

JUBILEE



ST. MARK'S
United Methodist Church

May-June 2022



SUMMER IS COMING!

That means it's time to begin registering
for trips, children's camps, and VBS!

Confirmation 2022

Congratulations Confirmands!



The Pastor's Place

Dr. Brian White, Lead Pastor

bwhite@stmarkscarmel.org

Dear Co-workers in Christ,

Recently, I was asked by our Conference Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Saneta Maiko, to write briefly a response to the question “Why am I United Methodist?” for a district publication. I wanted to share those thoughts here as well.

In 1986 I began full-time ministry in Indiana which included a two-year probationary period before being eligible for final ordination as Elder. Prior to ordination there is a significant number of written responses to questions required and one that I remember was, “Why do you still say ‘yes’ to ministry?” I am going to approach these thoughts around the question, “Why do you still say ‘yes’ to the United Methodist Church?”

I say “yes” to the United Methodist Church because of its continued emphasis on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. In his book, *Simply Good News*, N.T. Wright says, “instead of suggesting that we could escape the earth to go to heaven, Jesus’s good news was about heaven coming to earth.” (Wright, *Simply Good News*, 7) From its beginnings the United Methodist Church is about extending the invitation to live out the Lord’s Prayer where we pray, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

I say “yes” to the United Methodist Church because of our open table approach to Holy Communion. We use the model of Jesus who was criticized for welcoming all people to his table. In Mark 2:16-17 the authorities of the day took issue with the way Jesus welcomed all people to dine with him. I’m grateful that in our church the table is open to all.

I say “yes” to the United Methodist Church because we allow for theological debate and growth. We have never been a denomination that required people to adhere to a specific creed or set of detailed beliefs. In the early church the basic affirmation of believers was “Jesus is Lord.” Jesus himself answered the question of essential belief by replying, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Matthew 12:30-31) Jesus resisted attaching enumerated lists or requirements to these two commandments and the church has been at its best when it has followed Jesus’ model, as does the United Methodist Church.

Finally, I say “yes” to the United Methodist Church because it is the church that has nurtured me in the faith, has recognized my call to ministry, has comforted me in my sorrow, has celebrated in my times of joy, and has been the community of believers that has helped me learn and grow. I have said many times that the United Methodist Church has been the most redemptive organization in my life, and I continue to believe that.

As I have been invited to reflect on this question, I want to invite you as well to celebrate the ways the church has been a part of your life. Let us live into God’s future for our church together as we live out our church mission statement: “St. Mark’s United Methodist Church is a community of followers of Jesus Christ that strives to WELCOME all people, GROW in knowledge and grace and SERVE our neighbors, locally and globally.”

In Christ’s service,

Brian



The Pastor's Place

Julia Gonzales, Associate Pastor
jgonzales@stmarkscarmel.org

Dear St. Mark's,

The Lord is my shepherd. I lack nothing. He lets me rest in grassy meadows; He leads me to restful waters; He keeps me alive. He guides me in proper paths for the sake of His good name. Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because you are with me. Your rod and your staff - they protect me. You set a table for me right in front of my enemies. You bathe my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over! Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the Lord's house as long as I live. (Psalm 23 CEB)



Psalm 23 has always held a special place in my heart. As a child, it was easy to connect the grassy meadows and peaceful waters with places I had visited. Even the fearful valleys and tables filled with enemies were easy to imagine. By wrestling with these images of peace and safety alongside danger and fear, it helped me to see more clearly how in *everything* God is still at work. With my last letter to you, I offer this blessing based on Psalm 23 verse 6, "May goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life, may you walk with the Lord always."

I am glad that I have been able to walk with you these last few years. As our paths diverge, know that you will remain in my prayers. I wish you well on the next steps of your faith path as you continue to travel with Pastor Brian and welcome your new associate pastor.

Take care,

Julia

Meet Karla Elliott | New Associate Pastor

I am excited about the opportunities that we have to nurture and grow in ministry together at St. Mark's! As just a brief introduction to learn a bit about me and how I hope to contribute to the church's future, I prepared the short bio below. There's not much better than being able to spend time together in conversation to get to know one another, but I am hopeful this will give you all a start with a little insight about me!



My ministry path has definitely been neither straight nor direct. I've been blessed to spend the last two years serving first one, then two historic congregations in Tipton County, just north of Hamilton County, while finishing an M.Div. degree at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. It has been wonderful to work with the congregation members to begin exploring cooperative ministry within the county. Although these appointments were my firsts in full-time pastoral roles, I've been privileged to serve extensively in UMC laity leadership prior to my transition to vocational ministry.

My husband and I, along with our three boys, began attending Fishers UMC when we first moved back to the Indianapolis area after being in suburban Washington, D.C., for close to five years. When our youngest (Sam) was a baby, we began attending The Promise shortly after its launch. I loved being part of the praise (music) team at The Promise! During our time with both Fishers congregations, I also served on each of the UMC administrative committees (chairing both SPRC at the combined Board at The Promise), as well as training and serving as a Stephen Minister and leading/facilitating a number of small groups and Bible studies. I have also had the wonderful experience of sitting on Indiana's United Methodist Foundation Board for a number of years, including as the chair for two years as I began my transition into full-time ministry.

Prior to that transition, I was the CEO and General Counsel for a national insurance services firm after spending several years in private law practice as a labor & employment litigator in Washington, D.C. and Indianapolis. I was incredibly fortunate to have a great education and even greater experiences that make me fairly unique in ministry. I am grateful for all of them – but am even more grateful that they ultimately led me to answering God's call to ministry after being “nudged” throughout most of my life in this direction!

I am passionate about my family – my husband Pete and our three sons (Ben, Zach, and Sam) are the greatest blessings of my life. I'm the baby of seven children, and also love spending time with my extended family. I'm a genealogy junkie, insatiable reader, can connect many, many conversation topics to songs, and rarely encounter a movie I can't relate to a sermon in some way. I am passionate about Jesus Christ and helping others discover and grow their relationships with him, especially those that may be lost or lonely or hurting in the world. I'm also passionate about finding new and fresh ways to engage the community, especially our younger generations – like my own kids and their peers – in Christ's mission here on Earth.

One of my all-time favorite quotes is from Margaret Meade and speaks to my view of how we, as Christ-followers, fulfilling that mission, can impact our communities and, in turn, our world: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” So, I often end worship with the charge...

Let's go change the world!

May Mission Focus

Stephanie Cohen, Missions Coordinator
scohen@stmarkscarmel.org



Did you Know?

- East Tenth United Methodist Children & Youth Center is an accredited early learning center in east Indianapolis.
- It is an outreach initiative of East Tenth United Methodist Church, in response to a need for a safe place where the children and youth could go to learn and grow.
- They offer a variety of programs:
 - ◇ **Early Learning Childcare Center:** quality childcare, educational activities, nutritious meals, and more, for ages 6 weeks to five years old.
 - ◇ **Summer Days for Youth:** all-day camp with academic enrichment, computer classes, art programs, recreational activities, and field trips.
 - ◇ **A before and after school program:** transportation to & from school, tutoring, homework, recreational & service opportunities, and drug prevention education.

How Can I Help?

- Donate supplies for East Tenth Youth Center: Washable Markers, Pipe Cleaners, Construction Paper, or Art & Craft Supplies
- Donate financially in the Mission envelope or give at stmarkscarmel.org/give.

For more information, visit stmarkscarmel.org/missions or east10th.org.

Thank you for helping us continue to support the mission work for children at East 10th!

June Mission Focus

Stephanie Cohen, Missions Coordinator

scohen@stmarkscarmel.org



Did you know?

- Having a home is important to the quality of life, health, and economic prosperity of families as well as the entire community. In Indiana, the average hourly wage necessary to afford a two bedroom unit is \$14.03; more than half of Hoosier renters cannot afford the fair market rate.
- Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity offers homeownership opportunities to low-income individuals and families who are unable to obtain conventional home financing.
- Research shows that Habitat for Humanity's homeownership program leads to benefits beyond housing, including improved mental health, a decreased reliance on social services, and improved academic achievement of children.
- Last year Greater Indy Habitat was able to exceed their goal and build 27 homes! They are aiming high again, in response to an even greater rise in the number of homes needed. St. Mark's continues to partner with Habitat on build sites as well as volunteers who are involved in their mentorship program. Signups for our next build date coming soon!

How can I help?

- Donate financially in the Mission envelope or give at stmarkscarmel.org/give.
- Sign up for a build.
- Become involved in the mentorship program.

For more information visit stmarkscarmel.org/missions or indyhabitat.org

Donation & Service Opportunities

Blood Drive

Sunday, 6/26 | 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Help us collect 30 units of Blood to replenish local hospital supplies, in urgent need of life-saving blood!



Each day Indiana Blood Center must collect 650 units of blood from volunteer donors to meet the minimum needs of our area hospitals. Donations are needed immediately, or patients' lives could be at risk. Please consider being a blood donor at your local Versiti location or at St. Mark's on June 26! Contact Mindy Davis at Melinda.kay.moore.davis@gmail.com for more info. Sign up online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Fletcher Place Breakfast

Friday, 5/27 & 6/24

Breakfast now at 901 S. Shelby Street

NEW LOCATION & NEW DAY FOR BREAKFAST SERVING! St.

Mark's has long provided breakfast, once a month, for Fletcher Place

Community Center. We are

excited for the return of serving hot meals in person, to the Fletcher Place community, at their new location, which includes new meal schedules. St. Mark's will now continue to provide breakfast on the fourth FRIDAY morning of each month. Volunteers meet at St. Mark's, load up supplies, drive to Fletcher Place, where meals are cooked and served. Thank you for helping keep hungry Indianapolis fed! Contact Stephanie Cohen for more info at scohen@stmarkscarmel.org or sign up today at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.



Changing Footprints Sending Shoes to Ukraine

Help is needed to collect and sort shoes for a 5,000 pair shipment to Ukrainian refugees, in the next few weeks! Bring your friends, family, your small group, coworkers, and anyone age 5 & older. Sitting down while sorting is available. If non-vaccinated, you must wear a mask. Sorting location is 10291 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis.



Signup at bit.LY/CFsign-up to see sorting dates and times needed and sign up directly with Changing Footprints. Have shoes to donate but can't go to a sorting time? - Bring your donated shoes to St. Mark's designated drop off box inside door #2. For questions about sorting or if you'd like to arrange an alternate time for your group that's not listed, contact Bob Broughton at Indybroughton@yahoo.com or 317-727-4186.

Servants At Work (SAWs) Wheelchair Ramp Build

Saturday, 5/14 | 8:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Join St. Mark's in a ramp build on

Saturday, May 14

SAWs® is a

faith-based nonprofit organization who specialize in building wooden wheelchair ramps for low-income, permanently disabled individuals. Their ADA-compliant ramps provide access to the community for those who have been otherwise trapped inside their home due to a disability. SAWs seek to transform the lives of their ramp recipients and volunteers through meaningful service.

Anyone age 16 & up (or accompanied by a responsible adult), no tools or skills required. The build will be in Marion County (address provided upon registration).

Signup online at stmarkscarmel.org/signups

Please contact Robert Jennings at 336-403-4769 or rcjennings5@gmail.com with any questions.

**Please note the wheelchair ramp build planned for UMM and MarksMen will be later in the summer, details to follow for that specific build and group.*



Soup's On at Roberts Park

Sunday, 6/19

Can you help us prepare a hot meal for homeless in Indy? Each Sunday, volunteers help prepare lunch for homeless persons and others in need, in downtown Indianapolis. St. Mark's will be providing and distributing meals at Roberts Park UMC. Meals will be cooked onsite and then packed in carry-out containers. This *Soup's On* ministry provides a wonderful opportunity for us to carry out Jesus' command to "feed the hungry."

Signup to help at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.



June School Supply Drive

Can you help us fill 50



Grassroot Projects
Small Projects Big Dreams

backpacks

with school supplies for kids in need? Join us in helping Grassroot Projects, a non-profit organization that supports under-resourced immigrant and refugee children, in the Indianapolis area. Providing backpacks and school utilities is one of the several programs that Grassroot Projects offers to help make families' lives a little easier during a difficult transition. Thank you for helping them get ready for their first day of school! For questions contact Stephanie Cohen, scohen@stmarkscarmel.org. School supplies needed: 50 backpacks 24 pk crayons

12" Rulers	Washable Markers
Pencils	Blunt tip scissors
Erasers	Single subject notebooks

Visit grassrootprojects.org for more information.

Brightwood Community Center

Help is needed at
Brightwood
Community Center
Food Pantry



"I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat." Brightwood Community Center, 2140 N. Arsenal Ave, Indianapolis, is providing food for families at various locations near BCC every **second** Tuesday & Wednesday of each month. Your hands can help!

- Tuesday from 12:00 – 2:30 p.m. to sort and box food
- Wednesday from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. to box perishables and load recipient's cars in food distribution

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

Mission Trip Interest Survey

Are you looking forward to venturing on your next mission trip, either near or far? Maybe you're ready to plan for your first one! St. Mark's is gathering info to guide our planning for the next mission trip. Please take a few minutes to complete the 6-question survey so we can learn who/what/where/when our members would like to serve. Even if you're not interested right now but could possibly in the future, there is a place to note this helpful data as well.

Click on stmarkscarmel.org/missionsurvey/ to complete online

OR fill out a paper copy of the survey on the connections table

For questions or comments, contact Stephanie Cohen at scohen@stmarkscarmel.org.

UMC Special Offerings

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

Sunday, 5/1

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

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY

Sunday, 6/12

Peace With Justice Sunday (first Sunday after Pentecost) enables The United Methodist Church to have a voice in advocating for peace and justice through a broad spectrum of global programs. This special offering benefits peace with justice ministries in the annual conference and through the General Board of Church and Society. Financial support for this UM Special Sunday may be given online at stmarkscarmel.org/give.

Club 56 Mission Camp

Monday, June 13—Thursday June 16

9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Incoming and outgoing 5th & 6th graders are invited to participate in St.



@ St. Mark's

Marks' annual Mission Camp. Youth will learn about the importance of mission outreach while safely serving others and having fun fellowship! Register at stmarkscarmel.org/signups by June 9. Contact Stephanie Cohen with questions at scohen@stmarkscarmel.org.



Because You Give, St. Mark's Gives!

Thank you for your generous support of the missions of St. Mark's. Since the April newsletter we have given to:

- **Changing Footprints:** 81 pairs of shoes
- **Family Promise:** \$5164; 168 rolls of Paper Towels & Toilet Paper; 30 bags/packages of Kitchen supplies; 20 bottles/packages of Soap & Laundry goods; 18 bottles/packages of Bathroom supplies; and 16 Pillows
- **Fletcher Place Community Center:** 36 bags of food; 33 containers of oatmeal; 60 hot breakfasts to-go; 7 bags of clothing; 8 packages of paper goods
- **Habitat for Humanity:** \$1850
- **Outreach Indiana:** 3 large bags of teen clothing; 3 bags of snack foods
- **Travel size Toiletries for Homeless:** 6 bags

IHN Suspended Indefinitely

The Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis Board has unanimously voted to suspend the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

Program *indefinitely*, due to Covid related

challenges and many congregations unable to resume hosting IHN families. **GOOD**

NEWS: With the wonderful response of support for the Apartment Shelter Program (financial donations by members like yourselves) Family Promise has been able to avoid cutting shelter capacity, and this model has been much easier on families in their program to be successful.

Family Promise is working on new volunteer opportunities to better engage congregations and their willing volunteers. More info coming soon!





Dr. Ramie Cooney,
Director Of Children's Ministries
rcooney@stmarkscarmel.org

Sunday Morning Offerings

NURSERY & TODDLER CARE

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

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

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

Children have a blast learning about God, beginning with Worship followed by lively & age-appropriate programs taught by a trained team of enthusiastic volunteers. We'll enjoy Bible Stories, experiment, crafts, and games!

CLUB 56 | 9:40 AM

For students entering fifth and sixth grade. 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!

KIDZ MUSIC & PRAISE | 11:00 AM

Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord with in-person and hybrid programming during this fun-filled hour each week. Children participate in this high energy class that incorporates music, drama, art & puppets. Contact Joyce Click, jclick@stmarkscarmel.org for a Zoom invitation to participate in the class. Kidz Music & Praise will be singing on Mother's Day, May 8.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Check out the Connect with Kidz website at stmarkscarmel.org/kidzconnect/ to find weekly Kidz Church, Club 56 and Kidz Music & Praise resources.
- Join our [St Marks Kidz Facebook](#) page to watch a weekly Bible Story, worship and get family activity ideas .

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

9:30 AM—11:15 AM

5/12- Keeping Your Children Safe with CCS
School Resource Officers

Time Out for Moms! will celebrate the year and make plans for the summer at our final meeting of the year on May 12th. Come join together with a group of women who just get it (and drink a cup of coffee while it is still warm!). Our MOPS group meets on Thursday mornings for fellowship and learning with children's programming available for infants and preschoolers. There are also monthly MOPS Moms' Night Out events, family play dates, and child-free monthly coffee/brunch dates. Learn more at mopsatst.marks@gmail.com.



VBS Help Needed!

Monday 7/11—Friday 7/15

Go off-road at St. Mark's United Methodist Church for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the Southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids will form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead. Please contact our Children's Education team at kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org if you are interested in serving as a VBS team leader. We have begun advertising for donations and volunteer registration.

Celebrating 3 Year Olds

Sunday, May 8

Toddler Recognition Sunday will be on Sunday, May 8th for three-year olds at St. Mark's. Families are invited to send a picture of their toddler to kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org by 5/4 (even if they cannot attend on 5/8).

Summer Interns

We are excited to welcome Elise Cawthorne, Coco Cooney, & Audrey Wirth as our 2022 Summer Interns. Coco is returning for her second year and will be a senior at Carmel High School with a specialization in education. Audrey is a graduating from Carmel High School this month and will attend University of Nebraska-Lincoln this fall to pursue a teaching degree. Finally, Elise just completed her sophomore year and was confirmed this past spring. Please warmly welcome these young women and look for exciting announcements about summer programming.

Preschool Dine-Out Fundraiser

HANDEL'S ICE CREAM

Wednesday, May 18 | 3:00 PM—9:00 PM

Enjoying ice cream is a great way to celebrate the end of the school year and beautiful weather while benefiting the preschool at the same time! We so appreciate your support! More details available at stmarkscarmel.org/events/.



Preschool Openings

Hurry, before it is too late! A few more places have opened up in several of the



preschool classrooms so make sure to contact Director, Jen Weixler at (317) 846-8941 or preschool@stmarkscarmel.org. St. Mark's has one of the best preschools in town and classes will fill soon.

Summer in Children Ministries

Would you please pray about how you can help in Children's Ministries this summer?

Although we give many of our faithful children's leaders the summer off, we will continue to offer engaging classes each week. In order to share God's amazing love to our children during the summer, we need your help! If you are able to help for one or more Sunday mornings this summer, please contact Ramie Cooney or Jackie Rowell at kidzchurch@stmarkscarmel.org. All materials provided so you can simply come and have fun.

CarmelFest Parade July 4th

Join Kidz Music & Praise at the Carmelfest July 4th parade. All are welcome to participate in the 4th of July Parade at CarmelFest. Meet at Merchants Square by Flix Brewhouse at 9AM to decorate the float or parade from 10:30-12p. If you are not able to march, we hope to see you cheering along the parade route! Contact Joyce Click, jclick@stmarkscarmel.org for more information.

Children Summer Opportunities

Registration Open stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Club 56 Mission Camp

Monday, June 13—Thursday June 16 | 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Incoming and outgoing 5th & 6th graders are invited to participate in St. Marks' annual Mission Camp. Youth will learn about the importance of mission outreach while safely serving others and having fun fellowship! Registration coming soon. Contact Stephanie Cohen with questions at scohen@stmarkscarmel.org



@ St. Mark's

KMP Puppet Camp, Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

Monday, 6/20-Friday, 6/24 | 9:45AM—11:30 AM

Children (Age 4-Grade 3) will make and use puppets to tell the stories of Jesus, play fun games and enjoy a snack daily. Cost \$20 with scholarship funds available. Friends are welcome and do not need to attend St. Mark's. Camp performance to be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, June 24th. Older students are invited to assist. Camp is directed by Joyce Click.

KMP Drama Camp, Dynamic Truths and Tales,

Monday, 6/20- Friday, 6/24 | 12:00 PM -2:30 PM

Students (Grades 1-4) will sing and act out dynamic stories from the Old Testament, play fun games, and enjoy snack daily. Cost \$20 with scholarship funds available. Friends are welcome and do not need to attend St. Mark's. Older students are invited to assist. Camp is directed by Joyce Click. There will be a drama camp performance at 2:00 PM on Friday, June 24th and a medley of songs will be performed on Sunday, June 26th at 11:00 AM.

Monumental VBS 2022,

Monday, 7/11—Friday, 7/15 | 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

Go off-road at St. Mark's United Methodist Church for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the Southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids will form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.





Summer Events

Join us this Summer for these events:

- 6/12 High School Graduate Luncheon**
Mini Golf –Offsite
Pirate's Quest Mini Golf
- 6/13 Mission Camp (through 6/16)**
- 6/19 Workcamp @ Port Huron, MI**
(through 6/25)
- 6/26 Cornerstone Cookout & Games**
- 7/6 Holiday World Trip**
Purchase your own tickets
- 7/10 Laser Flash (offsite)**
- 7/24 Week of Hope @ Pittsburgh, PA**
(through 7/29)
- 8/8 Kings Island Trip**
Purchase your own tickets
- 8/14 Cornerstone Kick Off**
- 8/21 Cornerstone Cookout @ The Byrds**

For more information, visit the [Parent Connect newsletter](#).

Spring Retreat

EPWORTH CENTER

Friday, May 20—Sunday, May 22

You can count on this being a wonderful time to grow together in faith and friendship. As always, we request that you come with a heart to learn and an expectation to encounter God.

Any students currently in 6th through 12th grade are invited to attend. Cost \$95 per youth. Signup at stmarkscarmel.org/signup.

High School Graduate Luncheon

Sunday, June 12 | 12:30 PM—2:00 PM

Celebrate the Class of 2022 with St. Mark's! Join us for a light lunch, some memories, a game, gifts, and the commissioning of the Class of 2022. All students in grade 12 and their families are invited to attend. Please sign up to let us know you are coming so we can plan for food.

If you have any questions, contact Don Broad at dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org.

Adult Discipleship

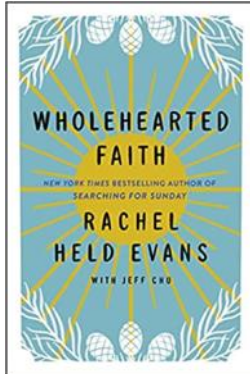
Dr. Jennifer Cloud-Buckner, Adult Discipleship Coordinator
grow@stmarkscarmel.org

Wholehearted Faith

WEDNESDAYS, MAY 11-JUNE 15, 9:30-11:00 AM

Led by Joan Dunn & Lydia Fourman |
Room J/K | Books \$18

Author Rachel Held Evans is widely recognized for her theologically astute, profoundly honest, and beautifully personal books, which have guided, instructed, edified, and shaped Christians as they seek to live out a just and loving faith. Her reflections on faith and life continue to encourage, challenge, and influence even after her tragic death at 37 in 2019. This rich collection of essays asks candid questions about the stories we've been told—and the stories we tell—about our faith, our selves, and our world.



This book is for the doubter and the dreamer, the seeker and the sojourner, those who long for a sense of spiritual wholeness and those who have been hurt by the Church but can't seem to let go of Jesus's story. Through theological reflection and personal recollection, Rachel wrestles with God's grace and love, looks unsparingly at what the Church is and does, and explores universal human questions about becoming and belonging in this unforgettable, moving, and intimate book.

For any questions, contact Joan Dunn at rjdunn29@att.net.



Walking as Spiritual Practice

Led by Jennifer Cloud-Buckner | River Road Park | Monthly, 9:00am on the last Thursday 7:00pm on the last Tuesday

We are continuing this popular group from last summer! Jennifer Cloud-Buckner will lead a group for those interested in walking as a spiritual practice in a daytime and NEW evening session each month.

On the last Thursday morning monthly (9:00am on 5/26, 6/30, 7/28, 8/25) and last Tuesday evening monthly (7:00pm on 5/31, 6/28, 7/26, 8/30), we will gather at River Road Park (12575 River Road). Each time we will begin with a short devotional time and then walk. You can choose to walk alone or in a group for a pace and duration of your choice! Sign up is not required, but if you'd like to be on the email list for any weather changes or cancellations, sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups.

Questions? Email Jennifer at grow@stmarkscarmel.org

Widows Encouragement Group

May 11, May 25, plus summer socials

6:00-7:30PM | Room G/H

Our new Encouragement Group for those who have been widowed—whether recently or long ago—has begun! This group is a chance to find a listening ear through shared experiences, anniversaries, unexpected griefs and joys, and all the new practicalities one experiences in widowhood. The group will gather for events in the church and the community throughout the summer, so contact Jennifer Cloud-Buckner (grow@stmarkscarmel.org) for updated details, or sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/growgroups.

The Wired Word Weekly Email Devotional Available

St. Mark's subscribes to *The Wired Word*, a weekly email devotional for personal study and group discussions. Topics are wide-ranging and directly relate scriptures to news stories. If you'd like to receive this weekly email, contact Jennifer (grow@stmarkscarmel.org).

How to Pay for Books

Make checks to St. Mark's UMC with "study books" in the memo line. If you would prefer to pay online for books, click on "Give" from the stmarkscarmel.org website. Click "Give Online." Find the top question saying "How would you like to allocate your donation" and select **Study Books** from the dropdown menu.

Sunday Morning Groups

9:15 AM (after the early service)

- **Venture Class** (Room B/C)
- **Sun AM Encouragement Group** (for those dealing with care of aging parents. Call church office or email grow@stmarkscarmel.org for info.

9:40 AM

- **Open Doors/Open Ideas** (Room L): Led by Chuck Blair and class members. April-May: watching Adam Hamilton's video study *Christianity and World Religions*.
- **Cutting Edge** (Room G/H + Online): Led by Steve Click, discussions in this class follow the weekly lectionary scriptures.
- **Foundations & Friendships** (Room J/K + Online). Continuing *Holy Disunity* through May 15, beginning Adam Hamilton's *The Lord's Prayer* book on May 22.

11:00 AM

- **Reel Spirituality** (Online, some weeks in Room G/H as well) - watching films with Christian themes at home and then discussing together during the meeting.

Sign up and see more info at stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups
or on the **GROW Connection Tables in the Gathering Area**. Questions? Email
Jennifer Cloud-Buckner (grow@stmarkscarmel.org).

Open Groups

UMW

St. Mark's United Methodist Women is excited and thankful for the wonderful year of fellowship and activities that we have been able to enjoy. From our September Kick-Off on, we followed the limited restrictions in place for gathering together and being able to have refreshments. It was indeed a blessing to experience the laughter and pure enjoyment of being together again for monthly meetings. Following this upcoming Summer break, we will resume in September with our exciting Fall Kick-Off and yet another active and involving year. We will introduce our **UWF ~ United Women in Faith** name. We look forward to having you join us!



INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Cultural Insights (AM only), Caring and Sharing (AM & PM), Bookworms (AM only), Spiritual Reflections (AM only), Color and Chat (AM only) and Bookmarkers (PM only) will all return in the fall. Visit stmarkscarmel.org/umw to find out more and to stay up to date!

SPRING CELEBRATION SUPPER

Tuesday, 5/10

Be sure and circle your calendar for Tuesday, May 10th! Your help is needed to make the Spring Celebration Supper a success! Help is needed with food donations, setting up for the event and cleaning up after. Sign up at the connections tables after services on Sunday.

UMW READING PROGRAM

"Your Window to the World" meets five times a year to discuss books selected by the United Methodist Women's National Office.

Books are from one of the five categories representing different topics. The next discussion, is from Leadership Development Category on **August 29 from 7—8:30 PM** in the church library.

For more information or to be added to the reading program email distribution list email Kathy Lentz at KathyLentz@gmail.com

Trinkets & Treasures

Friday, May 27 & Saturday May 28

When you are spring cleaning, remember to save your unwanted Trinkets and Treasures for our annual garage sale in May. It is UMW's largest fundraiser and all hands on deck will be needed to make it a success. Whether you can volunteer for a couple of hours or a whole day, it all helps. **HELP NEEDED** Sign ups are ready to help set up the sale as well as helping during the sale. If you are willing and able, please contact Peggy Hoy at pahat664@gmail.com.

Read the latest monthly update, find out about fundraising and more on the UMW website stmarkscarmel.org/umw.



UMM Breakfast Meetings

Saturday, 5/14 | 7:30 AM

The United Methodist Men Breakfasts held the 2nd Saturday of every month. Please plan to attend and invite other men to join us for this special gathering.

UMM provides a supportive fellowship of men who seek to know Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually, and to seek daily God's will. UMM has donated to many Missions. For more information, visit stmarkscarmel.org/umm.

For more information about UMM or to be added to the email list, contact Mike Bultemeier, umm@stmarkscarmel.org Join us!

Marksmen

Panera Bread (Range Line)

5/5, 5/19, 6/2, 6/16, 6/30 | 6:30 AM

A community of career-and family-focused men seeking to develop relationships while we unplug from the daily stress that life can bring. We meet periodically. If you have any questions or would like to be put on our list, email marksmen@stmarkscarmel.org.

MOBS (Methodists on Bikes)

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



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

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

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

Open Group Schedule

Mondays

COFFEE 'N CAMERAS

Monday, 5/2, 5/16 & 5/30 | 9:00 AM

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

Tuesdays

BASKETBALL OPEN GYM | 7:00 PM

Join us every Tuesday for Open Gym Basketball for ages 16 and above. Contact Mark Moore, mvm2920@aol.com for more information.

PAGE TURNER BOOK CLUB

7:00 PM-8:00 PM

5/17 | Miracle Creek by Angie Kim

6/21 | Evicted by Matthew Desmond

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Friday, 7/8 | 11:00 AM | Chapel

Join us as we prayerfully knit and crochet prayer shawls that will be used to provide comfort and solace to people in need. Supplies are available. Men are welcome too! Contact Judy Bonnet, bonnetjm@icloud.com for more information.

Wednesdays

ROMEOS (RETIRED OLD MEN EATING OUT)

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

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

MOBS (METHODISTS ON BIKES)

5/11 5/25, 6/8, 6/22 | 6:30 PM

Adults are invited to join this recreational bike riding group. For more info about each ride, contact John Flora, johnflora2710@hotmail.com.

Thursdays

JULIETS | 11:30 AM

5/19 | Matt The Millers, 11 W. City Center

6/16 | Woody's Library, 40 E. Main St

Juliets (Just Us Ladies Into Eating Out Together) Contact Barbara Johnson, (317) 863-2689, timberblj@gmail.com, or text 303-918-6308 by 5/15 & 6/21 so correct reservations can be made.

PICKLEBALL

Thursdays | 7:00 PM (Last Meeting 5/19)

Join us on Thursdays for Open Gym Pickleball (for 16 years olds and above.)

Contact Janet Brown or Doug Brown, dthbrown@gmail.com for more info.

CRAFT & HOBBY GROUP

Thursday, 5/19 & 6/16 | 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Join us for a time of fun and fellowship as we each enjoy our craft or hobby. RSVP to Kathy Bartel, 317-294-4908 or krbartel@gmail.com.

Saturdays

MOBS (METHODISTS ON BIKES)

5/21, 6/4, 6/18 | 7:30 AM

(See Page 19 for information)

Committee News

Library

Stop in soon to visit your St. Mark's Library. The shelves are full of old favorites and new additions to provide support for Bible study, Christian living, mission work, leisure reading, and materials for Christian education. The children's shelves hold many fiction and nonfiction books for our youngest readers.



Go to stmarkscarmel.org/library to search the online catalog by title, author, or subject with your phone, computer or iPad.

Signout cards will be found in the back of each book and can be left on the checkout table inside the library door. The book return box is just inside the main entrance to the church. Library is open during office hours and also Sunday 8:00 AM—12:00 PM.

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee continues its work to educate and advocate for social justice issues. Unfortunately due to lack of participant sign up, we postponed the Racial Dialogue Circles until Fall. We hope the congregation will support this with better advance notice. Our next topic will tie to the Vacation Bible School theme, as we share information on Native American Ministries. We invite you to view this informative film on the Four Corners Ministry in New Mexico here

www.nmconfum.com/ministries-mission/four-corners-ministry/ .

SPRC Staff Highlight Stephanie Cohen

This month we are celebrating Stephanie Cohen's third anniversary as Missions Coordinator. She began serving in her role in June 2019. Since that time, she has been busy planning, scheduling and implementing the congregation's many mission related activities. She communicates with and coordinates partnerships with various non-profit organizations serving local, regional, national and international needs. "Mission is a Way of Life" here at St. Mark's, so Stephanie invites the congregation to engage in various opportunities to serve and live out that mission. Stephanie enjoys her job and says she appreciates getting to pray with fellow staff members each week, getting to start every staff meeting with a devotion and working in an environment that inspires a life of faith and love for others. "Here I am Lord" and "It is Well With my Soul" are her favorite songs to sing at church and she has several favorite scripture readings including 2 Corinthians and Romans 5:3-5.

Stephanie has two teenage sons at home and a grown daughter who lives in Bloomington. She also has a beloved dog. Stephanie has been a member of St. Mark's since 2011 and enjoys many opportunities within the church including worshipping with her children, hands-on opportunities for mission work, chaperoning youth activities and Friday Bible study. Outside of church, she keeps busy with outdoor activities, movies, cooking, snow skiing, family game nights and her part time job as a dental hygienist.

Happy Anniversary, Stephanie! Thank you for your continued service to St. Mark's.

A Note from our Lay Leader

At a recent church-wide forum to discuss upcoming changes anticipated in the United Methodist Church, I was asked to provide some of my thoughts as your St. Mark's Lay Leader.



Today, we're here to talk about change. The word change doesn't have a calming effect on me. When my boss calls me and says, "We're going to be making some changes to your position," those words don't necessarily feel like a gift. But change is necessary. And change is a blessing. It gives us the opportunity to grow. Changes are coming in the United Methodist Church, and your presence here shows that you're keenly interested in hearing more. Thank you for that.

But let's start with what it NOT changing.

God is love. We are his children, perfect in our creation, perfected by his grace. He loves all of us. And that means you, and you, and you...and nearly 8 billion other people around the world.

God is love, and that's not changing.

Neither are the principles upon which the Methodist faith was founded and has grown: that we should have a very personal relationship with God that transforms our lives. And that our faith in God should lead us into service for others.

Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God. Not changing.

Welcome. Serve. Grow. Our mission at work is something I see right here in the pews in front of me. A community of followers who choose *this* faith, *these* principles and *this* mission to glorify God. We welcome...all. We serve...each other, our community and our world. And we grow...in knowledge, in understanding and in grace.

St. Marks – what we stand for, how we serve, who we are, collectively – is not changing.

Still, the United Methodist Church *is* changing, evolving. And given that its founder would be celebrating his 319th birthday this year, I don't think we should be surprised. Even modern day Methodism – the United Methodist Church as we know it today – is 54 years old. The world has changed a lot in those fifty-plus years. Society has certainly changed. So this evolution in the church is consistent with the natural evolution taking place all around us.

The Church with a capital C is creating a home for all Methodists, all across the world. And it's laying a path forward for inclusive congregations, eager to recognize, embrace and celebrate the sacraments we treasure with *all* who share our faith.

LGBTQAI+ people love God, too. And He loves them. They are already among us as members of the body of Christ, as members of the United Methodist Church, as members of St. Mark's and of our families, and we will continue to welcome all, love all, celebrate all and value all. Change on the horizon means inclusion within our denomination will be authentic and official.

The waiting is painful. But the progress and the process are actively in motion.

The postponement in General Conference will not slow down the changes that are happening.

The log jam is already breaking apart and movement is underway.

A small number of churches – 90 out of more than 30,000 in the United States – have already announced their intention to disaffiliate and join the conservative Global Methodist Church, launching May 1. Brian refers to this as a "splinter, not a split," and he reassures us that Do No Harm will guide the disaffiliation process.

The United Methodist Church will convene for General Conference in 2024, and at that time, we anticipate changes to the Book of Discipline to reflect full inclusion throughout all practices of our faith. The splintering process may streamline those changes. I hope it does.

God bless.

-Mary Hayes

Upcoming Events

Orchestra Concert

Sunday 5/1 | 12:00 PM

Join the SMO for a fun lunch concert immediately following worship services on May 1 to hear pop music, movie themes, TV themes, and more. Let us entertain you while you have lunch. Bring a sack lunch this year. Don't forget to enter our drawing to guest conduct the orchestra!



Spring Celebration Supper

Tuesday, 5/10 | 6:00 PM

Be sure and circle your calendar for Tuesday, May 10th ~ St. Mark's Spring Celebration Supper! Exciting plans are in place for a gathering of the women of our church and their children. Fun Activities, Delicious Food, and a truly special - brief program, guarantees uniting multi-generational ages with memories that will be cherished. Invite all your St. Mark's friends! Tickets are available at the Connection Tables Sundays or in the office. Plan to be with us for this evening! You will not want to miss this joyous celebration! Cost is \$5 for Adults, \$2 Children.



Game Night

Saturday, May 14 | 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

When was the last time you played a game?? Have you been craving some social time with friends and family? Join in the fun at Game Night at St. Marks! Play an old favorite or learn a new game - there will be plenty of options for fun. Whether you like card games, board games, or you're a Euchre champ, it's all here for you! There will be something for everyone - young and old - singles, couples and families - all are welcomed! You might even win a prize! Bring a dessert or a snack to share or just show up! Look for details on signing up.



Trinkets & Treasures

Friday, 5/27 & Saturday 5/28

Trinkets and Treasures is an annual garage sale held in May. It is UMW's largest fundraiser – all funds raised go to support missions. Make sure you save the date whether you bring items (5/23-5/26) to sell or come and shop on Friday, May 27 and Saturday, May 28.



Time to Picnic & Play

Tuesday, 6/7 & 7/21 | 6:00 PM

Mark your calendars for these new events--two multigenerational gatherings with music, treats, celebration, and creative activities for missions and fun. We will begin in Wesley Hall with celebratory music. Bring a lawn chair for the picnic so you can eat either inside or outside, weather permitting!

Food: Bring your own picnic meal, or you can order a McAlister's box lunch from the church for \$9.75 per person at least 72 hours in advance of the picnics at stmarkscarmel.org/picnicandplay. Dessert will be provided.

Song requests: Will we sing your favorite hymn, praise song, or Vacation Bible School song this summer? Place your request on the website or put your request in the box in the Gathering Area.



St. Mark's PRESENTS

Cello Recital with Lori Honer, Cello | Sunday, 5/15 | 2:00 PM

You're invited! Please join us for a Sunday Afternoon Recital with Dr. Lori Honer. When live performances ceased due to the pandemic, cellists throughout the world turned to Bach's Cello Suites for comfort, solace and joy. In celebration of the return to live performance and of the 300th anniversary of the composition of J. S. Bach's Cello Suites, this recital will feature several of the suites and storytelling about the music, Bach, Pablo Casals and a few personal musings. We look forward to seeing you then.



Music Appreciation Dinner

Wednesday, 5/18 | 6:30 PM

I would like to take this moment to express my appreciation to all the wonderful people who volunteer and devote their time to the St. Mark's Music Ministry. Whether you participate in the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, Orchestra, Kidz Music and Praise, the current, Audio/Visual Team, or provide special music for our services; your talents and commitment are truly appreciated and need to be recognized. You are a blessing to St. Mark's and to me! To all who lend their talents to the music ministry, please plan to attend the Music Appreciation Dinner at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 in Cornerstone Commons. I will be providing the main dish (yet to be determined) and I would ask for you to please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. We will have a wonderful evening of friendship and fellowship. Please contact me if you have any questions.



In Gratitude,
Dr. Eric DeForest

edeforest@stmarkscarmel.org

Graduation Sunday

Sunday, May 15 | 9:40 AM & 11:00 AM

We will be celebrating our Graduates on Sunday, May 15. If you have a high school or college graduate, please register online at

stmarkscarmel.org/grads.

You can upload a digital picture on the form or email Amy Adams, aadams@stmarkscarmel.org, no later than May 8.



Adopt-A-Grad

"Adopt-A-Grad"

is a ministry that let our High School

graduates know that someone besides Mom

and Dad is supporting and praying for them. We are looking for individuals or families who are willing to "adopt" a high school graduate for the coming 2022/2023 school year. "Adoption" will include praying for your graduate, sending them encouraging letters at least once per month, and sending them "care packages" once or twice a semester. Your commitment to "adopting" a graduate will last from August 2022 through May 2023.

If you are interested in adopting one of our graduates, please sign up at

www.stmarkscarmel.org/adoptagrad.

If you have any questions, please contact Don Broad at dbroad@stmarkscarmel.org.



Hoosier Brass Band

Sunday, June 12 | 4:00 PM

Hoosier Brass Band uses the same instrumentation as the British bands. This would include Soprano Cornet, Bb Cornets, Flugelhorn, Tenor Horns, Baritones, Euphoniums, Tenor Trombones, Bass Trombone, Eb Tubas, Bb Tubas and Percussion. The music will be a mixture of styles and will introduce the audience to some of the unique sounds you get with this type of group. Some of the songs performed will be Fire in the Blood, I'll Walk With God, Ashoken Farewell, Shine as the Light and several other pieces. You will see some familiar St. Mark's musicians in the Band.

Symphony on the Prairie (at Conner Prairie)

Saturday, 7/23 | 6:00 PM | Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra playing John Williams

Join your St. Mark's family at Conner Prairie for Symphony on the Prairie! Enjoy this annual tradition under the stars with food, friends, and music. Purchase your tickets at Kroger or go to www.indianapolissymphony.org to order them online. Regular cost is \$30 for adults and \$10 for children over 3. Tickets are concert specific.

Pack a lawn chair/blanket and whatever you'd like eat. Come by yourself or get some friends together. St. Markers will stake out a spot to sit together midway down the main sidewalk and on the right. Look for the St. Mark's sign! Gate opens at 6:00pm and the concert starts at 8:00pm. For more information visit Indianapolissymphony.org/visit/conner-prairie or call Kathy Curnett 317-508-0635. Hope to see you there.

SAVE THE DATE

Celebrate Pastor Julia!

Sunday, June 19

Save the Date! June 19 is the last Sunday that Pastor Julia will be at St. Mark's. Please plan on celebrating her and thanking her for her service on that day. Watch the weekly email for details..



Community News

Sympathies

To Jennifer Fogo at the death of her mother, Janice Susanne Eaton.

To the family of Hilda Meyers at her death.

To Phyllis Delp at the death of her husband, Jerry Delp.

To Dave Wampler at the death of his father.

Circle of Care

The Circle of Care list includes St. Mark's members and friends who are homebound or in a care facility. Your prayers for these brothers and sisters in Christ mean so much to them and to their families.

Myrnych Anderson	Jean Anderson
Don Ranck	Doris Carlow
Annette Dunlap	Phyllis Delp
Phyllis Gidley	Ola Morrow
Georgia Herzog	Jane Roberts
Betty Lachman	Dorothy Mecca
Marlene Myers	Melvin Myers
Brenda Weikel	Jerry Weikel

Sunday Volunteers Needed

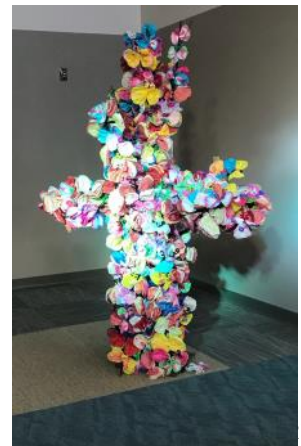
If you are interested in helping on Sunday mornings there are a couple of Volunteer opportunities:

Coffee Hospitality-Sunday morning coffee is a part of the weekly fellowship ministry that helps to live out St. Mark's vision of WELCOME, GROW, SERVE. Volunteers are needed to brew coffee prior to the 8:15 worship, as well as to clean carafes and mugs at the end of the morning. Training is available and instructions are in the Narthex kitchen as well. If you would like to know more about this ministry, please contact Amy Adams, aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.

Communion Servers & Stewards-Beginning Sunday, May 1 we will return to the traditional communion. We will need volunteers to prepare the sacrament and also to serve during worship services. Sign up at stmarkscarmel.org/signups or contact Amy Adams, aadams@stmarkscarmel.org.

Thank you for the Lenten Visual Art Displays!

Thank you to Michelle White who organized our Lent Sanctuary Visual Art. She had lots of helpers; Mary Etta Yoho, Gail Lee, Carol Branson, Sonja Clodfelder, the UMW Caring and Sharing group for making butterflies, Becky Mills, Rodene Gosselin, Jackie Mock, Julia Gonzales, Brian White, Mike Rundle, preschoolers for making the butterflies hanging in the Sanctuary, everyone who donated sticks for the stick cross; buying Easter flowers for the worship area and the staff for their help and input during Lent, Holy Week and Easter.





Sunday, July 10 | 10:30 AM

Join us for the once-a-year event when our whole church gathers under the tent for a celebration, food, and our shared mission in

After the service stay and enjoy a picnic lunch. Please signup starting May 15 to let us know how many of you will be joining us at the picnic. Signup at stmarkscarmel.org/gettogether.

Traditional 8:15 service will be held inside.

No Child care or Sunday School classes.