the firehouse. If you are interested please contact Jan Walsh, jow3441@sbcglobal.net or 317-844-5650. The police and firemen really appreciate us thinking of them.

Flower Calendar

Sign up to sponsor Sunday flowers in honor or memory of a loved one or special occasion Flowers are \$30 and may be taken home following the 11:00 worship service. Call the office at 317-846-4912 for more information or signup online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups

Sunday Volunteers Needed!

Are you available to sit in the office on a Sunday morning? There are two shifts available, 8:00 -10:00 AM and 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM. The job involves answering the phones and monitoring the office during services. Signup online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups or contact Jenny Rundle, jrundle@stmarkscarmel.org.

In Our Congregation

Dear St Mark's,
Thank you so much for volunteering at the O'Connor House last weekend! All of your service projects are greatly appreciated! We truly couldn't do the valuable ministry without groups like you!
God Bless.

Dear St. Mark's,
Your support at Christmas meant so very much to us and our families.
Family Promise

Dear St. Mark's,
Thank you so much for the flowers you set with respect to my father's passing. I'm grateful to have such a wonderful support group. May God bless all of you.
Mike Bultemeier & Family

Dear St. Mark's family,
I don't know how to begin to thank you all for the outpouring of love and kindness we have received since the passing of our daughter, Emily. The prayers, cards, notes, hugs and support have been overwhelming. The comfort provided by Brian and Julia as they spent time with us at the hospital gave us strength. The prayer shawls did their job. Most of all, the way so many people worked together to provide the meal for all those people after the service on a day when there were so many other things going on at church. For all these things and more we are so very grateful.

St. Mark's is so much more than a church, it is truly a family, and we are so thankful to be a part of it.

Sincerely,
Jim and Kathi Hall

Circle of Care

The Circle of Care list includes St. Mark's member 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 | Kay Major |
| Lois Hardin | Mary Hart |
| Betty Lachman | Ola Morrow |
| Jerry & Phyllis Delp | Bea Gilson |
| Mary Pielemeier | Charles Reid |
| Judy & Tom Hebenstreit | Don Ranck |
| Jean Smith | Vallie Williams |
| Clara Breisch | |

New Website Feature

Do you need to sign up for a group or event? Order Easter Flowers RSVP for a dinner? The website now has one spot to sign up for everything at St. Mark's. For all your signup needs visit stmarkscarmel.org/signups.



Vacation Bible School

June 17-21 | 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

ONLINE REGISTRATION STARTS APRIL 1

At Roar VBS, kids discover that even though life gets wild, God is good. Roar is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos™, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. (Since everything is hands-on, kids might get a little messy. Be sure to send them in play clothes and safe shoes.) Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings®. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!



Preschool & Elementary Ages 4 to 5th grade are invited to learn Bold Bible Truths in a place where Life is Wild and God is Good.

Youth in grades 6 through high school and Adults are invited to volunteer as Leaders.

Infants and Toddlers (18 months through 3 years) are welcome to attend a specialized VBS program with a parent/grandparent volunteer (on-site). Parents, if you want your infant/toddler to receive a VBS shirt, please contact Ramie or Jackie at St. Mark's.

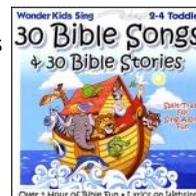
Registration cost per child is \$30 with a multiple child family discount (3 or more) of \$60.

Donations are welcome. Register online at stmarkscarmel.org/vbs.

Sacred Puppet Camp

July 15-July 19 | 9:45 AM-11:30 AM

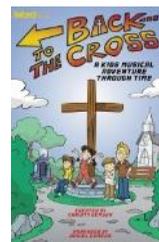
This year the Puppet Camp will be performing stories about Jesus. Look for details on registering in future newsletters. Space is limited.



Sacred Drama Camp

July 15-July 19 | 12:00 PM-2:30 PM

This year the Drama Camp will be performing Back to the Cross by Christy Semsen and Daniel Semsen. Look for registration details in future newsletters. Space is limited.





Lenten & Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY SERVICES

April 14

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

Contemporary Service, 9:40 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

April 18, 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

April 19, 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

April 21

Sunrise Service, 7:00 AM

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

Contemporary Service, 9:40 AM

Egg Hunt & Brunch

Saturday, April 13 | 10:00 AM

Come enjoy brunch and an egg hunt with your St. Marks' friends! The morning will



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

Donations of wrapped candy, small toys, stickers or treats are needed by March 31.

Look for a basket marked "egg hunt" in which to place these donations near the main entrance.

Order Easter Flowers Now

Each year, St. Mark's Chancel is filled with spring flowers in celebration of Easter. The flowers are provided by the congregation at the cost of \$8.00 per pot and may be given in honor of, or in memory of a friend, loved one, group, etc. There will be a listing of these gifts in the Sunday bulletin on Easter morning. You may also order online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups. The orders must be in the office by April 14 to be listed in the Easter bulletin. You may take your flowers home after the 11:00 Easter worship.



Given by: _____

Number of flowers ____ @ \$8.00

Total \$: _____

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

In Celebration of:
