



MISSION IN ACTION DAY



SPRING EDITION

Mission In Action Day
Spring Edition
Saturday, March 2

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News From the Pastors

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

During the summer of 1999 Michelle and I were in Zimbabwe and we had the opportunity to meet face to face with a person that Michelle had met through a chat group on raising and training Border Collies. Karen and her husband Steve were officers in the Zimbabwe Sheepdog Association. Because we had a free evening in Harare before our departure from the country we were able to have dinner with the Peels, meet their dogs, and talk about life in Zimbabwe. We enjoyed talking about our lives, our families, our cultural differences, and our cultural similarities. During the conversation Karen asked a question that was unexpected but illuminating.



She asked, “How are you finding things in a country where everything is broken?” She was referring to the dismal economy in Zimbabwe and the general reality that things rarely run smoothly. People have to make do with what they can find and are able to purchase. This is quite a contrast to our lives in America where everything is shiny and new, where service is prompt and precise, where timetables are mostly kept.

Karen’s question is relevant to all of us, however, whether we are living in America or Africa. We do live in a world where everything is broken in its unredeemed state. We live in a world where school children murder each other, where many older people live in fear and poverty, where the divide between the poor and the rich grows larger every day. We live in a world where people doubt their leaders and where sports heroes are the only role models many young people see. It is easy to see the brokenness in our world. We are like the people Isaiah described: “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way.” (Isaiah 53:6, NRSV)

So what do we do about this broken state? How do we fix it? The answer lies in the second half of the verse I just quoted. Isaiah finishes that verse by saying, “and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Our hope is not in ourselves but in Jesus Christ. We need to pray the prayer of David who said, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10, NRSV)

Lent is a time to ask God to fix the brokenness inside us as well as the brokenness in our world. On Ash Wednesday we are reminded of our sinfulness which only God can forgive. During the season we journey toward Easter which is God’s ultimate affirmation that things can be set right. Won’t you join us on this journey from a broken world to a loving God?

In Christ’s service,
Brian

News From the Pastors

Hello St. Mark's Family,

It's hard to believe that March is already here! Reflecting back on even just the first bit of February, I am amazed at everything that has happened in the last month. For starters during the first week of February, Hannah Wehmeyer and I sat down for individual interviews with The United Methodist Church's Board of Ordained Ministry. It's already been announced that we were both recommended for commissioning at the Annual Conference this coming June, but it's still exciting to say! Surviving the interview and being able to move forward in the journey to ordination is a big step!



For some background, the path to ordination (whether as a deacon or as an elder) isn't an easy road within The UMC. It's a process that can last for years with multiple check-ins, papers, forms, tests, and always the same question: How is God reaffirming your call to ministry? Having already answered that question a few times, now I want to ask you: how is God reaffirming your call to ministry? I want to invite you to reflect on everything that has happened since the beginning of the year and consider where there may have been moments of God nudging you forward in your call. Not all are called to be pastors, but all are called to serve in some way, shape, or form.

Opportunities to serve can present themselves in all sorts of ways. It can be someone in the grocery store, a good friend, or an annoying neighbor. It may surprise you just who needs your help in the coming days and weeks. I hope that as we continue through this crazy winter and questionable spring that you will be open to God's work in your life and follow those little nudges that can lead to some of the greatest moments for service and ministry.

Blessings,

Julia

MARCH MISSION FOCUS

Habitat for Humanity

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Owning a home provides a significant means in helping provide a stable quality of life for low-income families and individuals. For some though, decent, affordable homeownership is out of reach. In our community many are paying more than they can afford for housing, leaving insufficient funds for other necessities like good nutrition, health care, transportation, education or saving for the future. Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity seeks to transform lives by partnering with families, individuals and the community to create and preserve affordable housing solutions. The benefits of the Habitat program extend beyond housing to support both the community and homeowners' well-being.

Habitat carries out their work in accord with the belief that God's love and grace abound for all, and that we must be "hands and feet" of that love and grace in our world. Selected Habitat homeowners pay a modest down payment, invest 300 hours of "sweat equity," and are responsible for 0% interest monthly mortgage payments and home maintenance. Through the homeownership education program and financial counseling,

Habitat homeowners are given the tools needed to be successful in this endeavor.

St. Mark's is partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Indianapolis and others from the Indianapolis faith community at the *Interfaith Build*. This is a wonderful opportunity to work with other St.

Markers and other denominations to help a qualified family realize their dream of homeownership. Please help support the Interfaith Build by donating financially. Opportunities to help build will be available late summer. Donations may be given at stmarkscarmel.org/give or using the white mission envelope in the Sunday bulletin.

If you know of a family that is in need of safe, affordable and decent housing, please have them visit indyhabitat.org/own-a-home or call the homeowner hotline at 317-777-6080.

Contact Diane or Joe Newton
(joediane244@att.net or (317) 288-4523) if you have questions.



Eagle Scout Project

Camden Kilroy is teaming up with Mustard Seed of Central Indiana for his Eagle Project. He is gathering items to put together culinary starter kits. He is part of Troop 120 that meets here at St. Mark's.

Mustard Seed provides families and individuals who have suffered tragedy or disaster with basic household furnishings. His Eagle Scout project will be working with Mustard Seed and making culinary starter kits to be distributed to these same families and individuals.

Camden will be collecting kitchenware items for the next three months. In April he will ask the troop to join him in sorting the kitchen items and assembling the kits.

He is collecting: skillets, sauce pans, stock pots, spatulas/cooking utensils, strainers, cutting boards, knives, measuring cups/spoons, Tupperware and dish towels.

The goal is to collect and purchase enough kitchen items to assemble 20 small kits and 5 large kits (which include basic cookware). All donated items should be gently used or new.

If you have updated any of your kitchenware over the holidays, he would greatly appreciate if you would donate your lightly seasoned kitchenware to his Eagle Project.

Camden will have a donation box at door 1 if you would like to contribute to his project. If you have any questions about donations, please email camdenek@gmail.com and edkilroy@sbcglobal.net (please include both emails per youth protection policies).

UMCOR Sunday

Sunday, March 31

UMCOR Sunday is March 31. This church-wide special Sunday offering provides United Methodists the opportunity to help our brothers and sisters around the world in their time of need. Our generous gifts through the UMCOR Sunday offering support the work of the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR provides immediate assistance in the wake of disasters and participates in ongoing ministries of food, shelter, health and peace. On March 31, our congregation will participate in this special offering that ensures that when a crisis happens, 100% of giving for that disaster goes to those in need.

Mission In Action

Spring Edition

Saturday, March 2 | 9:00 AM

Please join us in our spring mission outreach day, Mission In Action Spring Edition.

This is a wonderful opportunity to live out our motto, "Where

Mission Is a Way of Life." There are projects for people of all ages, and you pick whether to serve out in the community or be part of a project at the church. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors to join us Saturday, March 2 at 9:00 AM in Wesley Hall.



Because You Give, St. Mark's Gives!

Because You Give, St. Mark's Gives!

Thank you for your generous support of the missions of St. Mark's. You have given to:

- Brightwood Community Center: served 3 meals
- College Care: \$100
- Fletcher Place: 14 containers of oatmeal
- Merciful HELP: 12 bags of food
- Mission Guatemala: \$7918

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: TeamStMarks@stmarkscarmel.org

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



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

- 3/17 St. Mark's Presents
Clare Longendyke, pianist
- 5/19 Indy Winds in Concert
- 7/7 Glory & Wonder
An Afternoon of Worship

Can You Help Once a Month?

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



kids ministry

stmarkscarmel.org/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 snacks and making fun crafts. Bible discovery and exploration is integrated in every lesson by our fantastic volunteer team.

Kidz Learn & Grow Elementary

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

Kidz Music & Praise

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord during this fun-filled hour each week. After Worship with Kidz Learn & Grow classes, children participate in this high energy class that incorporates music, drama, art, and puppets. During the 11:00 AM Worship service, this class is preparing for "My Savior Lives" Musical on 3/24 at 12:00 PM in the Chapel.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/10 Kidz Worship Performs
9:40 & 11:00 AM
We Believe with Amazing Grace

3/24 Lenten Musical, 12:00 PM
4/14 Lunch & Learn, 12:00 PM
Drum Circles & Drums in Worship

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.



Infant Recognition Sunday

Sunday, March 10

Infants born in 2018 will be recognized. Families are invited to send a picture of their baby and which Worship service they attend to Ramie Cooney at rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org by March 6 (even if they cannot attend on March 10).

Volunteer Open House

Sunday, March 3

10:00 AM- 10:30 AM or 11:20 AM- 11:50 AM

All are invited to learn more about service opportunities in the Children's Ministry department at St. Mark's. We are recruiting for special buddies, summer leaders and assistants, summer interns. Come learn about this fun and important local mission field.

3 year old Bible Presentation

Sunday, May 19

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

Sunday, March 9 | 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Club 56 will meet at Laser Flash from 3:00 PM-5:00 PM. Feel free to invite friends.

Sunday, March 24 | 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Club 56 will meet at Woodland Bowl from 3:00 PM- 5:00 PM. Feel free to invite friends.

Kidz Music & Praise

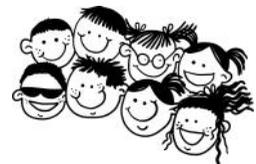
Sunday, March 24 | 5:00 PM

Join Kidz Music & Praise at Woodland Bowl to celebrate. Bring \$5.00.

Kids Night Out

Friday, March 8 | 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

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



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

Children's Summer Opportunities

SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible Camp

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.

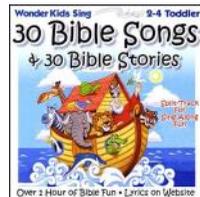


Registration for volunteers and participants will begin April 1.

Sacred Puppet Camp

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

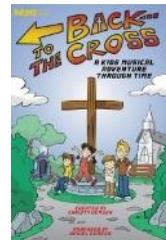
This year the Puppet Camp will be performing stories about Jesus. Look for details on registering in future newsletters. Space is limited.



Sacred Drama Camp

7/15-7/19, 12:00 PM-2:30 PM

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





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!

30 Hour Fast

Friday, March 22 - Sunday, March 24

All High School students (Grades 9-12) are invited to participate in an amazing opportunity and experience!

We will gather at St. Mark's on Friday evening, have dinner together and then from midnight Friday night until 6:00 AM Sunday morning we will FAST together.

We will experience what it is like to be hungry and live in poverty, all while spending time with Jesus and each other.

Sign up NOW! Stmarkcarmel.org/30hourfast.

The cost for this event is a mere \$10 per student.

Youth Sunday

Sunday, March 3

Come join our students as they lead worship in all three services and deliver messages of Hope, Boldness, and Transformation.

Dear Friends,

An excerpt from *Awakening Grace* by Matt LeRoy and Jeremy Summers, chapter 5 “Mercy and Justice”, page 85:

“As we use the terms mercy and justice, we must understand that they are not interchangeable ideas. They are intertwined yet distinctly different. They are separate yet need each other to form a complete, holistic kind of love... They are a beautifully compatible contradiction.

Justice is fair. Mercy is anything but.

Justice sets things right. Mercy sets things free.

Justice establishes equality. Mercy unleashes extravagant love.

Justice wants our rights for us. Mercy gives us more than we deserve.

Justice is sharing the wealth. Mercy is emptying the purse.

Justice is concrete. Mercy is mysterious.

Justice is the cause. Mercy is the motive.”

Together they bleed into each other as a call to set right the laws of humankind, while setting loose the love of God.

Around us we see life, with all the good and the bad. The injustice and brokenness are scars and fractures that can be followed all the way back to the fall. In the same way, mercy and justice are the ripple effects of redemption. They roll out and rise up like a tide of grace triggered by the reality of salvation. They are the pounding echoes of the heartbeat of God.

Christ calls us to welcome, to grow, and to serve. United in the power of Christ we live to serve and to love.

Let’s grow together in love, the love of our Savior.

Peace,

Lydia Fourman

Sunday Small Groups

9:40 AM

VENTURE

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

OPEN DOORS/OPEN IDEAS

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

CUTTING EDGE

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

FOUNDATIONS & FRIENDSHIPS

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

11:00 AM

JOURNEY

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

REEL SPIRITUALITY

View and discuss Christian themes and life values through movies. Together they watch 30-40 minutes of a movie, then discuss it, continuing the movie to completion for 3 to 4 weeks. Upcoming movies are [I Can Imagine](#), [Boy Erased](#), and [The Hate U Give](#). Lydia and Terry Fourman facilitate.

Study Groups

SUNDAY

March 10 - April 14 | 6:00 –7:00 PM

Entering the Passion of Jesus (See page 23 for details) Pastor Brian White facilitates

WEDNESDAY

EARLY AM BIBLE STUDY

March 6 - May 15 | 6:30-7:15 AM

Ephesians by N.T.Wright

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

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

March 6 - May 15 | 9:30-10:30 AM

Ephesians by N T Wright

See above for description. Pastor Brian White facilitates.

AM BIBLE STUDY

9:30 - 11:30 AM

Awakening Grace by Matt LeRoy and Jeremy Summers (January 9 - March 13) .

Entering the Passion of Jesus by Amy Jill Levine
March 20 - April 17 See page 23 for description

THURSDAY

AM BIBLE STUDY

February 28 - March 28 | 9:30- 11:00 AM

When God Doesn't Fix It by Laura Story. In this 5-session curriculum, Laura examines the twists and turns that took place when her husband was diagnosed with a brain tumor. She reveals how God used crises in the lives of people such as Abraham, Sarah, David, and Paul to bring them closer to him and set them on the path God wanted them to take, in spite of their flaws and brokenness. God may not fix everything in our lives. But we can know that God will lead us to a place where we are better because of it. Book cost is \$11. Judy Woempner facilitates.

FRIDAY

9:30- 11:30 AM

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

by Rabbi Evan Moffic

March 15, March 22, April 11, April 19

No classes March 29 & April 5

See page 23 for description. Stephanie Cohen facilitates.

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

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

ENCOURAGEMENT GROUP

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

Wednesday (twice a month) lead by Becky Mills

Sunday (once a month) lead by Susan Jacques

Grow Groups

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

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

gatherings

Second Saturday Breakfast Meetings

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

Saturday, March 9

Frances Watson, Professor of Law IU



UMM LENTEN BREAKFAST SCHEDULE

Join the UMM of Hamilton County for the Lenten Breakfast. This year's theme is "WHO is your neighbor?"

7:30 AM

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 23 | First UMC, Noblesville
Mr. Dennis Schrupf
Certified Lay Servant |
| March 30 | The Promise UMC, Fishers
Ms. Emily Reece
Director Of Church Development |
| April 6 | St Marks UMC, Carmel
Mr. Craig Wood
Certified Lay Servant |
| April 13 | Sheridan UMC, Sheridan
Rev Adriane Curtis
Associate Pastor |

United Methodist Men provides a creative supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually, and to seek daily his will.

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

PRAYER HUDDLE

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

MARKSMEN

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

PRAYER & SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays | 6:00 AM

March 14 & March 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

Wednesdays | 11:00 AM

LE PEEP RESTAURANT

12213 N. Meridian Street

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



Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 12 | 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM

All women of St. Mark's are invited to United Methodist Women's gathering on March 12 for coffee, conversation, devotion time & special interest groups. We look forward to seeing you!

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

Morning Groups

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

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

Facilitated by Pastor Mary Ann Moman

BOOKWORMS

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

Facilitated by Gail Lee

MAKE IT AND TAKE IT

For the month of March, we will be finding our "Irish". Our project will be stamp painting. Come join us!

Facilitated by Marilyn Roberts and Kathy Dycus

SAMS (SCHOOL AGE MOMS)

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

Facilitated by Ali Lemberg

Evening Groups

BOOKMARKERS

Join us at BookMarkers, an evening book group discussion. 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 March is **Five Quarters of an Orange** by Joanne Harris. April's book will be **Just Mercy** by Bryan Stevenson. For more information, contact Deb Skinner, dskins25@hotmail.com or call 317-574-1997 with any questions.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

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

Facilitated by Beth McGill

SAMS (SCHOOL AGE MOMS)

See Morning Group for description

UMW Mission

MARCH

Many of the teen human trafficking survivors served by Ascent 121 live in a secure residential recovery center for six to twelve months. Recovery can be lonesome and discouraging. Scripture and words of encouragement are sincerely appreciated by the girls.

Consider sending words of encouragement to these girls. You can include a message, a prayer, scripture verses, scripture coloring pages, or a bookmark.

You can use a card of your own or pick one up at the March meeting. You can return it at the March meeting or leave it in the UMW box in the church office. Write **Ascent 121 Teen** on the outside of the envelope.

PLEASE, DO NOT SEAL THE ENVELOPE!

The notes will be delivered to Ascent 121 at the end of March. For more information, please contact Linda Schenk at lschenk@att.net.

2019 UMW Retreat

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

TETER LODGE

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

UMW Reading Program

Wednesday, March 27 | 7:00 PM

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.

Dates for the 2019 are March 27, April 29, August 26, October 28.

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

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

Coffee 'n Cameras

Mondays

March 4, March 18, April 1 & April 22

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

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

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

The Page Turners Book Group

Tuesday, March 19 | 7:00 - 8:00 PM

The Great Alone: A Novel by Kristin Hannah

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

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by

Rachel Joyce

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

Craft & Hobby Group

Thursday, March 21 & April 11 | 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Friday March 22 & April 12 | 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, March 18 and April 8. 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, March 21 | 11:30 AM

Grille 39 @ Renaissance North Hotel

11925 North Meridian

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 March 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 Presents

Mark your calendars for the 2019 concerts.



SUNDAY, MARCH 17 | 2:00 PM

CLARE LONGENDYKE, PIANIST

Hailed a "superlative pianist," (Journal of the IAWM), Clare Longendyke is a passionate soloist and chamber musician recognized for her colorful musicality, technical fluency, and ability to interpret repertoires across the musical spectrum. Clare has performed solo and chamber music recitals across Europe and North America and has won 1st place prizes in national competitions in Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, and Massachusetts. She made her orchestral debut in 2012 performing Bartók's 3rd Piano Concerto with the Indiana University Concert Orchestra.

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

SUNDAY, JULY 7 | 3:00 PM GLORY AND WONDER- AN AFTERNOON OF WORSHIP

Mental Illness Book Discussions

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

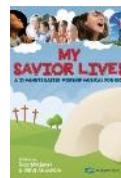
The Noonday Demon- An Atlas Of Depression by Andrew Solomon

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.

Kidz Music & Praise Lenten Musical

Sunday, March 24 | 12:00 PM

The Kidz Music & Praise will be presenting a Lenten Musical, "My Savior Lives", at 12:00 Noon in the Chapel. They will be telling the stories of Easter. All are Welcome to attend.



Youth Sunday

Sunday, March 3

Come join our students as they lead worship in all three services and deliver messages of Hope, Boldness, and Transformation.



committees

Social Justice Committee

SPECIAL SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM EVENT: *BELIEVER*

Our United Methodist Social Principles affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us.

The St. Mark's Social Justice team is leading an effort to educate and engage our congregation and community on the issues of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning (LGBTQ) rights, with a focus on youth.

Join us for a special screening of *Believer*, a documentary exploring the intersection between LGBTQ people and the Mormon church. With the rising suicide rate amongst teens in the state of Utah, Imagine Dragons' front man Dan Reynolds' concern set him on a mission to explore how the church treats its LGBTQ members, sending him on an unexpected path for acceptance and change.

BELIEVER

Sunday, March 10

Doors open at 3:00 PM, movie at 3:30 PM
Cornerstone Commons

Free popcorn and soda provided

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

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." ~ John 15:12

Visit the Connection Table on Sunday mornings to learn more about LGBTQ rights and how you can put your faith into action.

Prayer Requests

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

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

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

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

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

Prayer Squares

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

LIBRARY NEWS

LENTEN READING

- Easter stories: Classic tales for the Easter season
- Make room: A Child's Guide to Lent & Easter - Alary
- Lord of the 40 days: Meditations for Lent-Topping
- Give Up Something Bad for Lent - Moore
- Family Celebrations at Easter - Hibbard
- Apostle Peter and the Last Supper (DVD)
- The Final Week of Jesus - Lucado
- The Case for Easter - Strobel
- Risen (DVD)

Look for a complete listing of Lenten reading in the St. Mark's Library on the church website, by using the search term "Easter". A printed bibliography is also available on the checkout counter just inside the library door.

New Arrivals

The Women of Easter - Meet the Savior with Mary of Bethany, Mary of Nazareth, and Mary Magdalene, by Liz Curtis Higgs.

A Gathering in Hope -Indiana author Philip Gulley's latest novel follows Pastor Sam Gardner and his congregation with humorous and touching storytelling.

The Library Book - Focusing on the disastrous 1986 Los Angeles Central Library fire, author Susan Orlean brings to light the importance and contributions of all libraries both past and future.

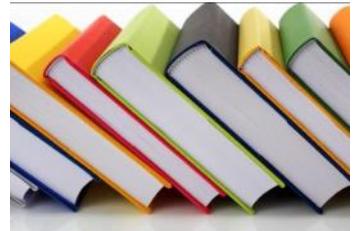
The Weight of Mercy - Deb Richardson-Moore tells her own story as the novice pastor of a run-down inner-city church where the homeless are gathered.

Lizzie Searches for Love - Novelist Linda Byler's three part series of Lizzie Glick's search for love and happiness in her Amish community.

Simon Peter: Flawed, but Faithful Disciple - Adam Hamilton takes an in-depth look at the life, faith and character of this devoted disciple.

Think, Act, Believe Like Jesus - Randy Frazee discusses the vision of Christian life and how to get started on the journey of discipleship.

VeggieTales Princess Story Collection (4 DVD's) - Inspiring stories about true beauty and true worth in God's eyes. (Children's AV shelves)



Visit stmarkscarmel.org/library for more!

community news

Directory Updates

Fran Hageboeck
1335 S. Guilford Road, Apt B1404
Carmel, IN 46032

Lois Hardin
Forum at the Crossing, Room 606
8505 Woodfield Crossing Blvd
Indianapolis, IN 46240

Jean Smith
334 Cherry Street, Apt 122
Westfield, IN 46074

Eric DeForest
1182 Old Vines Court
Greenwood, IN 46143

Sympathies

To Jim and Kathi Hall at the death of their daughter, Emily.

To John Deedrick at the death of his mother, Betty Jo Frary-Deedrick.

To Jay and Judy Bonnet at the death of their brother in law, Jeremy Thain.

To Linda Duncan at the death of her brother, Jim Duncan.

To Mike Bultemeier at the death of his father, David Bultemeier.

To Scott Howell at the death of his step-father.

Bakers Needed!

One of the many mission opportunities at St. Mark's is to bake goodies for the Carmel police and the firemen at Station #44. It is a one time only obligation. You chose the month that best fits your schedule then some time during that month you deliver the goodies to the police station and the firehouse. If you are interested please contact Jan Walsh, jow3441@sbcglobal.net or 317-844-5650. The police and firemen really appreciate us thinking of them.



Flower Calendar

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

Sunday Volunteers Needed!

If you would be available to sit in the office on a Sunday morning please contact Jenny Rundle, jrundle@stmarkscarmel.org. There are two shifts available, 8:00 -10:00 AM and 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM. The job involves answering the phones and monitoring the office during services.

In Our Congregation

St. Mark's Family,

Thank you for sending a planter in memory of Dan's dad, Papa Don. We were so blessed to spend a lot of time with him this past year. We feel fortunate to have a great support network and amazing church family.

Love,

J. Dan, Cathy, Hailey, Nate and Brady

St. Mark's Family,

Even though my mom's death was expected losing a parent is always painful. Thank you for the loving support I have received from our St. Marks family. Not just at her passing, but also during the four years she lived at Bickford of Carmel. The lovely peace lily is a comforting reminder of her.

Blessings,

Susan Salter

Dear St. Mark's UMC,

On behalf of the Society of St Andrew I would like to express our sincere thanks for your support in 2018. You all were one of our top five giving congregations in Indiana! Last year we saved and distributed over 300,000 pounds of fresh produce to 170 hunger relief agencies with the help of over 700 volunteers. This work was possible because of your congregation and we are incredibly thankful.

Peace,

Dawn Barnes, Indiana Regional Director

Thanks to St. Mark's for your generous gift to the Food Pantry. The volume of guests we have had this last few years would not be served without partnerships and support such as yours.

Serving Christ,

Patti Napier

To our St. Mark's Family,

Thank you for the beautiful peace plant which arrived this morning. It will be a continued reminder of the ongoing support we have received from everyone during Jill's illness over the past year, which has truly been appreciated.

We are about to head out to Des Moines now to help Jim's sister whose health is deteriorating, and will also be spending a good bit of time in Chicago this spring settling Jill's affairs, but one of these days will be back at St Mark's picking up where we left off last summer.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Jim & Sally Hubbard

St. Mark's UMC,

Thank you so much for your donation of office supplies and office products. They have been put to good use.

O'Connor House

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

Lois Hardin

Betty Lachman

Jerry & Phyllis Delp

Mary Pielemeier

Judy & Tom Hebenstreit

Jean Smith

Leonard Sheats

Kay Major

Mary Hart

Ola Morrow

Bea Gilson

Charles Reid

Don Ranck

Vallie Williams

Lent

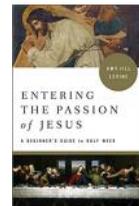
Entering the Passion of Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK

Sundays, March 10 - April 14 | 6:00 - 7:15 PM Facilitated by Pastor Brian White

Wednesdays, March 20 - April 17 | 9:30 AM-11:30 AM Facilitated by Lydia Fourman

Amy-Jill Levine delves into the history and literature surrounding the last day of Jesus' life. Levine sets the narrative in historical context and analyzes the risks and motives of the story's characters. Pastor Brian White and Lydia Fourman will facilitate this 6-session study. Book cost is \$11



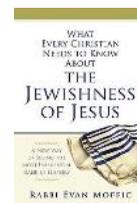
The Jewishness of Jesus by Rabbi Evan Moffic

A NEW WAY OF SEEING THE MOST INFLUENTIAL RABBI IN HISTORY

Friday AM Study Group

March 15, 22, and April 11, 19 No classes March 29 & April 5 | 9:30 -11:30 AM

The secret to knowing Jesus better and to grasping his message is to understand what it meant to him to be Jewish. Written by a Jewish Rabbi specifically for Christians, this book gives fresh insight on how Jesus' contemporaries knew him, how his Jewish faith shaped him, on the meaning of the Lord's Prayer, and the miracles he performed. Stephanie Cohen facilitates. Book cost is \$14. Childcare is available with online registration at stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups.



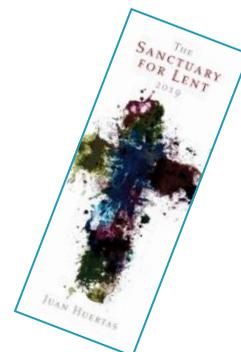
Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 6 | 7:00 PM

Service to observe the beginning of Lent.

Free Advent Devotionals

"The Sanctuary for Lent 2019" is available for adults, and various children's devotionals are also available. These devotionals are free. Look for them on the table by the Main Entrance.



Egg Hunt & Brunch

Saturday, April 13 | 10:00 AM

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



Donations of wrapped candy, small toys, stickers or treats are needed by March 31. Look for a basket marked "egg hunt" in which to place these donations near the Connection Tables.

Called to be a Welcoming Community

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Hebrews 13:2 says "Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it."

Thank you so much for all of the ways you live out our mission statement to WELCOME all people. I am grateful to all of the greeters, guest hosts, ushers and friendship cup delivery volunteers who are an integral part of the welcome team each week. In addition, each of you help by welcoming guests and each other every week.

Last Sunday I met a new couple who had recently moved to the area. In the midst of getting to know them someone from our church family approached us and shared how they had recently moved to the area. In their words "We like the area, we love St. Mark's." That is true organic hospitality!

God is good!!

God Bless,

Missi Koenig

Welcome and Assimilation Coordinator

