



TALENT SHOW

FEBRUARY 10

12:30 - 2:00PM

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News From the Pastors

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

Many of you are aware that the United Methodist Church is having a special called General Conference February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri. The meeting of the highest policy setting group of the church is meeting to make decisions regarding human sexuality. Specifically, the group will be addressing whether LGBTQ persons will be able to be ordained and whether same gendered weddings will be performed in the church and by United Methodist clergy. Normally, the General Conference meets every four years and the last meeting was in 2016. This special called meeting is unprecedented in the history of our denomination and is an historic moment.



As we prepare for this meeting many people have wondered how this meeting at the denominational level is likely to effect St. Mark's. The short answer is, "We don't know." There are many opinions about what is likely to be the outcome of this conference but it is really impossible to predict an outcome at this time. There have been many opinions put forth but no decisive voice is rising above the others at this moment.

If you would like more information about the proposals being put forth at general conference you can visit www.inumc.org/conversations. If you have an opinion you would like to express to delegates who will represent Indiana at the conference you can send an email to 2019gcdelegation@inumc.org. We have also been invited to pray for the conference each day from 2:23-2:26 in unity with others from our Indiana Conference. What we can know is what will not change at this General Conference. The United Methodist Book of Discipline states that all persons "are equally valuable in the sight of God. We therefore work toward societies in which each person's value is recognized, maintained, and strengthened." (Paragraph 162). Our mission at St. Mark's, which is to "welcome all people," will not change. God's love for us and God's call to extend the grace of Jesus Christ to all people will not change (John 3:16; Matthew 28:19-20).

The most frequent phrase on the lips of God's messengers in the Bible is, "Be not afraid!" We believe the message of God continues to call us courageously forward to draw people into the welcoming presence of God's embrace. This was the message that Jesus proclaimed and the message we will continue to proclaim in the name of Jesus Christ and power of God's Holy Spirit!

In Christ's service,
Rev. Dr. Brian K. White
Rev. Julia Pritchett
Rev. Mary Ann Moman

News From the Pastors

Hello St. Mark's Family,

February is proving to be a busy time at St. Mark's and within The United Methodist Church. Confirmation classes began on January 13 and are continuing in earnest. At the Current, Justin and I are leading a new sermon series: "God in Us." The series focuses on individual traits of the four Hogwarts Houses (wisdom, leadership, bravery, and equality) and will be going on throughout the month of February. While inspired by *Harry Potter*, the worship series will be using lectionary texts and seek to raise some greater insight into how God is present in all aspects of our lives.



Within The United Methodist Church we need this reminder of God's presence in all aspects of our lives. A special called General Conference will be held from February 23-26. Many things will be discussed, primarily the direction that we as the United Methodist denomination will be choosing to go in regards to the question of what role non-heterosexual people will be allowed to play in church life. This is a matter that has already been a source of division and disagreement in the Church for many years and there is still some anxiety even now of what will come out of the Conference. But I still want to reassure you, no matter what is decided: God is still God and God still loves and is with us.

It can be hard to believe when the times are trying and everywhere there seems to be stress and heartbreak. Where is God in the midst of strife? I can't always say for certain where exactly God is, but I know that God is listening to us and is with us by the Holy Spirit all of our days. No matter what is decided, remember that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. As we approach the General Conference and move beyond it, I want to encourage you to always remember to be in prayer for all who make up our Church, but particularly for the delegates as they seek to represent the various thoughts and theological understandings of the people of The United Methodist Church. From 1 Peter 5:7, "Throw all your anxiety onto [God], because [God] cares about you." (CEB).

Blessings,

Julia

FEBRUARY MISSION FOCUS

Children's Mission Outreach

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22:6

St. Mark's is a church that lives the motto, “Where Mission is a way of life.” This February we will be focusing on Children's Missions. Concentrating on Children's Missions allows our congregation to pour into the children and youth of St. Mark's and the surrounding community. We provide many exciting ways for children and youth to get involved at an early age in mission work. For example,

- St. Mark's hosts a second, on-site Vacation Bible School each summer at E. 10th Street United Methodist Church

- St. Mark's organizes a Mission Camp for students in Club 56

- St. Mark's offers several paid summer internships

These programs and more will be funded through our Children's Missions monthly emphasis. This provides children and youth in our own church and community the opportunity to participate, serve, lead, and inspire.

Financial donations to Children's Missions may be given online at stmarkscarmel.org/give or using the mission envelope in the Sunday bulletin.

Because You Give, St. Mark's Gives.



Blood Drive

**Sunday, February 24,
8:30 AM-12:30 PM**



Every two seconds, someone needs blood and every day, approximately 40,000 units of blood are used throughout the country. You can help save a life by donating blood at St. Mark's on Sunday, **February 24**, 8:00-12:30 PM. Healthy individuals, age 16 and older can lend an arm to help! If you are interested in being the new Blood Drive Coordinator, please contact Ali Lemberg at 317-846-4912 or alemberg@stmarkscarmel.org for more information

Sign up at the Connection Tables outside the sanctuary or at stmarkscarmel.org.

Brightwood Dinners

Dinners at Brightwood have been a wonderful success! We will be serving on Tuesday, **February 5** and Tuesday, **February 19** 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.

Brightwood is so thankful for all the tutors that St. Mark's sends each week. If you have a heart to help the children at Brightwood by tutoring, we would love to have you join the group. Please contact Diane Newton at joediane244@att.net or 317-288-4523.

Mission Guatemala

Summer Internship Program

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 10

If you, or someone you know, is interested in serving with Mission Guatemala this summer, and meets the requirements below, please visit their website and apply today.



Requirements:

- Must have a heart for relational ministry and a desire to partner with Mission Guatemala and the Guatemalan people in hands-on servanthood
- Must be at least 20 years old prior to the internship or entering junior year of college.
- Must have served previously on an international mission team or service experience in alternate missions area.
- Must display leadership skills and maturity
- Must speak some Spanish

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Sunday, February 10 thru February 24

St. Mark's will host IHN guests February 10-24 and we need *your* help to make it possible! Yes, it is two weeks this time as we extend our hosting due to the fire at New Bethel Baptist church.



Volunteer needs include:

Dinner hosts (5:00-8:00 p.m.) Share a prepared meal with our guests, provide companionship & help with clean up.

Meal preparation - Prepare part of a meal for 15 - 20 people. Bring the meal to church by 5:00 p.m.

Provide food - provide prepared foods for lunch & breakfast (milk, lunch meat, etc.).

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 Sunday before our guests arrive or help remove beds and clean up on the following Sunday.

Transportation - drive the van between St. Mark's and the IHN Day Center.

Sign up to help at a Connection Table outside the sanctuary or online at stmarkscarmel.org/ihn. For more information contact Jeff Keyt at 239-201-8207 or shellcreek5@gmail.com.

Tree Planting at Founders Park

This spring (April or May) we will have the opportunity to plant 200 trees at Founders Park! 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. Please look forward to more details coming. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ali Lemberg at alemberg@stmarkscarmel.org



Because you Give, St. Mark's Gives

Thank you for your 2018 support of Missions!

Missions	YTD
Brightwood Community Center food for meals	\$2,000
Carmel UMC Food Pantry	\$2,000
College Care	\$100
East Tenth Children & Youth Center	\$6,500
Family Promise	\$6,300
Fletcher Place Community Center	\$11,000
Good Samaritan Network	\$5,000
Habitat For Humanity Greater Indpls	\$5,750
Hamilton County Kids Coats	\$1,000
Meal Supplies	\$1,913
Mission Guatemala	\$9,400
Mission in Action Day/March Mission Madness	\$662
Operation Classroom	\$7,945
Pack Away Hunger	\$11,050
Red Bird Mission trip	\$3,541
Red Bird Mission	\$7,605
Society of St. Andrew	\$5,000
St. Mark's United Methodist Men (given by)	\$3,000
St. Mark's United Methodist Women (given by)	\$2,550
The Mustard Seed of Central Indiana	\$1,000
Team World Vision	\$58,130
UM Special Sundays	\$3,456
UMCOR	\$6,367
Youth Mission Work Trips	\$23,600
Total	\$184,868

Because You Give, St. Mark's Gives!

The Christmas season gave us a wonderful opportunity to share the spirit of Christmas with so many people. St. Mark's did not disappoint. Your hearts were full of generosity, and it impacted so many. Thank you!

Brightwood Community Center: Toys, Coats, Hats, gloves, and gift cards for Christmas for 4 families

Carmel UMC Food Pantry: 13 bags and 3 boxes of food

E. 10th UM Children & Youth Center: 150 presents

Fletcher Place: 28 containers of Oatmeal and 25 bags of toys, cloths and food

Forest Dale Elementary: 21 bags of food

Good Samaritan Network: 17 bags of cloths, toys and games, 60 bags of canned foods, 2 bags of toiletry kits

IHN: 1 blankets, Cloths, toys, home-wares and gift cards for 3 After Care families, \$1400 in Walmart gift cards

Merciful Help Center: 3 bags of food

Midtown Mental Health: 59 toiletry kits

The O'Connor House: 3 boxes of household goods

Red Bird Mission: \$7205

Team St. Mark's Miles for Missions



Is your New Year's Resolution to get fit? Are you interested in starting to walk or run? Have you had a 5k or half marathon on your bucket list? Are you tired of training on your own and looking for friends to train with? If you are new to fitness or are a fitness buff, Team St. Mark's would love to have you join us as we kick off a new season of training.

We had so much fun creating a community of runners and walkers at St. Mark's while we trained with Team World Vision, that we are continuing the FUN! To learn about our upcoming season and how to get involved please contact us at Team-StMarks@stmarkscarmel.org

adult music

stmarkscarmel.org/music
Eric De Forest, Director
edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org

Join the Choir

It's a New Year, so try something NEW! 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

- 2/10 St. Mark's Talent Show
- 3/17 St. Mark's Presents
Clare Longendyke, pianist

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 j Vance@stmarkscarmel.org or 317-846-4912 .



kids ministry

stmarkscarmel.org/kids
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 snack 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 UM principles.

Kidz Music & Praise

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord during this fun-filled hour each week. After a worship time with Kidz Learn & Grow classes, children participate in this high energy class that incorporates music, drama, art & puppets. All children will sing *Sing, Shout, Clap* by Billy Funk for the congregation during the 9:40 & 11 classes. Also rehearsing at 11:00 AM for My Savior lives Musical on 3/24.

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.

Upcoming Events:

2/22 Club 56 Social
3/8-3/9 Super Start Conference

Save the Date

Sunday, March 10

INFANT RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Infants born in 2018 will be recognized

Sunday, May 19

3 YEAR OLD BIBLE PRESENTATION

3 year old children will be presented with the gift of a Bible

Internship Opportunities at St. Mark's

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

The Children's Ministry department at St. Mark's UMC in Carmel, IN is excited to announce **paid** internship opportunities for Summer 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 Rowell at (317) 846-4912 with any questions or to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

Applications will be reviewed by a committee beginning March 2019 and decisions communicated by April 2019.

Club 56

Friday, February 22 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Enjoy time with friends while serving the community

Friday, March 8- Saturday, March 9

Super Start Conference is a two day interactive program designed specifically for preteens in 5th & 6th grades. It will be a high energy weekend where students will hear the call of Christ in their lives to be Kingdom Workers while growing in relationships with friends, leaders and most importantly, God! Depart on Friday evening for Traders Point Church in Whitestown, IN. Club 56 will attend the Friday night portion of the conference and return to St Mark's around 10:30 PM. We will stay overnight in the church and then return to Trader's Point at 7:00 AM on Saturday. Youth will return to St. Mark's around 3:30 PM. Cost is \$60. Registration ends 1/31.



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 - 5:45 PM.

All grades gather from 5:45 - 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!

Believe Conference

CINCINNATI, OH

Friday, February 15th and 16th

Believe is a high-energy weekend event for Middle School students only (**grades 6 through 8**)!

We will depart St. Mark's on February 15 at 5:00 PM for BB&T Arena on the campus of Northern Kentucky University in metropolitan Cincinnati, OH. We will stay overnight at a local hotel and return to St. Mark's on February 16 around 7:00 PM.

Sign up online by January 31! Cost is \$100.

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2019. I pray that you are at peace during these winter months. The cold and darkness of the winter season in Indiana often takes a toll on our moods and our dispositions. I am reminded to keep a grateful heart and reach out to help others. Let's begin with kindness. Let's reach out to others generously. Let's be grateful and share Christ's hope with all. As the Psalmist calls out, let this be our prayer:

Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord.
Psalm 25:4-7 NIV

Peace,
Lydia Fourman

Sunday Small Groups

9:40 AM

VENTURE

This group meets at 9:15 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 3 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 *Which Way, Lord?* by Rob Fuquay. 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 **For the Life of the World** and **I Can Imagine**. Early February we will watch/discuss the documentary, **Believer**, about the conference held for LGBTQ teens that was sponsored by the lead singer of Imagine Dragons, Dan Reynolds. Lydia and Terry Fourman facilitate.

Study Groups

SUNDAY

6:00 –7:00 PM

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis (1/13-3/3)

In this eight-session video group study, you will discover why *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis is one of the most read and beloved Christian books of all time. Sessions are led by Pastor Brian White and Jeff Risinger in room G/H.

WEDNESDAY

6:30–7:15 AM EARLY AM BIBLE STUDY

Philippians by N.T. Wright (1/9-2/27)

Ephesians by N.T. Wright (3/6-5/15)

In Philippians, Paul, writing from prison, certainly knew what it was like to have plans interrupted. But he maintained robust confidence in God's overruling power, even when everything seemed to be going wrong. The next book, 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.

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

Philippians by N T Wright (1/9-5/15) See above for description. Pastor Brian White facilitates.

9:30 –11:30 AM BIBLE STUDY

Awakening Grace by Matt LeRoy and Jeremy Summers (1/9-3/13). Before you even knew his name, God's gentle voice was calling out to you; his gentle strength drawing you close to him. Spiritual formation is not about tools or formulas but submitting to God's grace, guiding you on an unpredictable journey into the heart of God. Learn nine spiritual practices--such as covenant friendship, worship, and generosity--that will awaken your soul to God's grace.

Thursday

9:30– 11:00 AM

Walking With God in the Desert by Ray Vander Laan (1/10-2/21) When going through a difficult period of life, we often feel as if we are in a desert. It's easy to think God has disappeared.

Instead, discover that it's only when we are totally dependent on him that we find God closer than ever and can experience God's amazing grace and provision. This 7-week study includes DVD sessions showing places in the holy lands. Judy Woempner facilitates.

FRIDAY

9:30– 11:30 AM

Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton (1/11-2/15) The Bible is the world's bestselling, most-read, and most-loved book is also one of the most confusing. Adam Hamilton discusses his ideas using the book and DVD sessions. He invites us "into discussion that permits readers to think again and faithfully about the Bible". 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

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Look for details on St Mark's website.

ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP

Specifically address the needs and support wanted when caring for parents. Wednesday (twice a meeting) lead by Becky Mills, Sunday (once of month) lead by Susan Jacques

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 at 7:30- 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall.



Saturday, 2/9 Mary Gospel
Signs of strokes &
language recovery

Saturday, 3/9 Frances Watson
Professor of Law IU

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

Thursday, 6:00 AM

2/14 & 2/28

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

Wednesday, 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 Meetings

Tuesday, February 12, 9:00 AM, 7:00 PM

All women of St. Mark's are invited to United Methodist Women's gathering Tuesday 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. Mary Ann Moman facilitates.

BOOKWORMS

UMW morning book discussion group. The book selected for February is **Ordinary Grace** by William Kent Krueger. 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?" Facilitator Gail Lee.

MAKE IT AND TAKE IT

In February we will be cooking a Valentine treat for your special valentine. Come and join the fun. 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. Facilitator: Ali Lemberg.

Evening Groups

BOOKMARKERS

Join us at BookMarkers, the evening book group discussion. We read anything and everything, and enjoy a lively 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. The book for February is **Waking up White** by Debby Irving. 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. Facilitator: Beth McGill.

SAMS (SCHOOL AGE MOMS)

See Morning Group for description

UMW Mission

FEBRUARY

UMW is continuing to support the women of Hope House. When human trafficking survivors arrive at the Hope House, they are in need of new and gently used clothing of all sizes. This can include new undergarments and socks. Look for a large tote marked for Hope House Clothing; it will be placed in Wesley Hall.

For questions, contact Linda Schenk at 812-454-0661 or lschenk@att.net

2019 UMW Retreat

A one-day retreat is in the planning stages for this spring. The retreat will be held at Teter Organic Farm in Noblesville. The farm is an outreach program for Noblesville First UMC – their vision is “Rooted in Love, Connecting People, Planting Seeds of Hope”. We are hoping to tour the farm, do some volunteer work, hike the trails to the White River and enjoy our faith journey with other St. Mark’s women. Dates will be coming soon, so you can mark your calendar. Calendar dates, church dates, leader availability and openings at Teter Lodge are being checked to see what works best for everyone. In the meantime, check out teterorganicfarm.com.

UMW Reading Program

Every year the United Methodist Women’s National Office recommends a diverse range of books with the intention of broadening exposure to a variety of concepts. This program organizes books into five categories: 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 five 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.

Check out the National UMW Reading Program website at unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram

New meeting dates will be announced soon!

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

Dessert Extravaganza

Sunday, February 10

Ladies, please put on your thinking caps, and think of your favorite baking specialty to donate to the annual bake sale. We will collect baked goods from 10:00 AM - Noon on Saturday, February 9. Donations may also be dropped off in the Narthex kitchen on Friday, February 8. This fundraiser provides monetary resources for our mission work! Thanks for your help! For questions, please contact Sandy Melin at sandymelin01@gmail.com

Coffee 'n Cameras

Monday, 2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18
9:00 - 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.

The Page Turners Book Group

Tuesday, 2/19

The Atomic City Girls: A Novel by Janet Beard

Tuesday, 3/19

The Great Alone: A Novel by Kristin Hannah

7:00 - 8:00 PM

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 to go stmarkscarmel.org. Contact Marcia Flora, 317-670-9976 or mflora1950@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 career-curve@stmarkscarmel.org, if you would like more information.

Craft & Hobby Group

Thursday, 2/21, 3/21 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Friday, 2/22, 3/22 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, 2/18 and 3/18. 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/groups.

JULIETS

Thursday, February 21

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! Check the website to find out which restaurant we will be visiting.



Please sign up by 2/17 at the Connections Table behind the sanctuary. If you have questions, please contact Kat Howe, chattykat52@att.net or 317.431.6295

special events

St Mark's Talent Show

Sunday, February 10 | 12:30 - 2:00 PM

Please join us for our annual Talent Show showcasing the wonderful talents of some of our St. Mark's members. There will be quite a variety of talent and a fantastic luncheon catered by Fazoli's. The event is free so please come and enjoy with us. If you are interested in performing in the show, please contact Eric DeForest not later than Feb. 3.



Save The Date

Lenten Studies Begin Soon

Sunday evenings led by Pastor Brian
Wednesday mornings led by Lydia Fourman
Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week by Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story to help us fill in the blanks. Although the Bible gives us insights into what Jesus was thinking between the time he entered Jerusalem and the night he spent in the Garden of Gethsemane, we cannot totally relate. But what if we look at the "ordinary" people who witnessed the Passion events...the women around Jesus and his disciples? Or the "bad" guys...Judas, Pilate, and Caiaphas? Can glimpses into their relationships and roles in the story deepen our understanding of what happened? Pastor Brian will lead a discussion of this study on Sunday evenings, specific dates TBA. Lydia Fourman will lead a discussion of the same book on Wednesday mornings, March 6 - April 17. Book cost is \$12. Watch for registration for the Sunday PM or Wednesday AM study. All are welcome.

Mental Illness Book Discussions

Saturday, February 2 | 9:30 - 11:00 AM

First, We Make the Beast Beautiful-A Journey Through Anxiety by Sarah Wilson

Saturday, March 16 | 9:30 - 11:00 AM

The Noonday Demon- An Atlas Of Depression by Andrew Solomon

You are invited to a series of three book discussions related to mental illness to be held at St. Mark's. Each book provides a perspective from individuals who live with bipolar disorder, anxiety or depression. Please feel free to share this information with others.

Desert Extravaganza

Sunday, February 10

Valentines Day is quickly approaching and we hope you will check out our annual bake sale before, during and after services.



Find a delicious treat for that special someone, baked by one of the women of the church!

2019 Fellowship Events

The St. Mark's Fellowship Committee is busy planning exciting events for 2019! Save these dates and plan to join in the fun and fellowship with your St. Mark's church family.

Here are just some of the events they are working on:

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 13, 10:00 AM

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



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, July 21, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Bring your friends and family for an afternoon of fun at St. Mark's. Compete with your friends and family in corn hole and your favorite summer games. We'll wrap up the afternoon with ice cream.

DINNER FOR EIGHT (ISH)

Starts this summer

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. Deadline to sign up will be 4/15.

SOFTBALL

Working on a spring softball league. If you are interested in participating, contact Shelley at scarver@stmarkscarmel.org

SYMPHONY ON THE PRAIRIE

Summer event – date to be announced soon

EUCHRE SPRING TOURNAMENT

Sunday, May 3, 6:00 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.

FALL FESTIVAL

October Date TBD

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Sunday, December 1, 4:00 PM.

Potluck/carry in dinner

St. Mark's Presents

Mark your calendars for the 2019 concerts.

Sunday, 3/17 @ 2:00 PM Clare Longendyke, pianist

Sunday, 5/19 @ 3:00 PM Indy Winds in Concert

Sunday 7/7 @ 3:00 PM Glory and Wonder– An Afternoon of Worship

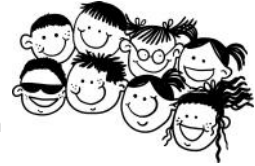
St. Mark's PRESENTS

Kids Night Out

Friday, February 8 | 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/sundaykids 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.



Kidz Music Lunch & Learn

Sunday, February 24 | 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM

Parents and children are welcome to come explore praise dance, liturgical dance, and folk dance with special guest instructor, LeAnn Haggard. This is a great activity for the whole family.

Get To Know St. Mark's

February 24 | 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

What: Get to know new people, the pastors, and life at St. Mark's.

Why: Discover opportunities for connection at St. Marks and build community

When: February 24, 12:30 PM-2:00 PM

Lunch included. Child care upon request. We hope you can join us!

RSVP: Register @stmarkscarmel.org/know or 317.846.4912 by February 21.



VBS

Save the Date

Roar! Life is Wild, God is Good

June 17-21

We will host Vacation Bible School from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM on June 17-21.

Registration for volunteers and participants will begin April 1.



committees

FINANCE

We begin 2019 with grateful hearts and hope for the future. Thank you for your gifts of time and money.

We ended 2018 with a budget deficit of \$19,000, which was a significant improvement over the last month of the year. Your additional gifts not only covered operating costs for the month of December, but also made up a \$68,000 difference in the deficit during the last 2 weeks of the year. It is difficult to put in words how meaningful that is to all of us. We are grateful for your giving.

At our Church Council meeting, the Finance Committee is proposing a 2019 operating budget that has a \$76,000 deficit.

On the income side, pledged giving is \$66,000 below last year. On the cost side, we instituted a wage freeze. No one at St Mark's is even getting a cost of living adjustment. The committee went line by line and number by number to limit or cut costs in every category to keep this church operating.

As a point of clarification, we have an operating budget, which the Finance Committee is responsible for. We also have funds that are donated towards specific projects and purchases. For example, you may have seen the plans the Trustees have made to improve our facilities. You may have also noticed new sanctuary lighting or video screens in the entrance. Gifts for those improvements have been specifically donated towards those projects and purchases. We are not allowed to access those funds for operating expenses.

If you have not already pledged for this year, we would ask that that you prayerfully consider doing so. If you have already pledged, we

would ask that you consider giving a little more. If, by the end of March, the budget deficit has not been rectified, your Finance Committee will have to recommend additional cuts to our operating budget.

Every time we have asked you for financial and other assistance you have responded beautifully, and we appreciate that. Please consider giving more to St. Mark's, so we can continue our good work.

God bless you and thank you.

Lee Hargitt
Finance Committee Chairman

Year End Statements

Financial Statements will be emailed by the end of January. If you would like to have a mailed or printed copy, please email treasurer@stmarkscarmel.org. or call the church office at 317-846-4912.

Social Justice Committee

Social Justice: Human Sexuality and Our Faith

As the United Methodist Church grapples with how to welcome and include LGBTQ people in the life and ministry of the church, we are reminded by Jesus' commandment *"that you love one another as I have loved you."* (John 15:12)

Sadly, LGBTQ youth often feel unloved; at home, at school and in their community. They are frequently bullied and threatened with violence. Subsequent feelings of fear and shame often lead to higher rates of depression and suicide. LGBTQ youth are:

6 times more likely to experience symptoms of depression than the general population.

4 times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers.

8 times more likely to have attempted suicide if rejected by their family after coming out.

(Sources: The National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Center for Disease Control)

As a church we *"deplore acts of hate and violence against groups or persons based on sexual orientation or gender identity."* (UMC Social Principles, P162). And as followers of Jesus Christ we are called to be in ministry for and with all people, especially the rejected and marginalized.

For more information on how you can make a difference in the lives of LGBTQ youth in our community, stop by the Social Justice table in the narthex or visit the **Indiana Youth Group** (YIG) at <http://www.indianayouthgroup.org/>. There you will find opportunities for advocacy, volunteerism and giving.

Weather Closings

In the event of inclement weather and church services are cancelled we will take the following steps to notify the congregation:



- TV stations will be notified.
- An email communication will be sent to all people currently signed up to receive weekly emails.
- The church website will be updated

Bible Studies and other groups will notify their own groups with closures or delays. If Hamilton county is in a Red Travel Advisory, the office will be closed and all activities cancelled.

New Alarm System

The new alarm system is up and running. If you have a key to the building and are not sure of your code, please contact Jenny Rundle jrundle@stmarkscarmel.org or Shelley Carvery scarver@stmarkscarmel.org to confirm your passcode.

LIBRARY NEWS

Did you know that...

You can search the St. Mark's online catalog by title, author, or subject with your phone, computer or iPad.

- Many books providing support for caregivers are available, including those involved with mental illness, aging issues, illness, and grief.
- A great many titles will also be found to provide support for Bible study, Christian living, Methodism, missionary work, inspirational leisure reading, and Christian education.
- A detailed database is stored offsite for insurance and backup purposes.
- An extensive collection of adult and children's fiction titles is available.
- The AV collection includes close to 250 titles for children and adults.
- The average copyright date of the collection is a relatively recent 2003.
- Requests can be made or a hold placed on any title by leaving a note on the checkout counter or sending an email to library@stmarkscarmel.org.
- Suggestions for additions to the collection are always welcome.
- Gifts may be made to the library in the form of memorials or in honor of individuals. Recipients or their families are notified and commemorative book plates are placed in each donated item.

New Arrivals

Embracing Wholeness an Earthly Perspective for Covenantal Living by Jessica Stonecypher

This book explores our relationship with creation, others and ourselves. We will engage in conversations with Biblical texts, current realities and possible ways to respond.

God in the ICU by Dr. Dave Walker

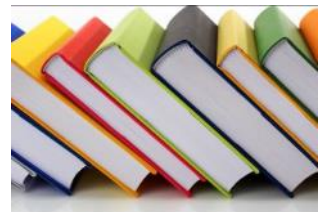
Dr. Walker, a successful anesthesiologist begins praying with his patients. The book is a story of needing more than medicine when you are fighting to survive .

Hot Dogs on the Road by Lena Epps Brooker

A story of an American Indian girl's experiences of growing up in a black and white world.

I Can Only Imagine (DVD) The true story of MercyMe's top song. The movie brings hope to many people and reminds us about the real definition of forgiveness.

Joey + Rory Hymns That Are Important to Us (CD) A collection of Joey's favorite hymns.



community news

Directory Updates

Jean Smith
P.O. Box 3755
Carmel, IN 46082

Bob & Fran Miller
16640 N. Wagon Train Place
Tucson, AZ 85739

Sympathies

To Ron & Joan Dunn at the death of Ron's mother, Rosanna Dunn.

To Fran Hageboeck, Skip Hageboeck, Cyndi Miller and their families at the death of Charles Russell, brother, uncle and great uncle.

To Janet Brown at the death of her father, Wayne Grandey.

To Dub Taylor at the death of his wife, Pam.

To Susan Salter at the death of her mother, Barbara Frazer.

To Dan Patene at the death of his father, Don Patane.

To Jim & Sally Hubbard, Karen Whitaker, and Joanne Herman at the death of Jill, daughter and sister.

New Babies

Evelyn Rae Benson was born December 7. She is the daughter of Tiffani & Michael Benson, and granddaughter of Debbie Skinner & Jack Benson.

Prayer Requests

This ministry provides prayer support on behalf of those in need. Requests for prayers can be sent to prayers@stmarkscarmel.org.

If you would like to become a member of the prayer chain and provide prayer support for those in need, please send an email to staff@stmarkscarmel.org.

Sustainable Living Seminar 2019 Legislative Updates

Thursday, 2/21, 6:30 PM-8:30 PM

CARMEL CLAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Jesse Kharbanda, the Executive Director of the Hoosier Environmental Council, will provide an overview of environmental-related developments in the 2019 Indiana legislative session and how you can actively take part.

In Our Congregation

Dear St. Marks UMC,

We are so incredibly grateful for you all and all of the ministry you have in Carmel and beyond. We are blessed to call you all partners working together to help end hunger.

Thank you for hosting the Potato Drop and for "Adopting a Bushel, Feeding a Nation." You helped fellow Hoosiers and reduced food waste. Thank you!

We look forward to what 2019 holds.

Peace,
Dawn

Dear St. Markers,

What a treat it was for us to welcome Melinda and John Deedrick to our home and enjoy a visit with them. We so appreciated the fact that they delivered a delicious Thanksgiving dinner for us to enjoy on Sunday evening. What a blessing it is for us to be remembered and cared for by a generous and loving congregation.

Thank you.
Ivan & Jean Willenberg

Dear St. Mark's family,

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement we received from the church following my father's death. The many words of support, comfort and expressions of Christian love remind us how blessed we are by our church family at St. Mark's

Blessings,
Janet & Doug Brown

To Our St. Mark's Family,

Thank you for all the prayers for my brother, Charles Russell, and our family. Thank you for the visits to Charlie and to those who helped with the memorial service. We are blessed to have a wonderful and caring church family.

Blessings to all of you,
Fran, Skip, Cyndi and families

To the People of St. Mark's,

Thank you so much for all your prayers, words of encouragement and meals as I recovered from my recent surgery. It has been so uplifting to have so much encouragement! I am very blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Blessings,
Amy Jones

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
Leonard Sheats	

Do You Have Something to Sell?

St. Mark's is lucky to have so many youth that are selling cookies popcorns, flowers, carwashes, etc. We welcome you to sell your items but ask that you have no signs, wagons, tables, etc. especially on Sunday morning. We are glad to have such a supportive church family.

SAVE THE DATE

October 1-12, 2019



Lifetouch Photography will be at St. Mark's this Fall to take pictures for a brand new church pictorial directory. You will have a chance to select your picture for the directory immediately and will receive a free 8X10 family picture. Additional portraits may be purchased as well.



MISSION MARCH MADNESS ST. MARK'S UMC



March Mission Madness

Saturday, March 2 | 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a day of caring and serving-actively living our motto:
Where Mission is a Way of Life.

A variety of outreach projects will be offered as part of MMM Day, a day when we worship through serving beginning at 9:00 AM

Offsite

Fletcher Place Community Center
Hamilton County Kids Coats
O'Connor House
The Mustard Seed
Park Clean Up

At St. Mark's

Assemble food bags for Forest Dale Elementary
Assemble toiletry gift bags for Midtown H
Basement bead board & painting
Paint rooms L, M & N
Prayer blankets
Outdoor clean up
Shoe packing for Changing Footprints

Sign up beginning February 1 at stmarkscarmel.org or on the bulletin board outside the office.

We are also collecting the following items for MMM projects: Shoes, Toiletries, Chap Stick, Granola bars, Puzzle books, Washcloths, Toothpaste & Toothbrushes. If you'd like to donate any of these items, please bring them to St. Mark's by Sunday, February 24.