

JUBILEE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



ST. MARK'S
United Methodist Church

AUGUST 2021

A large, abstract stained glass window in shades of blue and teal, serving as the background for the main text. The window features geometric patterns and a central arched section.

**welcome
grow
serve**

The Pastor's Place

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

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

For the past few years, we have had to deal with one of the dreaded realities on Highway 37 near our home – road construction! Often, we are routed around our intended course to an alternate course, which we call a “detour.” It is not too bad around our local area because we mostly know where we are going and have a pretty good sense of what the alternate routes are and how to navigate them. These detours are minor inconveniences that usually add, at worst, a few minutes to a fairly short drive.



Recently, however, we took a drive from our home to the Outer Banks in North Carolina. On a long trip into unknown territory, a detour can be a lot more frustrating and time consuming. You are faced with choices where it is difficult to predict the ramifications. Should we take this exit and drive backroads for a time? Should we stay on the main road and endure standstill traffic? Should we pull over, take a break, and weigh our options?

There are a number of stories in the Bible where people are required to take detours:

- The children of Israel spend 40 years in the wilderness before entering the promised land (see the book of Exodus)
- The wise men take another way home to avoid the wrath of Herod (Matthew 2:12)
- Mary and Joseph flee to Egypt taking the long road from Jerusalem back home to Galilee (Matthew 2:13)
- Paul faces hardships, including a shipwreck, on his way from Caesarea to Rome (Acts 28)

In many ways, the last eighteen months feel like one big detour. Most of us have had our lives disrupted. We have had to navigate unknown territory. We have had to make decisions about where to go, whether to wear a mask, whether to get a vaccine, and many other moment-to-moment decisions that impact our health and the health of others. I am hopeful that we are near the end of this detour but, like many trips into unknown landscapes, I can't say for sure.

There is an excitement when you leave a detour and return to your intended road – when you feel like you are back on the path you intended. Many of us feel like we are close to being back on the main road now. At St. Mark's, we are planning a robust variety of worship, discipleship, and mission activities for this Fall. We are confident that we can accelerate into the next phase of our journey together. We know that God continues to be our companion and guide in this part of our sojourn.

I believe there are exciting things in our future as we follow God on the road ahead. I hope you will join us in this new and exciting time in the life of our church!

In Christ's service,
Brian

The Pastor's Place

Julia Gonzales, Associate Pastor
jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org

Dear St. Mark's family,

All of my confirmation students, past and present, are good at asking brilliant and occasionally challenging questions at different class sessions. The particular session that I have in mind is no different. "How do you know the church isn't a cult?" I must admit that I was grateful that Pastor Mary Ann was with me as well, as she was educating the class on the organization of The United Methodist Church. Together we addressed the student's question, but it still sits with me how important that question and questions like it are for faith growth. How do you know the church isn't a cult? How do you know that God is real? How do you know the Bible is real?



The journey of learning continues on long after confirmation class is over. There is still more to discover about God and ourselves and when the way that we experience the world shifts the way that we understand God can shift as well. I feel like I've been hearing this constantly, so allow me to share it with you one more time. From *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith* by Anne Lamott, "The opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty. Certainty is missing the point entirely. Faith includes noticing the mess, the emptiness and discomfort, and letting it be there until some light returns. Faith also means reaching deeply within, for the sense one was born with, the sense, for example, to go for a walk." This month, I encourage you to sit with the mess and discomfort, to acknowledge it but not be overwhelmed. Ask your questions and seek out answers, for in so doing you will better know God.

Take care,

Julia

The Pastor's Place

Mary Ann Moman, Associate Pastor

mmoman@stmarkscarmel.org

Blackberry Cobbler

I'm a big fan of fruit cobbler. Peach. Cherry. Blackberry. When I was in Tennessee recently, I picked blackberries with my granddaughters. They have a wonderful blackberry patch on the farm. Anastasia, Maggie and I picked blackberries for a blackberry cobbler on the 4th of July.

"Do you like blackberry cobbler?" Neither of them remembered if they had eaten blackberry cobbler before. Both like blackberries and consistently ate one blackberry for every five they put in the bucket. We did pick enough for a cobbler!

I'm reminded that there are many ways to enjoy blackberries: right off the vine, pie, cobbler, jam. All are perfectly good. I think it is the same with living out our lives as Christians. There are many ways to love God and our neighbors.

I think of my friends who are worried about global warming. They care deeply for our neighbors in the world who are affected by global warming. My friends write letters, recycle, drive hybrid/electric cars in the hope that we can reverse some of the damage done in our world.

I think of my friends who pray daily for the sick and suffering. They are grateful for the goodness they see in the world.

I think of my friends who can see God in the faces of people they meet each day. They are filled with hope.

I think of my friends who are convicted by the injustices they see. They work to change the systems that have advantaged some but not all.

I think of my friends who aren't afraid to speak truth in the face of criticism and censure.

There are so many ways to love God with heart, mind and soul and our neighbor as ourselves. What ways are choosing today? How is the world healed through your love of God and neighbor?

Mary Ann



Monthly Mission Focus

Stephanie Cohen, Missions Coordinator
scohen@stmarkscarmel.org



Did you know?

- The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters-be it famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events-to alleviate suffering and to be a source of help and hope for those left more vulnerable.
- They provide relief, response, and long-term recovery grants when these events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own.
- They provide technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery and long-term health and development.
- When disaster strikes outside the United States UMCOR serves as the primary channel for United Methodist assistance.
- They work with annual conferences, aide organizations and partnerships around the world to assist our neighbors locally and globally.
- Areas of Impact focus on: Disaster Response & Recovery, Migration, Hunger & Poverty, Water & Sanitation, Global Health, Creation Care, Women and Children, Sustainable Development.



How can I help?

- Support UMCOR by making a financial donation giving the white mission envelope behind the sanctuary.
- Make a financial donation online at stmarkscarmel.org/give.

For more information on UMCOR visit their website at umcmmission.org/umcor.

Donation & Service Opportunities

St. Mark's Blood Drive

Sunday, September 12 | 8:00 AM—1:00P

Emergency blood ! Among the long list of pandemic repercussions is a shortage of blood donations and a decrease in blood drives. That can mean *life or*

death for patients who are hospitalized from COVID-19, pediatric, trauma, cancer, surgery and beyond. EACH day Indiana Blood Center must collect 650 units of blood from volunteer donors to meet the minimum needs of our area hospitals. Visit versiti.org to learn more about the continued importance of blood donation, contact Mindy Davis at Melinda.kay.moore.davis@gmail.com .

Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/blood.



Fletcher Place Breakfast

“Worrying about where your next meal will come from, is one of the biggest concerns for our homeless friends. When COVID first hit, we had people begging us to stay open. They were terrified they would starve”. Staff at Fletcher Place.

St. Mark's has been providing breakfast for Fletcher Place Community Center, on the 4th Thursday for a long time. Volunteers are now asked to resume serving a hot meal!

Volunteers will meet at St. Mark's, load up supplies, then drive to Fletcher Place. Cooking is done at Fletcher Place, packed in to-go containers and then distributed by staff at Fletcher Place (no interaction is required with clients served). Contact Stephanie Cohen for more information scohen@stmarkscarmel.org Sign up today at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Outreach Indiana

During the month of August, we are collecting



personal items of greatest need for Outreach Indiana, in Indianapolis. Outreach provides social services and assistance for homeless teens and youth, ages 14-24. Outreach staff and volunteers build relationships to help them achieve long-term stability, assist with individual needs such as transportation, social skills, medical appointments, and job interviews.

Program Centers allow youth to take showers, do laundry, use computers, eat, and spend time with staff and friends. They provide lunch bags, clothing, and hygiene items. Youth are empowered to experience life transformation. Visit outreachindiana.org for more information.

Items may be dropped off at our contact free donation bins inside Door #2, Monday-Friday, between 9-4. Please look for the following while you're out summer shopping!

- Tide Laundry Pods
- New Men's Boxers (M, L & XL)
- Gym Shorts
- New Women's Underwear
- Women's socks
- Smart cell phones
- Men's deodorant
- Bed pillows
- White Tanks (men)
- Shaving Cream
- Men's pants (30x32 & 32 x 34)
- Bed bags/backpacks
- Men & women's belts
- Leggings (athletic & cotton) - M-XL
- Sweatpants (M & L)

Mission Trip to Guatemala

June 4-12, 2022

If it has been on your heart to join an international mission trip, you're invited to join St.



Mark's members in this amazing service opportunity, **June 4-12, 2022**. Experience God in a new way with a different culture, as we work together with our Guatemalan brothers and sisters in Christ, to build communities and relationships. Mission work will be in Panajachel, Guatemala and surrounding areas of mountainous San Andrés Semetabaj.

- Trip Cost : approximately \$1400
- \$100 deposit will be due September 1, 2021
- Scholarships available for first time attendees

Spaces available: 15

More info and signups visit

stmarkscarmel.org/signups

Contact Stephanie Cohen with questions or interest: 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 July newsletter we have given to:

- **Blood Donations to Versit:** 24 units of blood
- **Brightwood Community Center:** 32 snack bags for after school tutoring
- **Fletcher Place Community Center:** 9 oatmeal, 2 bags of food, 50 sack meals
- **Good Samaritan Network:** 10 toys
- **Habitat for Humanity:** \$4137
- **Midwest Mission Distribution Center:** 50 Personal Dignity Kits (packed by Confirmation Class)
- **Outreach Indiana:** 4 bags of hygiene items, 3 bags of youth clothes, 1 old smart phone
- **Red Bird Mission:** \$100
- **Roberts Park UMC:** 100 sack meals
- **Third Phase:** 4 bags of food, 2 bags of household items
- **Travel Size Toiletries for Homeless Shelters:** 5 bags

Brightwood Community Center Food Pantry

Brightwood Community Center is providing food for families in need, within the Brightwood area, at their new location, at 2140 N. Arsenal Ave, Indianapolis. Each month families come through the drive thru giveaway to receive boxed food from the food pantry. More hands are needed to make it happen.



The greatest need is Tuesdays from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. to sort and box food.

Wednesdays from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. to load recipient's cars in food distribution

Please contact Diane Newton for more information or to sign up at 317-288-4523 or joediane244@att.net.

Interfaith Hospitality Network Returns!

St. Mark's has been a long-time partner of Interfaith Hospitality Network, the hallmark program of Family Promise. IHN is a coordinated response of the faith community that provides emergency food & shelter, offers individual skill development & rehabilitation, advocates for economic stability and strives to end homelessness for the guests they serve. Each



congregation in the network takes turns furnishing overnight lodging and meals during their assigned week, a few times each year. Our role as volunteers is fundamental to this program – we can make a difference by offering dignified compassionate assistance to families who have lost their homes.

St. Mark's will host families for one week this year, while the Apartment Shelter Program continues to supplement the needed housing. Mark your calendar for September 19-26, 2021, and please consider helping in the following ways:

- **Dinner hosts** (5:00-8:00 p.m.) serve and share a prepared meal with our guests, provide companionship & fellowship, help with clean up after dinner
- **Meal preparation** – Prepare part of a meal for 10-15 people and deliver it to St. Mark's
- **Provide pantry food** – provide store-bought breakfast & lunch foods
- **Overnight hosts** (8:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m.) – be part of a team that spends the night at St. Mark's and is on-hand to assist guests
- **Set up, tear down and clean up** – help set up beds and rooms on September 19, and/or help remove beds and clean up on September 26
- **Transportation** – drive the IHN van between St. Mark's and the IHN Day Center

Signups will begin early August, on stmarkscarmel.org/signups. Contact Jeff Keyt shellcreek5@gmail.com or 239-201-8207 or Stephanie Cohen scohen@stmarkscarmel.org or 317-846-4912 for more information.

SEEKING IHN VAN DRIVER COORDINATOR

Van Driver Coordinator needed 2-3 times per year (only once in 2021) to coordinate drivers providing transportation for our IHN guest families!

- Must be 25 years or older
- Able to drive a 15-passenger van
- Ensures van drivers understand their duties

Contact Jeff Keyt at shellcreek5@gmail.com with interest or questions.



Weekly Gatherings

CORNERSTONE AM

10:30 AM– 11:30 AM

In-Person Sunday School resumes 8/22. Cornerstone AM will begin meeting again on Sunday mornings. Middle School students will meet in Room M and High School students in Room N. There will be discussion, fellowship, and donuts.

THIRD STREET REHEARSAL

10:30 AM– 11:30 AM

Beginning 8/22 Third Street Rehearsal will begin rehearsing again. If you can play an instrument, sing, or help run A/V (Lyrics), we encourage you to get involved. Contact DKB (dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org) or Kody (kemrich@stmarkscarmel.org) with any questions.

Upcoming Events

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, August 8

CORNERSTONE COOKOUT

Sunday, 8/15 | 5:00 pm–8:00 PM | Byrd's House

We will gather to reconnect, spend time together, play games, and eat a meal as we prepare to kick off the new school year the following week.

CORNERSTONE KICK OFF

Sunday, 8/22 | 5:00 PM–7:00 PM

We will kick off the new school year with a "normal" Cornerstone Fellowship gathering. There will be worship with Third Street, a short message, small group time, and a meal together. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us as we will outline plans for the coming school year.

Workcamp Imperial, PA

Group Workcamp resumed this Summer. St. Mark's youth and adults traveled to Imperial, PA.



Sunday Morning Offerings

Children's Ministry is fully back with in-person programming at the 9:40 AM & 11:00 AM services.

NURSERY & TODDLER CARE

Staffed by experienced, caring adults and teens, our nursery is here to help care for our littlest members.

KIDZ LEARN & GROW | 9:40 AM & 11:00 AM

Children have a blast learning about God, beginning with Worship followed by lively & age-appropriate stations taught by members of the congregation. We'll enjoy Bible Stories, experiment, crafts, and games all summer long!

CLUB 56 | 9:40 AM

For students entering grades 5 through 6th grade. Featuring Sunday programming each week during the summer! Club 56 students host a discussion hour featuring a discipleship topic in the lower level Den.

KIDZ MUSIC & PRAISE | 11:00 AM

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord with in-person and hybrid programming during this fun-filled hour each week. Children participate in this high-energy class that incorporates music, drama, art & puppets. Contact Joyce Click (jclick@stmarkscarmel.org) Available in person and on Zoom.

Check out the Connect with Kidz website at stmarkscarmel.org/kidzconnect/ to find weekly Kidz Church, Club 56 and Kidz Music & Praise resources.

Join our [St Marks Kidz Facebook](#) page to watch a weekly Bible Story, worship and get family activity ideas and share what you are up to each week.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are so excited to see children and families returning to the church as we reopen programming. We need your help. Is God nudging you to step in and serve? Please prayerfully consider how you might help model God's love for the next generation of Christians. Do you have an hour a month to spare? There are opportunities to serve as a classroom leader or assistant at the 9:40 and 11:00 services. All materials are prepared and provided so you can have fun with a partner. Please contact Ramie or Jackie, at kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org to learn more or sign-up at stmarkscarmel.org/kidzprogramming.

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPs)

SUMMER PLAYDATES

Join other mothers who desire friendship, community, support and growth. Fall MOPS meetings will be twice monthly on Thursday mornings along with mother & child play dates, and Mom's night out events. Contact Amy Bender at mopsatst.marks@gmail.com to register for MOPS or learn more. MOPS is also recruiting mentor moms so please prayerfully consider how you can support mothers of preschoolers in our church community!



Great Job Summer Interns!

A huge thank you to our Katelyn Solesky and Coco Cooney, our St. Mark's summer interns. They did an excellent job planning summer fun and learning more about working in a church setting.

Celebrating 3 Year Olds Bible Give-away

Sunday, August 29

Preschool/Toddler Recognition Sunday will be on Sunday, August 29th for three and four-year olds at St. Mark's. Due to covid delays, we are looking forward to celebrating all children who turned three between 5/15/2019 and 8/29/2021. Families are invited to send a picture of their toddlers and preschoolers to kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org (even if they cannot attend on 8/29). Please contact Ramie or Jackie in Children's Ministries for more information.

Move-up Sunday

Sunday, August 8

All children are invited to join the Sunday Kidz Church small group for their new grade. Have a great new school year!

Children's Ministries Needs Help This Fall

Do you have an hour a month to spare for important missions work? Please prayerfully consider how you might help model God's love for the next generation of Christians. There are opportunities to serve as a classroom leader or assistant at the 9:40 and 11:00 services this fall. All materials are prepared and provided so you can have fun with a partner. Please contact kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org to learn more or sign-up at stmarkscarmel.org/kidzprogramming..

Thank You Helping Make VBS a Success!

It was wonderful to have a building crowded with children, youth, and adults each morning from July 19-23! We welcomed a little over 150 children and 80 volunteers to our Rocky Railway and learned that Jesus' power always pulls us through. During the week children and families donated items to Outreach Indiana. Thank you to all who helped make VBS a success through your donations, service and prayers.



Adult Discipleship

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

New Weekday Studies

More fall studies for Wednesday and Thursday mornings will be announced on stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups, and signups will be available at the Fall Kickoff Celebration on August 22.

Romans Study

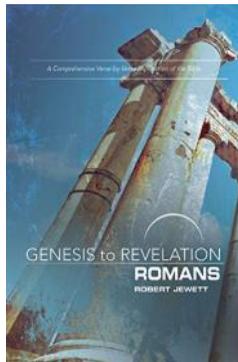
WEDNESDAYS, 9/1-12/15

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

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

Led by Pastor Brian White | Hybrid online + Room B/C | Books \$11

Using the text by Robert Jewett, *Genesis to Revelation: Romans*, this study will go through the entire Book of Romans, beginning with an introduction to Paul and following through his life and his call. Some of the major ideas explored are Paul's purpose and situation, righteousness and wrath, being set free from sin, new life in the Spirit, and a tolerant ethic.



Bob Goff's *Dream Big*

FRIDAYS, 8/27-9/24, 9:30 AM-11:00 AM

Led by Stephanie Cohen | Hybrid online and Room B/C | Study Guide \$9

Bob Goff, the New York Times bestselling author of *Love Does* and *Everybody, Always*, is on a mission to help people recapture the version of their lives they dreamed about before fear started calling the shots. He wants them to dream big.

With practical revelations, this study will help you uncover the wild and exciting dream for your life that you've hidden from yourself--and help you take the steps necessary to achieve it.

The group will use the Study Guide (blue cover), but a handful of copies of the full book (yellow cover) *Dream Big: Know What You Want, Why You Want it, and What You're Going to Do About It* are available from the church office for \$17.



Upper Rooms Delayed

Regional USPS delays continue for periodicals. If you are accustomed to picking up your personal *Upper Room* copies a few weeks early, the USPS has not been attempting delivery until around the 28-29th of the month.

For any questions about Adult Discipleship programs, email Jennifer Cloud-Buckner (grow@stmarkscarmel.org) or call (317) 846-4912 x. 214.

Fall Celebration and Connection Inventory

Join us **Sunday, August 22**, for a launch of our fall studies and a preview celebration of fall programming for kids, youth, and adults. Learn more on page 23.

ReConnect Picnics

8/4, 8/18, on the Church Lawn
6:25-7:00pm (after Wednesday Worship)



Weather cancellations will be decided at 3:00pm (set-up time) before the event with news posted to the St. Mark's Facebook page at facebook.com/stmarkscarmel.

Join the last sessions of our conversation circles with your picnic dinner and lawn chair this August! The Children's Ministry team has created some fun activities for kids so that parents can join in the conversation, too.

Spiritual Growth Events

Wrap up this summer break with a reset for your spirit. Learn more at stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups.

WALKING AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Thursdays, 7/29 and 8/26, 9:30 a.m.

Led by Pastor Mary Ann Moman | River Road Park (12575 River Rd.)

ART & SPIRITUALITY

Every Tuesday until 8/31, 7:30-8:30PM

Led by Pastor Julia Gonzales | Hybrid online and Room B/C | bring art supplies.

Sunday Morning Groups

9:15 AM (after the early service)

VENTURE (ROOM B/C)

Back on-site! Venture Class begins early with joys and concerns, followed by videos from *The Great Courses*. Jean Douglass facilitates.

9:40 AM

OPEN DOORS/OPEN IDEAS (ROOM L)

Jessica Stevens and Chuck Blair are co-facilitators of this group discussing Christian themes in books and Wired Word devotionals. Join on August 29 for a brainstorming session, and the next study will begin on September 12 after Labor Day break. All are welcome!

CUTTING EDGE (ROOM G/H + ONLINE)

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

FOUNDATIONS & FRIENDSHIPS

(ROOM J/K + ONLINE, NO JULY MEETINGS)

F&F's will return August 1 with Walter Brueggemann's *From Judgment to Hope: A Study on the Prophets*. Books in church entrance.

11:00 AM

REEL SPIRITUALITY (AT HOME + ONLINE)

All are welcome to "the movie class" for Christian themes and heartfelt topics through film. This summer, the group is passing around DVDs and watching movies from various streaming platforms at home and will continue meeting on Zoom at 11:00 am to discuss each movie. Email Lydia and Terry Fourman, 4manternlyd@gmail.com for the film list, and Jennifer, grow@stmarkscarmel.org for the Zoom link.

Open Groups



UMW September Kickoff

Tuesday, 9/14 | 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Save the Date! St. Mark's Women and UMW Members- enjoy these summer adventures and special activities with family, friends, and loved ones. But definitely circle your calendar for Tuesday, September 14, for our UMW Kickoff and the beginning of an exciting year ahead. It will be a great year of interesting projects and wonderful fellowship. More details and information will be coming. Looking forward to being with you after a relaxing summer. For more information, contact Steff Mabe, steffmabe@yahoo.com or visit the UMW website at stmarkscarmel.org/umw.

UMW Fall Interest Group

Our Morning and Evening UMW Meetings are very interesting and we continue to have Interest Group Sessions that you will want to join. Keep watching for the listing of Interest Groups and the new additions! We are looking forward to seeing you!

Morning Groups

SPRITUAL GROWTH

The UMW Spiritual Studies group will use Daryl Stephens book: Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom. Facilitator: Mary Ann Moman

BOOKWORMS

A book discussion group that reads both fiction and non-fiction. The books may or may not be related to Christianity, but we will often ask if the material points us toward redemption, reconciliation, and grace. At the September Kick-Off there will be a brief preview of our group. Facilitator: Gail Lee

MAKE IT AND TAKE IT

This group is a little crafty, a little creative, a little messy, and a lot of fun! No special craft skills needed, and we supply the materials! We will charge a small amount for craft materials. At the September Kick-Off there will be a brief preview of our group. Facilitators: Kathy Dycus & Marilyn Roberts

COLOR & 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. Facilitators: Deirdre Robinson & Cathy Brinkman

Evening Groups

BOOKMARKERS

Our book will be "My Dear Hamilton" by Stephanie Grey and Laura Kamoie. Don't forget to bring along a book for our usual summer book exchange. Facilitator: Deb Skinner

CARING & SHARING

Enjoy the opportunity and fellowship of creating CARE & SHARE gift bags/baskets for those needing an extra "you are loved and we are thinking of you". Your hands and hearts are the only requirements, all other supplies will be provided. Facilitators: Sonjia Clodfelder & Jodi Horst-Miller

UMW Reading Group

Monday, September 27 | 7:00 PM

Join the UMW "Your Window to the World National Reading Program" in our book discussion. For more information visit our website stmarkscarmel.org/umw.

UMM Breakfast Meetings



Saturday, August 14 | 7:30 AM

The United Methodist Men are extremely excited to invite all men to our **IN-PERSON UMM BREAKFAST MEETING -SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2021 at 7:30 AM**. The United Methodist Men Breakfasts are held the 2nd Saturday of every month. We have had wonderful zoom meetings during the covid period and now are eager once again to gather together in Wesley Hall . Wesley Hall has been remodeled and we now have a brand new kitchen! Please plan to attend and invite other men to join us for this special gathering.

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 or call a UMM Board Member. You can see what's going on at stmarkscarmel.org/umm. Join us!

St. Mark's Choir is Returning!

Sunday, August 29 | 1:00 PM

Calling All Singers! The St. Mark's Choir is returning! We will have the Choir Kick-Off on Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021 at 1:00pm in the Sanctuary. If you have any interest in singing with the choir, please join us for the kick-off. We are excited to be able to make a joyful noise with you all again! If there are any questions, please contact Dr. Eric DeForest at edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org.



Marksmen

8/12 & 8/26 | 6:30 AM

St. Mark's Parking Lot

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. if you have any questions, email marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org.

Open Group Schedule

Mondays

COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

8/9 & 8/23 | 9 AM

This self-help camera group meets for conversation about photographic art & technique. Bring your camera & your questions. Contact ken_shultz@sbcglobal.net for more information.

CAREER CURVE

On Zoom, 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. For more information contact Jim & Chuck, coordinators at careercurve@stmarkscarmel.org.

Tuesdays

PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB

August 17 | 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

Anxious People by Fredrick Backman

Join us the 3rd Tuesday of each month if you enjoy good books, discussions, and a shared evening with new/old friends. We will be meeting outside. In case of inclement weather we will move inside. If have any questions, contact Marcia Flora, mflora1950@yahoo.com.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Tuesday, October 26 | 11:00 AM | Chapel

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! Contact Judy Bonnet, bonnetjm@icloud.com for more information.

Wednesdays

ROMEOS (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT)

Le Peep | 86th & Keystone | 11:00 AM

All men are invited to meet weekly at Le Peep's. Contact Don Mehl for more information at djmehl2004@aol.com

MOB (METHODISTS ON BIKES)

Wednesday, 8/11 & 8/25

Adults are invited to join this recreational bike riding group. We will ride on the first and third Saturdays (15-20 miles at about a 15 mph pace) and the second and fourth Wednesdays (10-12 miles at a slower pace). Wednesday rides will always commence at the church parking lot at 6:30. Saturday morning rides will start at 8:00 at a designated location. MOB members take turns planning & leading the routes. For more info about each ride, contact John Flora, johnflora2710@hotmail.com.



Thursdays

JULIETS

August 19 | 11:30 |

Maggianos Little Italy | 3550 E 86th Street

Juliets (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Out Together) will be meeting in August. Contact Barbara Johnson, (317) 863-2689, timberbli@gmail.com, or text 303-918-6308 by August 15 so correct reservations can be made.

CRAFT & HOBBY GROUP

Thursday 9/23, 10/14 & 11/11 | 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Join us for a time of fun and fellowship as we each enjoy our craft or hobby. We will follow all guidelines established by the church at the time of our gatherings. RSVP to Kathy Bartel, 317-294-4908 or krbartel@gmail.com.

Saturdays

MOB (METHODISTS ON BIKES)

Saturday, 8/7 & 8/21

See Wednesdays above for MOB information.

Committee News

Social Justice

For the remainder of 2021 the Social Justice Committee at St. Marks will continue to focus on issues related to Economic Disparities. Here are some resources about the impact of federal minimum wage.

According to the United Methodist Church and Society website

Since 1908, the church has advocated for a living wage in every industry (1908 Social Creed) and continues to support the rights of workers to share fully in the prosperity of society. (2016 Book of Resolutions, #4135 Rights of Workers)

Sadly, 111 years later, too many workers are earning poverty wages — unable to support themselves and their families despite working full-time jobs. The federal minimum wage has remained at \$7.25 per hour (\$2.13 per hour for tipped workers) since 2009.

Despite continued economic expansion and rising corporate profits, wages — particularly for low-wage workers — have been stagnant. Today, the real buying power of the minimum wage is less than it was in 1968.

Additional information available at the following websites:

- unitedmethodistwomen.org/living-wages/tools-and-resources -This website provides several resources about providing a living wage for all people.
- umcjustice.org/what-you-can-do/advocacy-This website provides a template for reaching out to congress advocating for increasing the minimum wage.
- americanprogress.org/issues/economy-Raising the Minimum Wage Would Boost an Economic Recovery...

- [jacksonlewis.com/publication/Advantages and Disadvantages of Raising Federal Minimum Wage to \\$15](https://jacksonlewis.com/publication/Advantages-and-Disadvantages-of-Raising-Federal-Minimum-Wage-to-15)

Be on the lookout for future discussions about economic disparity issues related to housing, human trafficking, and federal minimum wage.

Library

St. Mark's Library is open during office hours and on Sunday. Books can still be returned in the library drop-box just inside the entrance at Door #2.



LIBRARY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Are you looking for a way to volunteer? St Mark's Library Wants You !

- Training available
- Majority of the job can be done at home at your convenience.
- Form a team with a couple of friends
- Learn how to catalog

If you would like more information, contact Jenny Rundle, jrundle@stmarkscarmel.org.

Finance

We are halfway through the year! We are meeting at the church, Sunday School is great, and coffee is coming in August! I even heard there are plans in the works to have a celebration dinner for the kitchen! I am excited! Actually, I continue to thank you for your support. As reported last month, it is always easier to report good news!

Through June, we are approximately \$84.2k FAVORABLE to budget: \$24.9k comes from the continued control over expenses by the staff; \$34.6k comes from our best estimates of donations as compared to prior year trends. The difference represents a technical adjustment given we budget on a straight-line basis when in fact giving and expense patterns are seasonal. June held its own as compared to giving patterns, but July, August and September are typically lean months so we continue to monitor and control all expenses. All scheduled activities will continue as planned – it is great to see and experience it!

The Finance Committee met Monday July 12 and we voted to pay four months of conference tithes: for 2019 and 2020, no tithes were paid until January of the following year. Given your continued commitments to St. Mark's, we felt comfortable to make our commitment to the conference. Thank you.

I ask that you continue to pray for our church, our pastors, and our congregation... and that you continue to support the church with your time, your presence, and your tithes and offerings.

Feel free to reach out to me should you need any further details.

With ALL HIS Continued Blessings,

Bill Nicolai
Finance Chair

Trustees

We are continuing with planned work to refresh the building with our next project being the sanctuary. We have consulted with the pastoral team, music ministry, and others to put together a plan for making some functional refreshes to the sanctuary as well as making it more accessible. Be on the lookout for future updates.

Community News

Directory Updates

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Stahl
711 S. Cottage Ave #102
Normal IL 61761-2455

Mary Ann Davis
118 Medical Dr Room 718
Carmel, IN 46032

Kathleen Zelner
689 Promed Lane, Apt 292
Carmel, IN 46032

Coffee Volunteers Needed

Sunday coffee will be returning soon! We need Volunteers for making coffee, and cleaning up on Sunday mornings. Please consider signing up for a Sunday a year or a Sunday every month. For more information, contact Amy Adams, aadams@stmarkscarmel.org or sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.



AV Volunteers Needed

As we continue through this season of Covid-19, we are now in need of more AV Volunteers as we have come back into the sanctuary. If you have a heart to serve through running the soundboard, running our computer slides or even running the live stream, we would love to have you on our team. Please reach out to Kody Emrich at kemrich@stmarkscarmel.org for questions or inquiries.

To the Congregation

St Mark's Family,
Thank you so much for the lovely card and gift card! It was so kind of you all to be thinking of me at my graduation. I truly appreciate all you have done for me.
Thanks again,
Anna Grace Hook

St Mark's Family,
Thank you for thinking of me and the gift.
Lee Cook

Dear St. Mark's,
Thank you so much for the gift! It seriously made my day! Thank you for all you have done for me. Sending love.
God Bless,
Sarah Penman

Registering Attendance

We are grateful for your presence in online worship. Please register your attendance every week at 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!

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

COVID PROTOCOL

We continue to monitor COVID data and will adjust our protocols accordingly.

- Office has resumed regular hours.
 - ◇ Monday-Thursday-9 AM-3 PM
 - ◇ Friday- 9 AM- 12 PM
- Masks are required while walking through the building but may be removed when you are in your room or at final destination if you are fully vaccinated.
- Food & Drink is allowed with restrictions. See stmarkscarmel.org/stmarksfoodpolicy
- Masks are required when entering the Children's wing.
- Please continue to wear masks if you are not fully vaccinated.

Please visit stmarkscarmel.org/reopening-plan/

Arts and Crafts Marketplace

The St. Mark's UMW invites you to its 2021 Arts and Crafts Market Place to be held on Saturday, November 6, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All crafts and art work will be home-made either by area artisans or by members of St. Marks UMW. Refreshments will be available at the Candy Cane Café as well as the bake sale table. Profits made by the UMW support missions.

Vendors who wish to rent a table for the Marketplace may contact **Gail Lee at 317-650-5352** to receive a registration form. Vendors may rent either one or two tables. Each table is \$35.00.

St. Mark's Crafters may also donate handcrafted items to the UMW craft table. Popular items in the past have included matching knit scarves and hats, aprons, ornaments, American Girl doll clothes and jewelry.



Events

Wednesday Worship on the Lawn **6:00 PM every Wednesday this Summer**

Join us at St. Mark's outside on the Lawn (weather permitting) or on Facebook Live for a short devotional and music. Bring your own lawn chair. Service will be moved inside if inclement weather. Bring a picnic on the first and third Wednesdays.



ReConnect Picnics **6:25PM-7:00PM (after Worship on the Lawn)** **1st & 3rd Wednesdays—8/4, 8/18**

In case of weather cancellations, the picnics will be postponed to the following week. For last-minute updates, visit our Facebook page facebook.com/stmarkscarmel.

Bring your dinner and lawn chair for our new combined fellowship-discipleship conversation circles at our community picnics. Conversation starters are provided, and the Children's Ministry team has created some fun activities for kids so parents can join in the conversation. If you've been missing Dinners for Eight and Grow Groups, these are the events for you!



Second Sunday Social **Sunday | 8/8, 9/12**

Please come early or stay late after worship each second Sunday this summer. This will be an opportunity to gather and reconnect with your St. Mark's family. Beverages and a sweet treat will be provided outside, weather permitting.



Holy Walk Returns!

Friday, December 3 & Saturday December 4

Holy Walk is our biggest community outreach event and requires over 200 volunteers. How will you volunteer this year? Please prayerfully consider how you can help!. Visit stmarkscarmel.org/holy-walk.

Holy Walk through Bethlehem is a re-enactment of Our Lord's Nativity. St. Mark's held their first Holy Walk in December 1999. The Walk was developed by drawing upon similar events held at Homer UMC in Michigan and Simpsonwood UMC in Georgia. In 1999, the St. Mark's Holy Walk through Bethlehem hosted nearly 1500 visitors during its two nights and has grown to host between 2000 and 3000 visitors each year. Join in the fun!



Fall Celebration

August 22 @ St. Mark's | 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

As a community of followers of Jesus Christ at St. Mark's, we commit to WELCOME all people, GROW in knowledge and grace, and SERVE our neighbors locally and globally. Please join us all morning on August 22 to celebrate the various opportunities to connect at St. Mark's and find the ways you can help live out this mission.

Please fill out a connection inventory (stmarkscarmel.org/inventory) before arriving at worship on August 22. If you have questions regarding a particular activity, representatives from that ministry area will be available to share their story and answer questions.

In the weeks leading up to August 22, you will see some representatives of these Welcome, Grow, and Serve areas wearing "Ask me about..." tags on their Sunday nametags. Feel free to ask them about their ministry area!

We look forward to celebrating on August 22 together in community.

If you have any questions, please contact Missi Koenig at mkoenig@stmarkscarmel.org.



MISSION IN ACTION DAY



ST. MARK'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SAVE THE DATE

MIA Day & Potato Drop

Potato Drop | Saturday, October 9

MIA Day | Sunday, October 10

Join us for this annual all-church event, of actively living out our motto; *"Where Mission is a Way of Life"*. We will worship through serving, working as the hands and feet of Jesus. Please mark your calendar and help us make a difference in our community and beyond.

Signups available soon!

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

ST. MARK'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Label goes here